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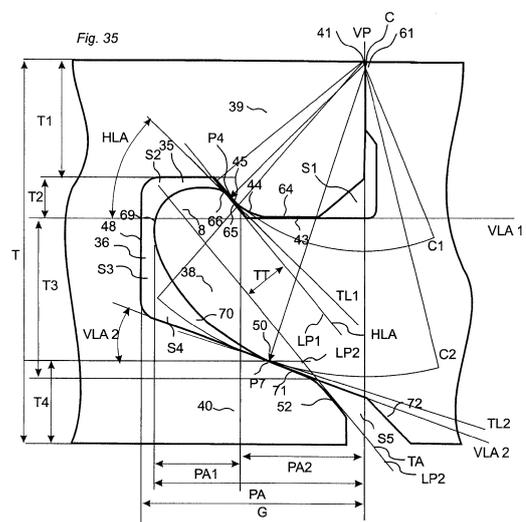
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(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
07150247.0 / 1 903 158
02729616.9 / 1 349 995

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(54) **Flooring system comprising mechanically joinable floorboards**

(57) A floorboard and an openable locking system therefor comprise an undercut groove on one long side of the floorboard and a projecting tongue on the opposite long side of the floorboard. The undercut groove has a corresponding upwardly directed inner locking surface at a distance from its tip. The tongue and the undercut groove are formed to be brought together and pulled apart by a pivoting motion which has its centre (C) close to the intersection between the surface planes (HP) and the common joint plane (VP) of two adjoining floorboards. The undercut in the groove of such a locking system is produced by means of at least two disk-shaped cutting tools whose rotary shafts are inclined relative to each other to form first an inner part of the undercut portion of the groove and then a locking surface positioned closer to the opening of the groove. An installation method for a floor of such boards comprises the steps of laying a new board adjacent to a previously laid board, moving the tongue of the new board into the mouth of the undercut groove of the laid board, angling the new board upward during continued insertion of the tongue into the undercut groove and simultaneously angling down the new board to the final position. A manufacturing method for manufacturing the undercut groove uses machining by means of at least two different rotary cutting tools whose rotary shaft is set at different angles. A wedge-shaped tool for laying of the floorboards is wedge-shaped with an upwardly directed engaging surface at its thicker end.





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 18 1566

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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	GB 1 027 709 A (JUNCKERS SAVVAERK AS) 27 April 1966 (1966-04-27) * the whole document * -----	1-6, 13-15	INV. E04F15/02
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			E04F
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		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		30 January 2015	Warthmüller, Almut
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (PC/E07)



**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C**

Application Number
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Claim(s) searched incompletely:
1-15

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Divisional Application

The subject matter of the claims extends beyond the content of at least one parent application as filed, contrary to Article 76(1) EPC (see also G1/06).

The present application is a divisional of European patent application No. 02729616, which is itself a divisional of European patent application No. 07150247.

In the following, reference is made to the publication pamphlets of these earlier applications:

E0a: EP 1 349 995 A0 (application No. EP02729616) = WO 02/055809 A1

E1a: EP 1 903 158 A2 (application No. EP07150247)

The following feature has been deleted from claim 1 of the original parent application E0a:

a) "at least the major part of the bottom end of the tongue groove, seen parallel with the surface plane (HP), is positioned further away from the joint plane (VP) than is the outer end of the tongue"

Feature a) is presented as part of the solution suggested to solve the problem posed (see p. 40 l. 16-23 ("According to the invention...") and p. 67 l. 2-9 of E0a). In the entire application this solution consisting of a combination of several features, one of which is feature a), is always presented as a whole. In all embodiments, except figure 40, feature a) is also described. There is no hint in the entire application to the technical effect of parts of this combination of features or that one of the features could be omitted.

Therefore, the skilled person would not directly and unambiguously recognise that feature a) was not explained as essential in the disclosure. He would rather recognise that feature a) in deed is, as such, indispensable for the function of the invention in the light of the technical problem it serves to solve. Finally, he surely would not directly and unambiguously recognise that the replacement or removal of feature a) requires no real modification of other features to compensate for the change (see Guidelines H-V, 3.1, all three conditions not fulfilled).

The deletion of this feature therefore introduces subject matter which extends beyond the content of the original parent application as filed, contrary to Article 76(1) EPC.

Basis of this Report

In reply to the invitation to file a statement indicating the subject matter to be searched, the applicant failed to provide the requested information in due time.

Thus, pursuant to Rule 63(2) EPC, the search was restricted to those claimed products which appear to be supported by all parent applications as filed, i. e. to claim 1 under addition of feature a) (see point 1, above), and claims 2 to 15 depending on this claim 1.

**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 The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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30-01-2015

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 1027709 A	27-04-1966	BE 651734 A	30-01-2015
		DK 106820 C	20-03-1967
		GB 1027709 A	27-04-1966
		NL 6504640 A	14-02-1966

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82