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(54) **Holder for holding clampingly a flat object**

(57) The invention relates to a holder (1) for holding clampingly a flat object (4) such as a photo, greetings card or drawing, wherein the holder (1) is adapted to be fixed clampingly to a structure (7), wherein the holder has a decorative appearance. The decoration (2) serves here to obtain a more attractive appearance. Although practical, a hospital bed or hospital room is also cheerless. When a patient is sent a get-well card or photo, it is now usually arranged on a noticeboard behind the patient. The card is hereby situated outside the field of vision of the patient. According to a preferred embodiment, the holder (1) is adapted to be fixed clampingly to a structure (7) at the foot of a bed, in particular a hospital bed.

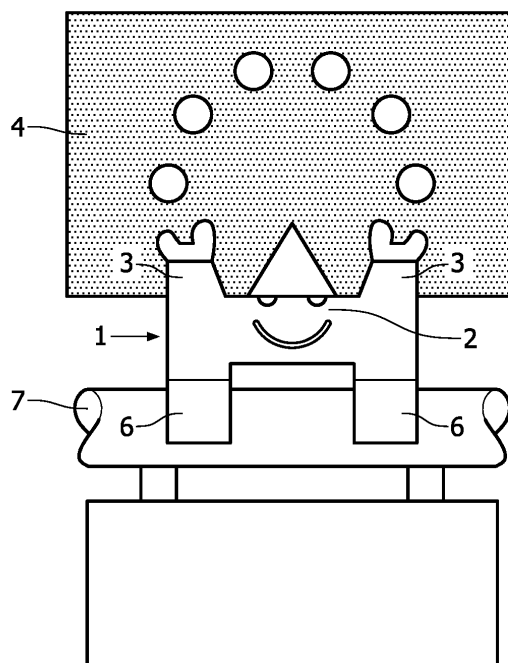


FIG. 1

**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

which under Rule 63 of the European Patent Convention EP 08 16 4421 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 3 360 876 A (CHARLES NESTEGARD SANDER) 2 January 1968 (1968-01-02) * pages - * * column 2, line 20 - line 63 * -----	1	INV. G09F1/10 G09F1/14
X	GB 2 212 389 A (CONRAN DESIGN GROUP LIMITED [GB]) 26 July 1989 (1989-07-26) * pages - * * page 2 - page 3, line 10 * * pages 5,6 * -----	1	ADD. A47G1/16
X	US 2 470 811 A (ENGLEMAN ELMER F) 24 May 1949 (1949-05-24) * figures * * column 1, line 1 - line 14 * * column 1, line 30 - column 2, line 7 * * column 2, line 14 - line 18 * -----	1	
X	US 363 525 A (LIPP A.E.) 24 May 1887 (1887-05-24) * the whole document * -----	1	
X	GB 623 796 A (ROBERT WILLIAM ROLFE; ARTHUR RICHARDS) 23 May 1949 (1949-05-23) * the whole document * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G09F F16B A47G D06F A61G
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>see sheet C</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		2 September 2009	van Overbeek, Kajsa
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>	
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p>			



**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C**

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Claim(s) searched incompletely:

1-14

Reason for the limitation of the search:

The set of claims as a whole is formulated in such a way that it is not clear which are the technical features making up the invention and which features are considered essential to its definition.

The preamble of claim 1 only contains statements as to the suitability of the holder for certain actions (for holding clampingly a flat object; adapted to be fixed clampingly) and its characterising feature relates to the aesthetics of the holder, aesthetic creations not being considered patentable inventions.

Claim 2 similarly attempts to define its subject-matter by the result to be achieved (fixing clampingly to a structure at the foot of a bed) without providing the features necessary to achieve this result.

Claims 3-5 attempt to define the holder by means of reference to itself. In essence they state "holder provided with a clamp which forms a whole with the holder". From this formulation it is derived that in fact the clamp is not part of the claimed holder as it is provided "with" it. As a result any details pertaining to the clamp do not further specify the holder.

The same applies to claim 6.

Claim 7 again defines the holder by means of the result to be achieved, namely fixation on a horizontal bar of a structure, without providing the necessary features.

Claims 10 to 12 again relate to the aesthetic features, which cannot form the basis of an inventive step.

It appears that claim 13 merely claims for there to be a space somewhere in the holder. It is not clear whether the battery and connected light source, loudspeaker and drive means are part of the claimed invention.

The characterizing portion of claim 14, again contains only an aesthetic feature, which cannot form the basis of an inventive step.

As a result of the above clarity problems a large part of the claims in essence consist only of a "holder" in which case most any document takes away the novelty of these claims.

Moreover, when considering some type of wording of the claims that would have at least incorporated the features of the clamp, battery etc. into the holder, and would have reflected the holders as depicted in the figures, those claims would have been non-unitary as they relate to - different solutions (i.e. resilient clamp versus tiltably connected clamp part) to a very well known problem (clamp assembly), the problem no longer able to provide the inventive link between the different

**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
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solutions, as well as to
- different problems such as an alternate construction to accomodate a battery, or an additional element to the clamp

Due to the wording of the claims in terms of the desired result to be achieved as well as in terms of self-reference (such that it becomes unclear which features are part of the clamp and which are not), it was not possible to determine in which combination of features the applicant sees an invention and which features are considered essential to the definition of the invention.

Thus it was not clear which combination of features was to be searched. As a result, the search was limited to a holder of the type roughly as depicted in figures 1 and 2.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 08 16 4421

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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02-09-2009

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3360876	A	02-01-1968	NONE	
GB 2212389	A	26-07-1989	NONE	
US 2470811	A	24-05-1949	NONE	
US 363525	A		NONE	
GB 623796	A	23-05-1949	NONE	