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(54) **Shock-absorbing facemask attachment assembly**

(57) A facemask coupled to a sports helmet such that it will absorb a very high percentage of the impact energy from a ball or other oncoming force. The shock-absorbing facemask attachment assembly includes a housing attached to a helmet. An insert may be coupled to the facemask and the housing such that the insert is pushed further into the housing in response to an applied force.

Alternatively, one or more springs may be coupled to the facemask and the housing such that the springs are compressed further toward the housing in response to an applied force. As another alternative, a spring assembly may include at least one spring coupled to the helmet and the housing and at least one spring coupled to the facemask and the housing.

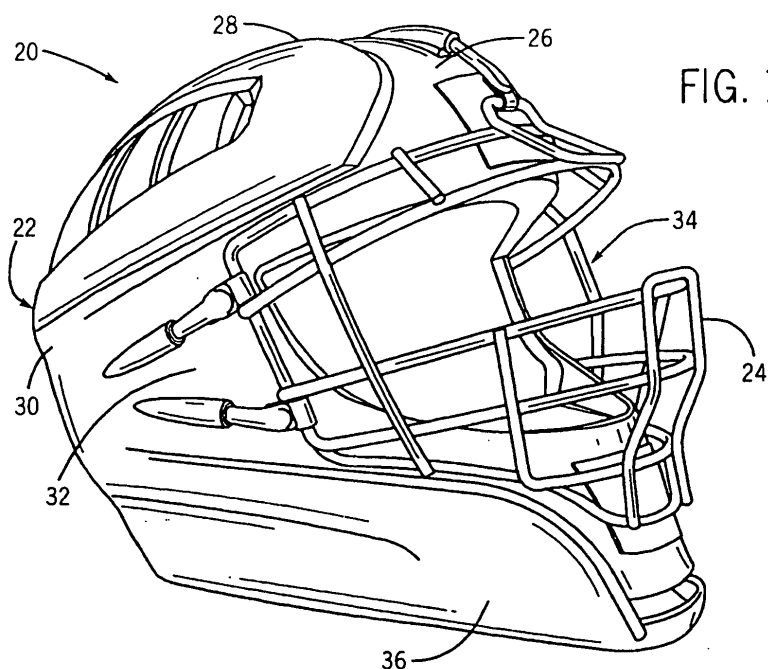


FIG. 1

**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of
subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 10 00 3907

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 3 900 897 A (DUNNING FRED R) 26 August 1975 (1975-08-26) * column 1, line 60 - column 2, line 64; figures 1,3 *	13,18,20	INV. A42B3/20
A	US 4 028 743 A (CHRISTENSEN CAI V) 14 June 1977 (1977-06-14) * column 7, lines 32-47; figures 7,9,11 *	13-16,20	
A	US 5 675 875 A (SERVATIUS RICHARD JAMES [US]) 14 October 1997 (1997-10-14) * column 2, line 8 - column 3, line 3; figures 1,3 *	13,14, 16-18,20	
A	US 4 370 759 A (ZIDE ROBERT) 1 February 1983 (1983-02-01) * claim 1; figures 1,4,6 *	13,20	
A	US 2004/025231 A1 (IDE THAD M [US] ET AL) 12 February 2004 (2004-02-12) * paragraphs [0044], [0045]; figures 1,3,4 *	13,20	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A42B
INCOMPLETE SEARCH The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out. Claims searched completely : Claims searched incompletely : Claims not searched : Reason for the limitation of the search: see sheet C			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 8 December 2010	Examiner D'Souza, Jennifer
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04E07)



PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 10 00 3907

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	US 5 095 552 A (PARKINSON LEE J [US]) 17 March 1992 (1992-03-17) * claim 1; figure 1 * -----	13,20	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)

**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C**

Application Number

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Claim(s) completely searchable:
13-20

Claim(s) not searched:
1-12

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Claims 1 - 12 do not meet the requirements of Article 76(1) EPC. Claims 1 - 12 appear to be based on the embodiment in figure 10 and paragraph [0040] of the description. However, certain of the wording of claim 1, for example the elongate cavity, is only derived from the schematic figure, which does not clearly show the interaction between the various components, in particular the relative diameters and lengths of the components appear to be somewhat arbitrary. Further claim 1 does not contain all the features disclosed for this embodiment, in particular the cover and sleeve are missing. There appears to be no basis in the application as filed for the newly introduced term "adapted to be compressed in response to a force", which is a result to be achieved.

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

EP 10 00 3907

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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08-12-2010

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US 5675875	A	14-10-1997	NONE	
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