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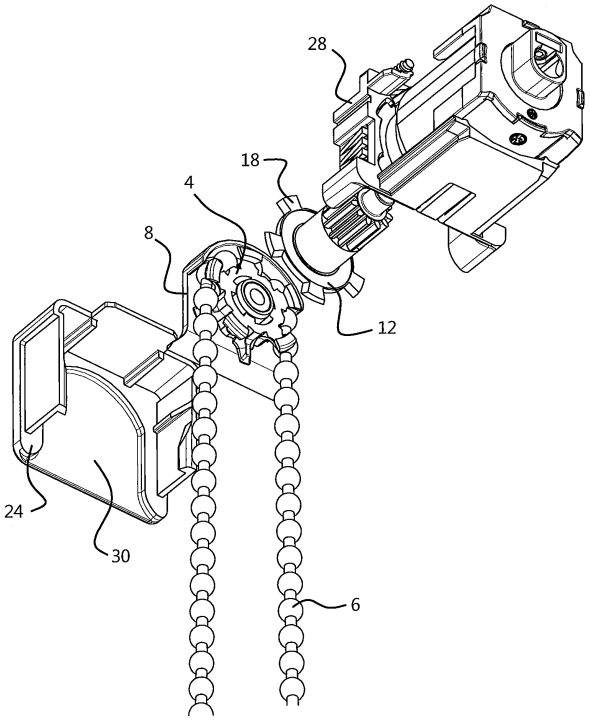
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(54) **DRIVE UNIT FOR AN ARCHITECTURAL OPENING COVERING**

(57) A drive unit for mounting to the head rail of an architectural opening covering, the drive unit including a drive wheel (4) and an operating wheel (12). The drive wheel (4) has an outer periphery configured to receive and support an elongate portion of a continuous looped member, and is configured to rotate about a first axis by longitudinal translation of the continuous looped member with rotation of the outer periphery about the first axis. The operating wheel (12) is configured to rotate about a second axis and to rotate a winding core of the architectural opening covering. The drive wheel (4) is releasably attached coaxially to the operating wheel (12) and is configured, when attached to the operating wheel (12), to transfer rotation of the drive wheel (4) to rotation of the operating wheel (12).

Fig. 3a



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 16 16 5637

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	WO 2010/073515 A1 (TACHIKAWA BLIND MFG [JP]; KAWAI EIJI [JP]) 1 July 2010 (2010-07-01)	1-5,8-13	INV. E06B9/322 E06B9/323
Y	* abstract; figures 4, 9 *	14,15	
A	* p.15, l.30-40 of the machine translation of the description *	6,7	

Y	DE 10 2012 023488 A1 (HUNTER DOUGLAS IND SWITZERLAND [CH]) 5 June 2014 (2014-06-05) * paragraph [0029]; figure 1 *	14,15	

A	NL 2 006 404 C (COULISSE BV) 18 September 2012 (2012-09-18) * the whole document *	1-15	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)

E06B

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich	14 October 2016	Cornu, Olivier

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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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 has 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.

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☐ 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:

☐ 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).

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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 16 16 5637

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: 1-13

A drive unit whereby when a drive wheel is attached to an operating wheel and transfers a circumferential force in one direction, operating and drive wheel attachments prevent the drive wheel from separating axially from the operating wheel.

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2. claims: 14, 15

A drive unit whereby a backing plate is configured to be resiliently engaged within a head rail.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 16 16 5637

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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14-10-2016

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		JP 5376714 B2	25-12-2013
		JP 2010156144 A	15-07-2010
		WO 2010073515 A1	01-07-2010
DE 102012023488 A1	05-06-2014	NONE	
NL 2006404 C	18-09-2012	NONE	

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