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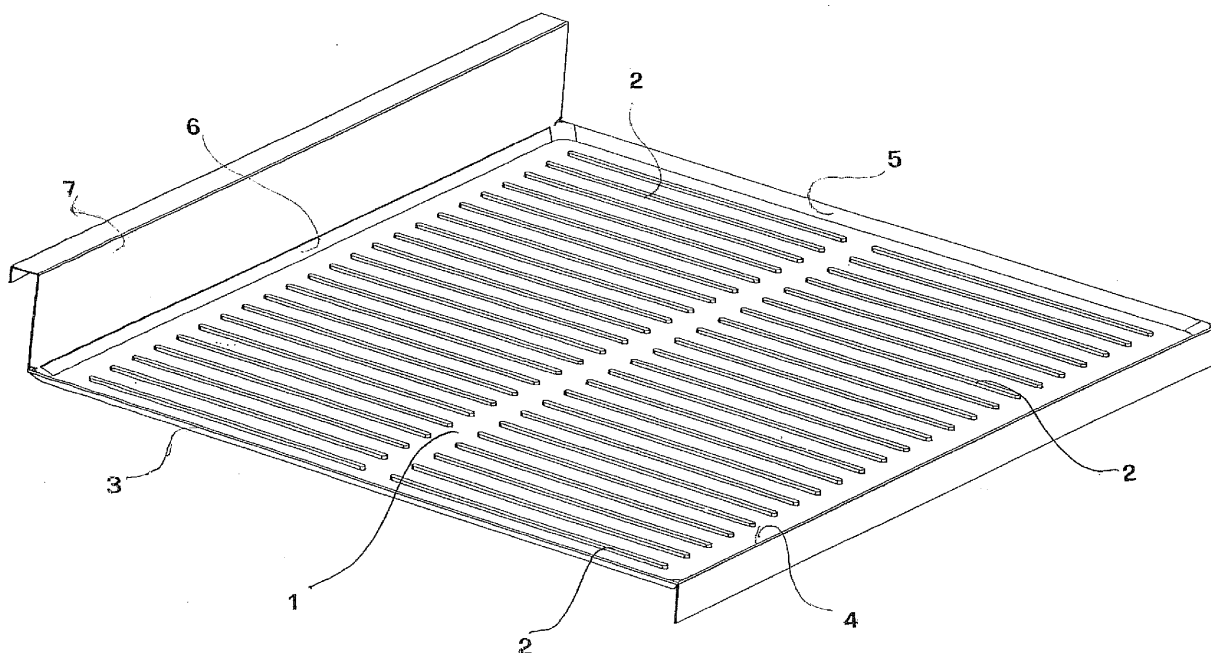
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(54) **Device for protection against and containment of water, for bases beneath washbasins and sinks**

(57) A device is described for protection against and containment of water, for bases beneath washbasins and

sinks, consisting of a substantially square or rectangular plate, which is in the form of a tray (1) with raised edges (3, 4, 5, 6),



**Fig. 1**

## Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a device for protection and containment of water, for bases beneath washbasins and sinks.

[0002] It is now commonplace to provide a base beneath sinks to contain accessories such as the waste bin, or products to clean plates and crockery and/or the sink itself. Sometimes, some foodstuffs are also kept in this space. Even though the bottom of the sink is sealed, it often happens that an amount of water ends up in these spaces, thus attacking the veneer and occasionally even rotting the wooden structures of the furniture unit.

[0003] This disadvantage is normally avoided by laying a smooth or embossed aluminium plate on the inner surface of the bottom plane of the base beneath the sink. The surface of the aluminium is passivated in contact with the water, such that it is not damaged. However, a plate of this type is normally rather expensive, and is usually difficult to clean and dry, with the result that in fact there is only limitation and not elimination of the damage.

[0004] The above-described disadvantages are eliminated remarkably well by the present invention, which relates to a device for protection and containment of water, for bases beneath sinks and washbasins, consisting of a substantially square or rectangular plate, which is in the form of a tray with raised edges, **characterised in that** one of the said edges has an edging which acts as a fastener and/or grip.

[0005] The present invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to the attached drawings, which illustrate preferred embodiments of it, and wherein:

- figure 1 is a perspective view of a device according to an embodiment of the present invention;
- figure 2 is a perspective view, similar to figure 1, of an alternative embodiment of the present invention;
- figure 3 is a perspective view of an optional component for figure 2;
- figure 4 is a perspective view of another optional component for figure 2; and
- figure 5 is the same optional component as in figure 4, but overturned.

[0006] The device according to the present invention is in the form of a smooth tray 1 with a series of surface ribs 2. The tray 1 has raised perimeter edges 3, 4, 5, 6. The extent of this raising varies according to the edges. Thus, the edges 3 and 5 will project by 0.2 to 4 cm, the edge 4 by 1 to 4 cm, and the edge 6 by a decidedly greater extent, having according to the invention an edging 7 which acts as a fastener and/or grip.

[0007] According to the embodiment represented in figures 2 to 5, the presence of accessories is provided for. On the tray 1, which is similar to the one represented in figure 1, there is added an object-holder basket 8 (for example for sponges, cutlery or other utensils). Prefera-

bly, the bottom of this basket 8 has on its outer surface a series of grooves 9, which can be engaged with the ribs 2 of the tray 1, such as to engage with geometrical connection. The basket 8 can also be kept in position by a basket holder 10. Preferably, the device according to the invention is made of plastic material, such as polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, or ABS.

[0008] The device according to the invention can be laid down on the inner bottom of the furniture unit beneath the sink in normal kitchens, but also on that of a piece of furniture which is present beneath a bathroom washbasin. According to the invention, the edging 7 can be applied to the edging which is present beneath the sink, such as to secure the tray 1 with geometric connection to the inner bottom of the furniture unit. The presence of raised edges 3-6 ensures that water which leaks by any means beneath the sink will gather, without wetting the bottom or inner walls of the furniture unit beneath the sink or washbasin, thus extending considerably the service life of the furniture unit, which will not rot. The form of the tray 1 which is smooth and has ribs 2 facilitates collection of the water with a sponge or the like, with the result that the service life of the furniture unit is extended further if this operation is carried out in good time. In addition, the fact that the water gathers on the tray 1 and the fact that the latter is smooth makes it possible to reveal the presence of the water immediately, so that intervention is at least possible far more quickly than in the case of the conventional devices. The fact that the device is made of plastic material makes it economical and durable.

[0009] In the case of the embodiment in figure 2, the tray 1 is associated with accessories which are secured to the bottom, by geometric connection between the ribs 2 and the grooves 9. This therefore prevents the basket 8 from slipping sideways, in such a way that any water which is present may not be hidden because it is covered by the basket 8.

[0010] As has been seen, the device according to the present invention makes it possible to collect safely water which infiltrates a furniture unit between a sink or washbasin, whilst also permitting neat and easy cleaning, and thus prolonging significantly the service life of the furniture unit.

## Claims

1. Device for protection against and containment of water, for bases beneath washbasins and sinks, consisting of a substantially square or rectangular plate, which is in the form of a tray (1) with raised edges (3, 4, 5, 6), **characterised in that** one (6) of the said edges (3, 4, 5, 6) has an edging (7) which acts as a fastener and/or grip.
2. Device according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the surface of the said tray has a series of ribs (2).

3. Device according to anyone of the preceding claims,  
**characterised in that** it also comprises a basket (8).
4. Device according to claim 3, **characterised in that**  
the surface of the said basket (8) which faces the 5  
surface of the said tray (1) has a series of grooves  
(9) which are apt to engage geometrically with the  
said ribs (2).
5. Device according to any one of the preceding claims, 10  
**characterised in that** it is made of a plastic material.
6. Device according to claim 5, **characterised in that**  
the said plastic material is selected from amongst 15  
polyethylene, polystyrene, polypropylene, or ABS.

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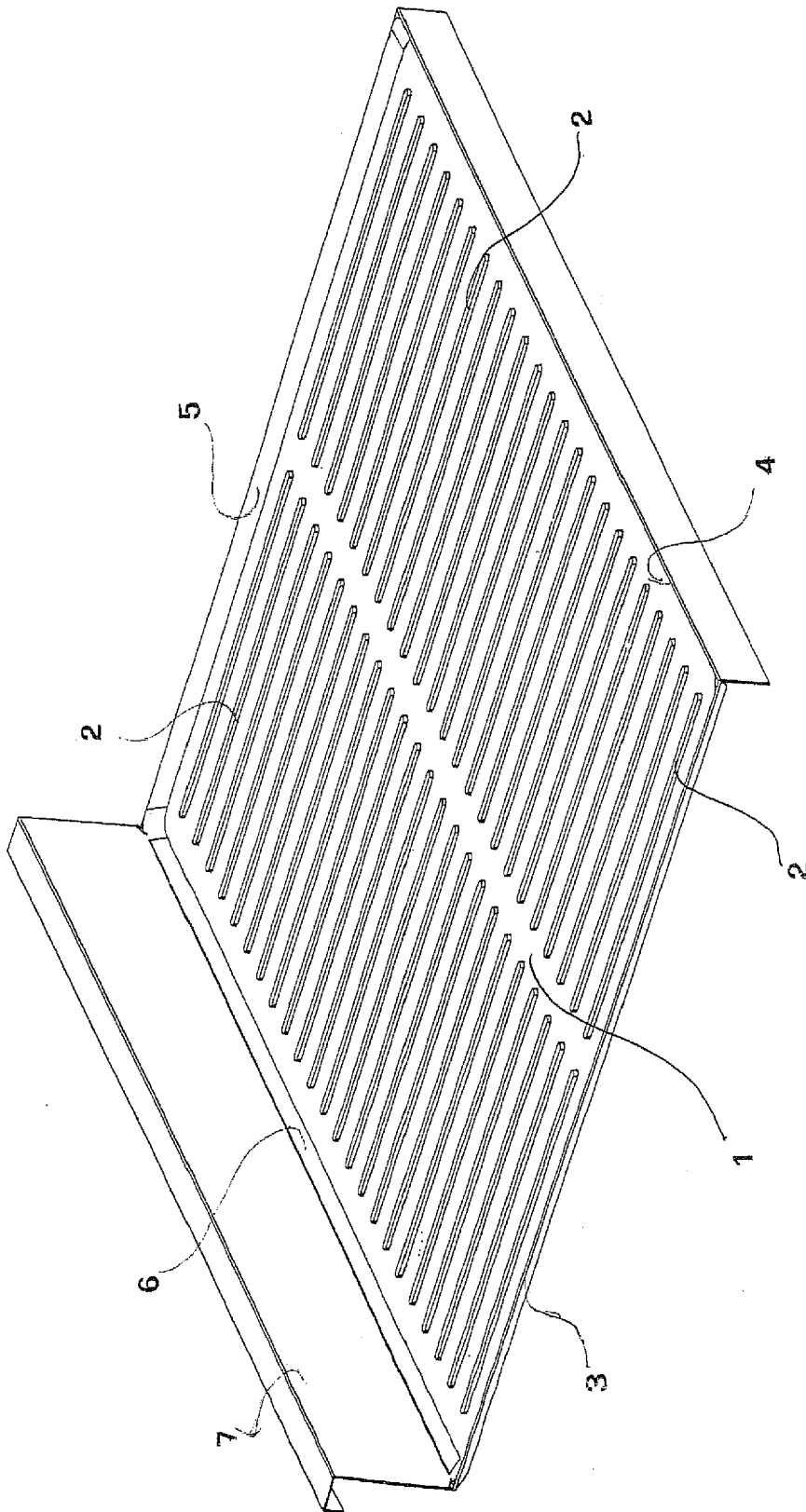
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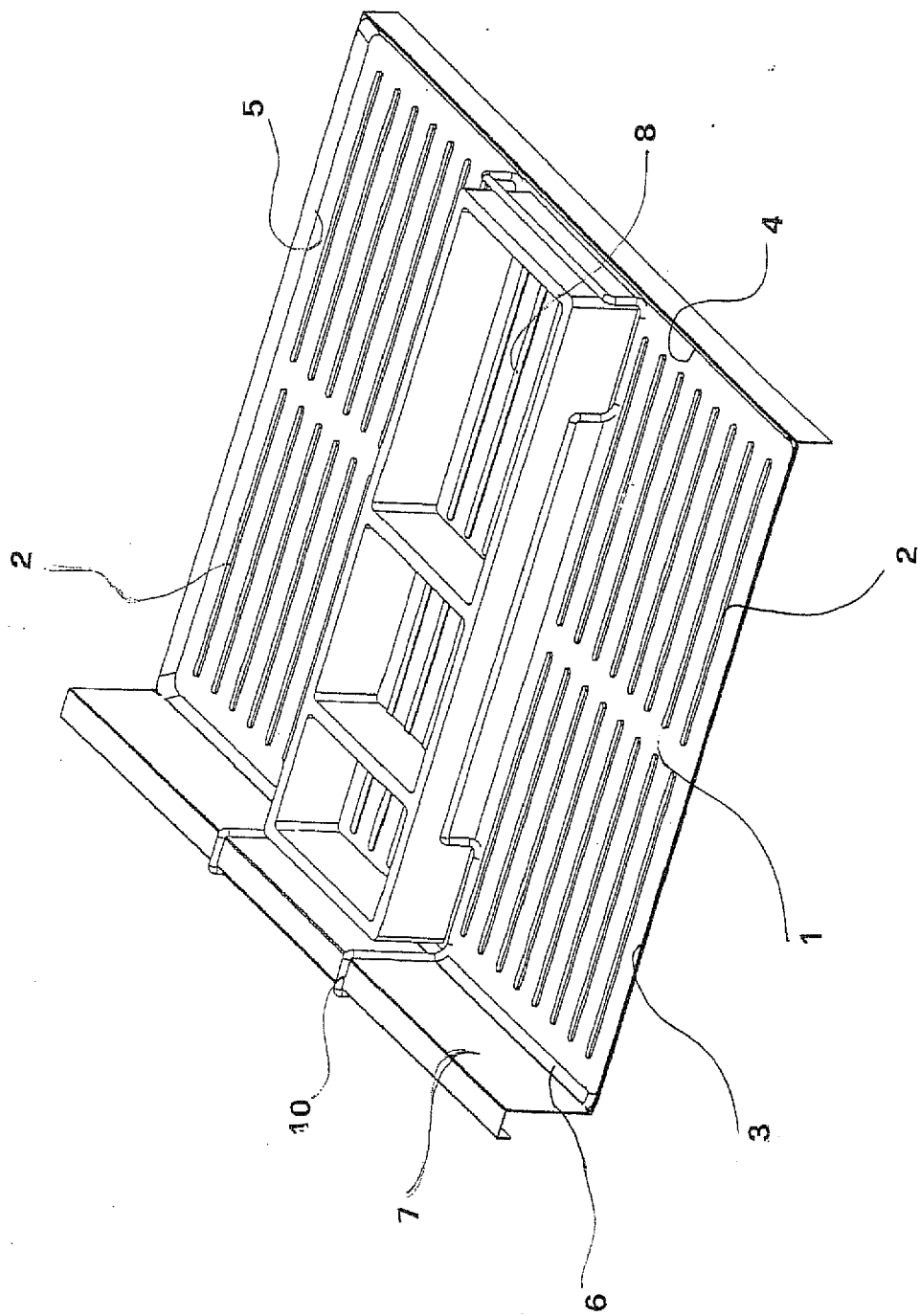


Fig. 2

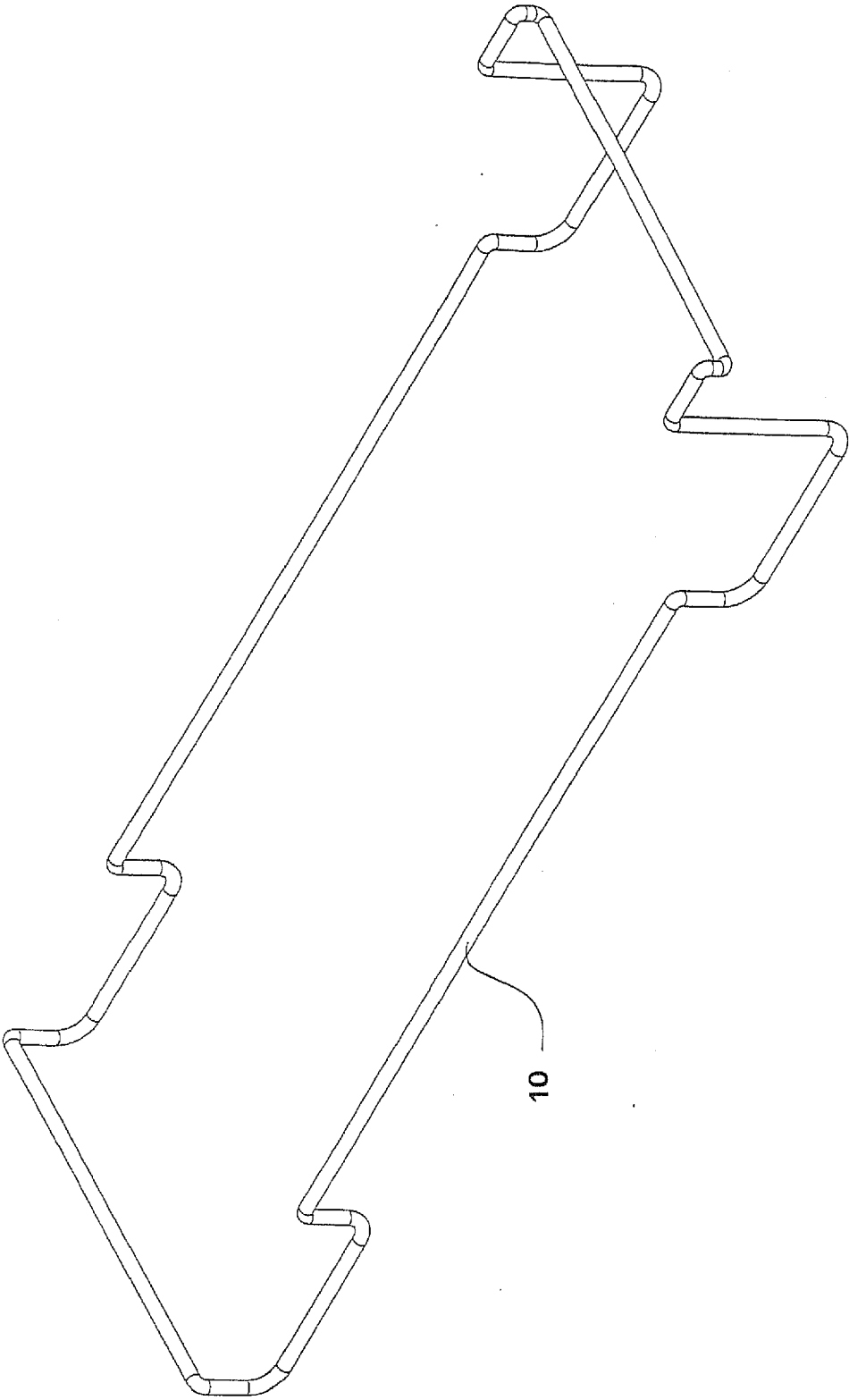


Fig. 3

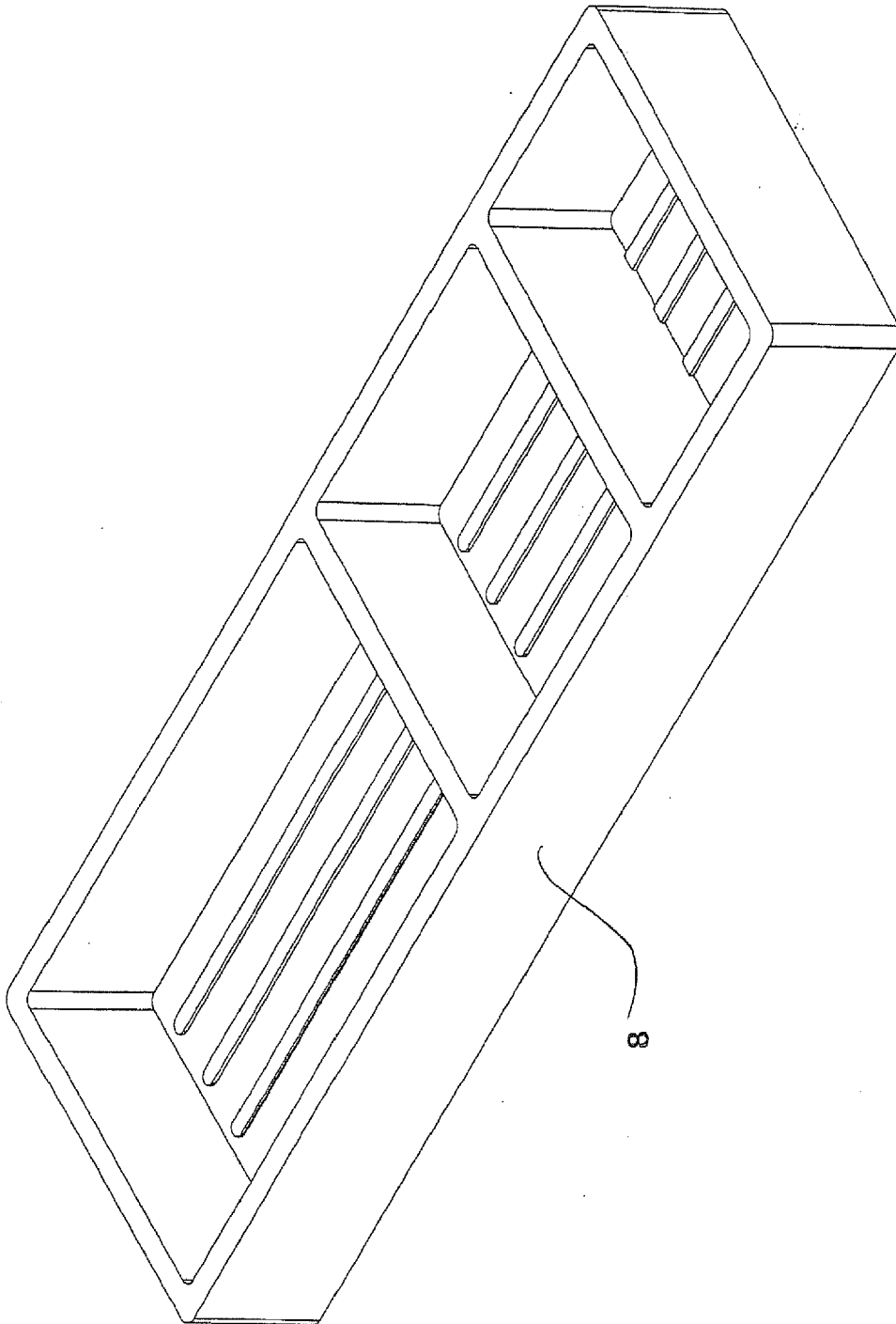


Fig. 4

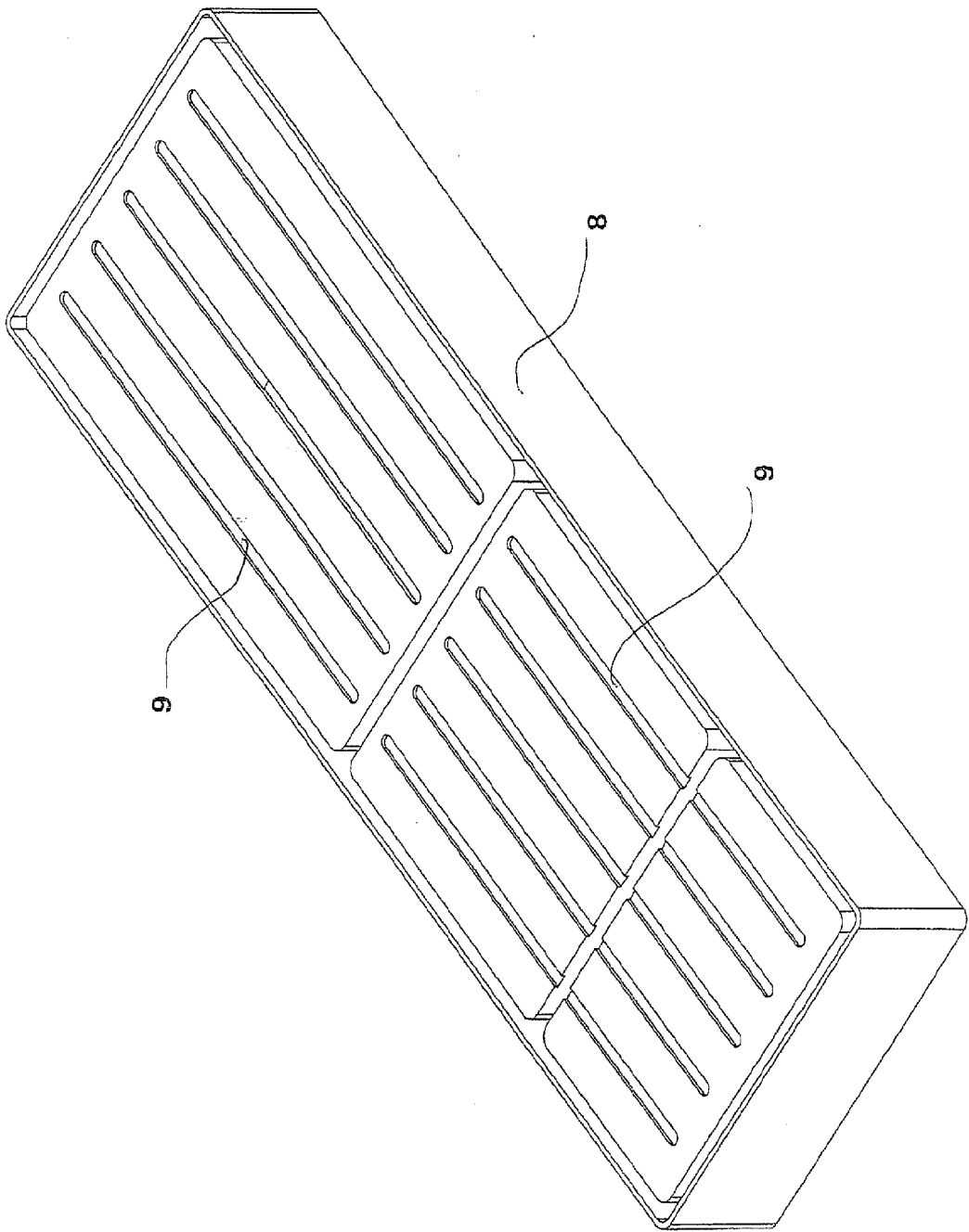


Fig. 5



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 09 16 4279

| 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 5 199 457 A (MILLER DAVID R [US])<br>6 April 1993 (1993-04-06)<br>* column 1, line 6 - line 15 *<br>* column 3, line 15 - line 49; figures 1-6 *                      | 1-3,5,6                                                      | INV.<br>E03C1/186<br>A47B77/06          |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | -----<br>US 6 161 718 A (MONBO OPHELIA B [US])<br>19 December 2000 (2000-12-19)<br>* column 3, line 50 - line 63 *<br>* column 5, line 60 - line 67; figure 1 *<br>----- | 3                                                            |                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                              | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                              | E03C<br>A47L                            |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                              |                                         |
| Place of search<br><b>The Hague</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                          | Date of completion of the search<br><b>24 September 2009</b> | Examiner<br><b>Porwoll, Hubert</b>      |
| <p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br/>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br/>A : technological background<br/>O : non-written disclosure<br/>P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br/>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br/>D : document cited in the application<br/>L : document cited for other reasons<br/>.....<br/>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                              |                                         |

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

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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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