(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) **EP 4 548 799 A1**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
07.05.2025 Bulletin 2025/19

(21) Application number: **23207383.3**

(22) Date of filing: **02.11.2023**

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):
A45B 23/00 *(2006.01)* ***E04H 12/22*** *(2006.01)*

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):
A45B 23/00; E04H 12/2246; A45B 2023/0012; A45B 2025/003

(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 ME MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR
Designated Extension States:
BA
Designated Validation States:
KH MA MD TN

(71) Applicant: **de Koning, Franciscus Clemens**
1448PG Purmerend (NL)

(72) Inventor: **de Koning, Franciscus Clemens**
1448PG Purmerend (NL)

(74) Representative: **van der Maarl, Arjan**
Gemeas Patents
Belleperenlaan 18
3452 EV Utrecht (NL)

(54) **BEACH UMBRELLA BASE**

(57) An umbrella base for keeping an umbrella upright, comprising: an elongated element comprising a first end and a second end; wherein, during use, the elongated element is arranged substantially vertical; wherein the first end comprises receiving means for receiving a pole of the umbrella for holding the umbrella upright; wherein the second end comprises: a first transversal through hole through the elongated element; and a second transversal through hole through the elongated element substantially rotated over 90 degrees relative to the first transversal through hole; a first transversal member arrangeable through the first through hole; a second transversal member arrangeable through the second through hole; and a flexible member comprising an opening for, during use, having the elongated element arranged in the opening, and the flexible member on both transversal members both transversally extending from the respective transversal through holes in both directions for receiving ballast on the flexible member for stabilizing and/or fixating the umbrella base.

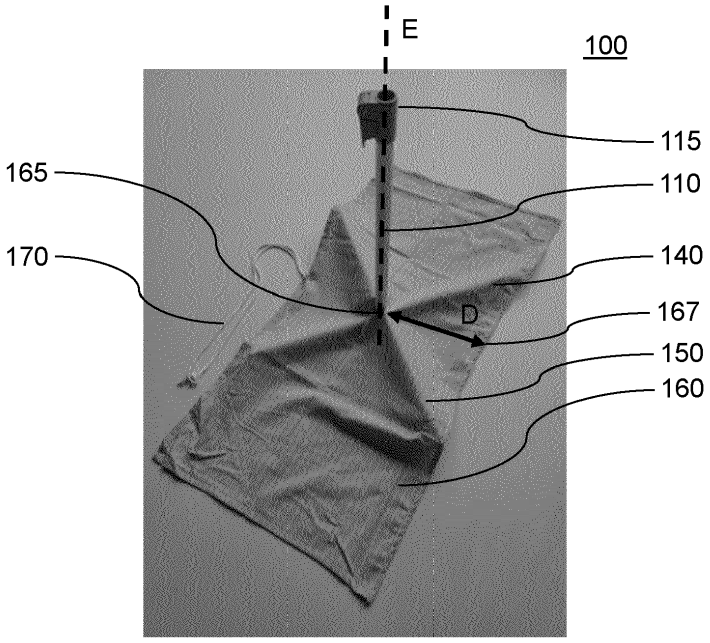

Fig. 1

EP 4 548 799 A1

Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates to an umbrella base for use on the beach. The invention further relates to a kit comprising an umbrella base.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The beach might be visited for sunbathing. Still umbrellas are commonly seen at the beach to keep people in the shade. Furthermore, wind is commonly present at the beach. Several solutions are used to prevent umbrellas at the beach to topple over or even be blown away.

[0003] US9057475 (B1) discloses a support stand for a beach umbrella or similar structure that requires support. The support stand includes a base plate having an upwardly extending attachment cylinder for receiving a pole of an item the needs support. The bottom of the support stand includes a plurality of pivotally attached projections for extending into the ground to provide support. The projections are biased open but can be selectively folded flat against the bottom of the support stand and then held in place for transportation or storage. The support stand includes a handle and pole attachment features that enable one handed transportation. Still, the support stand is only suitable for low winds. Furthermore, the support stand is not user friendly as it requires projections to be driven into the ground. The support stand is also clumsy to carry around, such as to the beach.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] An object of the invention is to overcome one or more of the disadvantages mentioned above.

[0005] According to a first aspect of the invention, an umbrella base for keeping an umbrella upright, comprising: an elongated element comprising a first end and a second end; wherein, during use, the elongated element is arranged substantially vertical; wherein the first end comprises receiving means for receiving a pole of the umbrella for holding the umbrella upright; wherein the second end comprises a first transversal through hole through the elongated element; and wherein the umbrella base further comprises: a second transversal through hole arrangeable to the second end and when arranged, substantially rotated over 90 degrees relative to the first transversal through hole; a first transversal member arrangeable through the first through hole; a second transversal member arrangeable through the second through hole; and a flexible member comprising an opening for, during use, having the elongated element arranged in the opening, and the flexible member on both transversal members both transversally extending from the respective transversal through holes in both directions for receiving ballast on the flexible member for stabilizing and/or fixating the umbrella base.

[0006] An umbrella may be used to provide shade to a person seated under the umbrella. Especially at beaches, wind is a common factor. An umbrella base as claimed is arrangeable for keeping an umbrella upright also with moderate or high winds.

[0007] The umbrella base comprises an elongated element. The elongated element comprises a first end and a second end. During use, the elongated element is arranged substantially vertical, such as vertical or straight up. The first end comprises receiving means for receiving a pole of the umbrella. The receiving means are arranged for holding the umbrella upright. The receiving means may comprise an inner space arranged inside the elongated element, wherein the pole of the umbrella is held in this inner space.

[0008] The second end comprises a first transversal through hole through the elongated element, and a second transversal through hole through the elongated element or arrangeable to the second end. The second transversal through hole is substantially rotated over 90 degrees, such as rotated or shifted over 90 degrees, relative to the first transversal through hole.

[0009] The umbrella base further comprises a first transversal member and a second transversal member. The first transversal member can be arranged through the first transversal through hole. The second transversal member can be arranged through the second transversal through hole. Typically, the first transversal through hole is arranged at a different height, when the elongated element is arranged vertically, relative to the second transversal through hole. These different heights, still at the second end, may allow the use of straight first and second transversal members. The elongated element typically has an elongated axis. The transversal members when arranged through the respective transversal through holes, typically crosses the elongated axis.

[0010] The umbrella base further comprises a flexible member. The flexible member comprises an opening. The opening is arranged for, during use, having the elongated element arranged in the opening.

[0011] When setting up the umbrella base on for example a beach, the following steps are taken. First the first and the second transversal members are arranged in the first and the second transversal through holes, respectively. The first and the second transversal members extend from the second end of the elongated element. Typically, the first and the second

transversal members respectively extend approximately the same length from the second end of the elongated element. The first and the second transversal members form a cross at the second end of the elongated element. Typically, the second end is placed on or in the sand. The first and the second transversal members are typically in contact with the sand already providing some stability. The elongated element is now arranged in a substantially vertical position.

[0012] Thereafter, the opening of the flexible member may be arranged over the elongated element. The flexible member is then lowered to a position that the elongated element is arranged in the opening, such as sticking through or extending from the opening. Further, the flexible member is arranged on at least one, but preferably both the transversal members. Preferably, the flexible member rests on the transversal members.

[0013] As a last step of setting up the umbrella base, ballast may be placed on top of the flexible member. The ballast may be sand readily available on most beaches. The ballast may be any type of weight, such as stones or containers filled with for example water. As the flexible member is now firmly pressed onto the transversal members, the transversal members are arranged in the transversal through holes, the technical effect is that the ballast improves the upright holding of the vertical elongated element and therefore improving the stability or fixation of the umbrella base. Furthermore, the flexible member prevents the transversal members from passing through and/or along the ballast improving the effect of keeping the elongated element upright. When the umbrella base now receives the pole of an umbrella, the umbrella is now better held upright even in very windy conditions if the amount of ballast is enough.

[0014] Further, the umbrella base is easily disassembled in its parts. The parts of the umbrella base are the elongated element, the first and the second transversal members, and the flexible member. Placing the elongated element, the first and the second transversal members parallel to each other, these parts can advantageously easily be carried to and from the location where the umbrella base is going to be used. Furthermore, storage space is advantageously reduced. Also, the parallel placed elongated element, first and the second transversal members may be folded, wrapped or rolled in the flexible member for further improved carrying and storing of the umbrella base. Furthermore, the umbrella may be arranged parallel to the parallel placed elongated element, first and the second transversal members to be advantageously folded, rolled or wrapped in the flexible member for further improved carrying and storing of the umbrella base and the umbrella.

[0015] According to another aspect, an umbrella kit comprising: an umbrella; and an umbrella base according to any of the preceding claims. The umbrella kit provides the same advantages as mentioned for the umbrella base. Specifically for transport and storage of the umbrella base, the umbrella may advantageously be rolled in the flexible member next to the elongated element and the transversal members for easing carrying and decreasing the total volume, respectively.

[0016] According to another aspect, an integrated umbrella comprising: a canopy; a pole comprising a first end and a second end; wherein, during use, the pole is arranged substantially vertical; wherein the first end is attached to the canopy; wherein the second end comprises: a first transversal through hole through the pole; and a second transversal through hole through the pole substantially rotated over 90 degrees relative to the first transversal through hole; a first transversal member arrangeable through the first through hole; a second transversal member arrangeable through the second through hole; and a flexible member comprising an opening for, during use, having the pole arranged in the opening, and the flexible member on both transversal members both transversally extending from the respective transversal through holes in both directions for receiving ballast on the flexible member for stabilizing and/or fixating the integrated umbrella. The integrated umbrella provides the same advantages as mentioned for the umbrella base. Furthermore, the integrated umbrella is simplified relative to the umbrella base with umbrella in that receiving means may be omitted. The integrated umbrella has typically an improved resistance to winds lifting the canopy of the integrated umbrella up. The integrated umbrella may be detailed in the same way as the umbrella base providing the comparable advantages.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

[0017] In an embodiment, the second transversal through hole is arranged through the elongated element, more specifically through the second end of the elongated element. This embodiment provides the advantage of stability directly provided to the elongated element for both rotational directions in a horizontal surface during use.

[0018] In an embodiment, the second transversal through hole is arranged through the first transversal member. This allows to only insert one member through the elongated element improving the ease of installation and/or stiffness of the elongated element.

[0019] In an embodiment, the elongated element is a main tube. The main tube advantageously comprises the receiving means for receiving the pole of the umbrella. The main tube advantageously has a second end for having the through holes arranged at that end of the main tube. A tube is typically readily available easing production.

[0020] In a further embodiment, the receiving means at the first end comprise the main tube comprising an inner space have a diameter for receiving the pole of the umbrella, preferably in a substantial part of the main tube. A tube is typically providing an elongated inner space. The inner space an inner space diameter. The pole of the umbrella has a pole diameter. The inner space diameter has to be larger compared to the pole diameter for successfully receiving the pole in the inner space.

[0021] In a further embodiment, the pole during use rests on one or more of the transversal members inside the main tube. The main tube providing an inner space is typically providing a through hole as inner space. The pole may advantageously rest on the transversal members for easing handling during setting up the umbrella base with the umbrella.

[0022] In an embodiment, the receiving means comprise fixation means, such as a clip, for fixating the pole in the elongated element, preferably the main tube. The pole of the umbrella when fixated in the main tube improves that the wind may blow the umbrella out of the umbrella base. The fixation means therefore advantageously improve the umbrella resisting winds, especially wind that is caught under the canopy of the umbrella, lifting the umbrella upwards.

[0023] In an embodiment, the first transversal member and/or the second transversal member is a tube or a rod. The tube may be providing an inner space, such as a through hole along the length of the tube. The rod may be solid or provide an inner structure such as a honeycomb. The tube or rod may have a circular cross-sectional shape. Alternatively, the tube or rod may have a cross-sectional shape of a square, rectangle or oval. The square and rectangular cross-section together with transversal through holes having similar cross-sectional shapes provide the advantage that the transversal members are prevented from turning in the transversal through holes improving stability of the umbrella base.

[0024] In an embodiment, the first transversal member and/or the second transversal member snugly fits through the first transversal through hole and/or the second transversal through hole, respectively. Snugly fitting is defined as with the elongated element halfway the transversal member that the end of the transversal member is limited to move more than 8 mm, preferably 5 mm, more preferably 4 mm, most preferably 3 mm. The one or both snugly fitting transversal members reduce the play between the elongated element and the transversal members. The reduced play provides the advantage of a more stable umbrella base.

[0025] In an embodiment, the first transversal through hole and the second transversal through hole are identical in size and shape, preferably diameter. This provides the advantage that the transversal members are interchangeable improving the ease of setting up the umbrella base. This further provides the advantage that the transversal members may be the same material easing production.

[0026] In an alternative embodiment, the first transversal through hole and the second transversal through hole are not identical in the size and shape, preferably diameter. This alternative embodiment provides the advantage that the umbrella base may only be setup with the transversal members at or in their predefines through holes. The length of the transversal members may also be of different length for providing more stability in a specific direction, such as a specific wind direction. In a further alternative embodiment, the transversal through holes are at the same height at the second end. Furthermore, when the umbrella base is setup, the first transversal member has a diameter and the second transversal member has a through hole size for receiving the first transversal member, such that the first transversal member is arranged through the elongated element and the second transversal member.

[0027] In an embodiment, the flexible member is a flexible sheet, such as a cloth or plastic sheet. The flexible member may be a foldable member. The flexible member may be stiff enough that ballast on the flexible member when setup fixates the transversal members and thus the elongated element. The flexible member may comprise through holes, such as a mesh or gauze. The mesh or gauze has through holes with a diameter small enough to hold the ballast, such as small rocks or sand, on the flexible member and not let the ballast through during use.

[0028] In an embodiment, the flexible member has an edge; and the distance between the edge and the opening is always greater than half the length of both transversal members. This makes sure that the flexible member may be rotated under any angle around the elongated element and still covers the transversal members during setup of the umbrella base and still covers the transversal members. This thus simplifies the setup or makes the setup more failsafe of the umbrella base.

[0029] In an embodiment, the umbrella base comprises a loop; and the elongated element and both transversal members, preferably also the umbrella, are arrangeable in parallel and on the flexible member such that the flexible member is foldable together, and the loop is arrangeable for holding the flexible member in a folded condition. Transport and storage of the umbrella base, the umbrella may advantageously be rolled in the flexible member next to the elongated element and the transversal members for easing carrying and decreasing the total volume, respectively.

[0030] In a further embodiment, the loop is useable for carrying the umbrella base, preferably also the umbrella, in the folded condition. This advantageously simplifies transport of the umbrella base, preferably with the umbrella also at least partly folded in the flexible member.

[0031] In an embodiment, the umbrella is advantageously a beach umbrella. A beach typically consists of sand, pebbles or small rocks. The beach typically provides enough ballast that may be placed on the flexible member for stabilizing and/or fixating the umbrella base. The umbrella base has thus the advantage that it might be light as the ballast is local to where the umbrella is setup.

[0032] In an embodiment, the elongated element, the first transversal member and/or the second transversal members are tubes of wood, plastic or metal, such as steel or aluminium. These are typically hollow or provided with an inner structure for reducing the total weight of the umbrella base while still providing enough structural integrity for being used as umbrella base, typically under high wind conditions.

[0033] In an embodiment, the elongated element has a length in the range of 20 cm to 100 cm, preferably 30 cm to 80 cm, more preferably 35 cm to 70 cm, most preferably 40 cm to 50 cm.

[0034] In an embodiment, at least one of the transversal members, preferably both transversal members, have a length in the range of 30 cm to 100 cm, preferably 40 cm to 80 cm, more preferably 45 cm to 70 cm, most preferably 55 cm to 65 cm.

[0035] In an embodiment, the flexible member has a width and/or a length, or diameter in the range of 30 cm to 100 cm, preferably 40 cm to 80 cm, more preferably 45 cm to 70 cm, most preferably 50 cm to 60 cm, typically width. In a preferred embodiment, the length and width are substantially 100 cm by 50 cm.

[0036] In an embodiment, the opening of the flexible member has a diameter in the range of 2 cm to 10 cm, preferably 3 cm to 8 cm, more preferably 4 cm to 7 cm, most preferably 5 cm to 6 cm.

[0037] In an embodiment, the elongated element has a diameter in the range of 1 cm to 10 cm, preferably 1.5 cm to 8 cm, more preferably 2 cm to 7 cm, most preferably 2.5 cm to 5 cm.

[0038] In an embodiment, at least one of the transversal members, preferably both transversal members, have a diameter in the range of 0.5 cm to 8 cm, preferably 1 cm to 7 cm, most preferably 1.5 cm to 2.5 cm.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0039] The invention will be apparent from and elucidated further with reference to the embodiments described by way of example in the following description and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 schematically shows a perspective top view of an umbrella base;
Figure 2 schematically shows a perspective top view of an umbrella base;
Figure 3 schematically shows a perspective top view of an umbrella base;
Figure 4 schematically shows a top view of a disassembled umbrella base;
Figure 5 schematically shows a top view of a disassembled umbrella base;
Figure 6 schematically shows a top view of a disassembled and partly folded umbrella base;
Figure 7 schematically shows a top view of a disassembled and folded umbrella base; and
Figure 8 schematically shows a perspective top view of an alternative embodiment of an umbrella base.

[0040] The figures are purely diagrammatic and not drawn to scale. In the figures, elements which correspond to elements already described may have the same reference numerals.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

100	umbrella base
110	elongated element
111	first end
112	second end
115	receiving means
120	first transversal through hole
130	second transversal through hole
140	first transversal member
150	second transversal member
155	safety through hole
156	safety pin
160	flexible member
165	opening
167	edge
168, 168'	flap
170	loop
E	elongated axis
D	distance between opening and edge

(continued)

Lt	length transversal member
Lo	length maximum of elongated element and transversal members

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0041] The following figures may detail different embodiments. Embodiments can be combined to reach an enhanced or improved technical effect. These combined embodiments may be mentioned explicitly throughout the text, may be hinted upon in the text or may be implicit.

[0042] Figure 1 schematically shows a perspective top view of an umbrella base 100. The umbrella base comprises an elongated element 110, a first transversal member 140, a second transversal member 150 and a flexible member 160. The umbrella base is arranged for keeping an umbrella upright. During use, the elongated element is arranged substantially vertical.

[0043] The elongated element comprises a first end 111 and a second end 112, which are shown in figure 3. The first end comprises receiving means 115. The receiving means are arranged for receiving a pole of the umbrella for holding the umbrella upright.

[0044] The second end comprises a first transversal through hole 120 through the elongated element and a second transversal through hole 130 through the elongated element, shown in figure 4. The elongated element has an elongated axis E. The second transversal through hole is substantially rotated over 90 degrees relative to the first transversal through hole. This rotation is typically around the elongated axis. The first transversal member is arrangeable through the first through hole. The second transversal member is arrangeable through the second through hole.

[0045] The flexible member comprises an opening 165. During use, the flexible member has the elongated element arranged in the opening. During use, the flexible member is arranged on both transversal members. During use, both transversal members transversally extending from the respective through holes in both directions. The flexible member is thus arranged for receiving ballast for stabilizing and/or fixating the umbrella base.

[0046] The umbrella base may comprise a loop 170. The loop is usable for transport and/or storage. The flexible member may comprise an edge 167. The minimal distance from the opening to the edge is defined as distance D.

[0047] Figures 2-7 may be seen as a method for disassembling the umbrella base. The figures 2-7 in reverse order may be seen as a method for assembling the umbrella base. The last steps of setting up the umbrella base may be placing ballast on top of the flexible member for stabilizing and/or fixating the umbrella base, and typically subsequently arranging the umbrella in the umbrella base.

[0048] Figure 2 schematically shows a perspective top view of an umbrella base. the umbrella base of figure 2 may be the umbrella base of figure 1. The umbrella base in figure 2 is ready to receive ballast and the umbrella.

[0049] Figure 3 schematically shows a perspective top view of an umbrella base. The flexible member is taken away revealing the first and second transversal members. For removing the flexible member, the flexible member may be slid upwards along the elongated element and over the receiving means at the first end. For removing the flexible member, the flexible member may comprise a zipper or Velcro from the opening to the edge for allowing the flexible member to be removed sideways.

[0050] Figure 4 schematically shows a top view of a disassembled umbrella base. The elongated element and the transversal members are arranged in parallel. Particularly visible are the first transversal through hole 120 and the second transversal through hole 130 at the second end 112 of the elongated element 110. Furthermore, particularly visible is that the transversal through holes are rotated substantially over 90 degrees relative to each other and relative to the elongated axis.

[0051] Figure 5 schematically shows a top view of a disassembled umbrella base. The elongated element and the transversal members are arranged in parallel on the flexible member such that these can be rolled in the flexible member. The flexible member has a length Lo.

[0052] Figure 6 schematically shows a top view of a disassembled and partly folded umbrella base. The elongated element and the transversal members each have a length. The maximum of these lengths is defined as the length Lt. It is noted that in this particular embodiment the flexible member has a length Lo considerably longer than the length Lt. The length Lo is typically more than 1.5, preferably 1.3, more preferably 1.1, times Lt. The length Lo is typically more than 50 cm, preferably 30 cm, more preferably 10 cm, longer than Lt. This allows for the outer parts of the flexible member to be used as flaps 168, 168' folded inwards for improved holding of the elongated element and the transversal members in the rolled up flexible member. Further, in comparison with figure 5, the elongated element and the transversal members are already rolled at least once in the flexible member.

[0053] Figure 7 schematically shows a top view of a disassembled and folded umbrella base. The loop attached to the flexible member at the edge is now looped around the flexible member and through its own loop for holding the flexible members, the elongated element and the transversal members rolled up in a pack for improved carrying, transport and/or

storage of the umbrella base. An umbrella may advantageously also be rolled up in the flexible member for improved carrying, transport and/or storage of the umbrella base together with the umbrella. The rolled up umbrella base may be a folded condition of the umbrella base.

[0054] Figure 8 schematically shows a perspective top view of an alternative embodiment of an umbrella base 100. Identical numbers typically have an identical function as mentioned in the previous figures.

[0055] It is noted that the second through hole 130 is arranged or located in the first transversal member 140. As the second transversal member 150 in use is arranged substantially adjacent, preferably adjacent or in contact, to the elongated member, the second transversal member is in use substantially radially extending form the elongated element.

[0056] The umbrella base may further comprise a safety through hole 155 and a safety pin 156. In use the safety pin is arranged in the safety through hole for rotationally fixating the first transversal member and thereby also rotationally fixating the second transversal member. In use, the transversal members are arranged through there respective through holes for keeping the elongated element upright.

[0057] It will also be clear that the above description and drawings are included to illustrate some embodiments of the invention, and not to limit the scope of protection. Starting from this disclosure, many more embodiments will be evident to a skilled person without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims. These embodiments are within the scope of protection and the essence of this invention and are obvious combinations of prior art techniques and the disclosure of this patent. Devices functionally forming separate devices may be integrated in a single physical device.

[0058] The term "substantially" herein, such as in "substantially all emission" or in "substantially consists", will be understood by the person skilled in the art. The term "substantially" may also include embodiments with "entirely", "completely", "all", etc. Hence, in embodiments the adjective substantially may also be removed. Where applicable, the term "substantially" may also relate to 90% or higher, such as 95% or higher, especially 99% or higher, even more especially 99.5% or higher, including 100%. The term "comprise" also includes embodiments wherein the term "comprises" means "consists of'.

[0059] The term "functionally" will be understood by, and be clear to, a person skilled in the art. The term "substantially" as well as "functionally" may also include embodiments with "entirely", "completely", "all", etc. Hence, in embodiments the adjective functionally may also be removed. When used, for instance in "functionally parallel", a skilled person will understand that the adjective "functionally" includes the term substantially as explained above. Functionally in particular is to be understood to include a configuration of features that allows these features to function as if the adjective "functionally" was not present. The term "functionally" is intended to cover variations in the feature to which it refers, and which variations are such that in the functional use of the feature, possibly in combination with other features it relates to in the invention, that combination of features is able to operate or function. For instance, if an antenna is functionally coupled or functionally connected to a communication device, received electromagnetic signals that are receives by the antenna can be used by the communication device. The word "functionally" as for instance used in "functionally parallel" is used to cover exactly parallel, but also the embodiments that are covered by the word "substantially" explained above. For instance, "functionally parallel" relates to embodiments that in operation function as if the parts are for instance parallel. This covers embodiments for which it is clear to a skilled person that it operates within its intended field of use as if it were parallel.

[0060] Furthermore, the terms first, second, third and the like in the description and in the claims, are used for distinguishing between similar elements and not necessarily for describing a sequential or chronological order. It is to be understood that the terms so used are interchangeable under appropriate circumstances and that the embodiments of the invention described herein are capable of operation in other sequences than described or illustrated herein. Thus, these terms are not necessarily intended to indicate temporal or other prioritization of such elements.

[0061] The devices or apparatus herein are amongst others described during operation. As will be clear to the person skilled in the art, the invention is not limited to methods of operation or devices in operation.

[0062] It should be noted that the above-mentioned embodiments illustrate rather than limit the invention, and that those skilled in the art will be able to design many alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. In the claims, any reference signs placed between parentheses shall not be construed as limiting the claim. Use of the verb "to comprise" and "to include", and its conjugations does not exclude the presence of elements or steps other than those stated in a claim. Also, the use of introductory phrases such as "at least one" and "one or more" in the claims should not be construed to imply that the introduction of another claim element by the indefinite articles "a" or "an" limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim element to inventions containing only one such element, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases "one or more" or "at least one" and indefinite articles such as "a" or "an." The article "a" or "an" preceding an element does not exclude the presence of a plurality of such elements.

[0063] The invention may be implemented by means of hardware comprising several distinct elements, and by means of a suitably programmed computer. In the device or apparatus claims enumerating several means, several of these means may be embodied by one and the same item of hardware. The mere fact that certain measures are recited in mutually different dependent claims does not indicate that a combination of these measures cannot be used to advantage.

[0064] The invention further applies to an apparatus or device comprising one or more of the characterising features described in the description and/or shown in the attached drawings. The invention further pertains to a method or process comprising one or more of the characterising features described in the description and/or shown in the attached drawings.

[0065] The various aspects discussed in this patent can be combined in order to provide additional advantages. The mere fact that certain measures are recited in mutually different claims does not indicate that a combination of these measures cannot be used to advantage. Furthermore, some of the features can form the basis for one or more divisional applications.

Claims

1. Umbrella base (100) for keeping an umbrella upright, comprising:

- an elongated element (110) comprising a first end (111) and a second end (112);

wherein, during use, the elongated element is arranged substantially vertical;
wherein the first end comprises receiving means (115) for receiving a pole of the umbrella for holding the umbrella upright;
wherein the second end comprises a first transversal through hole (120) through the elongated element; and
wherein the umbrella base further comprises:

- a second transversal through hole (130) arrangeable to the second end and when arranged, substantially rotated over 90 degrees relative to the first transversal through hole;
- a first transversal member (140) arrangeable through the first through hole;
- a second transversal member (150) arrangeable through the second through hole; and
- a flexible member (160) comprising an opening (165) for, during use, having the elongated element arranged in the opening, and the flexible member on both transversal members both transversally extending from the respective transversal through holes in both directions for receiving ballast on the flexible member for stabilizing and/or fixating the umbrella base.

2. Umbrella base according to the preceding claim, wherein the second transversal through hole is arranged through the elongated element.

3. Umbrella base according to the claim 1, wherein the second transversal through hole is arranged through the first transversal member.

4. Umbrella base according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the elongated element is a main tube.

5. Umbrella base according to the preceding claim, wherein the receiving means at the first end comprise the main tube comprising an inner space having a diameter for receiving the pole of the umbrella, preferably in a substantial part of the main tube.

6. Umbrella base according to the preceding claim, wherein the pole during use rests on one or more of the transversal members inside the main tube.

7. Umbrella base according to any of the preceding claims,

wherein the receiving means comprise fixation means, such as a clip, for fixating the pole in the elongated element;
wherein the first transversal member and/or the second transversal member is a tube or a rod; and/or
wherein the first transversal member and/or the second transversal member snugly fits through the first transversal through hole and/or the second transversal through hole, respectively.

8. Umbrella base according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the first transversal through hole and the second transversal through hole are identical in size and shape, preferably diameter.

9. Umbrella base according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the flexible member is a flexible sheet, such as a cloth or plastic sheet, and/or wherein the flexible member is a foldable member.

10. Umbrella base according to any of the preceding claims,

wherein the flexible member has an edge (167); and
wherein the distance (D) between the edge and the opening is always greater than half the length of both transversal members.

11. Umbrella base according to any of the preceding claims, comprising a loop (170);
wherein the elongated element and both transversal members, preferably also the umbrella, are arrangeable in parallel and on the flexible member such that the flexible member is foldable together, and the loop is arrangeable for holding the flexible member in a folded condition.

12. Umbrella base according to the preceding claim, wherein the loop is useable for carrying the umbrella base, preferably also the umbrella, in the folded condition.

13. Umbrella base according to any of the preceding claims,

wherein the umbrella is a beach umbrella; and/or
wherein the elongated element, the first transversal member and/or the second transversal members are tubes of wood, plastic or metal, such as steel or aluminium.

14. Umbrella kit comprising:

- an umbrella; and
- an umbrella base according to any of the preceding claims.

15. Integrated umbrella comprising:

- a canopy or banner;
- a pole comprising a first end and a second end;

wherein, during use, the pole is arranged substantially vertical;
wherein the first end is attached to the canopy or banner;
wherein the second end comprises:

- a first transversal through hole through the pole; and
- a second transversal through hole through the pole substantially rotated over 90 degrees relative to the first transversal through hole;

- a first transversal member arrangeable through the first through hole;
- a second transversal member arrangeable through the second through hole; and
- a flexible member comprising an opening for, during use, having the pole arranged in the opening, and the flexible member on both transversal members both transversally extending from the respective transversal through holes in both directions for receiving ballast on the flexible member for stabilizing and/or fixating the integrated umbrella.

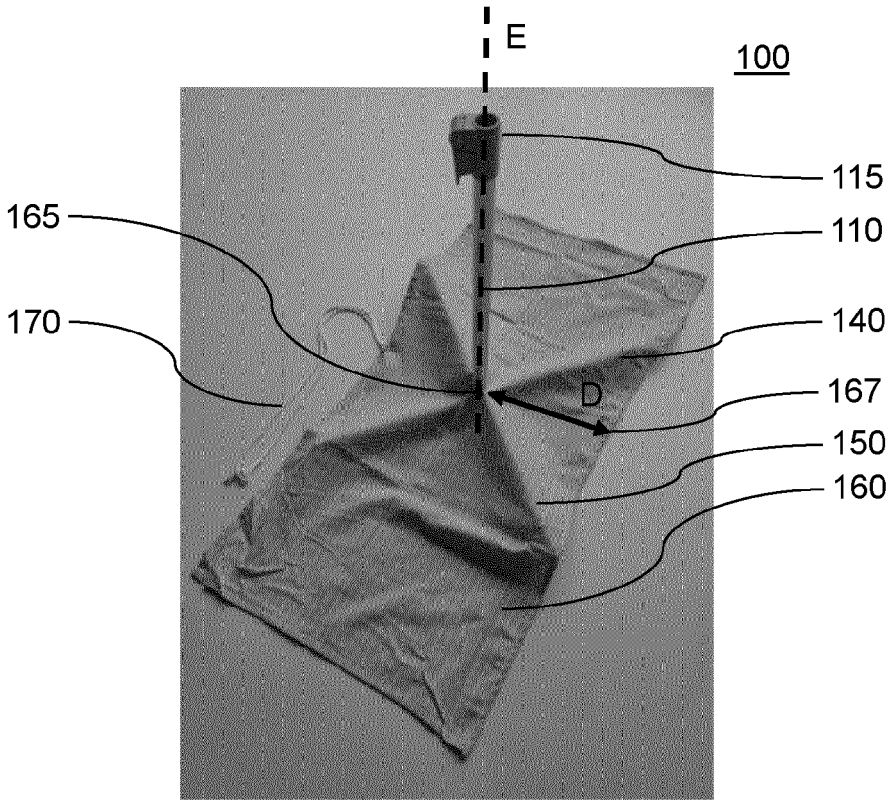
E
100
115
165
110
170
140
D
167
150
160

Fig. 1

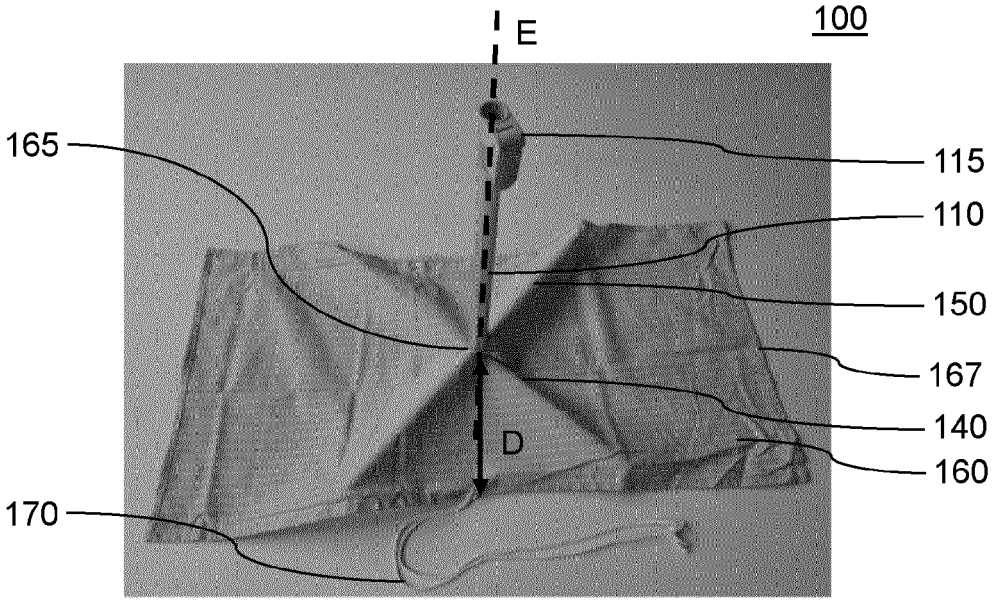
E
100
165
115
110
150
167
D
140
160
170

Fig. 2

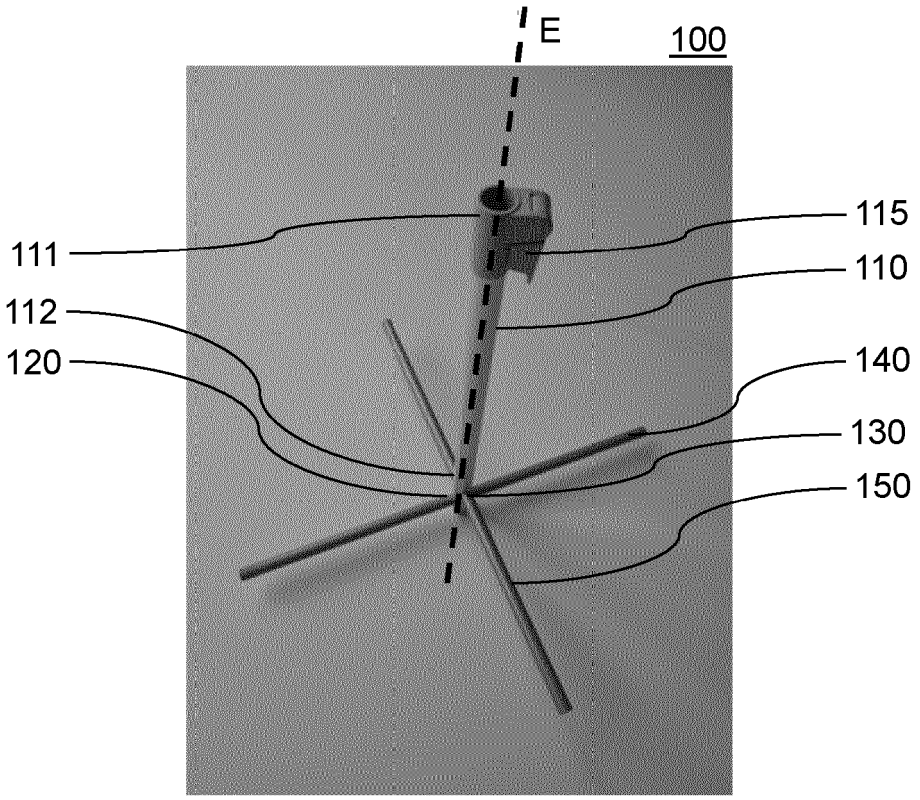
E
100
111
115
110
112
120
140
130
150

Fig. 3

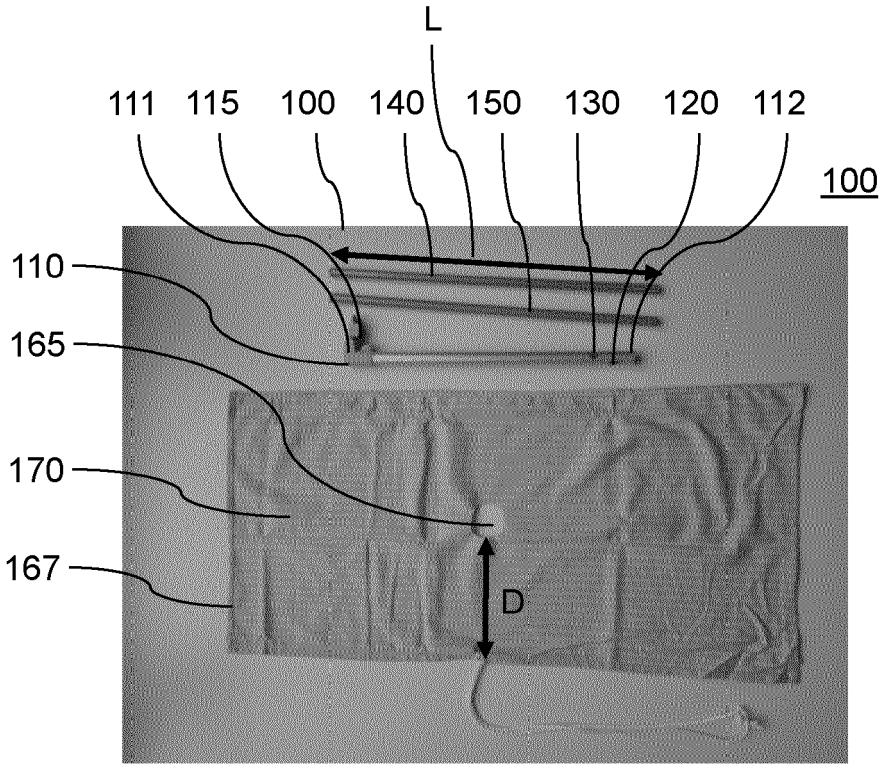
L
111
115
100
140
150
130
120
112
100
110
165
170
167
D

Fig. 4

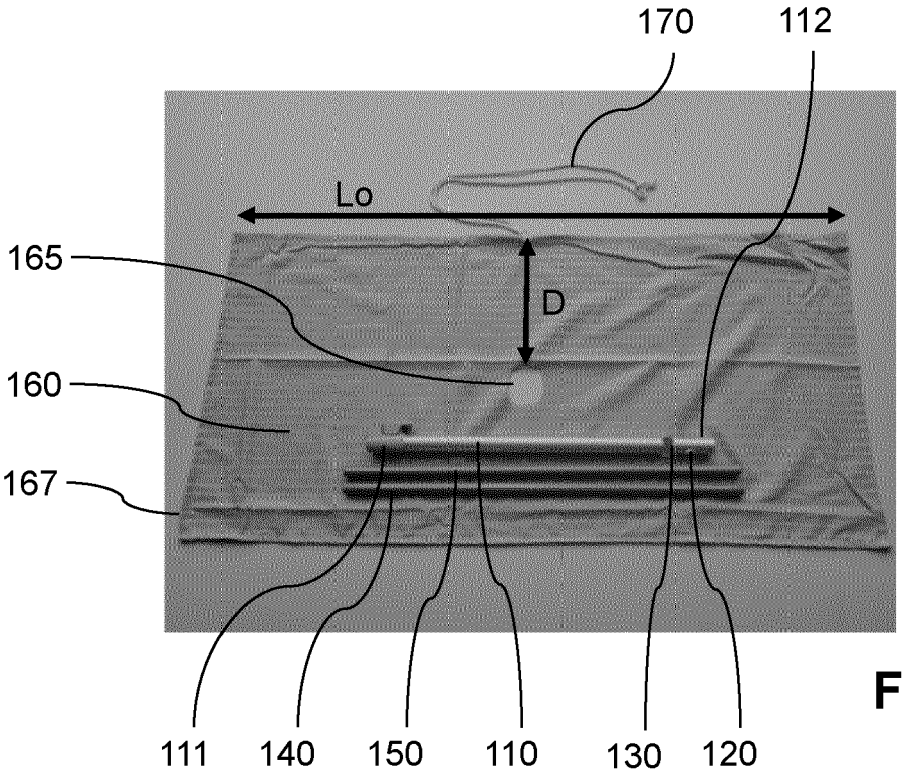
170
112
Lo
165
D
160
167
111
140
150
110
130
120

Fig. 5

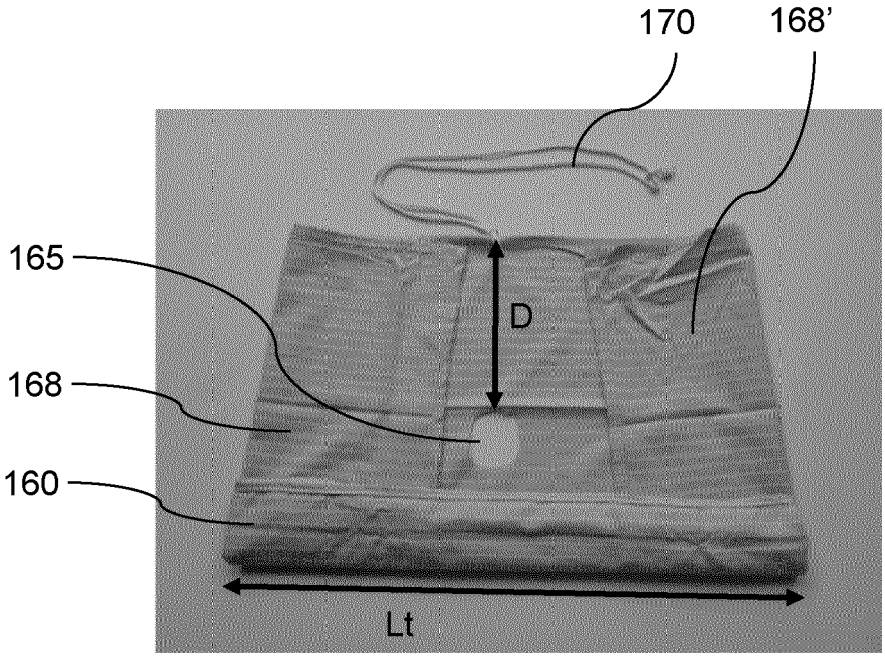
170
168'
165
D
168
160
Lt

Fig. 6

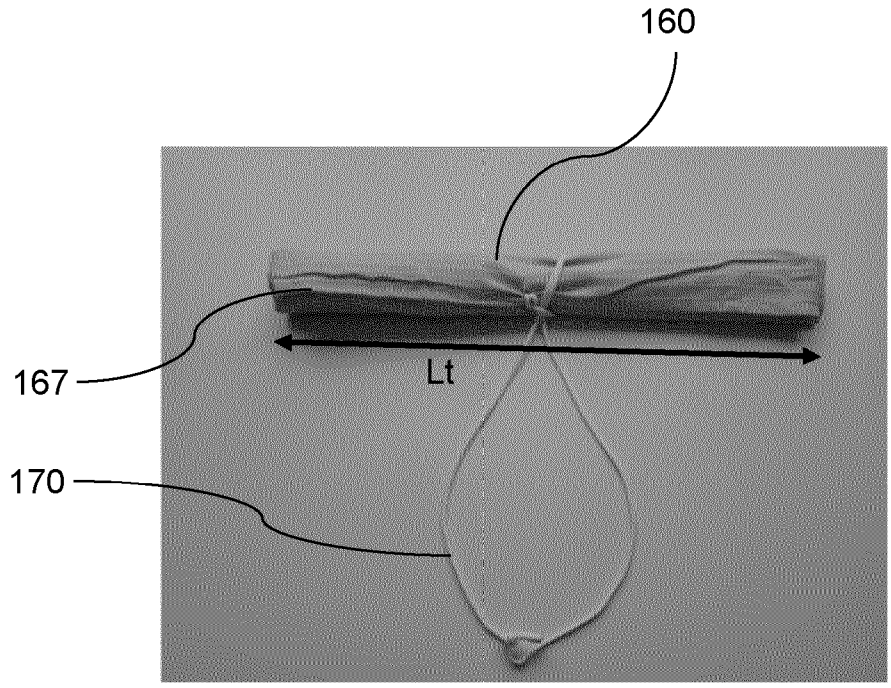

Fig. 7

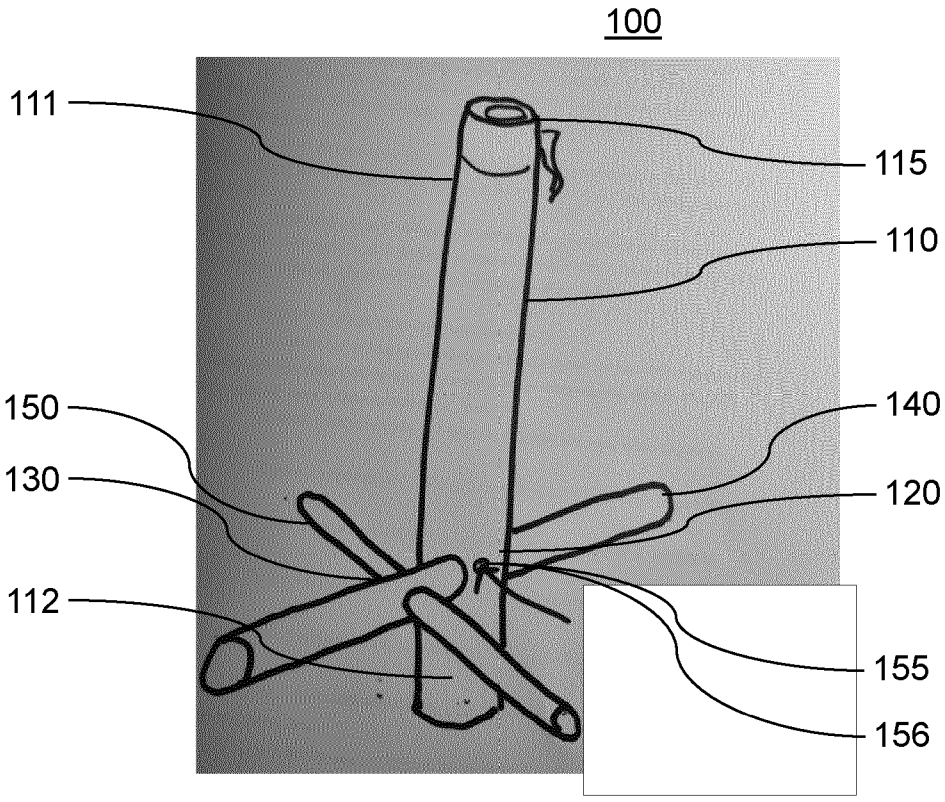

Fig. 8

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 23 20 7383

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Y A	DE 92 13 300 U1 (-) 11 March 1993 (1993-03-11) * page 3 - page 4; figures *	1-7,9-15 8	INV. A45B23/00 E04H12/22
Y	US 2019/037984 A1 (LAKE STEVE [US]) 7 February 2019 (2019-02-07) * paragraphs [0112] - [0115]; figures *	1-7,9-15	
A	CH 179 286 A (GLATZ ALBERT [CH]) 31 August 1935 (1935-08-31) * the whole document *	1-15	
A	DE 201 18 258 U1 (ROTTER STEFAN [DE]) 14 February 2002 (2002-02-14) * pages 5-7; figures *	1-15	
A	US 8 047 217 B1 (SCHERMERHORN JR WILLIAM R [US]) 1 November 2011 (2011-11-01) * paragraphs [0112] - [0115]; figures *	1-15	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) A45B E04H

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague	21 March 2024	Dinescu, Daniela

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

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 23 20 7383

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

21-03-2024

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 9213300 U1	11-03-1993	DE 9213300 U1	11-03-1993
		IT MI910857 U1	02-04-1993
US 2019037984 A1	07-02-2019	NONE	
CH 179286 A	31-08-1935	NONE	
DE 20118258 U1	14-02-2002	NONE	
US 8047217 B1	01-11-2011	NONE	

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

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- US 9057475 B1 **[0003]**