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Published:

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15 October 2009

(54) Title: A COMBINED TOILET AND SEAT APPARATUS

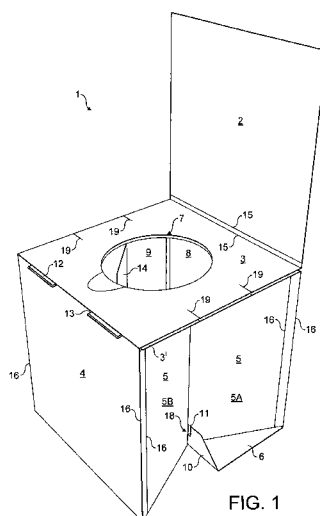


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A combined toilet and seat apparatus, capable of being transformed from a flat-pack configuration for storage and/or transportation to a box-like configuration for use. The apparatus comprises front and rear panels connected by respective side panels, which side panels are capable of forming inwardly-angled side panels to thereby provide support to a top panel connected to either of the front and/or rear panel, the top panel forming a seating platform and a base panel connected to either of the front or rear panel. The top panel and/or the base panel comprises one or more interlocking portions for interlocking the top panel and/or the base panel with one or both side panels to thereby maintain the apparatus in the box-like configuration.



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
INV. A47K11/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
A47K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                    | Relevant to claim No.                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| X         | US 3 097 016 A (BIGLER JR JAMES C)<br>9 July 1963 (1963-07-09)<br><br>the whole document                              | 1-3,5,<br>11,16,<br>20,22,<br>28-31,<br>33-35,<br>37-42 |
| A         | US 4 995 122 A (MOHNHAUPT ELMER J [US])<br>26 February 1991 (1991-02-26)<br>the whole document                        | 1, 37, 40,<br>41                                        |
| A         | US 6 047 414 A (BAILEY GERALD A [US])<br>11 April 2000 (2000-04-11)<br>cited in the application<br>the whole document | 1, 37, 40,<br>41                                        |
| -/--      |                                                                                                                       |                                                         |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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\*G\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 August 2009

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/08/2009

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/GB2008/002132

## C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages             | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A         | JP 02 119828 A (BRIDGESTONE CORP)<br>7 May 1990 (1990-05-07)<br>abstract; figures<br>-----     | 1, 37, 40,<br>41      |
| A         | US 2 100 979 A (ROWE ALLEN W)<br>30 November 1937 (1937-11-30)<br>the whole document<br>-----  | 1, 37, 40,<br>41      |
| A         | JP 11 155766 A (ISHIZAKI SANGYO KK)<br>15 June 1999 (1999-06-15)<br>abstract; figures<br>----- | 1, 37, 40,<br>41      |

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/GB2008/002132

### Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 36  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search reportcovers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

#### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 36

Claim 36 infringes Rule 6.2 (a) PCT and as such is so vague that a meaningful search directed to the subject matter of this claim is not possible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2)PCT declaration be overcome.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2008/002132

| Patent document<br>cited in search report | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| US 3097016                                | A                   | 09-07-1963                 | NONE                |
| US 4995122                                | A                   | 26-02-1991                 | NONE                |
| US 6047414                                | A                   | 11-04-2000                 | NONE                |
| JP 2119828                                | A                   | 07-05-1990                 | NONE                |
| US 2100979                                | A                   | 30-11-1937                 | NONE                |
| JP 11155766                               | A                   | 15-06-1999                 | NONE                |