(11) EP 2 397 043 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3: **28.03.2012 Bulletin 2012/13**

(43) Date of publication A2: **21.12.2011 Bulletin 2011/51**

(21) Application number: 11005889.8

(22) Date of filing: 19.11.2007

(51) Int Cl.: **A44B** 19/16 (2006.01) **A44B** 19/36 (2006.01)

A44B 19/36 (2006.01) B65D 33/25 (2006.01) A44B 19/26 (2006.01) A44B 19/38 (2006.01)

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR

(30) Priority: 19.11.2006 US 866427

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC: 07864613.0 / 2 091 374

(71) Applicant: W.L. GORE & ASSOCIATES, INC. Newark,
Delaware 19714-9206 (US)

(72) Inventors:

 Meager, Benjamin Bozeman Montana 59715 (US) McCune, Matt Bozeman Montana 59715 (US)

 Young, Bryce Seattle Washington 98205 (US)

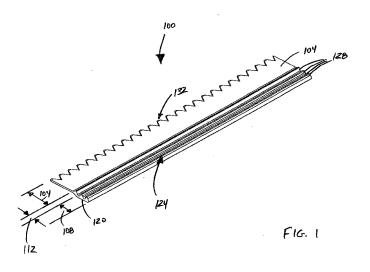
(74) Representative: Shanks, Andrew et al Marks & Clerk LLP

Aurora 120 Bothwell Street Glasgow G2 7JS (GB)

(54) Device for forming a closure between fabrics and/or other materials

(57) Fastening systems include one or more fastening members, sliders, stop blocks and/or top stops. Fastening members described include a variety of features, including structures associated with the head portion,

transition portion, and tail portion. Sliders include friction reducing structures and locking features. Stop blocks provide bottom stops for various articles, and serve to anchor a fastening member. Top stops provide a containment structure for limiting slider travel.





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number EP 11 00 5889

2-1		ERED TO BE RELEVANT Indication, where appropriate,	Relevant	CLASSIFICATION OF THE		
Category	of relevant passa		to claim	APPLICATION (IPC)		
X	WO 00/76341 A1 (THE 21 December 2000 (2	GLAD PRODUCTS COMPANY)	1,5	INV. A44B19/16		
Υ	* page 7, line 8 -		2-4	A44B19/26 A44B19/36		
X	US 5 669 715 A (D.V 23 September 1997 (* column 3, line 23	. DOBRESKI ET AL) 1997-09-23) - column 5, line 28 *	1,5-7	A44B19/38 B65D33/25		
Y	US 2003/033694 A1 (20 February 2003 (2 * paragraphs [0036]	003-02-20)	2-4			
				TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) A44B B65D		
			-			
	The present search report has t	seen drawn up for all claims				
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner		
	The Hague	31 October 2011	1 October 2011 Goo			
X : part Y : part docu A : tech	ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS icularly relevant if taken alone icularly relevant if combined with another incompleted with another incompleted by the same category inclogical background written disclosure	L : document cited f	e underlying the cument, but publite n the application or other reasons	invention		



Application Number

EP 11 00 5889

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES
The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.
Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:
see sheet B
All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report hat been drawn up for all claims.
As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims: 1-7
The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION SHEET B

Application Number

EP 11 00 5889

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-7

Fastening system with first and second fastening members comprising tractioning features

2. claims: 1, 8-12

Fastening system with a stop block comprising a rotatable

brake

3. claims: 1, 13, 14

Fastening system with a stop block comprising first and second block members fixed respectively to first and second

fastening members

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

EP 11 00 5889

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.

31-10-2011

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date	
WO	0076341	A1	21-12-2000	AU US WO	4561399 7213303 0076341	B1	02-01-2001 08-05-2007 21-12-2000
US	5669715	A	23-09-1997	AT AU CA DE DK EP ES GR JP KR PT USO	921987 0921987 2157083 3035911 2000516182 20000029953	B2 A A1 D1 T2 T3 A1 T3 T3 A A	15-03-2001 18-05-2000 06-03-1998 19-02-1998 12-04-2001 21-06-2001 14-05-2001 16-06-1999 01-08-2001 31-08-2001 05-12-2000 25-05-2000 31-07-2001 23-09-1998
US	2003033694	A1	20-02-2003	AU CA NZ US US WO ZA	2002327467 2459683 531687 2003033694 2003177619 03015493 200401781	A1 A1 A1 A1	23-11-2006 27-02-2003 24-09-2004 20-02-2003 25-09-2003 27-02-2003 27-12-2007

 $\stackrel{
m C}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}{\tiny H}}}$ For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

FORM P0459