



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
22.09.2021 Bulletin 2021/38

(51) Int Cl.:
A47F 5/11 (2006.01) A47F 9/00 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **20208301.0**

(22) Date of filing: **18.11.2020**

(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
Designated Validation States:
KH MA MD TN

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(30) Priority: **19.03.2020 IT 202000005857**

(54) **BARTENDING WORKSTATION**

(57) The present invention relates to a bartending workstation (410), comprising a bearing structure (411), above which a work surface (412) is defined, at least one opening (413) being defined at the work surface (412) inside which opening there is at least one ice-holder tray (414); at least one bottle-holder tray (415) adjacent to

the work surface (412) being defined, which is supported by the same bearing structure (411).

Said at least one bearing structure (411) is constituted by at least one single piece (420A, 420B) of a sheet or of a plate of a folded self-supporting flexible material.

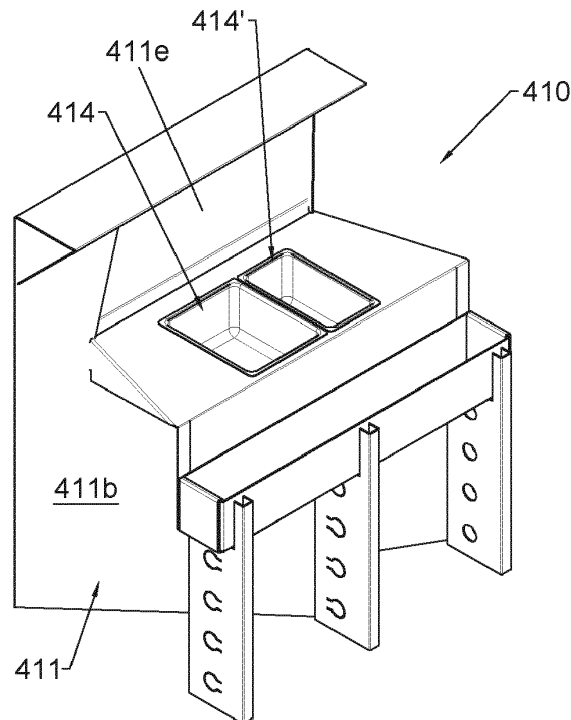


Fig. 16

Description

[0001] The invention relates to a bartending workstation.

[0002] The terminology "American Bartending" refers to an American technique for the preparation of cocktails that allows to mentally dose all the ingredients in a precise way directly into the glass.

[0003] This technique allows the barman to work much faster than traditional techniques providing for the ingredients to be dosed using measuring cups for precision calibration.

[0004] The term measuring cup means a graduated cup.

[0005] Traditional cocktail preparation techniques require the bartender to have a calibrated container available.

[0006] For example, the bartender opens a bottle, pours a liquid ingredient from the bottle to the measuring cup and then from the measuring cup into a container for final use by a buyer, usually a glass.

[0007] This traditional technique takes a long time to be executed because the bartender is forced to repeat the measurement step for each single liquid ingredient.

[0008] The "bartending" technique instead provides that, for example at the beginning of the evening, the bottles of liquid ingredients intended for continuous use are provided with a pouring cap, of a known type, which pouring cap allows the bartender to pour a liquid ingredient with constant flow rate from these bottles provided with pouring cap.

[0009] In this way the bartender, mentally taking into account the duration of the pouring operation, is able to pour the liquid ingredient directly into the container for final use, thus eliminating the operational pouring and measuring step using a measuring cup.

[0010] The elimination of the passage through the measuring cup allows the bartender to operate several pouring operations at the same time, for example by using four bottles at the same time, or two bottles in each hand.

[0011] To carry out this bartending technique, the aforementioned pouring caps and a specially configured station, the so-called 'workstation', are required.

[0012] This bartending workstation consists of a workbench designed in such a way that those who use it have all the necessary ingredients and tools at hand, so that they can operate as quickly as possible.

[0013] The bartending technique is very popular because the greater the speed of preparing a cocktail, the greater the profits for the owners of a club or for the organizers of an event in which this technique is applied.

[0014] In general, bartenders often work at events, for catering or for outdoor bars, in venues and situations where they must operate as quickly as possible and with optimal precision in order to fully satisfy customers.

[0015] However, having such events and gatherings a temporary nature, and being held in venues where a bar-

tender cannot permanently leave his workstation and his equipment, and since at the same time the organizers of such events, or the owners of a space or club at which the bartender is called to operate, usually do not have the necessary items for the practice of the 'American bartending', the bartender is not able to operate optimally, causing lost profits or economic losses to the organizers of the event or to the owners of the club.

[0016] To date, to remedy these situations, the use of demountable workstations by organizers, club owners and bartenders themselves is increasingly widespread.

[0017] The rental of bartending workstations, to date, is therefore increasingly widespread.

[0018] This mode of use permits the concerned parties to equip themselves with one or more bartending workstations for a short time interval limited to the events.

[0019] The ideal solution for renting a bartending workstation is to flatten the package for transport as much as possible, lighten the weight thereof, prepare assembly and disassembly instructions for the user, and also prepare the necessary items in the transport package for re-packing.

[0020] The user installs the workstation, uses it, after use disassembles it and repacks it in the same container in which he received it. Generally, the renter's expenses comprise the actual rental costs, the outward and return shipping costs and a deposit for protecting from the total theft of the workstation, any damage or failure to clean, when the latter is therefore to be carried out by the manufacturer of the workstation upon its return.

[0021] The sum of the deposit and rental costs must therefore be equal to the purchase cost of a new workstation, making the deposit very high.

[0022] The process of renting a demountable workstation is therefore very complex and comprises outward shipping costs and return shipping costs, and the final cost of the process is in any case cheaper than the manual delivery of the rental goods, and for this reason the rental is however a very popular mode.

[0023] Although there is appreciation, this rental method has some drawbacks.

[0024] The first important drawback is linked to the high amount of deposit required by the renter, which is often not appreciated up to the point of leading the potential interested person turn down the rent.

[0025] A second drawback is related to the inconvenience for assembly, disassembly, cleaning, re-packing and waiting for the removal of the demountable workstation.

[0026] Many bartenders, caterers and event organizers ask to rent workstations for short periods, such as one day or two, and this process may not be beneficial for such short periods.

[0027] The task of the present invention is to develop a bartending workstation capable of obviating the aforementioned drawbacks and limitations of the known art.

[0028] In particular, an object of the invention is to develop a method for realising a bartending workstation.

[0029] Another object of the invention is to develop a bartending workstation, as well as a method for realising such a workstation, which does not provide for additional deposit costs.

[0030] A further object of the invention is to develop an easy-to-assemble bartending workstation.

[0031] Again, an object of the invention is to provide a bartending workstation which does not require disassembly and cleaning operations.

[0032] The above mentioned task and objects are achieved by a bartending workstation according to claim 1, as well as by a method for realising a bartending workstation.

[0033] Further characteristics of the bartending workstation according to claim 1 are described in the respective dependent claims.

[0034] The aforesaid task and objects, together with the advantages that will be mentioned hereinafter, are indicated by the description of five embodiments of the invention, which are given by way of non-limiting example with reference to the attached drawings, where:

- Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a bartending workstation according to the invention, in a first embodiment;
- Figure 2 represents a partial exploded view of the workstation of figure 1;
- Figure 3 represents the plane development of the workstation of figures 1 and 2;
- Figure 4 represents a perspective view of a bartending workstation according to the invention, in a second embodiment;
- Figure 5 represents a partial exploded view of the workstation of figure 4;
- Figure 6 represents the plane development of the workstation of figures 4 and 5;
- Figure 7 represents a perspective view of a bartending workstation according to the invention, in a third embodiment;
- Figure 8 represents a further perspective view of the workstation of figure 7;
- Figure 9 represents the plane development of the workstation of figures 7 and 8;
- Figure 10 represents an exploded view of the workstation of figures 7, 8 and 9;
- Figures 11 and 12 each represent a perspective view of a bartending workstation according to the invention, in a fourth embodiment;
- Figure 13 represents an exploded perspective view of the workstation of figures 11 and 12;
- Figure 14 represents the plane development of a first portion of the workstation of figures 11, 12 and 13;
- Figure 15 represents the plane development of a second portion of the workstation of figures 11, 12 and 13;
- Figures 16 and 17 each represent a perspective view of a bartending workstation according to the invention, in a fifth embodiment;

- Figures 18, 19, 20 and 21 each represent the plane development of a portion of the workstation of figures 16 and 17;
- Figures 22 to 35 each represent an assembly step of the workstation of figures 16 and 17;
- Figure 36 represents a perspective view of a modular combination of workstations according to the invention;
- Figure 37 represents an exploded perspective view of the modular combination of figure 36;
- Figure 38 represents the plane development of a detail of the modular combination of figures 36 and 37;
- Figure 39 represents a detail realised with the development in plan of figure 38;
- Figure 40 represents a perspective view of another modular combination of workstations according to the invention;
- Figure 41 represents an exploded perspective view of the modular combination of figure 40;
- Figure 42 represents the plane development of a detail of the modular combination of figures 40 and 41.

[0035] With reference to the cited figures, a bartending workstation according to the invention is indicated, in its first embodiment as a whole, with the number **10**.

[0036] Said workstation **10** comprises a bearing structure **11**, above which a work surface **12** is defined.

[0037] An opening **13** is defined on the work surface **12**, inside which an ice-holder tray **14** is positioned.

[0038] A bottle-holder tray **15** adjacent to the work surface **12** is defined.

[0039] The bottle-holder tray **15** is supported by the same bearing structure **11**.

[0040] The peculiarity of the invention lies in the fact that the bearing structure **11**, the work surface **12** with the opening **13** and the bottle-holder tray **15** consist of a single piece **20** of a sheet or plate of a folded self-supporting material.

[0041] In particular, in this first embodiment of the invention, the single piece **20**, whose plane development is well represented in figure 3, comprises:

- a first central part **21** configured to define the work surface **12** with the opening **13**;
- two symmetrical side portions **22** and **23** configured to define two corresponding side walls **11a** and **11b** of the bearing structure **11**;
- a front portion **24** and a symmetrical rear portion **25**, defining a corresponding front wall **11c** and a corresponding rear wall **11d** of the bearing structure **11**;
- a second central part **26** configured to define the bottle-holder tray **15**.

[0042] In the present non-limiting embodiment of the invention, the first central part **21** is quadrangular.

[0043] The side portions **22** and **23** are quadrangular.

[0044] The front **24** and rear **25** portions are quadrangular.

[0045] The terms 'fold line' hereinafter mean a line with incisions, or notches, or depressions, or areas of reduced thickness, or with holes or through openings or with other similar elements that allow the folding of the single piece **20** along that line.

[0046] A first fold line **L1** is defined between the first central part **21** and a first side portion **22**.

[0047] A second fold line **L2** is defined between the first central part **21** and the second side portion **23**.

[0048] The first **L1** and second **L2** fold lines are parallel.

[0049] A third fold line **L3** is defined between the first central part **21** and the rear portion **25**.

[0050] The third fold line **L3** is orthogonal to the first **L1** and second **L2** lines.

[0051] The third fold line **L3** has its ends in proximity to or coinciding with the respective ends of the first **L1** and second **L2** fold lines.

[0052] A fourth fold line **L4** is defined between the first central part **21** and the second central part **26**.

[0053] The fourth fold line **L4** is orthogonal to the first **L1** and second **L2** lines.

[0054] The fourth fold line **L4** has its ends in proximity to or coinciding with the respective ends of the first **L1** and second **L2** fold lines.

[0055] A seventh fold line **L7** is defined between the second central part **26** and the front portion **24**.

[0056] The second central part **26** has two inner fifth **L5** and sixth **L6** fold lines, configured for the definition of:

- a first containment wall **26a** between the fourth fold line **L4** and the fifth fold line **L5**;
- a bottom **26b**, between the fifth fold line **L5** and the sixth fold line **L6**;
- a second containment wall **26c**, opposite the first containment wall **26a**, between the sixth fold line **L6** and the seventh fold line **L7**.

[0057] The sum of the length of one of the longitudinal sides, i.e. parallel to the main development direction **X1**, and the length in the same direction **X1** of the bottom **26b**, corresponds to the length in the direction **X1** of the side portions **22** and **23**.

[0058] Between the side portions **22** and **23** and the second central part **26** corresponding separating cuts **27** and **28** are defined, configured to allow folding the second central part **26** with respect to the same side portions **22** and **23**.

[0059] The ice-holder tray **14** is inserted in the opening **13**.

[0060] Said opening **13** is shaped so as to surround the containment part of the ice-holder tray **14**.

[0061] The ice-holder tray **14** has a perimeter edge **14a** configured to rest on the edge of the opening **13**.

[0062] On at least one of two contiguous walls of the walls **11a**, **11b**, **11c**, **11d** of the bearing structure **11**, there are fixing portions **F1**, **F2**, **F3**, **F4** configured for fixing with the other contiguous wall.

[0063] In the embodiment of figures 1 to 3, the single

piece **20** comprises four fixing portions **F1**, **F2**, **F3**, **F4** each developing on a transverse side, with respect to the direction **X1**, of a side portion **22** and **23**.

[0064] Said fixing portions **F1**, **F2**, **F3**, **F4** each consist of a quadrangular strip.

[0065] Said fixing portions **F1**, **F2**, **F3**, **F4** are obviously to be intended as an integral part of the single piece **20**, i.e. to be integrated in the single piece **20**.

[0066] Said fixing portions **F1**, **F2**, **F3**, **F4** are fixed to the contiguous wall, for example the fixing portion **F1** of the first side wall **11a** is fixed to the front wall **11c**, with connection means known per se, for example glue, staples, interlocking systems and other similar and equivalent means.

[0067] The single piece **20** consists of a single sheet or of a single plate of folded self-supporting material.

[0068] Said single sheet or single plate of self-supporting material is, for example and preferably, of cardboard.

[0069] This single cardboard sheet preferably has a thickness of between 0.5 mm and 30 mm.

[0070] This single sheet of cardboard is made, for example, of simple cardboard, or multilayer cardboard, or of corrugated cardboard.

[0071] In particular, this single cardboard sheet is made, for example, of one selected from the following materials:

- cardboard or flat cardboard,
- single corrugated cardboard, i.e. consisting of two external sheets and one internal corrugated,
- double corrugated cardboard, i.e. consisting of three sheets, of which two external and one central and two corrugated sheets between them,
- triple corrugated cardboard.

[0072] This corrugated cardboard is intended to be the material used for example for packaging.

[0073] This corrugated cardboard consists of two surfaces of flat paper, called covers, and a corrugated paper, all held together by natural adhesives.

[0074] The combined action of the covers and the internal corrugated paper gives rigidity and resistance to the cardboard and consequently to the packaging.

[0075] There are therefore many types of corrugated cardboard that are well suited to the application according to the invention, which differ according to the type of paper with which they are made, to the weights, according to the height of the corrugations (single, double or triple) and to the corrugation coefficient.

[0076] The single piece **20** can therefore comprise at least a single sheet or a single plate of corrugated cardboard, of a type selected from the following:

- 'N flute' type 0.7 mm thick cardboard,
- 'E flute (micro flute)' type 1.5 mm thick cardboard,
- 'B flute (low flute)' type 3.0 mm thick cardboard,
- 'C flute' type 4.0 mm thick cardboard,
- 'EB flute (microtriple)' type 4.5 mm thick cardboard,

- 'BC (triple)' type 7.0 mm thick cardboard,
- 'CC flute' type 8.0 mm thick cardboard,
- 'CCH (three flutes)' type 13.5 mm thick cardboard.

[0077] The single sheet of corrugated cardboard is to be intended to be able to comprise an external coating layer, for example a paper covering.

[0078] In particular, this external coating layer can be a paper chosen from among Kraft Havana (K), Kraft white (Kb), Liner Havana (L), Liner white (Lb), Test Havana (T), Test white (Tb), Suede (C), Suede white (Cb).

[0079] In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the single sheet of cardboard, of which the single piece 20 is constituted, is coated with at least one layer of plastic material.

[0080] This layer of plastic material is advantageously of the waterproofing or at least semi-waterproofing type.

[0081] The single piece 20 consists of a single sheet or a single plate of self-supporting material, which self-supporting material can be different from cardboard.

[0082] For example, the single piece 20 can be made of a flexible or rigid plastic material.

[0083] Again, for example, the single piece 20 can be made of a wooden material or a wood derivative.

[0084] Again, for example, the single piece 20 can be made of a sheet of metal plate.

[0085] Again, for example, the single piece 20 can be made of a composite material.

[0086] Again, for example, the single piece 20 is to be intended that it can be made of any other type of material that can easily be folded by hand or with the help of hatchets or other notches that allow folding or interlocking.

[0087] The invention also relates to a method for realising a bartending workstation.

[0088] A method for realising a bartending workstation 10 according to the invention therefore comprises the following steps:

a) shaping a sheet or a plate of a flexible self-supporting material so as to make a single piece 20 defining the plane development of:

- a bearing structure 11 comprising at least three walls, in the present example four walls 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, substantially arranged in a cross or 'T' shape,
- a work surface 12,
- an opening 13, and
- at least one bottle-holder tray 15;

b) making on said single piece 20, of sheet or plate of a flexible self-supporting material, fold lines L1, L2, L3, L7 configured to identify a first central part 21 and, in the longitudinal direction X1, a contiguous second central part 26, two side portions 22 and 23, a front portion 24 and a rear portion 25, said first central part 21 being shaped to define said work surface 12,

said side portions 22 and 23, said front portion 24 and said rear portion 25 being shaped to define respective walls 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d of said bearing structure 11;

c) making internal fold lines L4, L5, L6 configured to identify a second part 26, contiguous to the first central part 21 and positioned between said first central part 21 and said front portion 24, said second central part 26 being shaped to define said bottle-holder tray 15,

- a first containment wall 26a of said bottle-holder tray 15 being defined between the fourth fold line L4 and the fifth fold line L5,
- a bottom 26b of said bottle-holder tray 15 being defined between the fifth fold line L5 and the sixth fold line L6,
- a second containment wall 26c of said bottle-holder tray 15, opposite the first containment wall 26a, being defined between the sixth fold line L6 and the seventh fold line L7;

d) folding on the same side of the first central part 21 said side portions 22 and 23, said front portion 24 and said rear portion 25, according to the fold lines L1, L2, L3, L7 in order to define the walls 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, i.e. by arranging them each on a respective transverse reference plane with respect to the reference plane of the first central part 21;

e) folding said second central part 26 along the fold lines L4, L5, L6 and L7, so as to arrange the containment walls 26a and 26c facing each other, defining said bottle-holder tray 15.

[0089] A subsequent step envisages the stable mutual connection of the bearing walls 11a, 11b, 11c and 11d that are contiguous to each other, for example the side wall 11a with the front 11c and rear 11d walls.

[0090] Finally, a final step envisages the introduction into the opening 13 of one or more ice-holder trays, for example an ice-holder tray 14 configured to rest against its edge 14a on the edge of the opening 13.

[0091] Figures 4, 5 and 6 show a second embodiment of the bartending workstation according to the invention, indicated there by the number 110.

[0092] Said workstation 110 comprises, similarly to what has been described above for the first embodiment of the invention, a bearing structure 111, above which a work surface 112 is defined.

[0093] An opening 113 is defined on the work surface 112, inside which an ice-holder tray 114 is positioned.

[0094] A bottle-holder tray 115 adjacent to the work surface 112 is defined.

[0095] The bottle-holder tray 115 is supported by the same bearing structure 111.

[0096] Also in this second embodiment of the workstation 110 according to the invention, the bearing structure 111, the work surface 112 with the opening 113, and the

bottle-holder tray **115** consist of a single piece **120** of a sheet or plate of a folded self-supporting material.

[0097] In particular, in this second embodiment of the invention, the single piece **120**, whose plane development is well represented in figure 6, comprises:

- a first central part **121** configured to define the work surface **112**; in this second embodiment the opening **113** is not defined on the work surface **112**;
- two side portions **122** and **123** configured to define two corresponding side walls **111a** and **111b** of the bearing structure **111**;
- a front portion **124** and a symmetrical rear portion **125**, defining a corresponding front wall **111c** and a corresponding rear wall **111d** of the bearing structure **111**;
- a second central part **126** configured to define the ice-holder tray **114**.

[0098] As to the single piece **120** the longitudinal direction **X11** is taken as reference.

[0099] In this second embodiment of the invention, which is not limiting of the invention itself, the rear portion **125**, defining the rear wall **111d**, develops from a side portion **122**, instead of from the first central part as in the first embodiment.

[0100] The first central part **121** is quadrangular.

[0101] The side portions **122** and **123** are quadrangular.

[0102] The front **124** and rear **125** portions are quadrangular.

[0103] A first fold line **L11** is defined between the first central part **121** and a first side portion **122**.

[0104] A second fold line **L12** is defined between the first central part **121** and the second side portion **123**.

[0105] The first **L11** and second **L12** fold lines are parallel.

[0106] The fold lines **L11** and **L12** are parallel to the longitudinal direction **X11**.

[0107] A third fold line **L13** is defined between a first side portion **122** and the contiguous rear portion **125**.

[0108] The third fold line **L13** is orthogonal to the first **L11** and second **L12** lines and to the longitudinal direction **X11**.

[0109] A fourth fold line **L14** is defined between the first central part **121** and the central part **126**.

[0110] The fourth fold line **L14** is orthogonal to the first **L11** and second **L12** lines.

[0111] The fourth fold line **L14** has its ends in proximity to or coinciding with the respective ends of the first **L11** and second **L12** fold lines.

[0112] A seventh fold line **L17** is defined between the second central part **126** and the front portion **124**.

[0113] The second central part **126** has two internal fifth **L15** and sixth **L16** fold lines, configured for the definition of:

- a first containment wall **126a** between the fourth fold

line **L14** and the fifth fold line **L15**,

- a bottom **126b**, between the fifth fold line **L15** and the sixth fold line **L16**,
- a second containment wall **126c**, opposite the first containment wall **126a**, between the sixth fold line **L16** and the seventh fold line **L17**.

[0114] The sum of the length of one of the longitudinal sides, i.e. parallel to the main development direction **X11**, and length in the same direction **X11** of the bottom **126b**, corresponds to the length in the direction **X11** of the side portions **122** and **123**.

[0115] Between the side portions **122** and **123** and the second central part **126** corresponding separating cuts **127** and **128** are defined, configured to allow folding the second central part **126** with respect to the same side portions **122** and **123**.

[0116] The ice-holder tray **114** is inserted in the opening **113**.

[0117] Said opening **113** is shaped so as to surround the containment part of the ice-holder tray **114**.

[0118] In this second embodiment of the invention, the opening **113** is defined between the contiguous edges **150**, **151**, **152** and **153**, clearly identified in figure 6, belonging respectively to the first central part **121**, to the first side portion **122**, to the rear portion **125**, and to the second side portion **123**.

[0119] The ice-holder tray **114** has a perimeter edge **114a** configured to rest on the edge of the opening **113**.

[0120] On at least one of two contiguous walls of the walls **111a**, **111b**, **111c**, **111d** of the bearing structure **111**, there are fixing portions **F11**, **F12**, **F13** configured for fixing with the other contiguous wall.

[0121] Said fixing portions **F11**, **F12**, **F13** each consist of a quadrangular strip.

[0122] Said fixing portions **F11**, **F12**, **F13** are obviously to be intended as an integral part of the single piece **120**, i.e. to be integrated in the single piece **120**.

[0123] Said fixing portions **F11**, **F12**, **F13** are fixed to the contiguous wall with connection means known per se, as described for the first embodiment.

[0124] The single piece **120** consists of a single sheet or of a single plate of folded self-supporting material.

[0125] Said single sheet or single plate of self-supporting material is, for example and preferably, of cardboard.

[0126] As to the materials and types of cardboard, the same materials and types of cardboard as in the first embodiment described above are intended to be usable.

[0127] A method for realising a bartending workstation **110** according to the invention therefore comprises the following steps:

a) shaping a sheet or a plate of a flexible self-supporting material so as to make a single piece **120** defining the plane development of:

- a bearing structure **111** comprising at least three walls, for example four walls **111a**, **111b**, **111c**,

111d,

- a work surface **112**,
- an opening **113**, and
- a bottle-holder tray **115**;

b) making on said single piece **120**, of sheet or plate of a flexible self-supporting material, fold lines **L11**, **L12**, **L13**, **L17** configured to identify a first central part **121**, and, in the longitudinal direction **X11**, a contiguous second central part **126**, two side portions **122** and **123**, a front portion **124** and a rear portion **125**, said first central part **121** being shaped to define said work surface **112**;

said side portions **122** and **123**, said front portion **124** and said rear portion **125** being shaped to define said bearing structure **111**;

c) making internal fold lines **L14**, **L15**, **L16** configured to identify a second part **126**, contiguous to the first central part **125** and positioned between said first central part **121** and said front portion **124**, said second central part **126** being shaped to define said bottle-holder tray **115**;

- a first containment wall **126a** of said bottle-holder tray **115** being defined between the fourth fold line **L14** and the fifth fold line **L15**,
- a bottom **126b** of said bottle-holder tray **115** being defined between the fifth fold line **L15** and the sixth fold line **L16**,
- a second containment wall **126c** of said bottle-holder tray **115**, opposite the first containment wall **126a**, being defined between the sixth fold line **L16** and the seventh fold line **L17**;

d) folding on the same side as the first central part **121** said side portions **122** and **123**, and said front portion **124**, according to the fold lines **L11**, **L12**, **L17** in order to define the walls **111a**, **111b**, **111c**, i.e. by arranging them each on a respective transverse reference plane with respect to the reference plane of the first central part **121**;

e) folding according to the fold line **L13** said rear portion **125** in order to define the rear wall **111d** and at the same time the opening **113**;

f) folding said second central part **126** along the fold lines **L14**, **L15**, **L16** and **L17**, so as to arrange the containment walls **126a** and **126c** facing each other, defining said bottle-holder tray **115**.

[0128] A subsequent step envisages the stable mutual connection of the bearing walls **111a**, **111b**, **111c** and **111d** which are contiguous to each other, as already described above for the first embodiment.

[0129] The ice-holder tray **114** is inserted in the opening **113** and positioned resting on the edges **150**, **151**, **152** and **153**.

[0130] Figures 7 to 10 show a bartending workstation according to the invention in a third embodiment thereof,

indicated there by the number **210**.

[0131] Said workstation **210** comprises, similarly to what has been described above for the first embodiment of the invention, a bearing structure **211**, above which a work surface **212** is defined.

[0132] An opening **213** is defined on the work surface **212**, inside which an ice-holder tray **214** is positioned.

[0133] A bottle holder tray **215** adjacent to the work surface **212** is defined.

[0134] The bottle-holder tray **215** is supported by the same bearing structure **211**.

[0135] Said workstation **210** also comprises a raised plane **260** for serving cocktails prepared by the bartender.

[0136] Said raised plane **260** is placed at a height **A2** from the ground which is greater than the height from ground **A1** of the work surface **212**.

[0137] Preferably the height from the ground **A2** of the raised plane **260** is comprised between 105 cm and 120 cm, and preferably is 115 cm.

[0138] The height from the ground **A1** of the work surface **212** is comprised between 75 cm and 90 cm, and preferably is 85 cm.

[0139] The raised plane **260** is supported by a rising portion **261** included in the bearing structure **211**.

[0140] In this third embodiment of the workstation **210** according to the invention, the bearing structure **211** with the rising portion **261**, the raised plane **260**, the work surface **212** with the opening **213**, and the bottle-holder tray **215** consist of a single piece **220** of a sheet or plate of a folded self-supporting material.

[0141] The rising portion **261**, as visible in figure 9, comprises two opposite rising sectors **261a** and **261b** each belonging to a corresponding bearing side wall **211a** and **211b**.

[0142] In this third embodiment of a bartending workstation **210** according to the invention, the bearing structure **211** comprises:

- a rear wall **211d**,
- two opposite side walls **211a** and **211b**.

[0143] Each of the side walls **211a** and **211b** comprises:

- a central sector **270a** and **270b** respectively, as a support for the work surface **212**,
- a front sector **271a** and **271b** respectively, with height **A3** lower, with reference to the ground, than the height **A1** of the work surface **212**,
- and a rear sector, corresponding to the rising sector **261a** and **261b** respectively, with height **A2** greater than the height **A1** of the work surface **212**.

[0144] In particular, in this third embodiment of the invention, the single piece **220**, whose plane development is well represented in figure 9, comprises:

- a first central part **221** configured to define the rear wall **211d**;
- two side portions **222** and **223** configured to define the two corresponding side walls **211a** and **211b** of the bearing structure **211**, as described above;
- a second central part **224** comprising in turn:
 - a first central portion **272** defining the raised plane **260**,
 - a second central portion **273** for connecting with a subsequent third central portion **274**,
 - a third central portion **274** defining the work surface **212**,
 - a fourth central portion **275** defining a rear containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **215**,
 - a fifth central portion **276** defining the bottom of said bottle-holder tray **215**,
 - a sixth central portion **277** defining a front containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **215**.

[0145] At least one of these fourth **275**, fifth **276** and sixth **277** central portions has two opposite side appendages **278** and **279** configured to define corresponding side containment sideboards of the bottle-holder tray **215**.

[0146] As to the single piece **220** the longitudinal direction **X21** is taken as reference.

[0147] Each front sector **271a** and **271b** comprises a reinforcement projection **271a'** and **271b'**, configured to contain and reinforce the bottle-holder tray **215**.

[0148] In this embodiment, the bottle-holder tray **215** has an elongated shape, and is configured in such a way as to be able to contain a plurality of bottles placed side by side.

[0149] A similar bottle-holder tray **215** is known in industry jargon as 'fast pocket', or as 'speed rack', since it contains the bottles that a bartender uses most frequently.

[0150] A first fold line **L21** and a second fold line **L22**, respectively, are defined between the first central part **221** and the two first **222** and second **223** side portions.

[0151] The first **L21** and second **L22** fold lines are parallel to each other and parallel to the longitudinal development direction **X21**.

[0152] The side portions **222** and **223** are folded in the rear-front direction so as to be convergent.

[0153] In this way greater support is ensured to the bottle-holder tray **215**.

[0154] The first central portion **272** is defined between two fold lines **L23** and **L24** parallel to each other and orthogonal to the development direction **X21**.

[0155] The second central portion **273** is defined between two fold lines **L24** and **L25** parallel to each other and orthogonal to the development direction **X21**.

[0156] The third central portion **274** is defined between two fold lines **L25** and **L26** parallel to each other and

orthogonal to the development direction **X21**.

[0157] The fourth central portion **275** is defined between two fold lines **L26** and **L27** parallel to each other and orthogonal to the development direction **X21**.

[0158] The fifth central portion **276** is defined between two fold lines **L27** and **L28** parallel to each other and orthogonal to the development direction **X21**.

[0159] The sixth central portion **277** is designed to be folded upwards, with respect to an arrangement of use of the workstation **210**, along the fold line **L28**.

[0160] The ice-holder tray **214** is inserted in the opening **213**, similarly to what has been described above for the previous embodiments.

[0161] This third embodiment of the workstation **210** according to the invention has the advantage of being achievable simply by folding the various parts and interlocking the bottom **276** and the front wall **277** of the bottle-holder tray **215** between the rear sideboard **275** and the reinforcement projections **271a'** and **271b'**.

[0162] The single piece **220** consists of a single sheet or of a single plate of folded self-supporting material.

[0163] Said single sheet or single plate of self-supporting material is, for example and preferably, of cardboard.

[0164] As to the materials and types of cardboard, the same materials and types of cardboard as in the first embodiment described above are intended to be usable.

[0165] A method for realising a bartending workstation **210** according to the invention therefore comprises the following steps:

a) shaping a sheet or a plate of a flexible self-supporting material so as to make a single piece **220** defining the plane development of:

- a first central part **221** configured to define the rear wall **211d**;
- two side portions **222** and **223** configured to define the two corresponding side walls **211a** and **211b** of the bearing structure **211**, as described above;
- a second central part **224** comprising in turn:
 - a first central portion **272** defining the raised plane **260**,
 - a second central portion **273** for connecting with a subsequent third central portion **274**,
 - a third central portion **274** defining the work surface **212**,
 - a fourth central portion **275** defining a rear containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **215**,
 - a fifth central portion **276** defining the bottom of said bottle-holder tray **215**,
 - a sixth central portion **277** defining a front containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **215**;

b) making on said single piece **220**, of sheet or plate

of a flexible self-supporting material, the following fold lines:

- fold lines **L21**, **L22**, configured to identify a central part **221**, for folding said side portions **222** and **223** with respect to said central part **221**;
 - a fold line **L23** for folding said first central portion **272** defining said raised plane **260**;
 - a fold line **L24** for folding said second central connection portion **273**;
 - a fold line **L25** for folding said third central portion **274** defining said work surface **212**;
 - a fold line **L26** for folding said fourth central portion **275** defining the rear sideboard of the bottle-holder tray **215**;
 - a fold line **L27** for folding said fifth central portion **276** defining the bottom of said bottle-holder tray **215**;
 - a fold line **L28** for folding said sixth central portion **277** defining the front sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **215**;
- the sixth central portion **277** also comprises two side appendages **278** and **279** configured to define corresponding side containment sideboards for the bottle-holder tray **215**;
- there are corresponding fold lines **L29** and **L30** also for said side appendages **278** and **279**;

c) folding, according to the fold lines **L22** and **L23**, the side portions **222** and **223**;

d) step-folding the central portions from the first to the sixth, defining the work surface **212** and the bottle-holder tray **215** resting on said front sectors **271a** and **271b**.

[0166] Finally, the ice-holder tray **214** is inserted in the opening **213**.

[0167] A fourth embodiment of the bartending workstation according to the invention is represented in figures 11 to 15, and is indicated there by the number **310**.

[0168] Said workstation **310** comprises, similarly to what has been described above for the third embodiment of the invention, a bearing structure **311**, above which a work surface **312** is defined.

[0169] An opening **313** is defined on the work surface **312**, inside which an ice-holder tray **314** is positioned.

[0170] A bottle holder tray **315** adjacent to the work surface **312** is defined.

[0171] The bottle-holder tray **315** is supported by the same bearing structure **311**.

[0172] Said workstation **310** comprises a raised plane **360** for serving cocktails prepared by the bartender.

[0173] Said raised plane **360** is placed at a height **A2** from the ground which is greater than the height from ground **A1** of the work surface **312**.

[0174] As to the heights **A1** and **A2** what has already been described for the third embodiment should be considered.

[0175] The raised plane **360** is supported by a rising portion **361** included in the bearing structure **311**.

[0176] In this fourth embodiment of the workstation **310** according to the invention, as clearly visible in figure 13:

- the bearing structure **311** with the rising portion **361** and the raised plane **360** consist of a first single piece **320A** of a sheet or plate of a folded self-supporting material, shown in figure 14;
- the work surface **312** with the opening **313** and the bottle-holder tray **315** consist of a second single piece **320B** of a sheet or plate of a folded self-supporting material, shown in figure 15.

[0177] The rising portion **361** comprises two opposite rising sectors **361a** and **361b** each belonging to a corresponding bearing side wall **311a** and **311b**.

[0178] In this fourth embodiment of a bartending workstation **310** according to the invention, the bearing structure **311** comprises:

- a rear wall **311d**,
- two opposite side walls **311a** and **311b**.

[0179] Each of the side walls **311a** and **311b** comprises:

- a central sector **370a** and **370b** respectively, as a support for the work surface **312**,
- a front sector **371a** and **371b** respectively, with height **A3** lower, with reference to the ground, than the height **A1** of the work surface **312**,
- and a rear sector, corresponding to the rising sector **361a** and **361b** respectively, with height **A2** greater than the height **A1** of the work surface **312**.

[0180] In particular, in this fourth embodiment of the invention, the plane development of the first single piece **320A**, well represented in figure 14, comprises:

- a first central part **321** configured to define the rear wall **311d**;
- two side portions **322** and **323** configured to define the two corresponding side walls **311a** and **311b** of the bearing structure **311**, as described above;
- an upper portion **372** configured to define the raised plane **360**.

[0181] In particular, in this fourth embodiment of the invention, the second single piece **320B**, whose plane development is well represented in figure 15, comprises:

- a first central portion **374** defining the work surface **312**,
- a second central portion **375** defining a rear containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **315**,
- a third central portion **376** defining the bottom of said bottle-holder tray **315**,

- a fourth central portion **377** defining a front containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **315**.

[0182] Each front sector **371a** and **371b** comprises a reinforcement projection **371a'** and **371b'**, configured to contain and reinforce the bottle-holder tray **315**. 5

[0183] In this embodiment, the bottle-holder tray **315** has an elongated shape, as described above and defined for the third embodiment of the invention.

[0184] In the first single piece **320A**, between the first central part **321** and the two first **322** and second **323** side portions, a first fold line **L31** and a second fold line **L32**, respectively, are defined; the first **L31** and second **L32** fold lines are parallel to each other and parallel to the longitudinal development direction **X31**. 10 15

[0185] The side portions **322** and **323** are folded in the rear-front direction so as to be convergent.

[0186] In this way greater support is ensured to the bottle-holder tray **315**.

[0187] The upper portion **372** is defined by a fold line **L33** orthogonal to the fold lines **L31** and **L32**. 20

[0188] In the second single piece **320B**, the second central portion **375**, defining a rear containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **315**, is defined between two fold lines **L35** and **L36** parallel to each other and orthogonal to the development direction **X31**. 25

[0189] The third central portion **376**, defining the bottom of said bottle-holder tray **315**, is defined between two fold lines **L36** and **L37** parallel to each other and orthogonal to the development direction **X31**. 30

[0190] The fourth central portion **377**, defining a front containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **315**, is designed to be folded upwards, with respect to an arrangement of use of the workstation **310**, along the fold line **L37**. 35

[0191] The ice-holder tray **314** is inserted in the opening **313**, similarly to what has been described above for the previous embodiments.

[0192] This third embodiment of the workstation **310** according to the invention has the advantage of being made in two single pieces **320A** and **320B** having smaller overall dimensions in the arrangement when not in use and equally simple to assemble. 40

[0193] Both single pieces **320A** and **320B** consist of a respective single sheet or a single plate of folded self-supporting material. 45

[0194] Each single sheet or single plate of self-supporting material is, for example and preferably, of cardboard.

[0195] As to the materials and types of cardboard, the same materials and types of cardboard as in the first embodiment described above are intended to be usable. 50

[0196] A method for realising a bartending workstation **310** according to the invention therefore comprises the following steps: 55

- a) shaping a sheet or a plate of a flexible self-supporting material so as to make a first single piece

320A defining the plane development of:

- a first central part **321** configured to define the rear wall **311d**,
- two side portions **322** and **323** configured to define the two corresponding side walls **311a** and **311b** of the bearing structure **311**, as described above,
- an upper portion **372** configured to define the raised plane **360**;

b) shaping a sheet or a plate of a flexible self-supporting material so as to make a second single piece **320B** defining the plane development of:

- a first central portion **374** defining the work surface **312**,
- a second central portion **375** defining a rear containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **315**,
- a third central portion **376** defining the bottom of said bottle-holder tray **315**,
- a fourth central portion **377** defining a front containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **315**;

c) making on said first single piece **320A**, of sheet or plate of a flexible self-supporting material, the following fold lines:

- fold lines **L31**, **L32**, configured to identify a central part **321**, for folding said side portions **322** and **323** with respect to said central part **321**,
- a fold line **L33** for folding said upper portion **372** defining said raised plane **360**;

d) making on said second single piece **320B**, of sheet or plate of a flexible self-supporting material, the following fold lines:

- a fold line **L35** for folding the second central portion **375** defining the rear containment sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **315** with respect to said work surface **312**,
- a fold line **L36** for folding the third central portion **376** defining the bottom of the bottle-holder tray **315**,
- a fold line **L37** for folding the fourth central portion **377** defining the front sideboard of said bottle-holder tray **315**;

e) folding the first single piece **320A**, as shown in figure 13, along the fold lines **L31** and **L32**, defining the side portions **322** and **323**, and according to the fold line **L33**, defining the upper portion **372**, so as to define the bearing structure **311** with the raised plane **360**;

f) folding the second single piece **320B** so that the

second **375**, third **376** and fourth **377** central portions configure a 'U' defining the bottle-holder tray **315** with respect to the work surface **312**;

g) coupling the first single piece **320A** with the second single piece **320B** so that the work surface **312** rests on the central sectors **370a** and **370b**, and so that the bottle-holder tray **315** rests on the front sectors **371a** and **371b**.

[0197] Finally, the ice-holder tray **314** is inserted in the opening **313**.

[0198] A fifth embodiment of a bartending workstation according to the invention is illustrated in figures 16 to 35, and is indicated there by the number **410**.

[0199] Said workstation **410** comprises, similarly to what has been described above for the third embodiment of the invention, a bearing structure **411**, above which a work surface **412** is defined.

[0200] An opening **413** is defined on the work surface **412**, inside which an ice-holder tray **414**, or two ice-holder trays **414** and **414'**, is positioned.

[0201] A bottle holder tray **415** adjacent to the work surface **412** is defined.

[0202] The bottle-holder tray **415** is supported by the same bearing structure **411**.

[0203] Said workstation **410** comprises a raised plane **460** for serving cocktails prepared by the bartender.

[0204] Said raised plane **460** is placed at a height **A2** from the ground which is greater than the height from ground **A1** of the work surface **412**.

[0205] As to the heights **A1** and **A2** what has already been described for the third embodiment should be considered.

[0206] The raised plane **460** is supported by a rising portion **461** included in the bearing structure **411**.

[0207] Said workstation **410** is characterized in that:

- the bearing structure **411** with the rising portion **461** and the raised plane **460** consist of two single pieces, first **420A** and second **420B**, each consisting of a sheet or a plate of a folded self-supporting material, such single pieces **420A** and **420B** being joined with one another;
- the work surface **412**, with an opening **413**, consists of a third single piece **420C** of a sheet or of a plate of a folded self-supporting material;
- the bottle-holder tray **415** consists of a fourth single piece **420D** of a sheet or of a plate of a folded self-supporting material.

[0208] The rising portion **461** comprises two opposite rising sectors **461a** and **461b** each belonging to a corresponding bearing side wall **411a** and **411b**.

[0209] In this fifth embodiment of a bartending workstation **410** according to the invention, the bearing structure **411** comprises:

- a rear wall **411d**,

- two opposite side walls **411a** and **411b** arranged convergent in a rear-front direction, i.e. in the direction running from the rear wall **411d** towards the front of the workstation **410**, that is the one comprising the bottle-holder tray **415**,
- two reinforcement walls **411e** and **411f**, each arranged transversely with respect to a corresponding side wall **411a** and **411b**.

[0210] Each of the side walls **411a** and **411b** comprises:

- a central sector **470a** and **470b** respectively, as a support for the work surface **412**,
- a front sector **471a** and **471b** respectively, with height **A3** lower, with reference to the ground, than the height **A1** of the central sector **470a** and **470b** for the work surface **412**,
- and a rear sector, corresponding to the rising sector **461a** and **461b** respectively, with height **A2** greater than the height **A1** of the central sector **470a** and **470b** for the work surface **412**.

[0211] The central sector **470a** and **470b** also comprises a recess **480a** and **480b** respectively, configured to receive, for resting, the bottom of an ice-holder tray **414**.

[0212] At least one of the front sectors **471a** and **471b**, for example the second front sector **471b**, comprises a reinforcement projection **471b'**.

[0213] The two reinforcement walls **411e** and **411f**, clearly visible in figures 25 and 26, have the same height **A1** as the central sectors **470a** and **470b** of the side walls **411a** and **411b**.

[0214] Each of the two reinforcement walls **411e** and **411f** comprises a front sector, **471c** and **471d** respectively, having the same height **A3** as the front sectors **471a** and **471b**.

[0215] Said front sectors **471c** and **471d** comprise a reinforcement projection **471c'** and **471d'**.

[0216] The functionality of these reinforcing projections is the same as described above in the previous embodiments of the invention.

[0217] The reinforcement walls **411e** and **411f** comprise each also a notch **480c** and **480d** configured to receive, for resting, the bottom of an ice-holder tray **414**, or more ice-holder trays **414** and **414'**.

[0218] In particular, in the present embodiment, the plane development of a first single piece **420A** is represented in figure 18.

[0219] Said first single piece **420A** comprises:

- a central part **421** configured to define the rear wall **411d**;
- two side portions **422** and **423** configured to define the two corresponding side walls **411a** and **411b** of the bearing structure **411**, as described above;
- an upper portion **472** configured to define the raised plane **460**.

[0220] The upper portion **472**, in particular, comprises:

- a first portion **472a** configured to define the raised plane **460**,
- a second, support, portion **472b**,
- a third, reinforcement, portion **472c**.

[0221] Between the second portion **472b** and the third portion **472c**, two opposite side notches **472b'** and **472b''** are defined and shaped for coupling with the respective rising portions **461a** and **461b**.

[0222] The side portions **422** and **423** have notches **422h** and **423h** configured for coupling with corresponding notches **481ah** and **481bh** defined on the central parts **481a** and **481b** of the second single piece **420B** described below.

[0223] The second single piece **420B**, clearly visible in figure 19, comprises:

- a central part **481** comprising in turn a first central part **481a**, left, defining a first reinforcement wall **411e** and a second central part **481b**, right, defining the second reinforcement wall **411f**; this central part **481** has the notches **480c** and **480d** as described above;
- two opposite external parts **482** and **483**, each with height **A2**, and each comprising two tray support sectors **482a** and **482b**, and **483a** and **483b**, symmetrically shaped with respect to an intermediate folding strip **484** and **485** respectively.

[0224] Said second single piece **420B** also comprises, on the central parts **481a** and **481b**, the notches **481ah** and **481bh** configured for coupling with the corresponding notches **422h** and **423h** of the first single piece **420A** described above.

[0225] The third single piece **420C**, clearly visible in figure 20, comprises:

- a central part **486**, configured for the definition of the work surface **412**;
- a rear part **488**, configured to define a rear reinforcement wall **490**.

[0226] In the present non-limiting embodiment of the invention, this third single piece **420C** also comprises:

- an intermediate part **487**, configured to define an object-holder recess **491** between the work surface **412** and the rear reinforcement wall **490**.

[0227] Said an object-holder recess **491** is well illustrated in section in figure 32.

[0228] In the present non-limiting embodiment of the invention, the third single piece **420C** also comprises:

- a front part **489** configured to define a front support wall **492** for the work surface **412**.

[0229] The central part **486** also comprises two opposite side support flaps **486a** and **486b**, configured to engage with the underlying bearing structure **411** and support the work surface **412** laterally.

5 [0230] In particular, the side flaps **486a** and **486b** have a projection respectively **486a'** and **486b'** configured to fit in a corresponding interlocking slot **493a** and **493b** defined on the side portions **422** and **423** of the first single body **420A**, visible in figure 18.

10 [0231] The fourth single piece **420D**, clearly visible in figure 21, comprises:

- a central part **494** configured to define the bottom of the bottle-holder tray **415**,
- 15 - an upper part **495** configured to define the front side-board of the bottle-holder tray **415**,
- a lower part **496** configured to define the rear side-board of the bottle-holder tray **415**.

20 [0232] Said fourth single piece **420D** also includes side flaps **494a**, **495a** and **496a** for the definition of the side sideboards of the bottle-holder tray **415**.

[0233] In this fifth embodiment, the bottle-holder tray **415** is of the 'fast pocket' or 'speed rack' type as described above for the fourth embodiment of the invention.

25 [0234] In the first single piece **420A**, between the first central part **421** and the first **422** and second **423** side portions, a first fold line **L41** and a second fold line **L42**, respectively, are defined; the first **L41** and second **L42** fold lines are parallel to each other and parallel to a reference direction **X41** which is also the axis of symmetry for the first single piece **420A**.

30 [0235] Fold lines **L41a** and **L41b**, parallel to the fold lines **L41** and **L42**, are defined between the central sectors **470a** and **470b** of the side portions **422** and **423** and the respective front sectors **471a** and **471b**.

35 [0236] The upper portion **472** is defined by a fold line **L43** orthogonal to the longitudinal reference direction **X41**.

40 [0237] Inside the upper portion **472**, a fold line **L44**, parallel to the fold line **L43** is defined, which fold line **L44** is configured to define, with the fold line **L43**, the first portion **472a** in turn defining the raised plane **460**.

45 [0238] Inside the upper portion **472**, a fold line **L45**, parallel to the fold line **L44** is defined, which fold line **L45** is configured to define, with the fold line **L44**, the second, support, portion **472b**.

[0239] The side portions **422** and **423** are folded in the rear-front direction so as to be convergent.

50 [0240] In the second single piece **420B** the following is defined:

- a central fold line **L46** for mutual folding of the first **481a** and second **481b** central parts,
- 55 - two side fold lines **L47** and **L48** respectively between the first central part **481a** and the external part **482**, and between the second central part **481b** and the corresponding external part **483**,

- at least one side fold line, for example two lines **L47a** and **L47b**, between the tray support sectors **482a** and **482b**, and at least one side fold line, for example two lines **L48a** and **L48b**, between the tray support sectors **483a** and **483b**.

[0241] All said lines are parallel to the reference direction **X41**.

[0242] In the third single piece **420C**, a fold line **L49** for folding the rear part **488** is defined, defining the reinforcement wall **490**, with respect to the central part **486**, defining the work surface **412**; said fold line **L49** is orthogonal to the reference direction **X41**, which is also the axis of symmetry of the third single piece **420C**.

[0243] In the third single piece **420C**, there are preferably, but not exclusively, two fold lines **L50** and **L51**, orthogonal to the reference direction **X41**, for the definition of the object-holder recess **491**, as shown in figure 32.

[0244] In the third single piece **420C**, if there is a front part **489**, there is also a fold line **L52**, orthogonal to the reference direction **X41**, for folding the front support wall **492**.

[0245] In the third single piece **420C**, there are also two side fold lines **L53** and **L54**, for folding the side flaps **486a** and **486b**.

[0246] The fourth single piece **420D** comprises two fold lines **L55** and **L56** for folding the rear and front sideboards of the bottle-holder tray **415**.

[0247] There are obviously side fold lines for folding the side sideboards of the bottle-holder tray **415**.

[0248] This fourth embodiment of the bartending workstation **410** is particularly sturdy. In fact, the bearing structure **411** has the side walls **411a** and **411b** and the reinforcement walls **411e** and **411f** which are positioned in such a way as to define an 'XX' configuration, as visible in figure 27.

[0249] The central area of the intersections of the 'XX' configuration determines two very sturdy rest points capable of supporting the load of two ice-holder trays **414** and **414'**.

[0250] Obviously, it should be understood that the ice-holder trays can also be one or more than two, according to the needs and requirements of the user.

[0251] Said bearing structure **411**, thanks to the three front sectors **471b**, **471c** and **471d**, ensures an optimal support for the bottle-holder tray **415** in its professional configuration of the 'fast pocket' or 'speed rack' type.

[0252] Said workstation **410**, made up of four single pieces of relatively small dimensions, is easily foldable into a particularly compact transport arrangement with a thickness reduced to a few centimeters.

[0253] Each of the single pieces **420A**, **420B**, **420C** and **420D** consists of a respective single sheet or a single plate of cardboard.

[0254] As to the materials and types of cardboard, the same materials and types of cardboard as in the first embodiment described above are intended to be usable.

[0255] In an alternative embodiment, the first single

piece **420A** can be made up of a central part **421** to which two separate side portions **422** and **423** are preassembled, for example by gluing.

[0256] Advantageously, the single pieces **420A** and **420B** which define the bearing structure **411** are made in such a way that the corrugated cardboard of which they are made up is positioned, in final use arrangement, i.e. with the bartender operating on the workstation **410**, with the corrugations of the cardboard developing in a substantially vertical direction, so that the corrugated cardboard of the bearing structure **411** can support the maximum loads to which it is subjected.

[0257] A method for realising a bartending workstation **410** according to the invention therefore comprises the following steps:

a) shaping the first **420A**, second **420B**, third **420C** and fourth **420D** single pieces on respective sheets or plates of flexible self-supporting material as described above, making the respective fold lines as described above;

b) folding, as shown in figures 22 and 23, the two side portions **422** and **423** of the first single piece **420A** with respect to the central part **421**, in order to

define a triangular shape, with the front sectors **471a** and **471b** facing each other, as shown in figure 23;

c) folding the front sector **471b**, which comprises two symmetrical portions **471ba** and **471bb** as shown in figure 18, so that the front sector **471a** is sandwiched between the two symmetrical portions **471ba** and **471bb** of the front sector **471b**, as shown in figure 24;

d) reciprocally constraining the front sectors **471a** and **471b** with fixing means, better described below;

e) folding the two first **481a** and second **481b** central parts of the second single piece **420B** into a 'V' shape, as shown in figure 25, to define the reinforcement walls **411e** and **411f**, and folding the tray support sectors **482a** and **482b**, and **483a** and **483b**, of the external parts **482** and **483** anteriorly, so to define the two front sectors **471c** and **471d**;

f) reciprocally constraining the front sectors **471a** and **471b** with fixing means, better described below;

g) joining the second single piece **420B** to the first single piece **420A**, as shown in figure 26, intersecting the side walls **411a** and **411b** respectively with the reinforcement walls **411e** and **411f** by coupling the notches **422h** and **423h** of the side walls **411a** and **411b** with the defined notches **481ah** and **481bh** of the reinforcement walls **411e** and **411f**;

h) step-folding the third single body **420C**, as shown in figure 27, defining the recess **491**;

i) inserting the third single body **420C** from above on the structure composed of the first **420A** and second **420B** single pieces and folding the side flaps **486a** and **486b**, as shown in figure 28, so that the projections **486a'** and **486b'** fit in the corresponding interlocking slots **493a** and **493b** defined on the side portions **422** and **423** of the first single piece **420A**;

l) folding the fourth single piece **420D**, as shown in figures 29 and 30, to define the bottle-holder tray **415**;

m) folding the upper portion **472** of the first single piece **420A**, as shown in figure 31, in order to couple the rising sectors **461a** and **461b** with the respective side notches **472b'** and **472b''**;

n) interlocking the bottle-holder tray **415** on the sectors **471b**, **471c** and **471d**;

o) introducing one or more ice-holder trays **414** and **414'** in the opening **413**.

[0258] At this point, the workstation **410** is operational.

[0259] By way of non-limiting example of the invention, the fixing means for the front sectors **471b**, **471c** and **471d** provide for the presence of male-female interlocking systems, comprising an insert **497** defined on a first zone of a front sector, for example the front sector **471b** of figure 24, and a counter-shaped through hole **498** defined on a second facing zone of the same front sector **471b**.

[0260] The fixing means can also be others, for example glue, or staples or other fixing systems of a known type.

[0261] The insert **497** is pre-engraved on the single piece **420A** or **420B** of which it is part.

[0262] The creation of the single pieces **420A**, **420B**, **420C**, **420D** is intended that it can be made with techniques, equipment and machines for die-cutting of a per se known type.

[0263] Figures 33 and 34 show an exploded perspective summary of the assembly of the workstation **410**.

[0264] The object-holder recess **491** is configured in such a way as to be distant from the overlying raised plane **460** by a distance such as to define a space in which to arrange further bottles, for example bottles for pouring fruit juices or other liquid ingredients.

[0265] The object-holder recess **491** is shaped to contain, also or alternatively, little trays with other solid food ingredients.

[0266] Figures 36 and 37 show a modular workstation **510** comprising at least two bartending workstations, for example, but not exclusively, two equal bartending workstations **410** and **410a** as described above.

[0267] A housing interspace for an accessory **600** or **700** is determined between two flanked work surfaces **412** and **412x**, due to the trapezoidal shape of the work surface **412** and **412x**, between two flanked workstations **410** and **410x**.

[0268] A first accessory **600** consists of a shaped waste collection basket, the plane development of which is visible in figure 38.

[0269] This first accessory **600** can therefore be made with a single piece of folded self-supporting flexible material **620**, like the single pieces described above.

[0270] The cross section of the first accessory **600** is such as to fit into the interspace between two flanked workstations **410** and **410x**, and has enlarged upper edges

601 and **602** configured to overlap the edges of the work surfaces **412** and **412x** respectively, so as to close any gaps between the work surface and the first accessory itself.

[0271] The first accessory **600** also has a rear appendage **603** shaped to obstruct the remaining space defined between the flanked rising portions **461** and **461x**.

[0272] Figures 40 and 41 show a modular workstation **510** comprising at least two bartending workstations, for example, but not exclusively, two equal bartending workstations **410** and **410a** as described above.

[0273] A second accessory **700** is housed between two flanked workstations **410** and **410x**.

[0274] Said second accessory **700** consists of a flat element for closing the interspace between two flanked work surfaces **412** and **412x**, of which the plane development is visible in figure 42.

[0275] This second accessory **700** can therefore be made with a single piece of folded self-supporting flexible material **720**, like the single pieces described above.

[0276] Also this second accessory **700** has enlarged upper edges **701** and **702** configured to overlap the edges of the work surfaces **412** and **412x** respectively, so as to close any gaps between the work surface and the first accessory itself.

[0277] The second accessory **700** also has a rear appendage **703** shaped to obstruct the remaining space defined between the flanked rising portions **461** and **461x**.

[0278] It has in practice been established that the invention achieves the intended task and objects.

[0279] In particular, with the invention, a bartending workstation has been developed which does not require any return or cleaning and maintenance expenses, since, if it is made of cardboard, it can be completely disposed of.

[0280] To solve the above problems related to rental, a 'disposable' type bartending workstation has been developed.

[0281] The bartending workstation according to the invention allows a manufacturer to send to the customer a workstation which the user assembles autonomously and which after a few days the same user can correctly dispose of in the local spaces dedicated to paper sorting.

[0282] The bartending workstation according to the invention ensures a duration of use equal to the duration of a rental, but without return costs, without management costs and times and without deposit costs.

[0283] The workstation reaches the user in a box with the size of a wall painting, completely foldable and transportable, made of special, light and economical materials. This allows for practically zero transport costs for express couriers.

[0284] Thanks to the bartending workstation according to the invention, it is possible for restaurateurs or bartenders themselves to bring their own bartender workstation at the right moment, to the place of the event or simply outside a club such as a bar, by assembling it right

in that moment in a short time, whereby this workstation according to the invention has all the structural peculiarities of the known bartending workstations, making the bartender's work more fluid and fast, increasing the revenue of the club and the event.

[0285] At the end of the event, these workstations according to the invention can be folded back into themselves, reaching a few centimeters of thickness and can be easily disposed of.

[0286] The ideal material for the production of these workstations is, as described above, cardboard.

[0287] Cardboard allows the use of recycled material, increases the sales margin as it is a very economical material, allows direct printing in the material and therefore customization with customer's logos, and since it can be cut on the plotter by a machine, it allows creating small batches without excessive costs and with extensive customization.

[0288] Finally, being a recyclable material, it is easy and ecological to dispose of.

[0289] The workstation according to the invention comprises standard trays of international size made of plastic or steel and which are reusable.

[0290] The workstation according to the invention has a smooth quadrangular external surface free from reliefs or bas-reliefs, available for customization of the workstation itself.

[0291] For example, the rear wall **211d**, **311d** and **411d** of the workstation is flat and smooth, has no protrusions or recesses, and is therefore optimal for the affixing of graphic elements for customization, made by printing or using stickers, or with other techniques known per se.

[0292] If several workstations are placed side by side, this rear wall **211d**, **311d**, **411d** is very useful to give the impression, to an external observer, of a single surface instead of several separate surfaces belonging to several separate workstations. Also this single surface of two or more workstations can be customized in such a way as to look like a single large graphic.

[0293] In summary, the workstation according to the invention consists of a set of cardboard panels, cut and carved so that they can be folded and interlocked between them producing very solid shapes and with sturdy supports right in the points where the bartender puts mostly the weight.

[0294] Cardboard crossings create vertical X and triangular shapes where the weight of heavier components, such as bottles or trays filled with ice, are supported in safety and stability.

[0295] The bearing structures described above make it possible to significantly lower the thickness of the cardboard and, through the latest cutting techniques, to cut the cardboard to size at very low cost and even for small batches.

[0296] The main elements of the workstation are, in addition to the various 'X' and 'triangle' crossings:

- the raised cocktail service surface, higher than the

work and rest surface of the trays, which is used by the bartender to prepare the cocktail directly in front of the customer who, in the end, can grab it and take it away with all comfort;

- 5 - the work surface with at least one hole for ice or citrus fruit holder trays;
- a bottle-holder tray, in jargon 'speed rack' or "fast pocket", lower than the work surface, where all the alcoholic bottles mostly used by the bartender are contained; the position allows them to be grabbed without even lifting one's arms, with minimal effort;
- 10 - an object-holder recess, that is a fake plane that acts as a container for bottles, glasses and additional trays which is usually hidden under the service surface and used to hold glasses and non-alcoholic ingredients;
- 15 - a large single external vertical surface that allows the customer to adapt and customize aesthetics, as well as the placing of several workstations side by side, allowing it to look like a single counter.

[0297] The preferable sizes for the bartending workstation according to the invention are:

- 25 - width: 100 cm,
- height of service plane for serving cocktails: 115 cm,
- work surface: 85 cm.

[0298] In the fifth preferred embodiment, the workstation **410** comprises, as described above, four sheets of cut and folded micro-triple cardboard, two ice-holder trays for ice and citrus fruits, where the bottle-holder tray is a bottle-holder 'speed rack' for eleven bottles of spirits or soft drinks.

[0299] The workstation according to the invention can be produced with much less cardboard, with fewer pieces and using the same system or other interlocking and weight unloading systems, with respect to the prior art.

[0300] To avoid using too large cardboard sheets, it is also possible to divide the components into several smaller models which are then glued together during production.

[0301] This allows the use of standard cardboard formats, lowering the production cost and the minimum batch.

[0302] As described above for the modular workstations, it is possible to combine two or more workstations by placing them side by side in order to form a single counter.

[0303] The joints between one workstation and the other are made up of either deep waste bins, the first accessories **600**, or of additional rest surfaces, the second accessories **700**.

[0304] These supports, in addition to firmly joining the workstations, are required because if the user needs more than one workstation of this kind, it means that he will attend to a very large event in which to have the bartenders operate.

[0305] They will then be supposed to make many cocktails using plastic bottles and disposable glasses. This is why the presence of a large waste bin is essential.

[0306] A second option where the customer may want to join multiple workstations are trade shows.

[0307] In order to attend a trade show, companies, both belonging to the sector and not, have to set up an exhibition stand and one of the added values, to attract visitors or warmly welcome customers, is the bar.

[0308] In these situations there is a need for a bartending workstation having an easily movable and mountable structure, with a dominant aesthetic and a possible customization. The bar in the stand must occupy a significant space, to be noticeable and demonstrate the company's values. In this case, however, the cocktails to be produced may be fewer than those required in a real event, and therefore the aesthetic need increases. So, instead of connecting the workstations to each other with a waste bin, they can be connected with a cap of the same material, i.e. the second accessory 700, which joins the workstations and closes the space created between one and the other by extending the work surface available for resting the material.

[0309] With this solution, the addition behind the bar or next thereto of a folding flat table, of the same material (in this case in cardboard) can be of aesthetic and practical help.

[0310] The invention thus conceived is susceptible to many modifications and variants, all falling within the same inventive concept; furthermore, all details can be replaced by equivalent technical elements.

[0311] In practice, the components and materials used, as long as they are compatible with the specific use, as well as the dimensions and the contingent shapes, can be whatever, according to requirements and the prior art.

[0312] Where the characteristics and techniques mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, such reference signs should be intended as having been added for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and consequently such reference signs have no limiting effect on the interpretation of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

Claims

1. A bartending workstation (410), comprising a bearing structure (411), above which a work surface (412) is defined, at least one opening (413) being defined at said work surface (412) inside which opening there is at least one ice-holder tray (414); at least one bottle-holder tray (415) adjacent to said work surface (412) being defined, said at least one bottle-holder tray (415) being supported by said same bearing structure (411), and comprising a raised plane (460), said raised plane (460) being supported by a rising portion (461)

included in, that is being part of, said bearing structure (411),

at least said bearing structure (411) being constituted by at least one single piece (420A, 420B) of a sheet or of a plate of a folded self-supporting flexible material,

characterized in that:

- said bearing structure (411) with said rising portion (461) and said raised plane (460) are made up of two single pieces, first (420A) and second (420B), each of a sheet or plate of a folded self-supporting material, joined one to another;
- said work surface (412), with said at least one opening (413), consists of a third single piece (420C) of a sheet or plate of a folded self-supporting material;
- said bottle-holder tray (415) consists of a fourth single piece (420D) of a sheet or plate of a folded self-supporting material.

2. The workstation according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said bearing structure (411) comprises:

- a rear wall (411d);
- two opposite side walls (411a, 411b) arranged converging in a rear-front direction, that is in the direction running from the rear wall (411d) towards the front of the workstation (410);
- two reinforcement walls (411e, 411f), each arranged transversely with respect to a corresponding side wall (411a, 411b).

3. The workstation according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** each of the side walls (411a, 411b) comprises:

- a central sector (470a, 470b), as a support for the work surface (412);
- a front sector (471a, 471b), with height (A3) lower, with reference to the ground, than the height (A1) of the central sector (470a, 470b) for the work surface (412);
- and a rear sector, corresponding to the rising sector (461a, 461b), with height (A2) greater than the height (A1) of the central sector (470a, 470b) for the work surface (412).

4. The workstation according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said central sector (470a, 470b) comprises a recess (480a, 480b), configured to receive, for resting, the bottom of an ice-holder tray (414, 414').

5. The workstation according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said reinforcement walls (411e, 411f) have the same height (A1) as the central sectors (470a, 470b) of the side walls

(411a, 411b), each of said two reinforcement walls (411e, 411f) comprising a front sector (471c, 471d) having the same height (A3) as the front sectors (471a, 471b), said reinforcement walls (411e, 411f) comprising each also a recess (480c, 480d) configured to receive, for resting, the bottom of an ice-holder tray (414, 414'). 5

6. The workstation according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said third single piece (420C) also comprises an intermediate part (487), configured to define an object-holder recess (491) between said work surface (412) and a rear reinforcement wall (490). 10

7. The workstation according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said bearing structure (411) has the side walls (411a, 411b) and the reinforcement walls (411e, 411f) which are positioned so as to define an 'XX' configuration. 15 20

8. The workstation according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said at least one single piece (420A, 420B, 420C, 420D) of a sheet or of a plate of self-supporting flexible material is cardboard, preferably of a cardboard having a thickness comprised between 0.5 mm and 30 mm. 25

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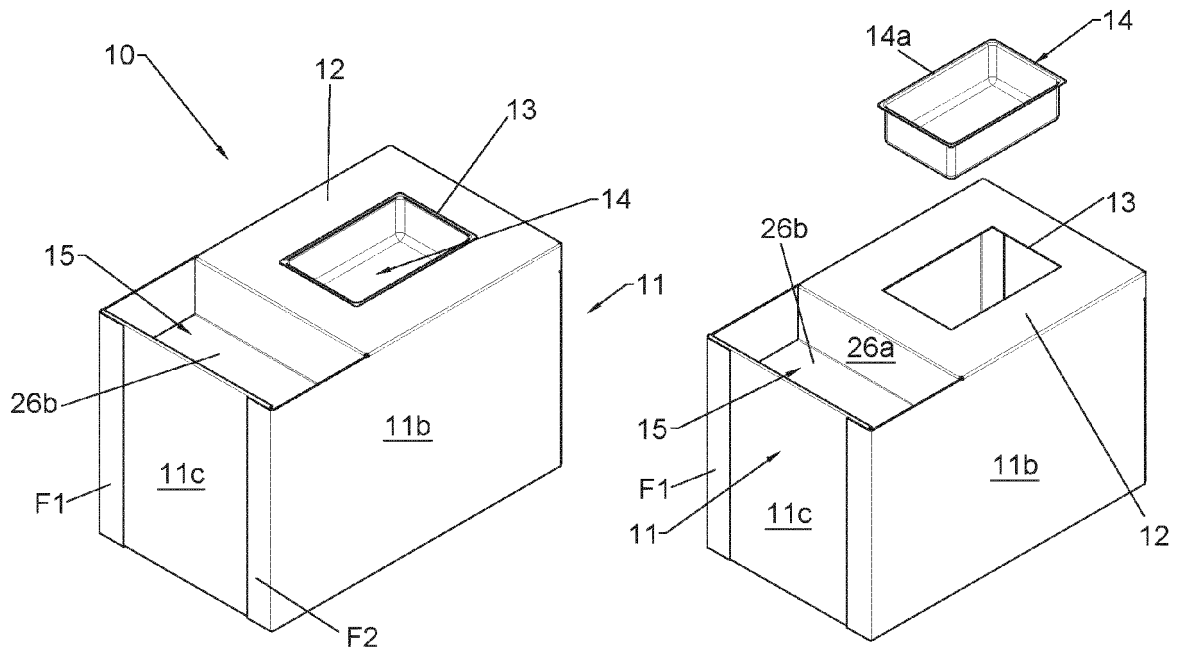


Fig.1

Fig.2

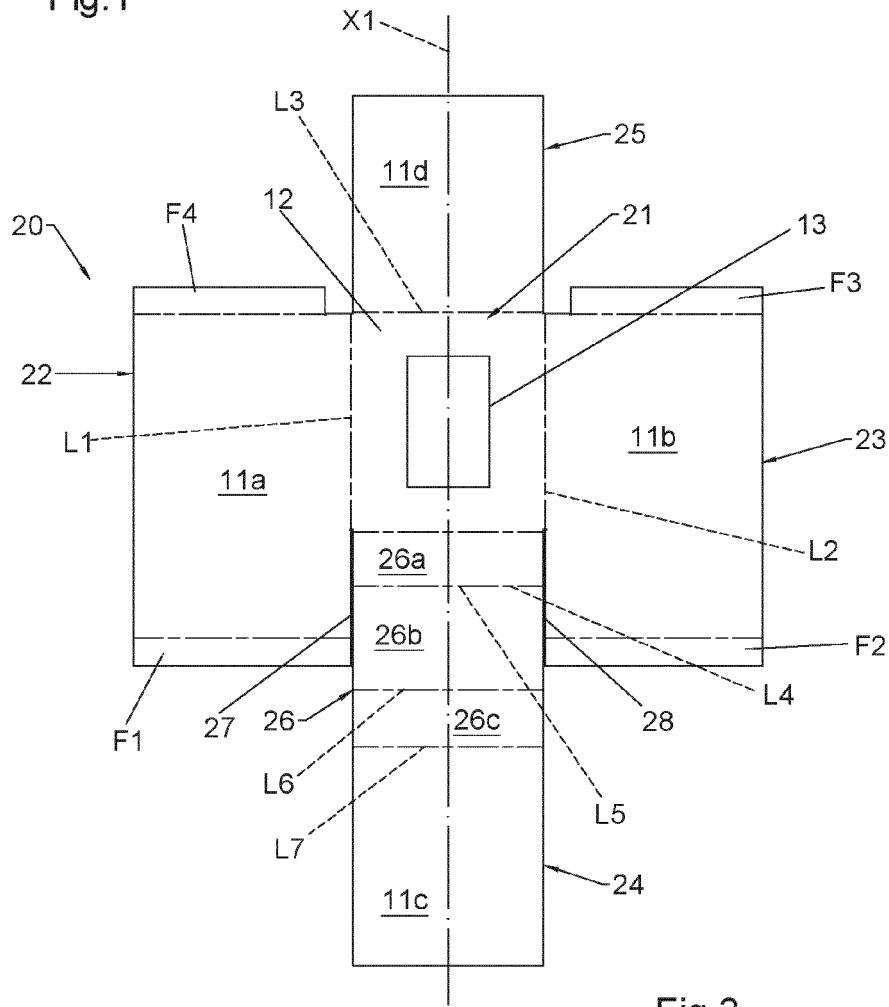


Fig.3

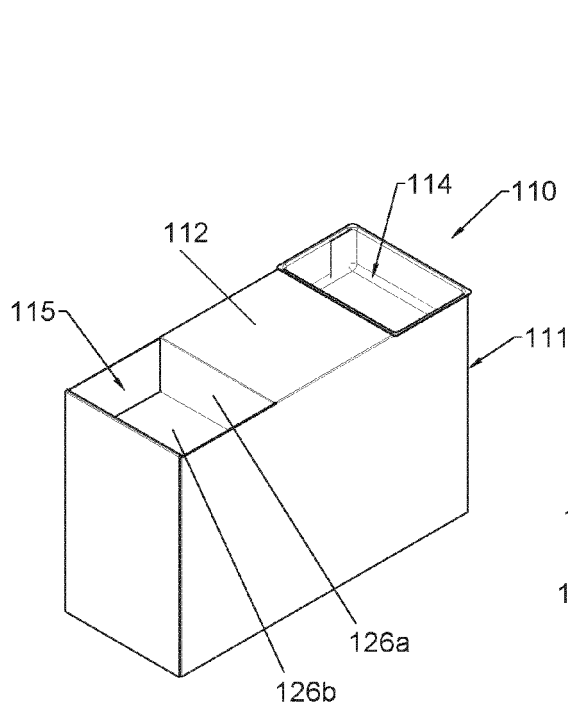


Fig. 4

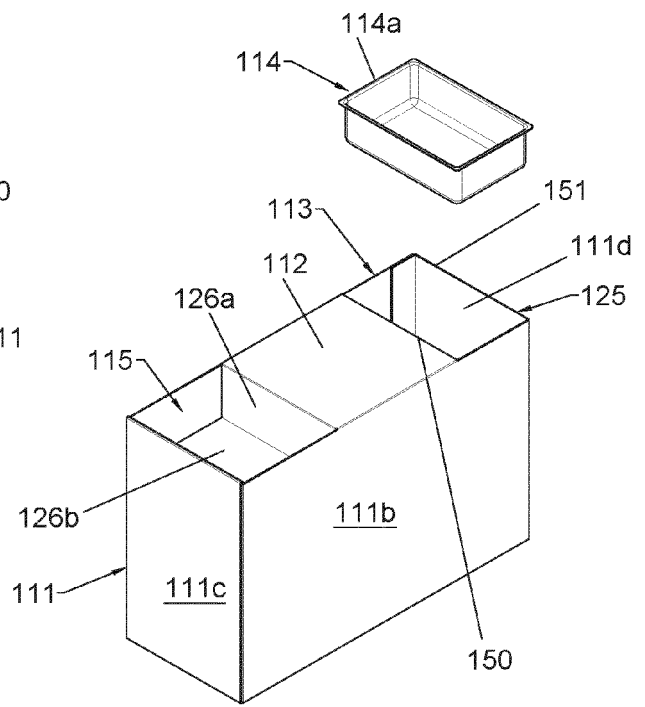


Fig. 5

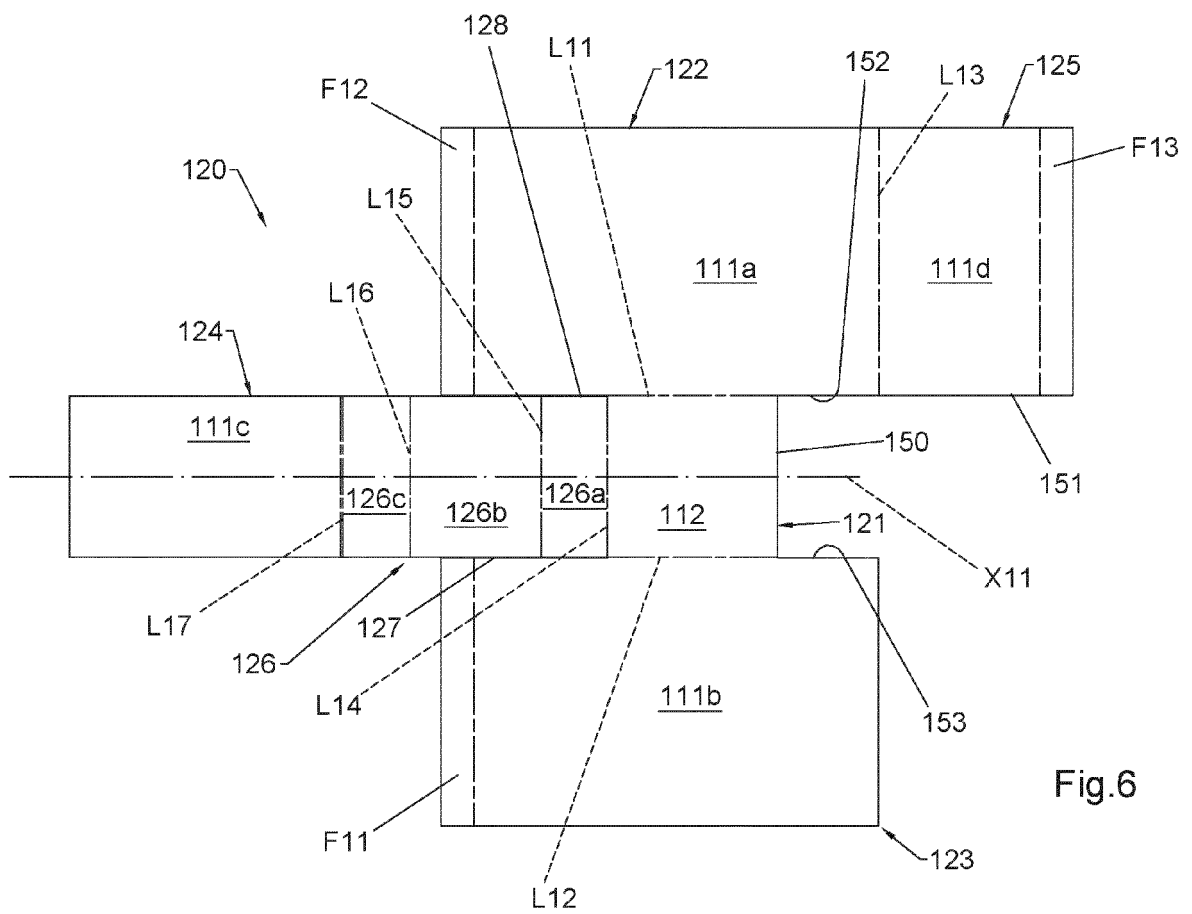


Fig. 6

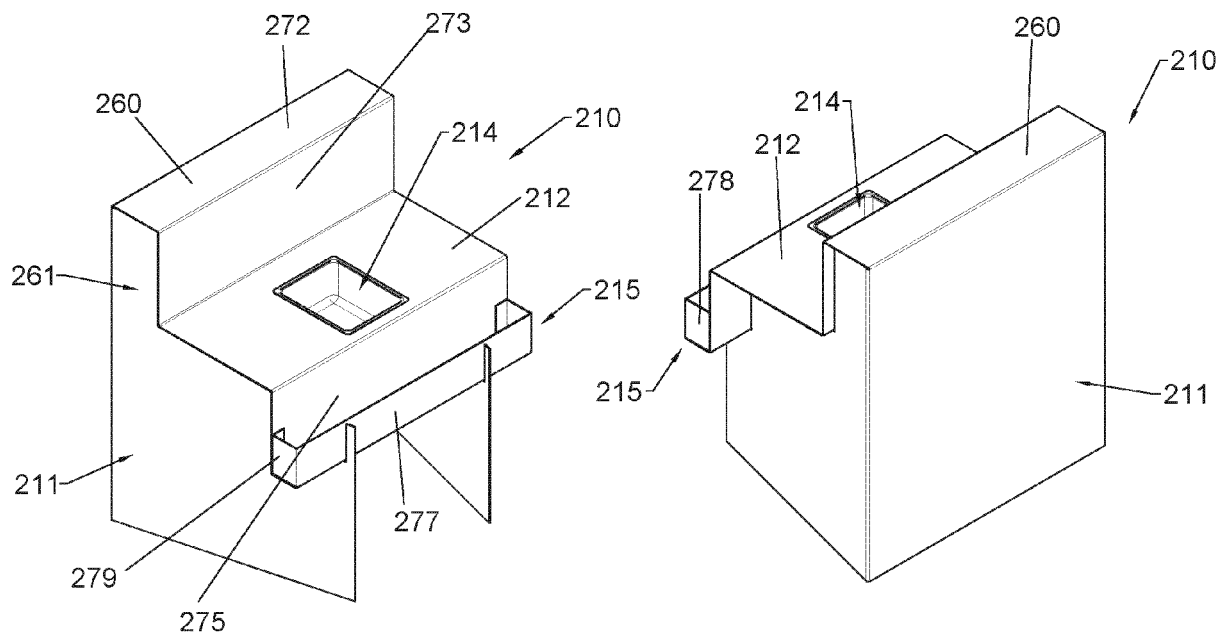


Fig.7

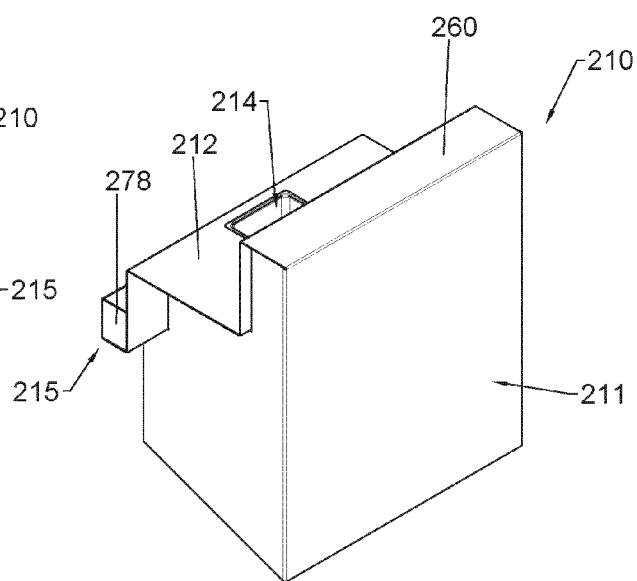


Fig.8

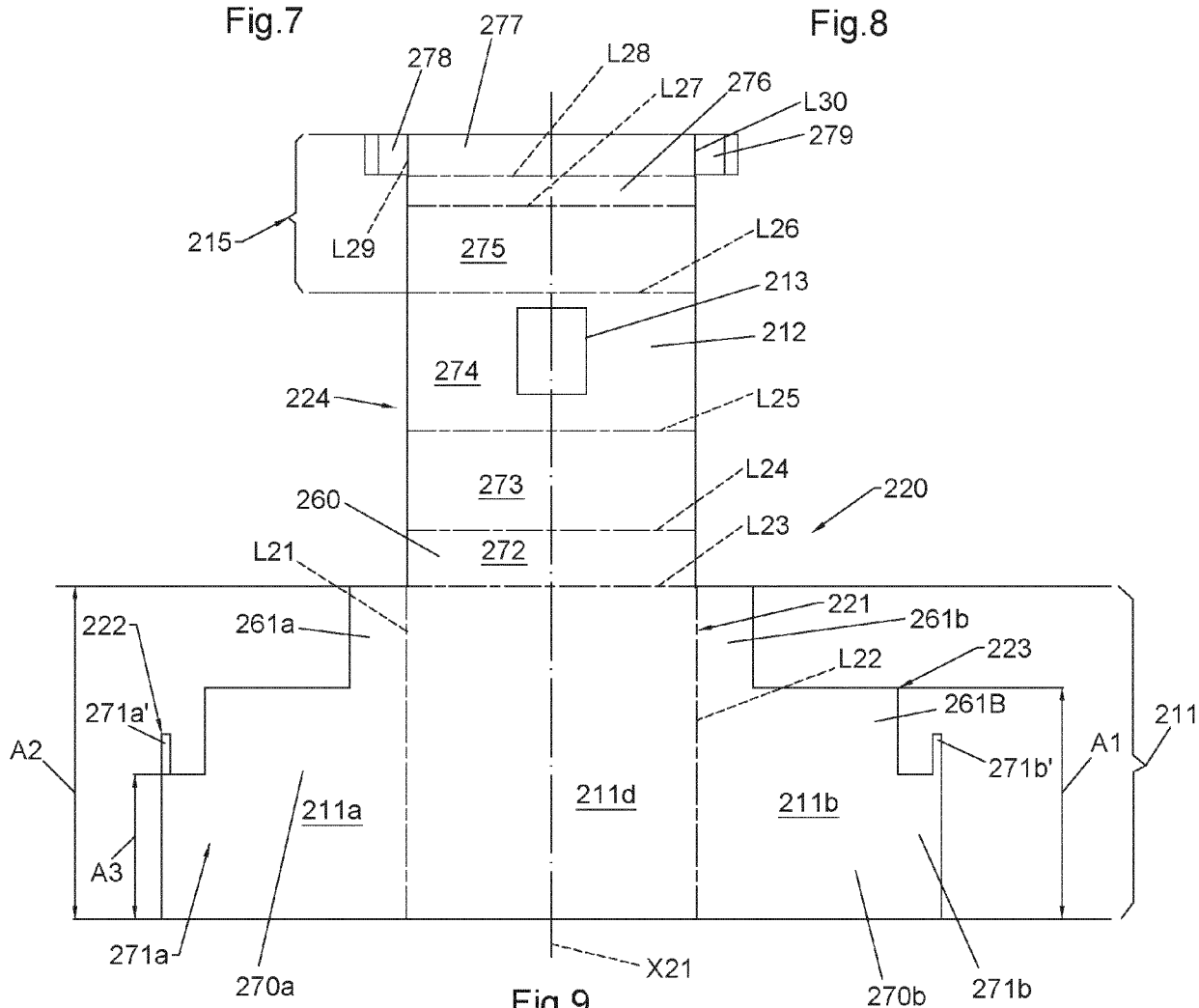


Fig.9

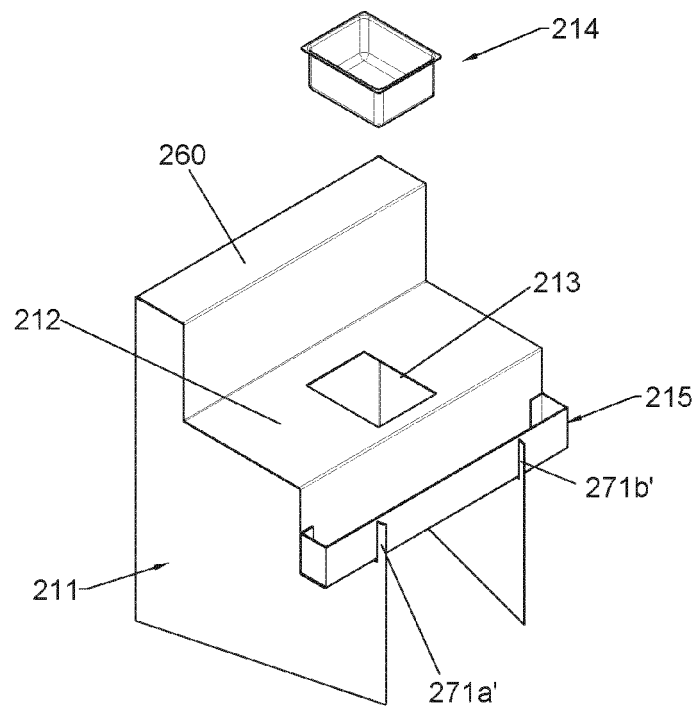


Fig.10

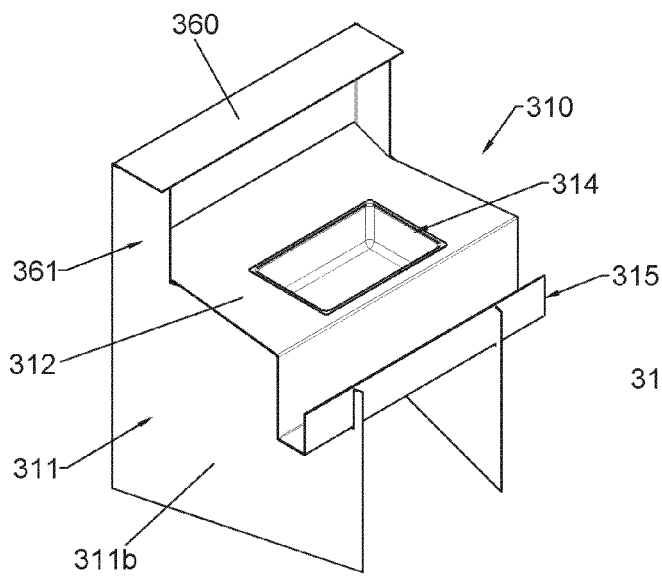


Fig.11

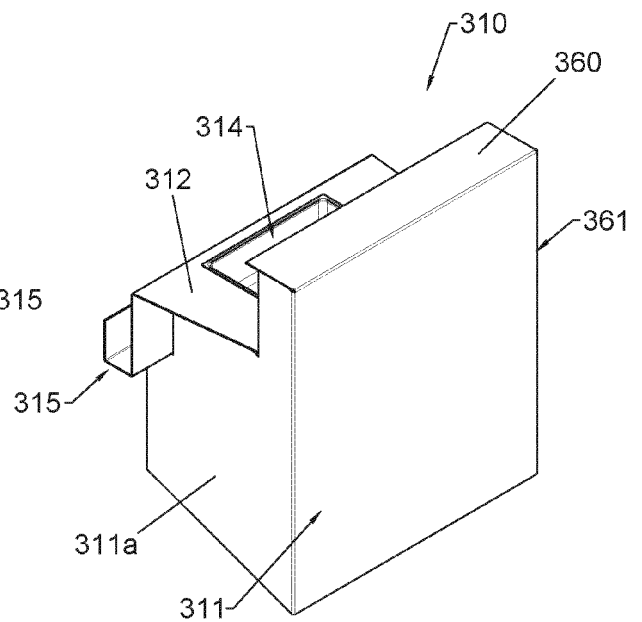
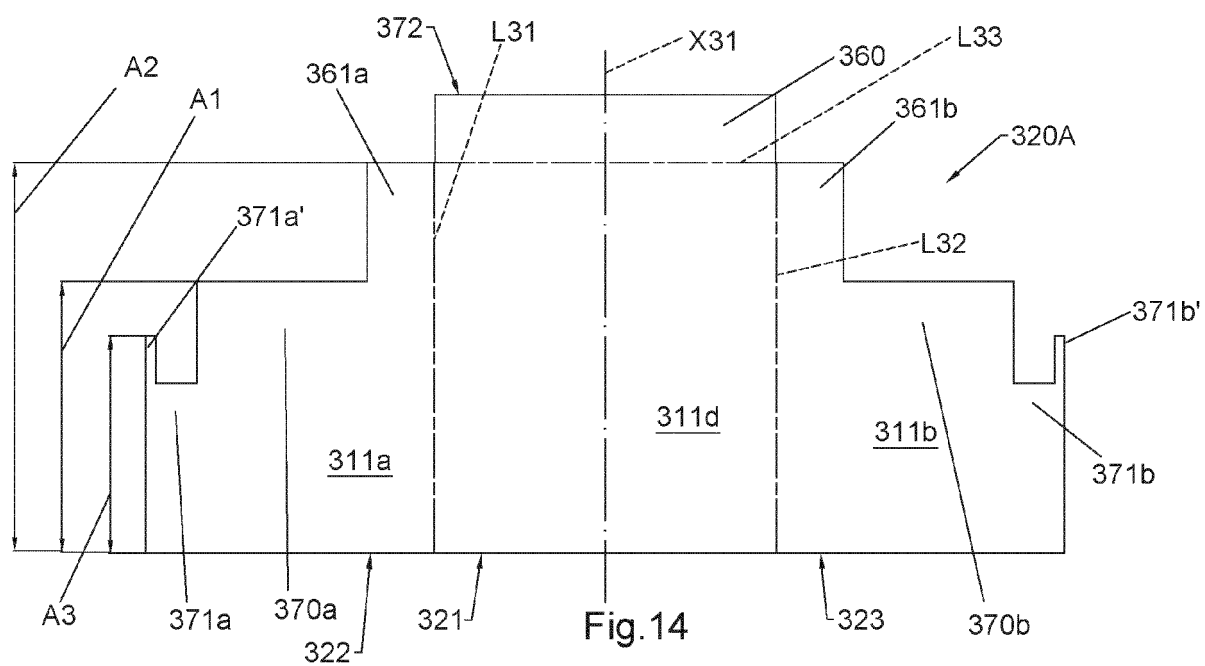
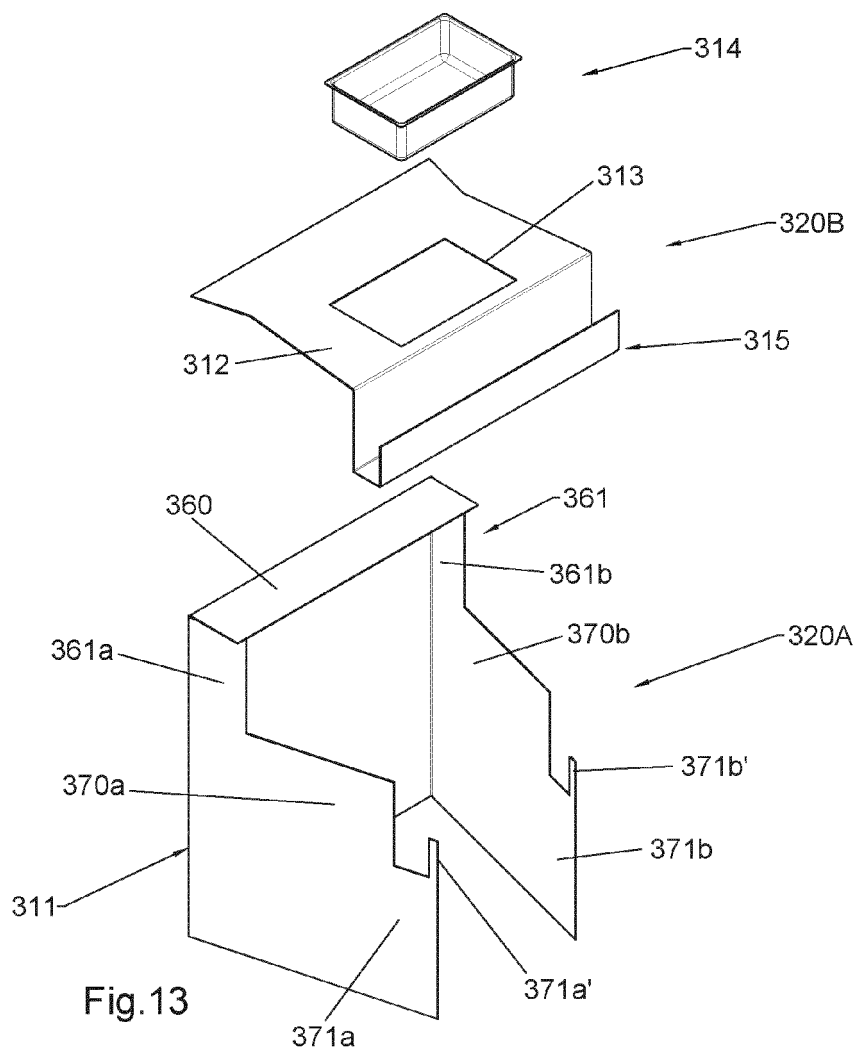


Fig.12



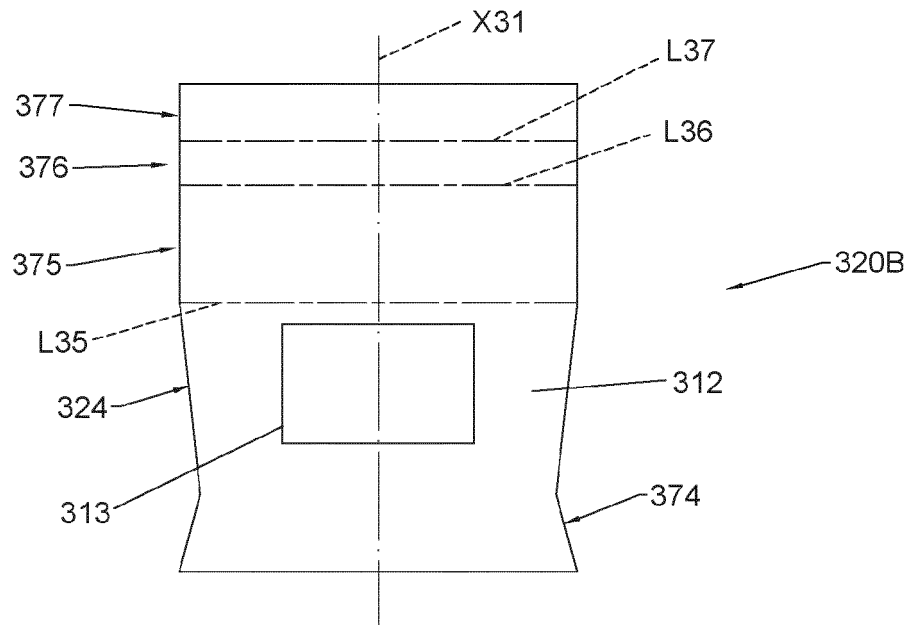


Fig.15

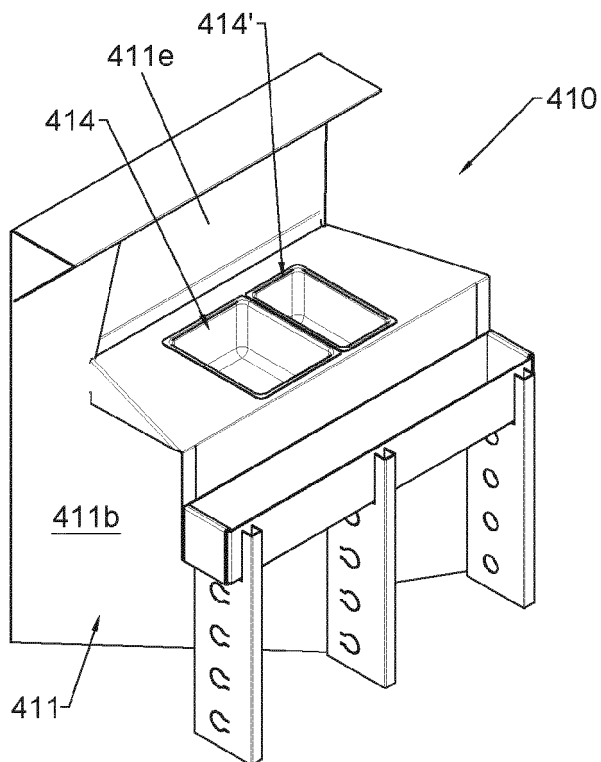


Fig.16

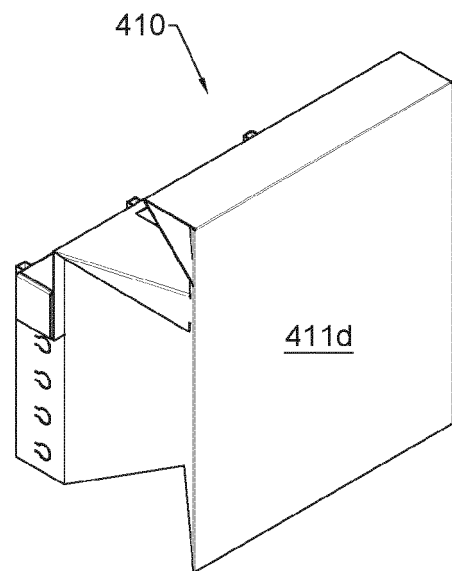


Fig.17

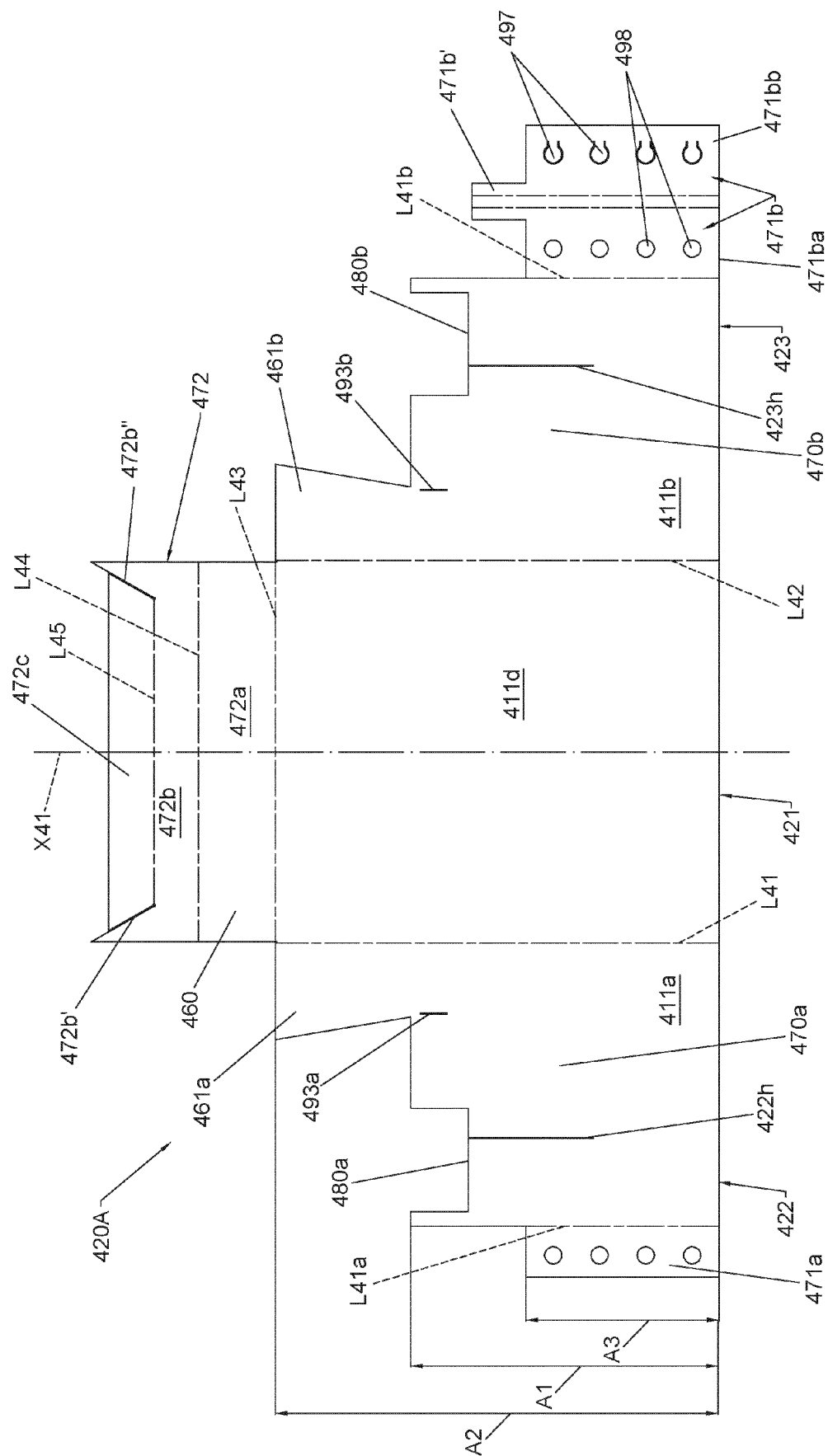
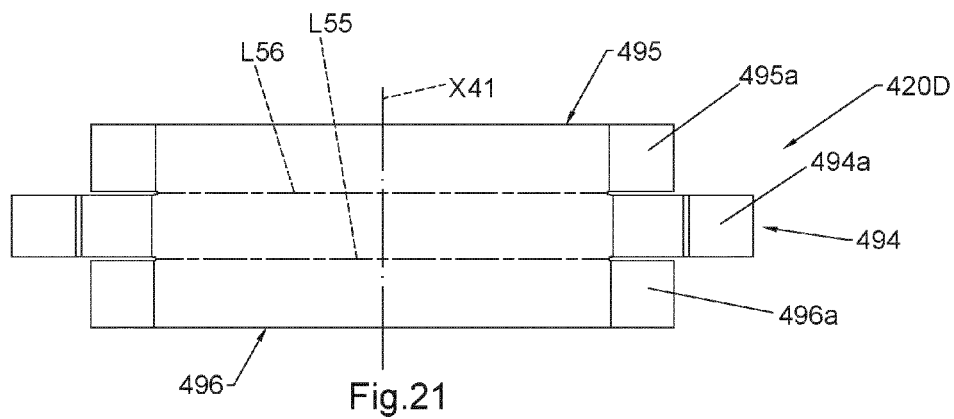
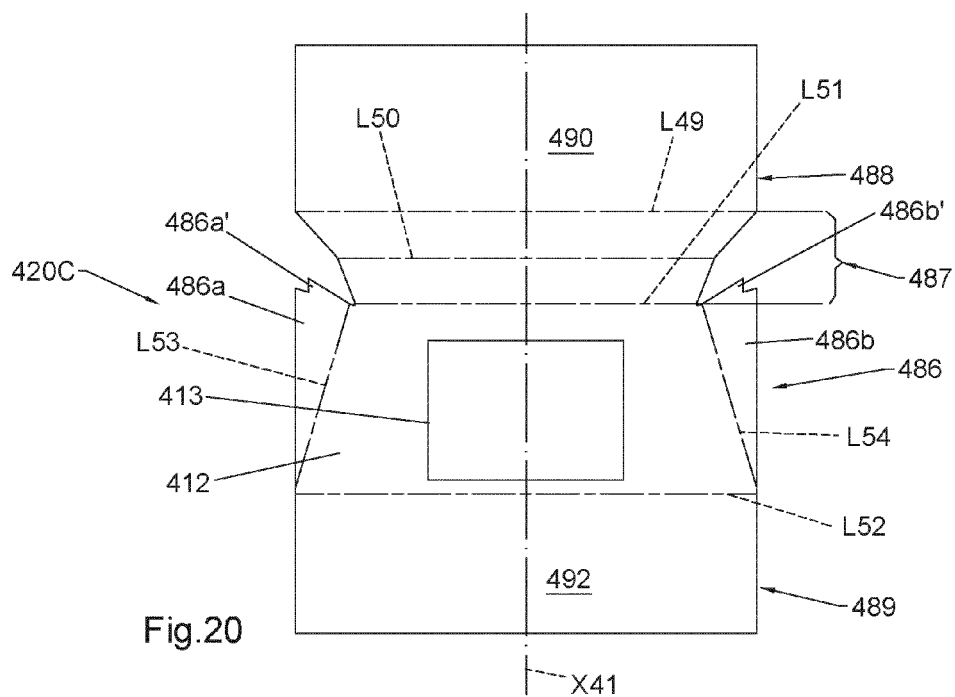
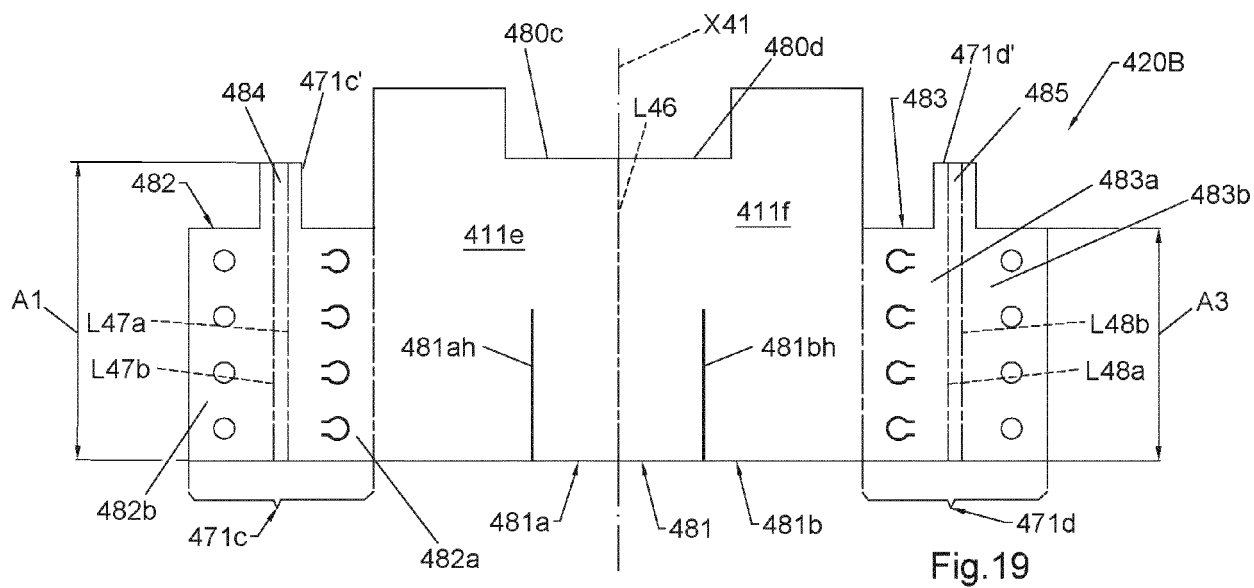
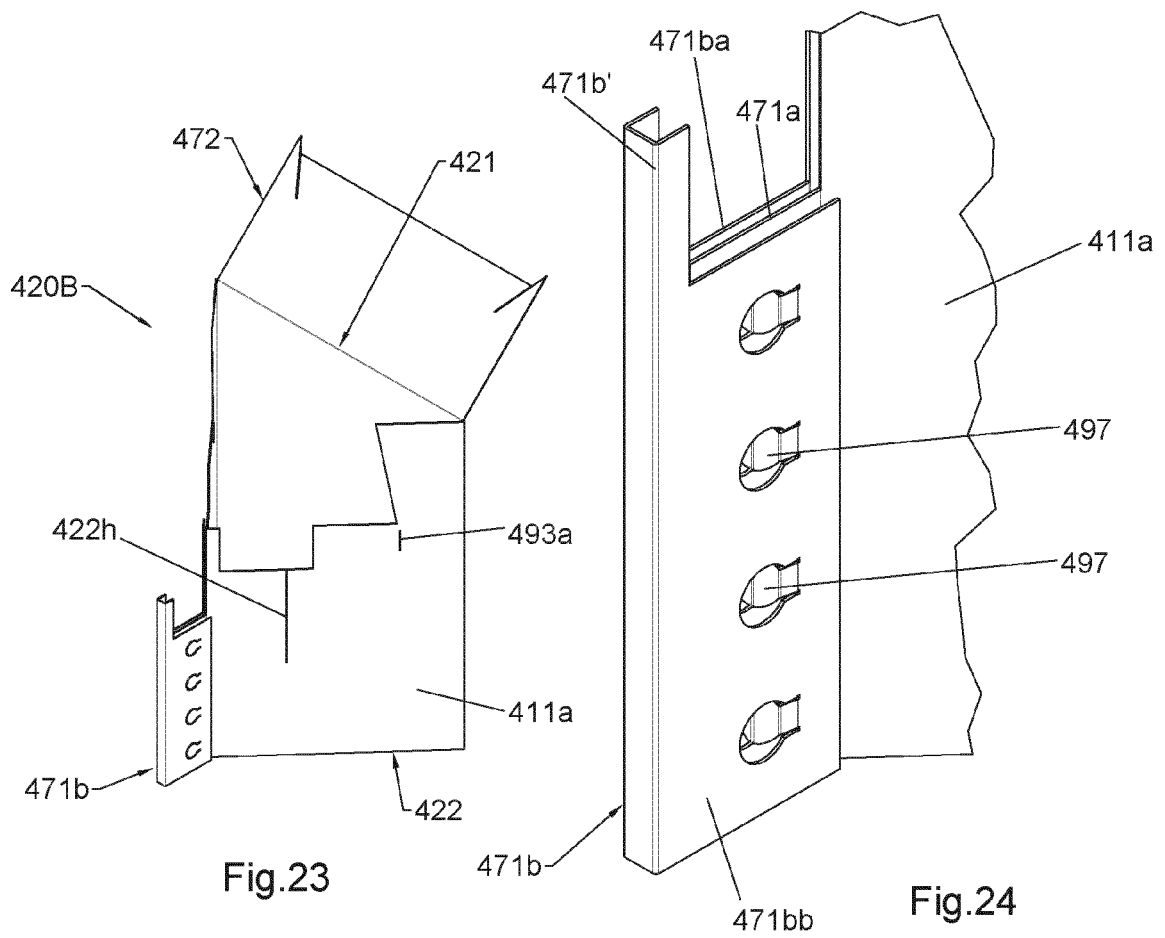
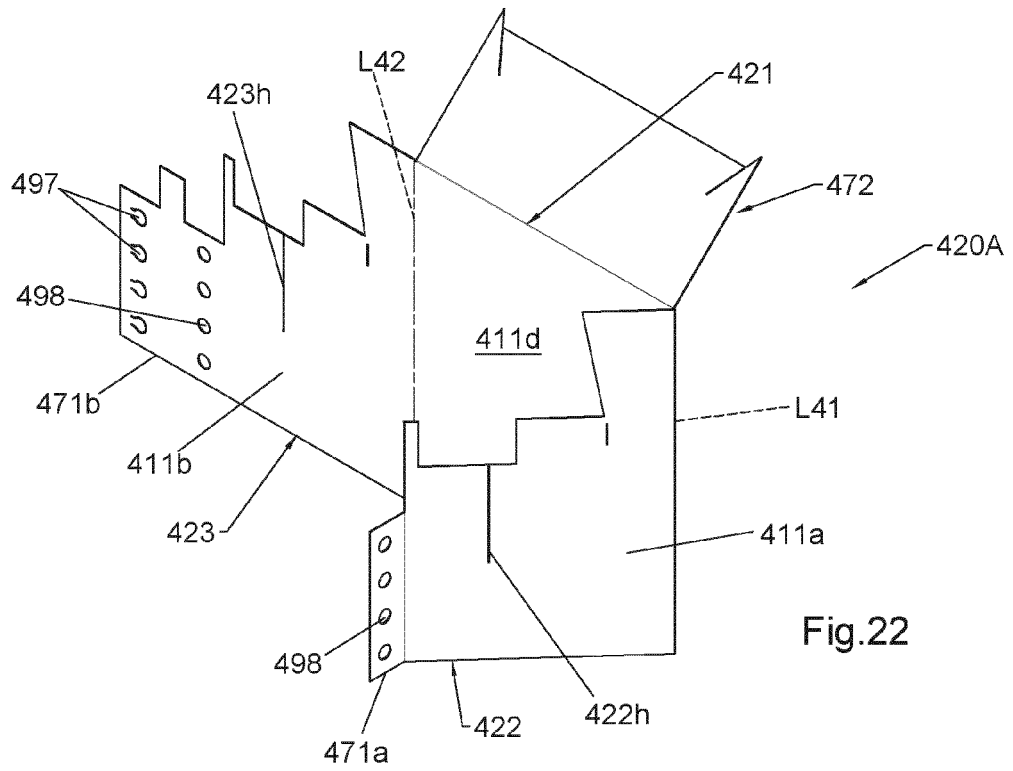
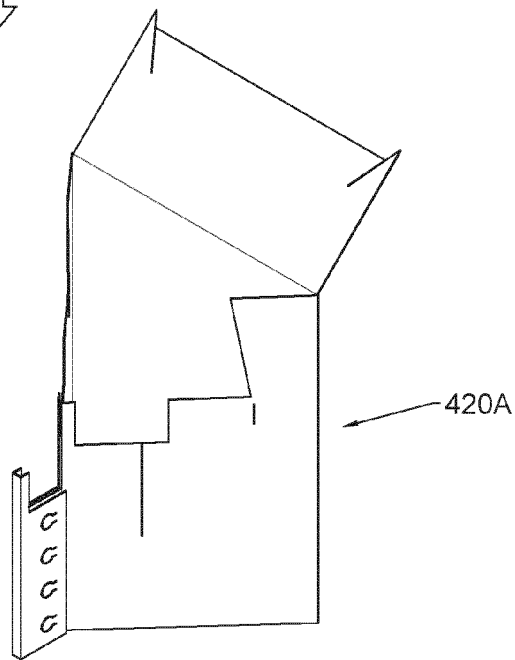
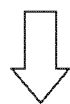
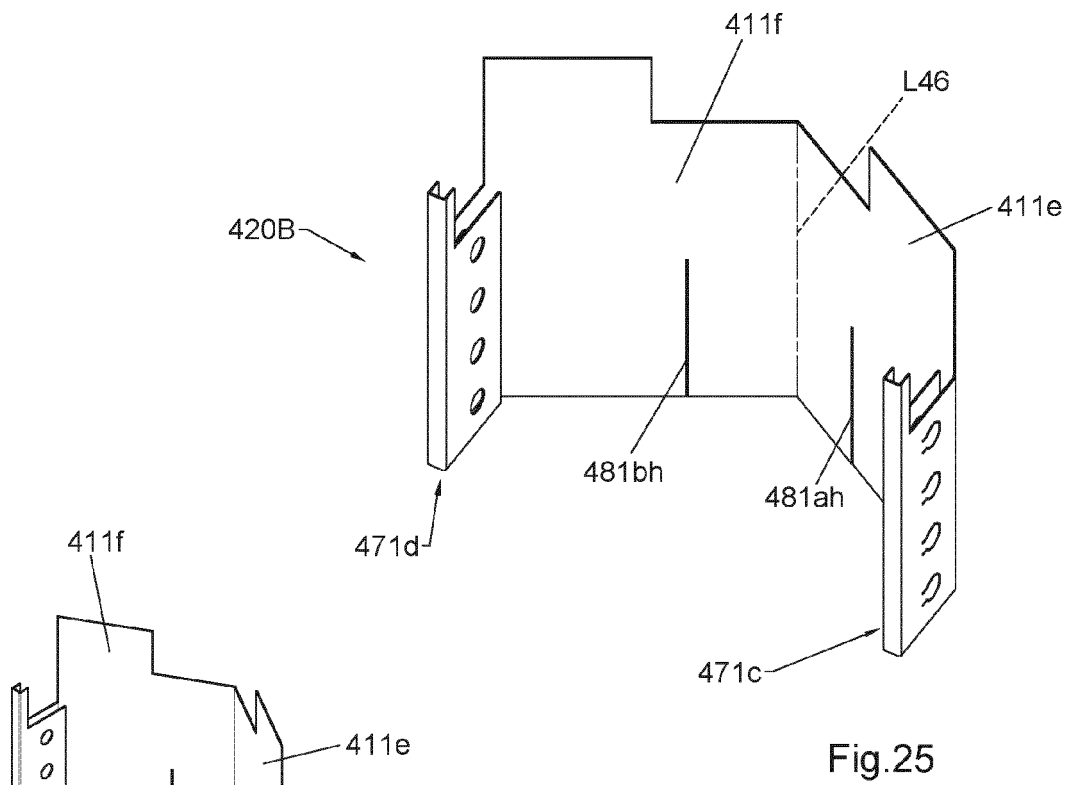


Fig. 18







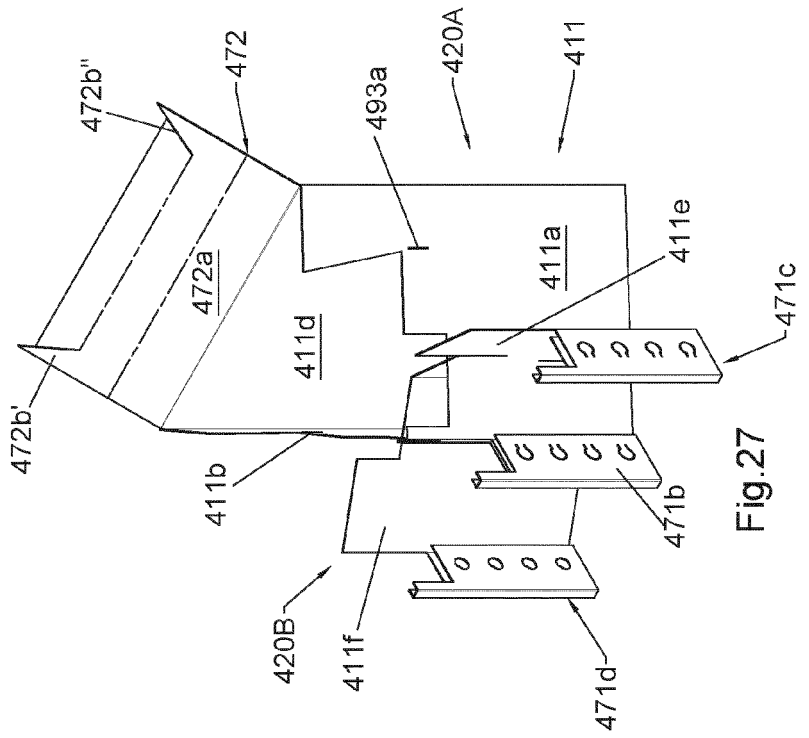
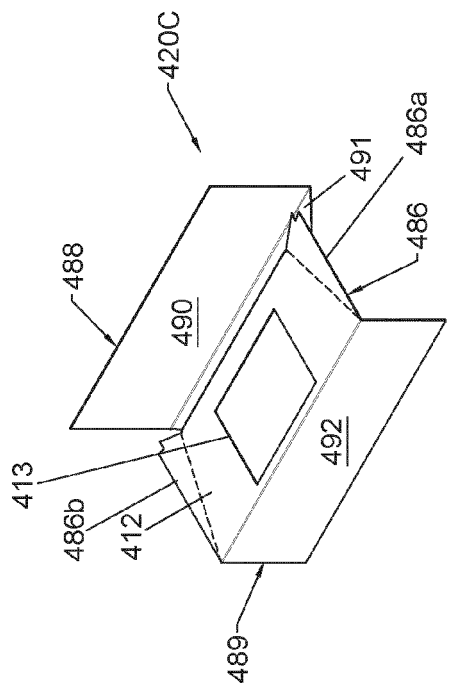


Fig.27

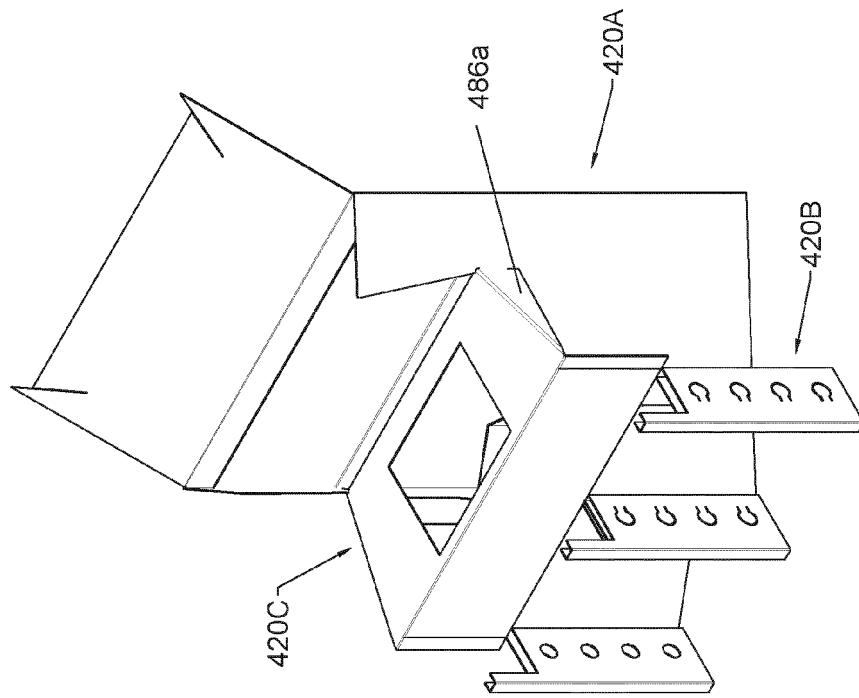


Fig.28

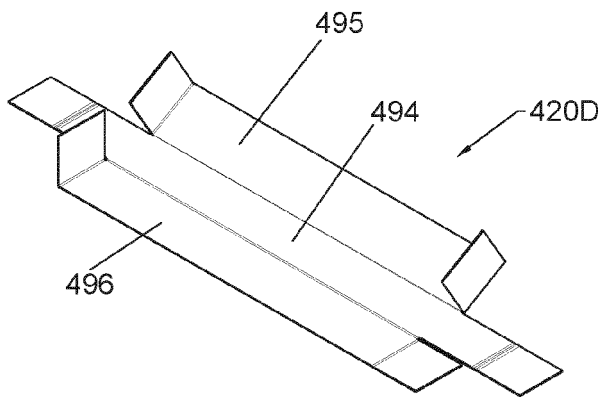


Fig.29

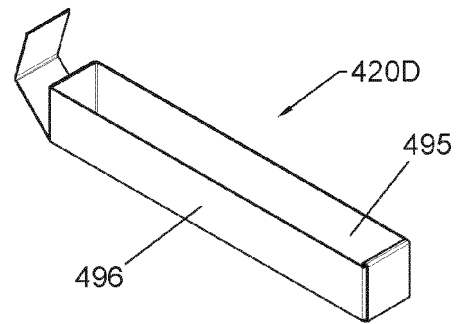


Fig.30

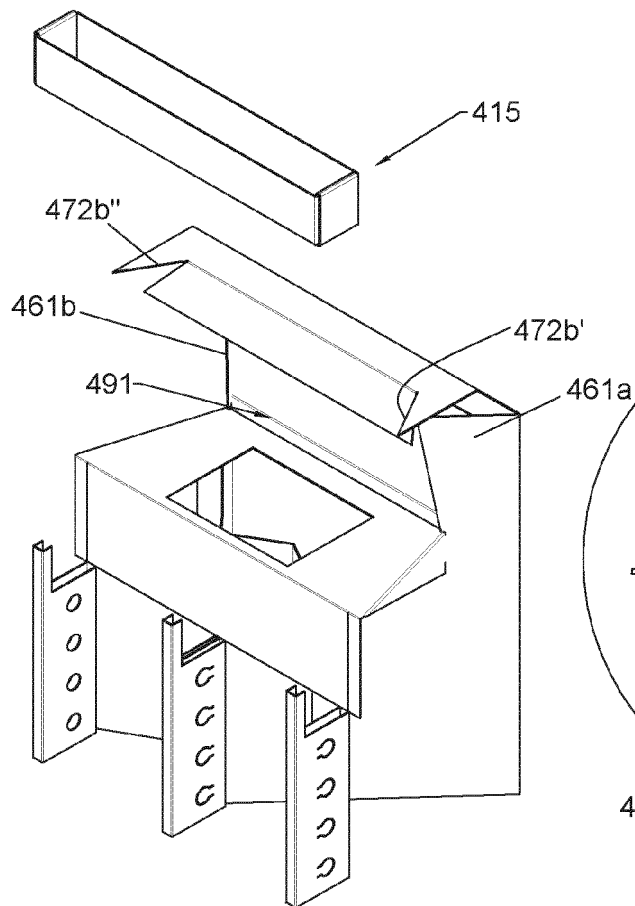


Fig.31

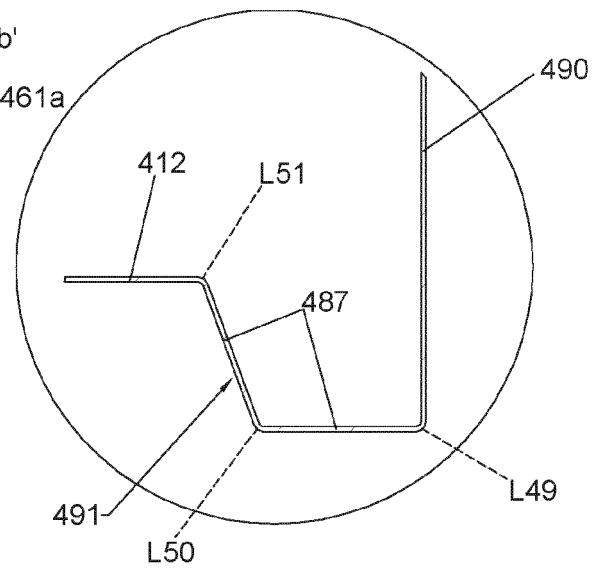


Fig.32

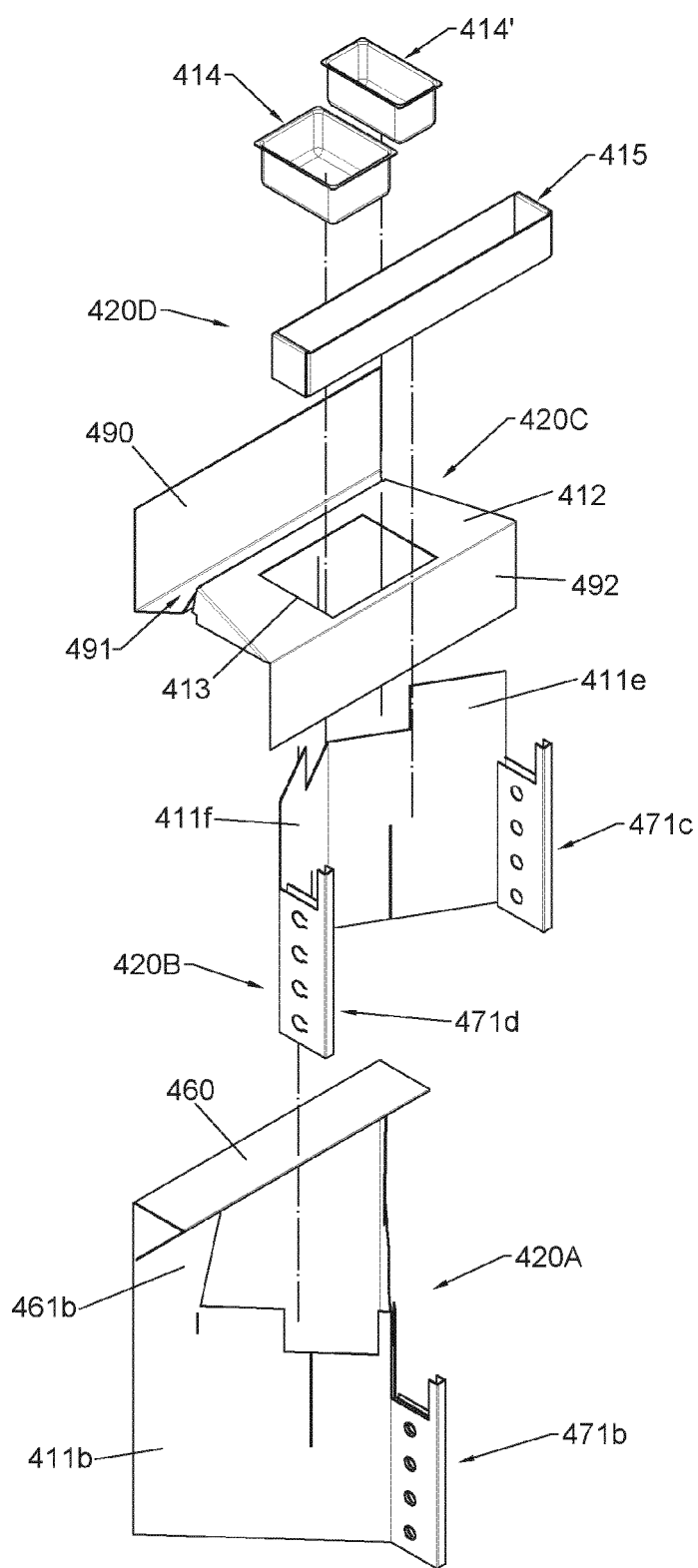


Fig.33

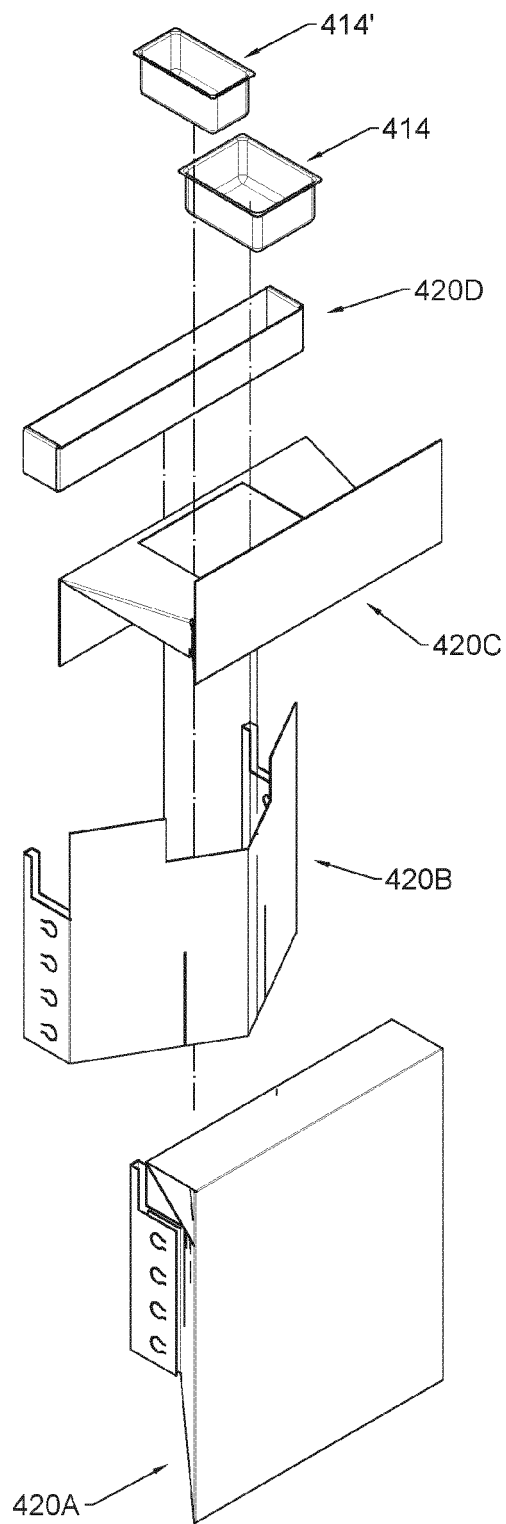
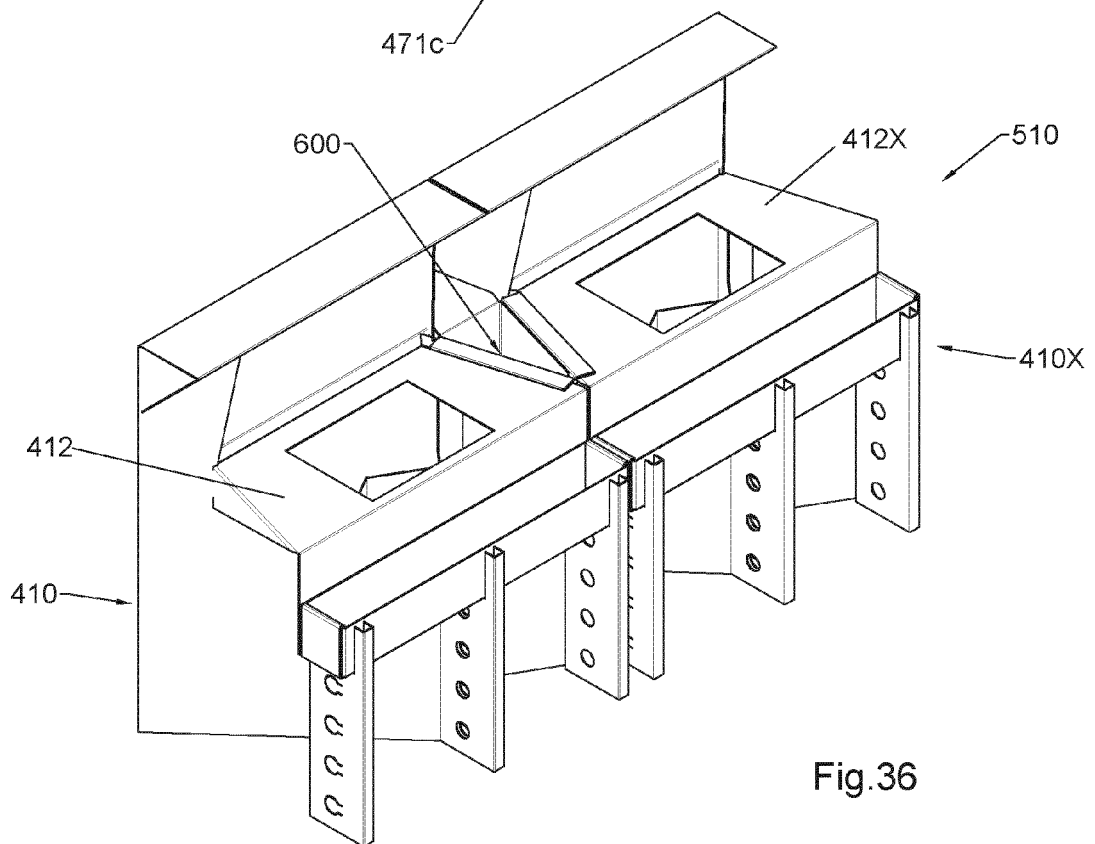
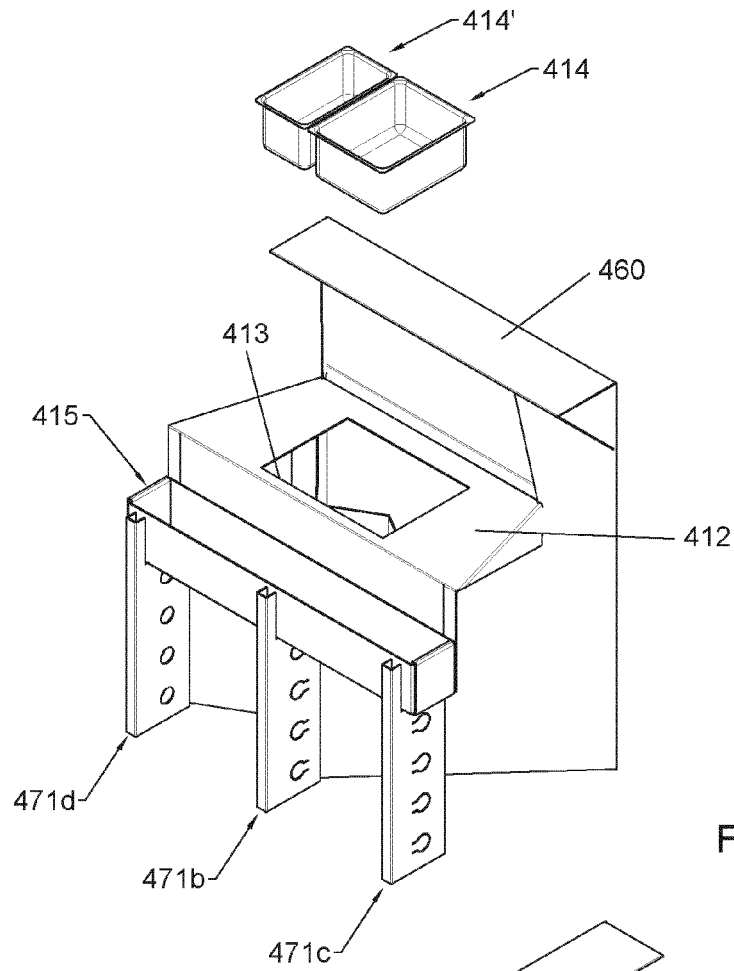


Fig.34



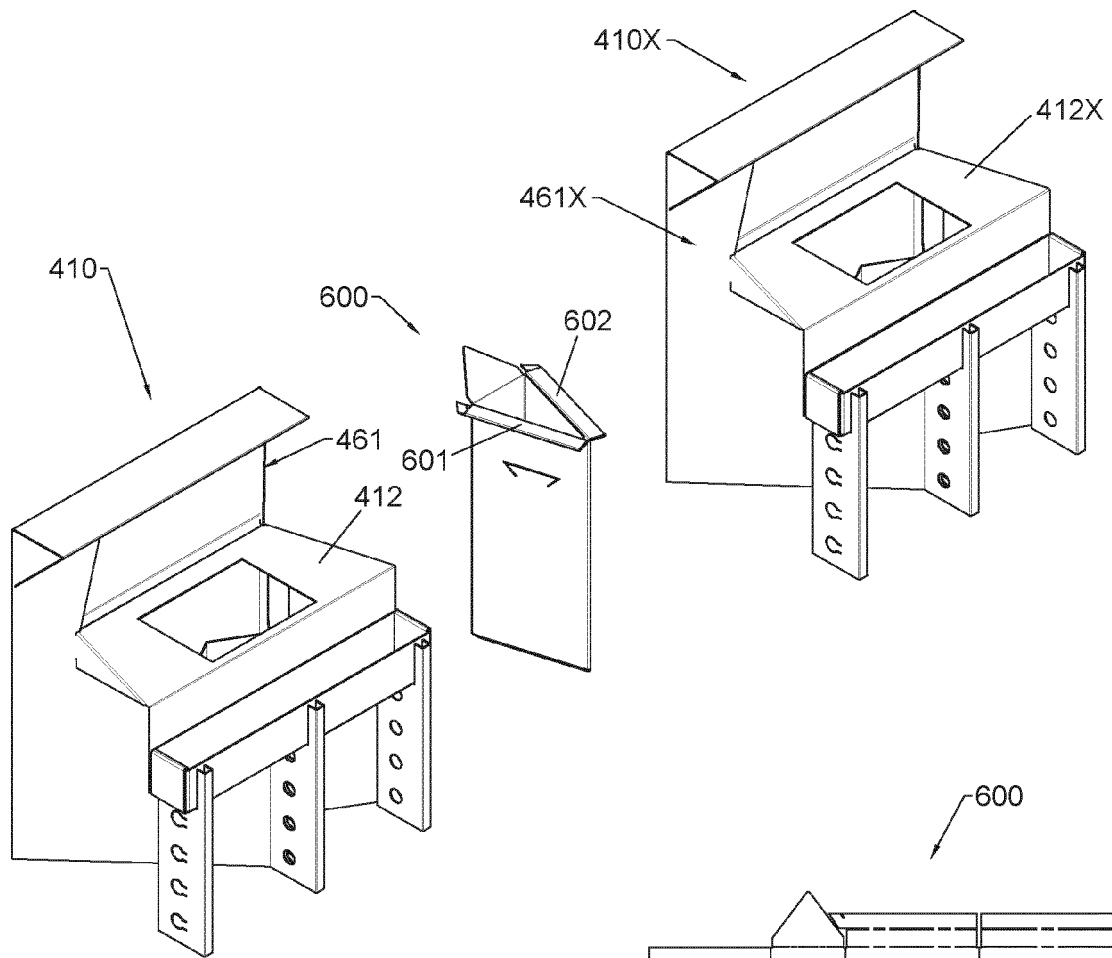


Fig.37

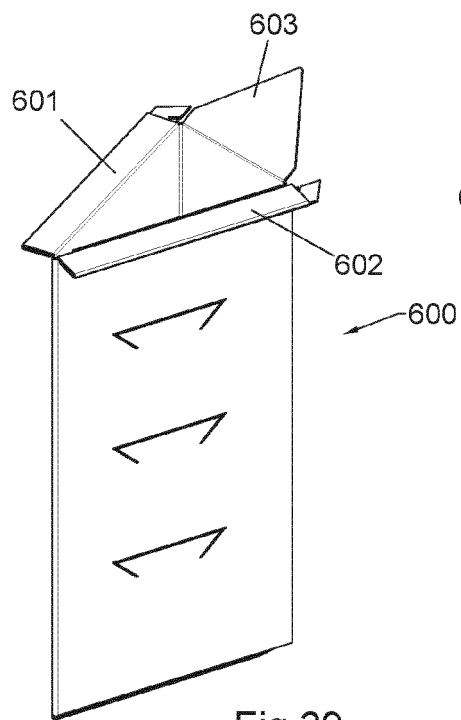


Fig.39

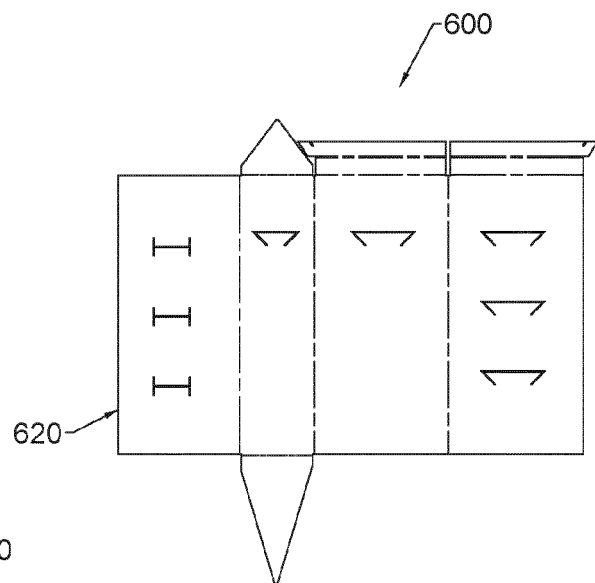
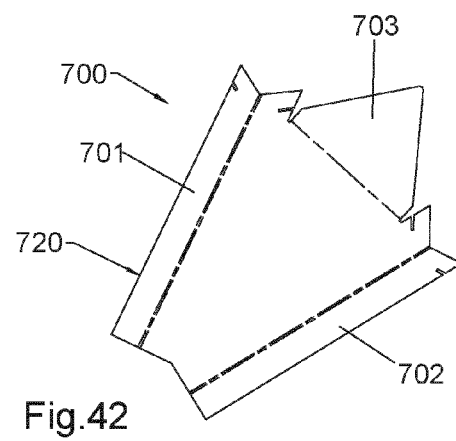
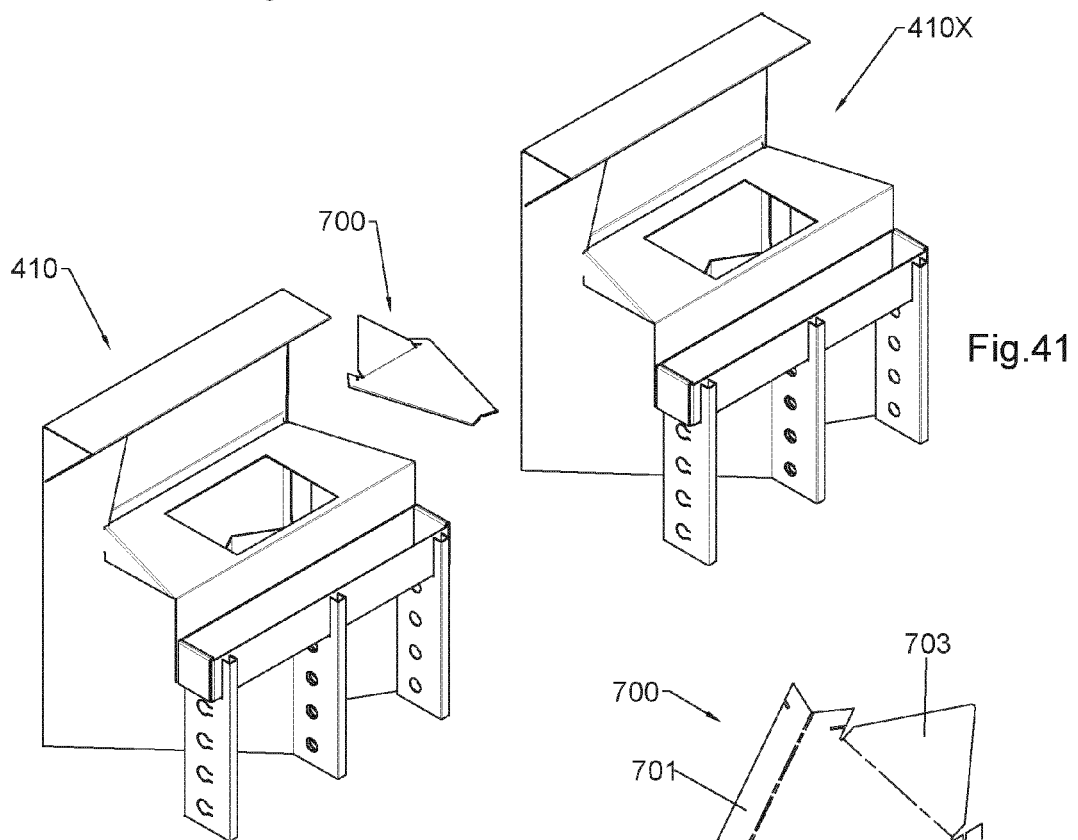
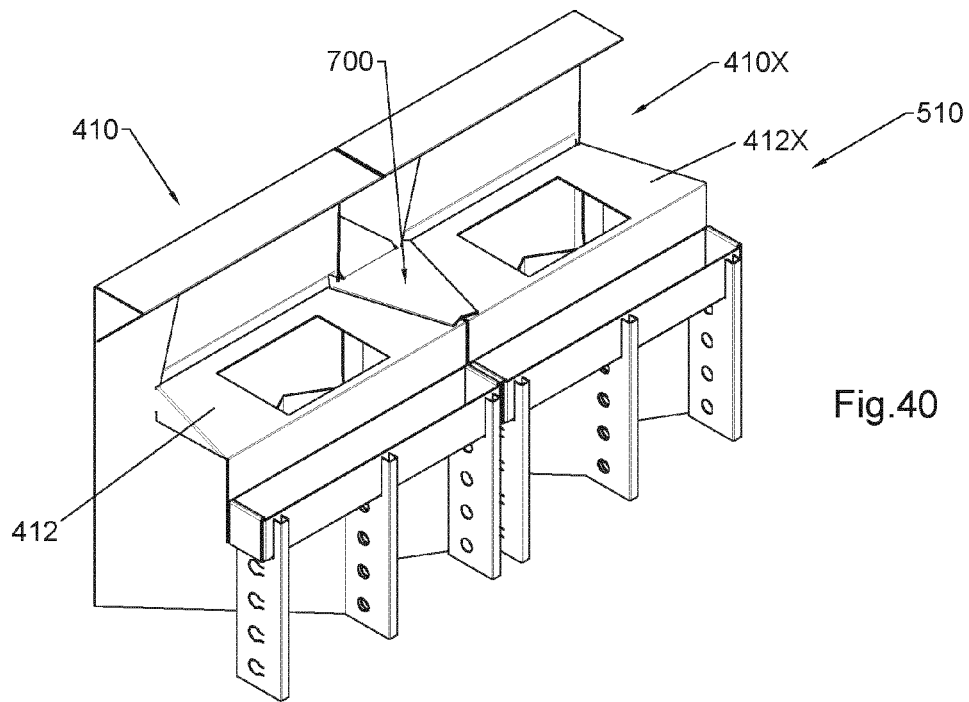


Fig.38





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Application Number
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A	WO 2011/017751 A1 (FOSTER S AUSTRALIA LTD [AU]; RITCHIE ALEX [AU]) 17 February 2011 (2011-02-17) * figures 1-13 *	1	
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			A47F A47B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 3 May 2021	Examiner Linden, Stefan
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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5 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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15	WO 2011017751 A1	17-02-2011	NONE	

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