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(54) **Towel with holders incorporated**

(57) Towel with holders incorporated, which incorporates the means for holding and maintaining a towel (1) extended on the ground, with the help of a plurality of holding elements (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D) that can be driven into

the ground, where these holding elements are linked with a plurality of orifices (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D), at least one orifice per each corner of the towel (1), minimizing the risk imposed by lack of a means for holding the towel extended on the ground.

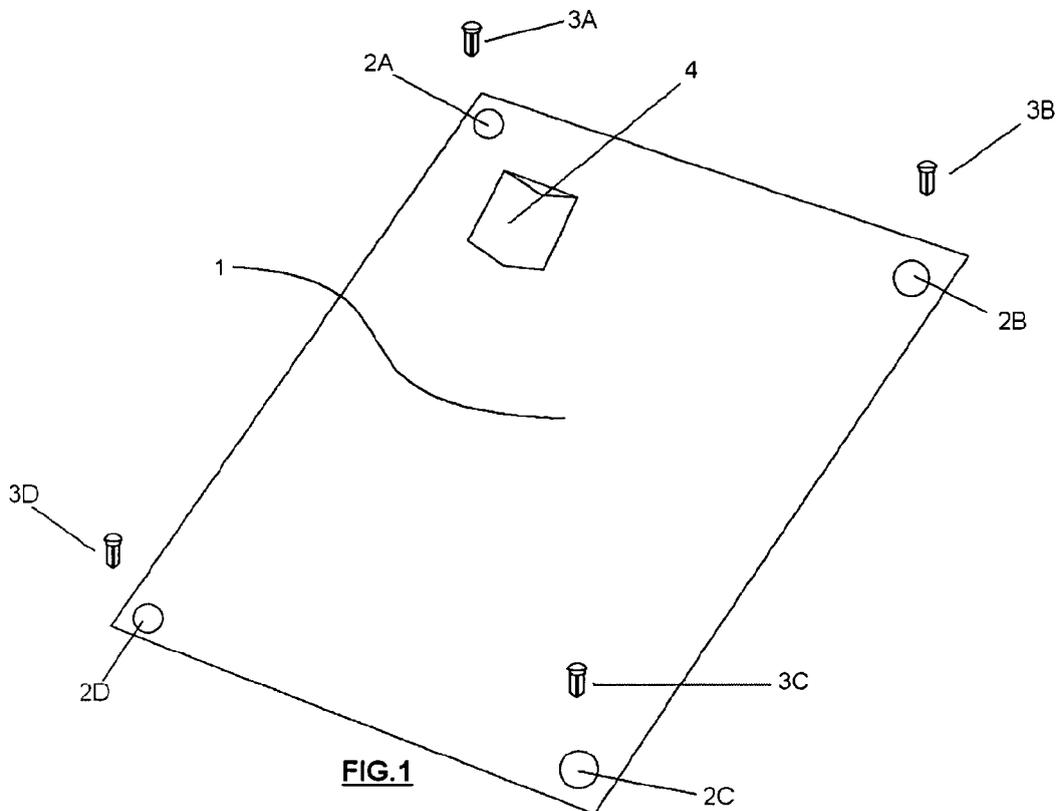


FIG.1

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Description**DESCRIPTION**

[0001] The purpose of the towel with holders incorporated is to hold and maintain a towel extended on the ground. This device is especially applicable for maintaining a beach towel extended, which is logically placed on top of the sand; or generally, over soft ground, at any place where the user wishes to lay on the towel without worrying about the towel folding on itself as frequently occurs.

[0002] A purpose of this invention is to provide a towel that in addition to offering a great towel extending performance on the ground, it minimizes the risk of accident caused by bare foot contact with the towel's holding device.

PRIOR STATE OF THE ART

[0003] Fact is, that towels laid over beach sand for users to rest upon are sometimes retracted by the wind, or by bumping in to them, or by the own users movements, and therefore, do not remain completely extended, which causes an inconvenience for the user; this can also occur when laying towels in parks, pools, etc.

[0004] Additionally, when it's windy or under adverse weather conditions, towels that are left alone normally fold against themselves or are blown from their location.

[0005] To solve this problem, Spanish Utility Model U8901765 describes a towel holder obtained from a single plastic piece delimited by two articulated lever arms, which makes up two clamps with a spring in-line with the arms of each clamp used for maintaining it closed, clamping onto the towel that wants to be held. The clamp is complemented by an elongated round rod that is pointed at one of its ends so that it can be driven into the ground at the beach or grass at the place the towel is going to be laid in such a way so that, using several holding devices like the one listed, a towel can be maintained extended even when a person is not laying on top of it, remaining in that position even when the user moves, it is windy, etc.

[0006] The disadvantage of this device is that the holding elements that make up the clamps extend over the sand or grass and since they are rigid, may present a tripping hazard and cause undesired accidents, which occurs frequently due to the fact that users are usually barefoot in these types of situations.

[0007] On the other hand, the fixing of the towel is not as efficient as would be desired because the holding elements or clamps are opened quickly and easily when the spring tension is overpowered, which may occur by accident and inadvertently due to multiple causes. Also, a round shaped rod, due to its shape, does not guarantee a good hold in the sand.

EXPLANATION OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The device recommended in this invention has been designed to solve the above mentioned problem in a way that provided with the means for holding and maintaining a towel extended in its lying ground, and based on an element or rod driven into the ground and a holding element for the corners and edges of the towel, presents the particularity that the towel has orifices below the angles formed by its comers; at least one orifice per corner, in a way that holding elements can be inserted through them, which are comprised of a rod with a cruciform shape and crowned with a cylindrical body, which is in turn closed on top by a mushroom shaped head; in other words, a head with a round shaped top and a flat lower body that attaches to the cylinder body.

[0009] In a particular embodiment of the invention, the towel includes a pocket for carrying the holding elements and other types of objects when the towel is extended on the ground.

[0010] Likewise, in another particular embodiment, the towel is folded in half, making the orifices located at the corners meet so that a snap hook or an additional handle can be inserted in the orifices, enabling to turn the towel into a bag or a carrying utensil, which is evidently a practical advantage for using the towels when going to the beach, pool or engaging in similar activities.

[0011] This way, a towel is devised that in combination with the described holding elements, which for an evidently optimum hold, at least one should be through an orifice, in other words, a total of four, enables to hold and maintain the towel extended on the ground with the particularity that the mushroom head constitutes a round body, without protruding edges, and depending on the construction, practically semi-flat, that practically does not protrude upward from the ground, which will limit any damage that may occur even when a bare foot touches the device since this is not a device that has protruding edges as occurs with the current state of the art.

[0012] Likewise, the holding element is more reliable since it does not have any moving parts that can be inadvertently actuated, which provides the device increased safety in the hold. The cruciform rod also provides a greater holding performance in the sand than the round rod.

[0013] The towel purpose of this invention, is not only for single use but may be used in combination with other towels of similar characteristics, overlapping at least one of its sides with another similar side, in such a way that the corner orifices are aligned and in this way forming a network of towels, which results in an obvious advantage against other towels with holders.

[0014] Finally, we must state that the position of the orifices is essential in order to be able to fold the towel in half and close it using a handle or snap hook and therefore, turning the towel into a comfortable bag, which is an additional advantage that the rest of towels do not possess.

[0015] Due to its design, small size and weight, the carrying of the holding elements using the towel is not heavy or uncomfortable for the towel user. Likewise, we must highlight the fact that the described interlocking system is perfectly valid for different towel thicknesses and external sizes.

[0016] Throughout the description and claims, the word "comprises" and its synonyms do not intend to exclude other technical characteristics or components. For experts in the field, other objectives, advantages and characteristics of this invention will in part be derived from the description and in part from placing the invention into practice. The following examples and drawings provide an illustration and are not intended to limit this invention. Additionally, this invention covers all the possible combinations of particular and preferred performances indicated herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017]

FIG1. Shows a towel with holders as described in this invention.

FIG2. Shows a plan view and height of the holding element that is part of the purpose of this invention.

FIG3. Shows a view of the towel purpose of the present invention folded in half and forming a bag or multi-use carrying utensil.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICATION METHODS

[0018] As can be observed in FIG.1, the towel (1) is a conventional type towel, essentially rectangular in shape, which has orifices at each of its corners (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D) used for housing its corresponding holding element (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D), in such a way that the towel is extended on the ground aided by the holding elements that are driven into the ground.

[0019] As an option, the towel (1) incorporates a pocket (4) on one of its sides, in such a way that the holding elements (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D) can be placed in this pocket (4) when the towel (1) is configured for carrying, as can be seen in FIG. 3 where each of the towel (1) corners are folded (5) over the other corners making the orifices (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D) align with each other and in this way close the towel forming a bag (10). The orifices will be joined together using attaching means (6) such as a handle, snap hook, a rope attached to each corner in such a way that all four ropes can be tied together, or in general, any method for joining that enables to close the towel so it can be used as a bag (10).

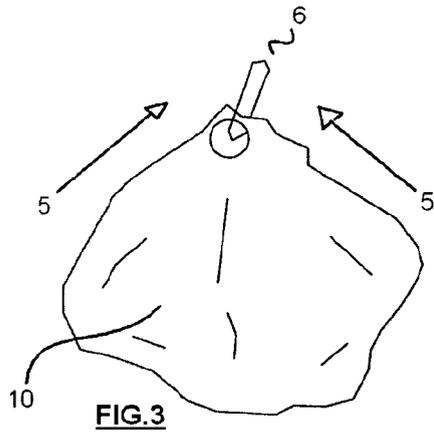
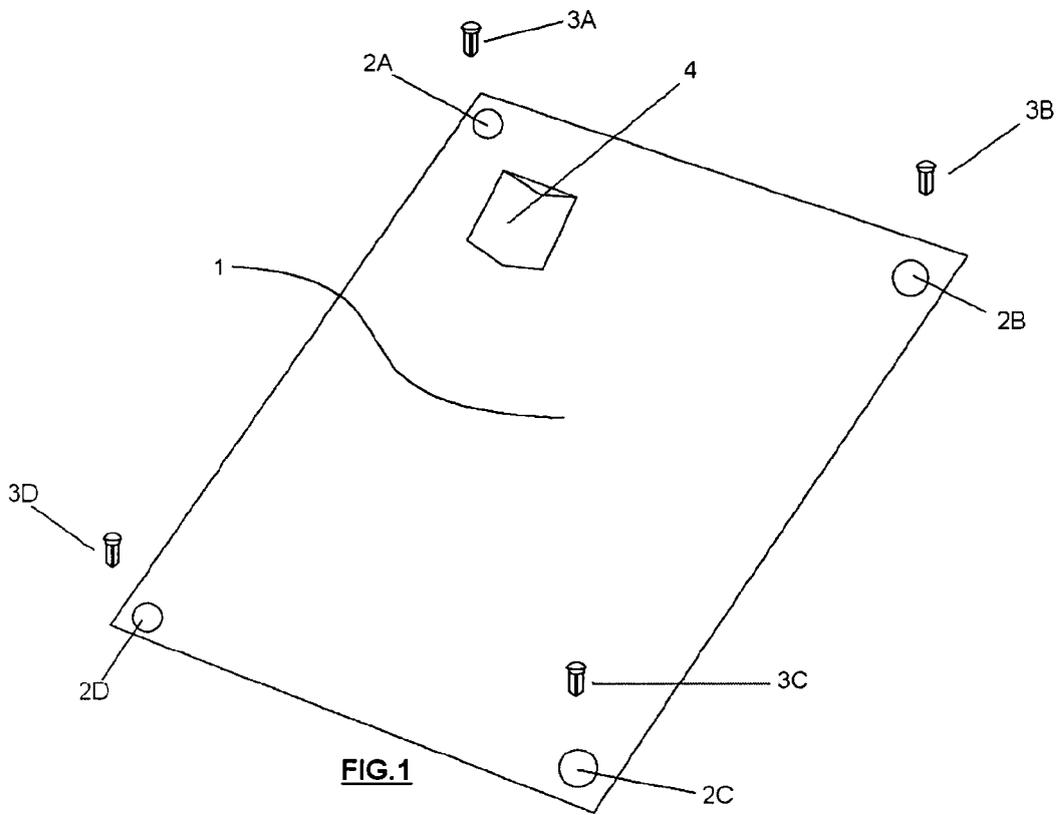
[0020] Likewise, the pocket (4) is used, for example, for holding a mobile phone, music players or any other thing wished to be carried. For this reason, the location

of the pocket (4) must be within hand's reach when in the extended position.

[0021] FIG.2 shows a picture of the holding elements (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D), which correspond to a cruciform rod (33) crowned by a cylindrical body (32), which is closed on top by a mushroom shaped head (31); in other words, a head with an round shaped upper profile and a flat lower profile, which is joined to the cylindrical body (32). The lower end (34) of the cruciform profile (33) can be straight or bent (34') depending on the characteristics required for optimum performance for driving into a specific type of ground.

15 Claims

1. Towel with holders incorporated, which incorporates the means for holding and maintaining a towel (1) extended on the ground, with the help of a plurality of holding elements (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D) that can be driven into the ground, where these holding elements are linked with a plurality of orifices (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D), at least one orifice per each corner of the towel (1) and is **characterised in that** the towel (1) has a plurality of orifices (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D) located on the inside of the angles that form the corners of the towel, at least one per corner of the towel (1); and where the holding elements (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D) are configured to be inserted in these orifices, which are comprised of a cruciform rod (33) crowned by a cylindrical body (32), which is closed on top by a mushroom shaped head (31); in other words, a head with an round shaped upper profile and a flat lower profile, which is joined to the cylindrical body (32).
2. Towel in accordance with claim 1 that is **characterised in that** the lower end (34) of the cruciform profile (33) can be straight or bent.
3. Towel in accordance with claims 1 and 2 that is **characterised in that** the towel (1) incorporates a pocket (4) on one of its sides, in such a way that the holding elements (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D) can be placed in this pocket (4) when the towel (1) is configured for carrying.
4. Towel in accordance with the aforementioned claims that is **characterised in that** in the carrying configuration, each of the towel's (1) corners are folded (5) over the other corners, in such a way that the orifices (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D) align with each other, closing the towel and forming a bag (10).
5. Towel in accordance with claim 4 that is **characterised in that** the orifices (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D) are joined to each other using the attaching means (6) configured for closing and carrying the towel (1) in the shape of a bag (10).



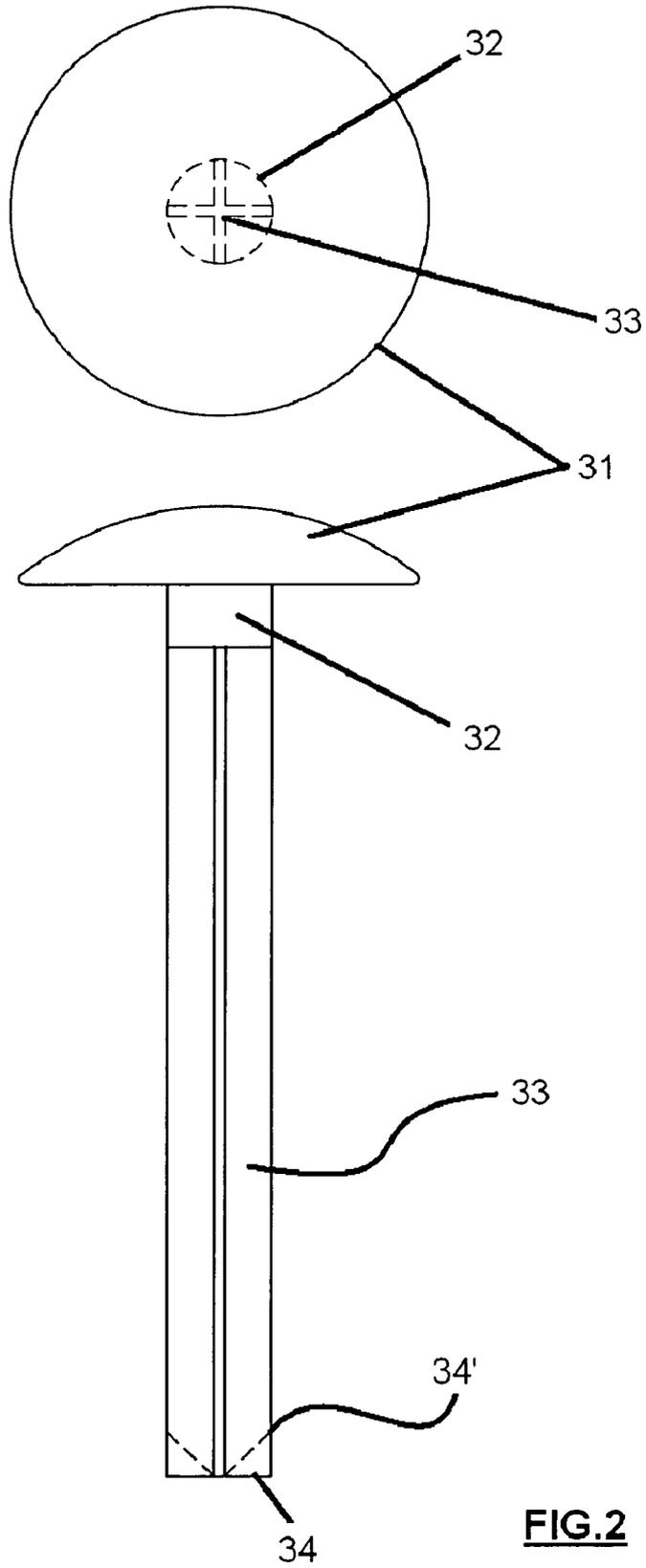


FIG.2



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 10 38 2152

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	EP 0 203 221 A2 (HOBI BERNADETTE) 3 December 1986 (1986-12-03)	1,2,4,5	INV. A47G9/06 E04H15/62
Y	* abstract; figures 1-15 * * page 1, paragraph 2 *	1-3	
Y	FR 2 839 632 A3 (CHAUSSINAND DIDIER [FR]) 21 November 2003 (2003-11-21) * abstract; figures 1-2 *	1-3	
X	US 2003/019034 A1 (HYDUK MICHAEL A [US]) 30 January 2003 (2003-01-30) * abstract * * paragraphs [0041], [0043], [0044], [0046], [0047], [0049]; figures 1,3A,3B,5, 8,9 *	1-3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A47G E04H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 25 January 2011	Examiner Longo dit Operti, T
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 (P04C01)

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

EP 10 38 2152

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.

25-01-2011

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EP 0203221	A2	03-12-1986 CH 663333 A5	15-12-1987
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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

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