

(19)



Europäisches  
Patentamt  
European  
Patent Office  
Office européen  
des brevets



(11)

EP 2 606 774 A1

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:  
26.06.2013 Bulletin 2013/26

(51) Int Cl.:  
A47F 7/00 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: 12160757.6

(22) Date of filing: 22.03.2012

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB  
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO  
PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR  
Designated Extension States:  
BA ME

(30) Priority: 21.12.2011 IT BO20110739

(71) Applicant: Arcansas S.R.L.  
61030 Piagge PU (IT)

(72) Inventor: Scriattoli, Amedeo  
61032 Fano (PU) (IT)

(74) Representative: Modiano, Micaela Nadia et al  
Modiano & Partners (IT)  
Via Meravigli, 16  
20123 Milano (IT)

### (54) Assembly for product exhibitors

(57) Assembly (1) for product exhibitors, such exhibitors (2) comprising a supporting frame (3) for a panel (4) for accommodating at least one laminar element (5).

The panel (4) comprises coupling means for at least one first component (6) selected from at least one batten (7) and at least one laminar element (5), and sliding anchoring elements (8) for at least one second component (9) selected from at least one laminar element (5) and at least one batten (7).

The second component (9) is slideable along the anchoring elements (8) along a direction which is parallel to an edge (10) of the at least one first component (6), defining, along the sliding stroke, at least one configuration of juxtaposition of a corner edge (11) of the at least one second component (9) with the edge (10) of the at least one first component (6).

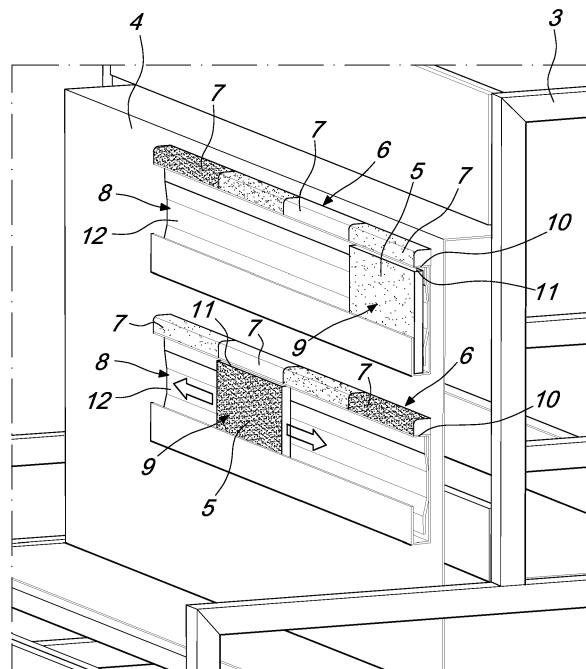


Fig. 2

## Description

**[0001]** The present invention relates to an assembly for exhibitors of products of the type of skirting boards, profiles for tiles, staff angles and the like, profiles for bathroom fittings and decorative profiles in general.

**[0002]** Many product exhibitors are known which are generally constituted by a supporting frame for panels, shelves, shelf brackets and the like which are adapted to accommodate products for sale and/or product samples.

**[0003]** In particular, the product samples are usually firmly coupled, generally by adhesive bonding, to the panel, shelf, shelf bracket and the like, so as to be protected against theft.

**[0004]** Such contrivance however has, firstly, the disadvantage of making it difficult, for the user, to make comparisons between different products and/or samples since it is obviously not possible to move them according to their needs.

**[0005]** In addition the substance used for bonding the samples with adhesive can, with time, lose its properties and thus the samples can detach themselves from the panel.

**[0006]** Moreover, when a specific product goes out of production, the corresponding sample must be removed so as to not cause confusion for the consumer, with the consequent risk that, during the removal operation, the surface paint that covers the panel can be damaged.

**[0007]** The aim of the present invention is to solve the above-mentioned problems, by providing an assembly for product exhibitors that allows an easy and immediate comparison between different products and/or samples.

**[0008]** Within this aim, an object of the invention is to provide an assembly for product exhibitors that makes it possible to remove and/or substitute the products and/or product samples at any time in a simple and quick manner.

**[0009]** Another object of the present invention is to provide an assembly for product exhibitors which is low-cost, relatively easily and practically implemented and safely applied.

**[0010]** This aim and these and other objects which will become better apparent hereinafter are achieved by an assembly for product exhibitors, exhibitors comprising a supporting frame for a panel for accommodating at least one laminar element, **characterized in that** said panel comprises coupling means for at least one first component selected from at least one batten and said at least one laminar element and sliding anchoring elements for at least one second component selected from said at least one laminar element and said at least one batten, said at least one second component being able to slide along said anchoring elements along a direction which is parallel to an edge of said at least one first component, defining, along the sliding stroke, at least one configuration of juxtaposition of a corner edge 11 of the at least one second component with said edge of said at least one

first component.

**[0011]** Further characteristics and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the description of two preferred, but not exclusive, embodiments of the assembly for product exhibitors according to the invention, illustrated by way of non-limiting example in the accompanying drawings wherein:

10 Figure 1 is a perspective view of an assembly for product exhibitors according to the invention, in a first embodiment;

15 Figure 2 is a perspective view of a detail of the assembly for product exhibitors according to the invention;

15 Figure 3 is a perspective view of a detail of the assembly for product exhibitors according to the invention, in a second embodiment.

**[0012]** With reference to the figures, the reference numeral 1 generally designates an assembly for product exhibitors, such exhibitors 2 comprising a supporting frame 3 for a panel 4 for accommodating at least one laminar element 5.

**[0013]** According to the invention, the panel 4 comprises coupling means for at least one first component 6 selected from at least one batten 7 and at least one laminar element 5, and sliding anchoring elements 8 for at least one second component 9 selected from at least one laminar element 5 and at least one batten 7.

**[0014]** In particular, if the first component 6 is a batten 7, the locking elements can be constituted by a cross-piece which is integral with the panel 4, provided with projections and indentations that are compatible with the removable insertion of the battens 7.

**[0015]** The possibility is not excluded of using contrivances of a different nature to secure the first component 6 to the panel 4.

**[0016]** The second component 9 is slideable along the anchoring elements 8 along a direction which is parallel to an edge 10 of the at least one first component 6.

**[0017]** More specifically, the second component 9 defines, along the sliding stroke, at least one configuration of juxtaposition of a corner edge 11 of the at least one second component 9 with the edge 10 of the at least one first component 6.

**[0018]** The second component 9, by sliding along the sliding anchoring elements 8, can thus be brought near the first component 6, allowing a direct comparison between the two components 6 and 9.

**[0019]** In this manner the user, before making a purchase, can verify whether the match of colors or materials corresponds to his expectations and can thus fully satisfy his requirements.

**[0020]** According to an embodiment of undoubtedly practical and applicative interest, the panel 4 can comprise a plurality of first components 6 which are arranged in series and can slide along the direction of sliding of the second component 9.

**[0021]** The second component 9, by sliding along the sliding anchoring elements 8, can thus be placed alongside a plurality of first components 6, thus making it possible to evaluate different purchasing alternatives.

**[0022]** According to another embodiment, which is particularly simple and effective, the panel 4 can comprise a plurality of second components 9 which are arranged in series and aligned along the sliding anchoring elements 8.

**[0023]** The different components 9, by sliding along the sliding anchoring elements 8, can thus be individually placed alongside the first component 6, thus making it possible to evaluate different purchasing alternatives.

**[0024]** The possibility is not excluded of providing assemblies of exhibitors 1 which are provided with panels 4 comprising a plurality of first components 6, which are arranged in series and can slide along the direction of sliding of the second component 9, and a plurality of second components 9, which are arranged in series and aligned along the sliding anchoring elements 8.

**[0025]** In such case, the user can make a comparison, not only between a first component 6 and a second component 9, but between a plurality of first components 6 and second components 9, thus being able to directly evaluate alternative solutions and different matches, and thus having more possibilities of choice.

**[0026]** According to a different embodiment of particular utility, the panel 4 can be provided with a plurality of sliding anchoring elements 8 for at least one respective second component 9.

**[0027]** More specifically, the sliding anchoring elements 9 can be constituted by a substantially C-shaped profiled element 12 for supporting the at least one second component 9.

**[0028]** Such shape enables the easy and quick insertion and extraction, as well as slideability, of the second component 9, thus making it possible to substitute it at any time.

**[0029]** Conveniently, the assembly 1 according to the invention can comprise closure units (of the type of small, removable fasteners, latches, or the like), arranged at the sides of each slideable anchoring element 9 (preferably, but not exclusively, constituted by the profiled element 12).

**[0030]** Such units thus prevent, during the normal use of the assembly 1 according to the invention, the second components 9 from accidentally exiting their seat. Vice versa, if it is desired to remove and substitute the second component 9, be it constituted by a laminar element 5 or by a batten 7, it is possible to temporarily remove the secure coupling from the units, in order to take out the second component 9 and proceed with its substitution (for example, in order to present elements of a new range or collection to the public), finally restoring the coupling constituted by the units introduced above.

**[0031]** The laminar element 5 can be made of a material preferably selected from ceramic, wood, composite material, aluminum, polymers and the like.

**[0032]** The batten 7 can be made of a material preferably selected from ceramic, wood, composite material, aluminum, polymers and the like.

**[0033]** According to a different and particularly practical embodiment, the laminar element 5 can be a display screen 13 which is functionally associated with a user-managed control device for selecting the image to be shown on the screen 13.

**[0034]** If the range of products of the company is very wide, and in particular provides for a plurality of color variations, the dimensions of the panel 4, in order for it to be able to accommodate every single product sample, could be too large and as a consequence prohibitive.

**[0035]** The presence of the screen 13 thus makes it possible to overcome such limitation.

**[0036]** The user can, by means of a keypad, select the type of product to evaluate, and it will thus be displayed on the screen 13 enabling the direct comparison thereof with a different component.

**[0037]** The screen 13 can thus be slideably associated with the anchoring elements 8 (as in the accompanying Figure 3), so as to enable the juxtaposition of a corner edge 11 thereof with the edge of various first components 6, which are arranged substantially aligned parallel to the corner edge 11.

**[0038]** Moreover the possibility is not ruled out of providing assemblies 1 according to the invention in which screens 13 can be juxtaposed according to various mutual arrangements with one or more first components 6 and/or with second components 9 (respectively associated with one or more coupling means and/or with one or more anchoring elements 8), without departing from the scope of protection claimed herein.

**[0039]** It should be noted, moreover, that the closure units described in the above paragraphs (or others similar thereto) can also be provided if the second component 9 is a laminar element 5 of the type of a screen 13. In fact the possibility is not ruled out, while remaining within the scope of protection claimed herein, that the screens 13 can also be removed and substituted, depending on the specific requirements.

**[0040]** Advantageously, the assembly for product exhibitors 1 according to the invention in fact enables an easy and immediate comparison between different products, and/or product samples.

**[0041]** A plurality of second components 9, by sliding along the sliding anchoring elements 8, can in fact be placed alongside a plurality of first components 6, thus allowing a direct comparison of the different components 6 and 9.

**[0042]** In this manner the user, before making a purchase, can verify whether the match of colors or materials corresponds to his expectations of the product and can fully satisfy their requirements.

**[0043]** Conveniently, the assembly for product exhibitors 1 makes it possible to remove and/or substitute the products and/or the product samples at any time in a simple and quick manner, thanks to the particular

"C"-shape of the sliding anchoring elements 9 which enable the easy and quick insertion and extraction, as well as slideability, of the second component 9.

**[0044]** In practice it has been found that the assembly for product exhibitors 1, according to the invention, fully achieves the set aim in that the assembly for product exhibitors enables an easy and immediate comparison between different products and/or product samples.

**[0045]** The invention, thus conceived, is susceptible of numerous modifications and variations, all of which are within the scope of the appended claims. Moreover, all the details may be substituted by other, technically equivalent elements.

**[0046]** In the embodiments illustrated, individual characteristics shown in relation to specific examples may in reality be interchanged with other, different characteristics, existing in other embodiments.

**[0047]** Moreover, it should be noted that anything found to be already known during the patenting process is understood not to be claimed and to be the subject of a disclaimer.

**[0048]** In practice, the materials employed, as well as the dimensions, may be any according to requirements and to the state of the art.

**[0049]** The disclosures in Italian Patent Application No. BO2011A000739 from which this application claims priority are incorporated herein by reference.

**[0050]** Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly, such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the interpretation of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

## Claims

1. An assembly for product exhibitors, exhibitors (2) comprising a supporting frame (3) for a panel (4) for accommodating at least one laminar element (5), **characterized in that** said panel (4) comprises coupling means for at least one first component (6) selected from at least one batten (7) and said at least one laminar element (5) and sliding anchoring elements (8) for at least one second component (9) selected from said at least one laminar element (5) and said at least one batten (7), said at least one second component (9) being able to slide along said anchoring elements (8) along a direction which is parallel to an edge (10) of said at least one first component (6), defining, along the sliding stroke, at least one configuration of juxtaposition of a corner edge (11) of said at least one second component (9) with said edge of said at least one first component (6).
2. The assembly for product exhibitors according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said panel (4) com-

prises a plurality of first components (6) which are arranged in series and can slide along the direction of sliding of said second component (9).

3. The assembly for product exhibitors according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said panel (4) comprises a plurality of second components (9) which are arranged in series and aligned along said sliding anchoring elements (8).
4. The assembly for product exhibitors according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said panel (4) is provided with a plurality of said sliding anchoring elements (8) for at least one respective second component (9).
5. The assembly for product exhibitors according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said sliding anchoring elements (8) are constituted by a substantially C-shaped profiled element (12) for supporting said at least one second component (9).
6. The assembly for product exhibitors according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** it comprises removable closure units, which are arranged at the sides of each one of said sliding anchoring elements (9).
7. The assembly for product exhibitors according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said laminar element (9) is made of a material preferably selected from ceramic, wood, composite material, aluminum and the like.
8. The assembly for product exhibitors according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said batten (7) is made of a material preferably selected from ceramic, wood, composite material, aluminum and the like.
9. The assembly for product exhibitors according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said laminar element (5) is a display screen (13) which is functionally associated with a user-managed control device for selecting the image to be shown on said screen (13).

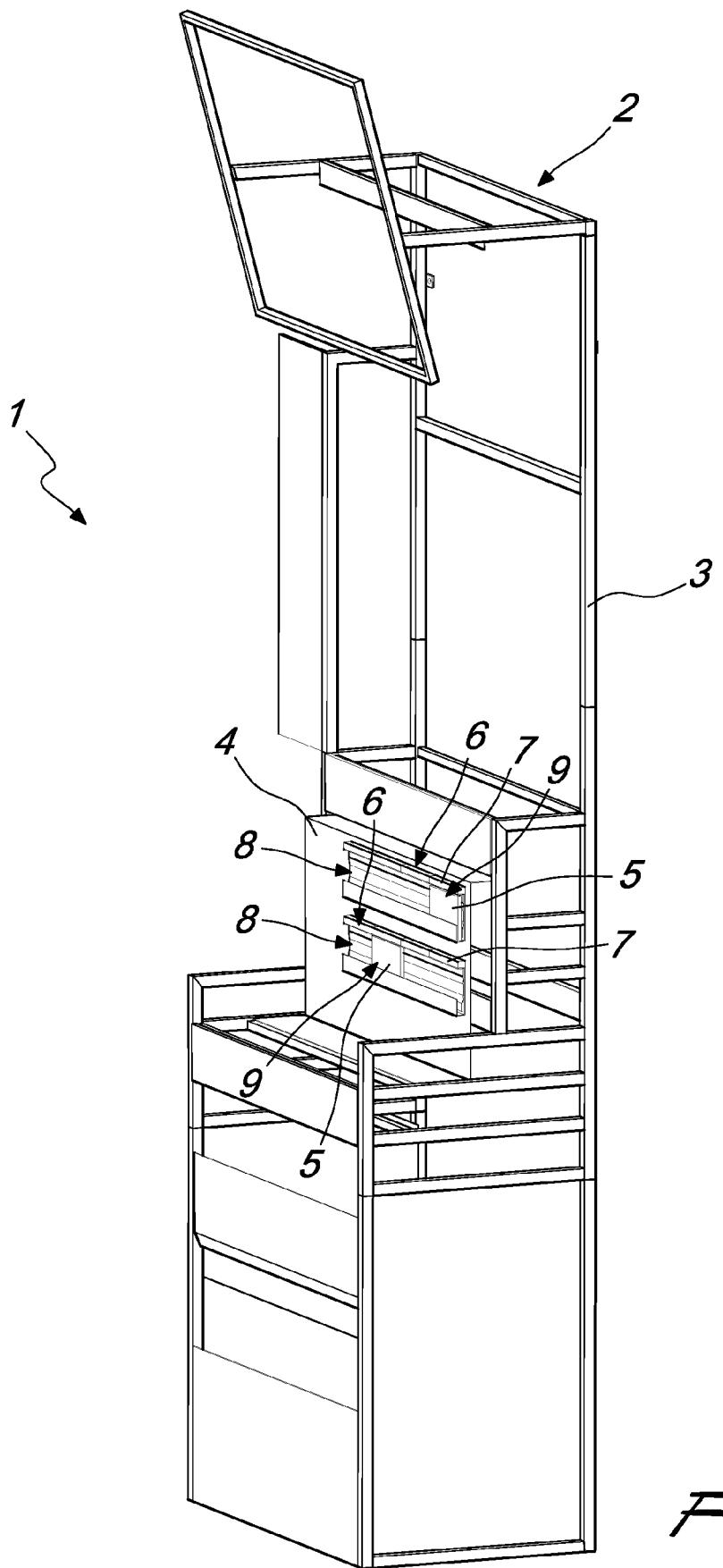
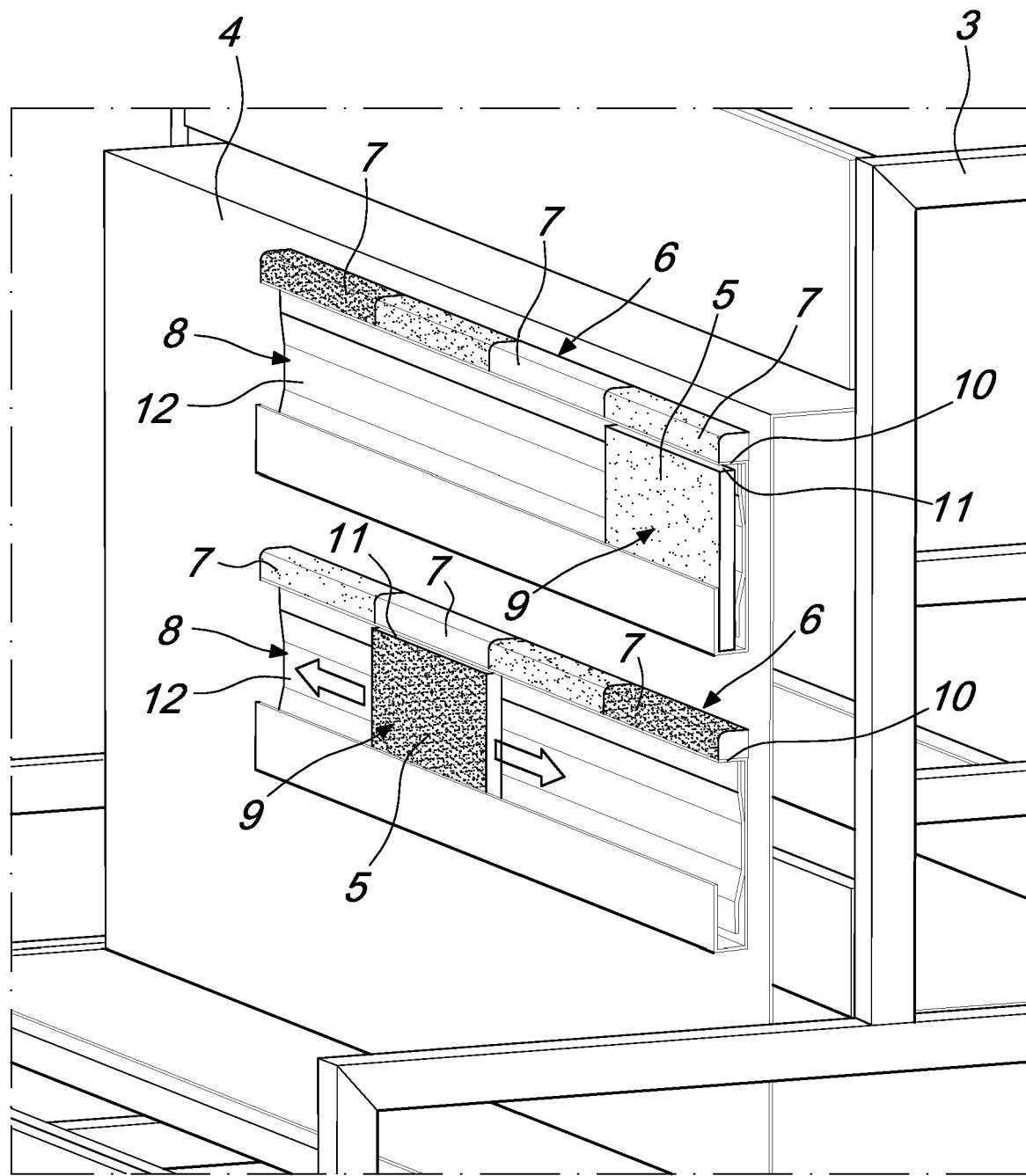


Fig. 1



*Fig. 2*

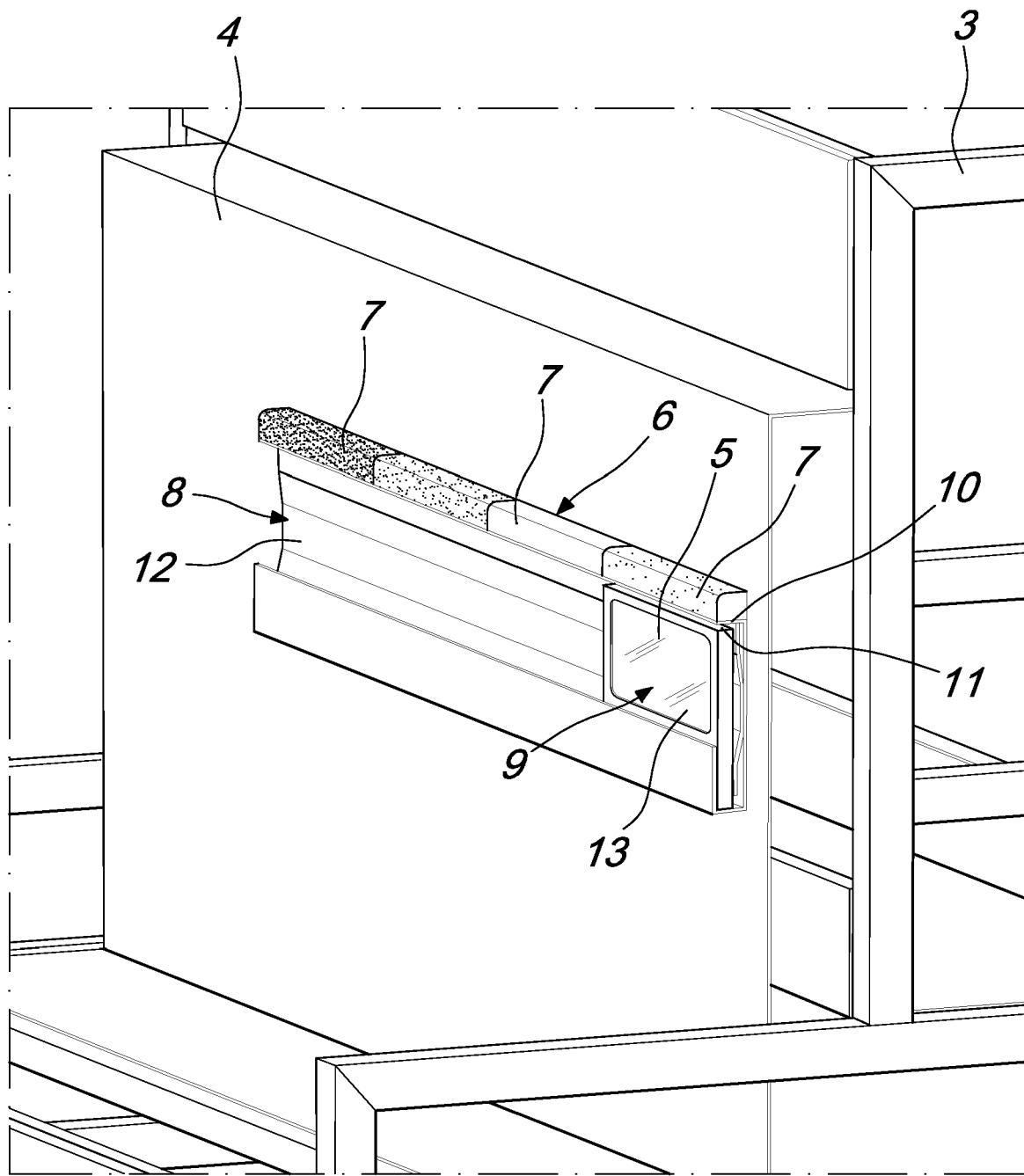


Fig. 3



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 12 16 0757

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	DE 296 01 218 U1 (KYNAST PETER [DE]) 14 March 1996 (1996-03-14) * the whole document * -----	1-9	INV. A47F7/00
X	US 3 408 128 A (KUMP ERNEST J) 29 October 1968 (1968-10-29) * the whole document * -----	1-9	
X	US 2009/211715 A1 (UDOFIA NKERE [US]) 27 August 2009 (2009-08-27) * the whole document * -----	1-9	
X	US 2010/224582 A1 (LOY II KENNETH E [US] ET AL) 9 September 2010 (2010-09-09) * the whole document * -----	1-9	
A	DE 203 01 870 U1 (BEPKA BECKER & PAAP GMBH [DE]) 9 June 2004 (2004-06-09) * the whole document * -----	1-9	
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)			
A47F			
1	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
EPO FORM 1503.03.82 (P04C01)	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	Munich	18 March 2013	Cardan, Cosmin
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			

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

EP 12 16 0757

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.

18-03-2013

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
DE 29601218	U1	14-03-1996	DE	19610772 A1	14-08-1996	
			DE	29601218 U1	14-03-1996	
US 3408128	A	29-10-1968		NONE		
US 2009211715	A1	27-08-2009		NONE		
US 2010224582	A1	09-09-2010		NONE		
DE 20301870	U1	09-06-2004		NONE		

**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**

- IT BO20110739 A [0049]