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(71) Applicant: **National Nail Corporation**
Grand Rapids, MI 49519-2404 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **VANDENBERG, Roger A.**
Hudsonville, MI 49426 (US)
• **HUTCHINGS, Douglas F.**
Rockford, MI 49341 (US)

(74) Representative: **Haseltine Lake Kempner LLP**
Cheapside House
138 Cheapside
London EC2V 6BJ (GB)

(54) **HIDDEN FASTENER UNIT AND RELATED METHOD OF USE**

(57) A fastener unit and related method for securing a board to a support is provided. The fastener unit includes a spacer block, a grip element extending from the spacer block and configured to fit in and engage a groove of the board, and one or more resilient compression elements extending from the spacer block. The one or more resilient compression elements can be a joist leg configured to engage a joist, or it can be vertically compressible toward a first plane that is transverse to a vertical axis of the spacer block so that portions of it can compress from an open mode to a compressed mode and fit within, then forcibly expand within the groove, thereby securing the spacer block in a position adjacent the groove to establish a gap between the board and another board. A related method of use also is provided.

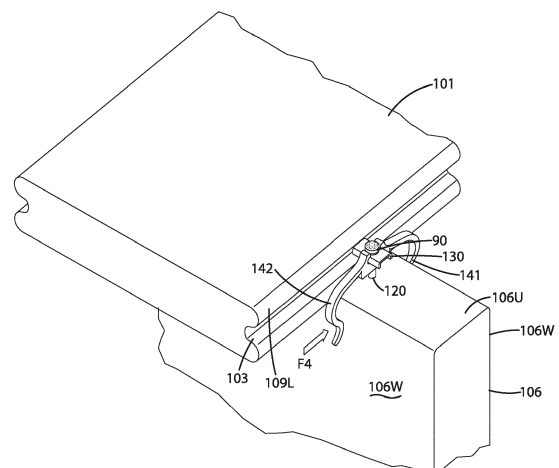


Fig. 10



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Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 9 August 2023	Examiner Khera, Daljit
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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