

(19)



(11)

EP 3 155 337 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:

06.11.2019 Bulletin 2019/45

(51) Int Cl.:

F25D 23/06 ^(2006.01)

F25D 25/02 ^(2006.01)

(86) International application number:

PCT/EP2014/062175

(21) Application number: **14729892.1**

(22) Date of filing: **12.06.2014**

(87) International publication number:

WO 2015/188862 (17.12.2015 Gazette 2015/50)

(54) REFRIGERATION APPLIANCE WITH AN EXTRACTABLE VEGETABLE STORAGE CONTAINER

KÄLTEGERÄT MIT HERAUSZIEHBAREM GEMÜSEAUFBEWAHRUNGSBEHÄLTER

**APPAREIL DE RÉFRIGÉRATION DOTÉ D'UN RÉCIPIENT DE STOCKAGE DE LÉGUMES
EXTRACTIBLE**

(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**

(43) Date of publication of application:

19.04.2017 Bulletin 2017/16

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a household appliance and more particularly a refrigeration appliance having a container in the form of an extractable unit operated in the inner compartment of the appliance.

[0002] A refrigeration appliance has a plurality of shelves and containers for preserving food items. A withdrawable container may typically be arranged in the manner that its base extends in parallel with the base of the appliance so as to be movable out of the internal space of the appliance in order for allowing users to reach stored food items therein.

[0003] A special extractable container generally designated as a vegetable or fruit storage container can store and carry as much as 30 kg of fruit and vegetables. Two railing devices are generally laterally disposed to provide guiding and carry the container while it is moved back and forth. A railing device's connection with the inner compartment walls of the refrigeration appliance can be made by various connection elements, which may substantially affect production efficiency of the refrigeration appliance as a large number of individual connection elements can be necessary for a single container, let alone a higher-end refrigeration appliance with a plurality of such containers.

[0004] Therefore, a more efficient manner of providing mechanical stability is desirable so as to decrease manufacturing costs through reduction of man-hours. It is further to be noted that a large number of connection elements may also significantly contribute to the overall costs in a mass-produced appliance.

[0005] A prior art publication in the technical field of the present invention may be referred to as DE102010039625 A1 among others, the document disclosing a refrigerator including an extractable container, and a conveying unit formed in an inner space of a vertical wall of the extractable container. The conveying unit includes a guide part to guide the movement of a partition member that divides a storage space of the extractable container, and a fixing part to restrict the movement of the partition member.

Refrigeration appliances with railing devices using snap-fit connections to be mounted into the inner walls of the refrigeration cabin are known from documents EP 2 662 649 A2 and EP 2 662 650 A2.

[0006] The present invention provides a refrigeration appliance having at least one extractable container traveling in engagement with two railing devices mounted on inner lateral walls of the refrigeration cabin as defined by the characterizing features as defined in Claim 1.

[0007] Primary object of the present invention is hence to provide a refrigeration appliance with an extractable storage container movable on lateral railing devices, such devices being fixedly secured on lateral receiving devices without requiring any connection elements.

[0008] The present invention proposes a refrigeration appliance with at least one extractable storage container

guidably movable into the refrigeration appliance traveling on railing devices on both sides at the lateral walls. Said railing devices are fixedly attached to respective receiving devices of the lateral walls to support and carry the railing devices in a fixed manner.

[0009] A railing device may have two types of connection members, namely a grappling member and a fixation rod, both having engagement ends engaging with respective slots of the receiving device in different directions and forming therewith different engagement surfaces and connection directions. Preferably, the first and second connection directions along which reciprocal engagement surfaces or contact surfaces are created are perpendicular to each other.

[0010] A peripheral frame flange of the railing device has a flange skirt portion leaning against lateral wall portions of the refrigeration cabin where said receiving device is enclosed, thereby helping secure the railing device on the receiving device. Further, an inward skirt portion of said peripheral frame flange fits into a receiving device channel, serving to the same purpose as the flange skirt portion does.

[0011] The fixation rods protruding out from the railing device along the upper and lower longitudinal sides of the peripheral frame flange are structurally different in that while the upper fixation rods are integrally formed at the sides with a frame edge portion of the railing device, the lower ones have lateral fixation rod recesses on the inward skirt portion.

[0012] A rib-like structure may be provided to mechanically support the receiving devices such that they can maintain their shape against polyurethane material deformation. To this end, the receiving devices comprise a series of surface formations in the form semi-columns and protrusions extending in parallel in vertical manner.

[0013] Accompanying drawings are given solely for the purpose of exemplifying a refrigeration appliance comprising an extractable container traveling in engagement with two railing devices, whose advantages over prior art were outlined above and will be explained in brief hereinafter.

Fig. 1 demonstrates a general perspective view of a refrigeration appliance with an extractable container in a storage position according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 demonstrates a general perspective view of a refrigeration appliance with an extractable container in a removed position according to the present invention.

Fig. 3 demonstrates a perspective view of a railing device together with a receiving device in unassembled position according to the present invention.

Fig. 4 demonstrates a longitudinal cross-sectional perspective view of the railing device in engagement with the receiving device according to the present invention.

Fig. 5 demonstrates a transverse cross-sectional

perspective view of the railing device in engagement with the receiving device according to the present invention.

Fig. 6 demonstrates an upper perspective view of the railing device according to the present invention. Fig. 7 demonstrates a perspective view of the railing device secured on the receiving device according to the present invention.

Fig. 8 demonstrates a perspective view of the outer side of the receiving device according to the present invention.

[0014] The following numerals are assigned to different parts demonstrated in the drawings:

1. Refrigeration appliance
2. Refrigeration cabin
3. Lateral wall
4. Storage container
5. Railing device
6. Receiving device
7. Grappling member
8. Grappling member slot
9. Grappling member engagement end
10. Fixation rod
11. Fixation rod slot
12. Fixation rod engagement end
13. Rib-like structure
14. Peripheral frame flange
15. Flange skirt portion
16. Inward skirt portion
17. Receiving device channel
18. Frame edge
19. Fixation rod recess
20. Fixation rod flange opening

[0015] The present invention relates to a household appliance and more particularly a refrigeration appliance (1) having an interior refrigeration cabin (2) enclosed by a heat-insulating housing and at least one storage container (4) for storing food items in a refrigerated manner.

[0016] The refrigeration appliance (1) may typically have a main body with a multitude of storage chambers and doors opening and closing a front side of the main body. A refrigerating cabin (2) as well as a freezing cabin may be disposed so as to provide separate divisions within the inside of the main body. The refrigerating cabin (2) of the invention may comprise a plurality of shelves and comprises at least one withdrawable storage container (4) generally designated as a storage space for food items such as vegetables and fruits.

[0017] The refrigeration appliance (1) may conventionally have a certain number of storage containers (4), each one communicating with railing device (5) mechanisms at lateral sides. Said railing devices (5), which are in turn secured on receiving devices (6) embedded in the lateral walls (3) of the refrigeration cabin (2), effect guiding and carrying of the storage containers (4) into and out of the

inside of the refrigeration cabin (2). The receiving devices (6) can alternatively be provided as an integrally shaped part of the lateral walls (3) of the refrigeration cabin (2).

[0018] The railing device (5) of the invention may comprise a grappling member (7) establishing an engagement-type connection with a grappling member slot (8) of the receiving device (6) by means of a grappling member engagement end (9). The inter-engaging relationship of the two is shown in Fig. 4, where a longitudinal cross-sectional perspective view of the railing device (5) in engagement with the receiving device (6) is presented.

[0019] Further, a plurality of fixation rods (10) oriented in a perpendicular direction from the railing device (5) extending in the direction of the receiving device (6) fit in fixation rod slots (11) of the receiving device (6) such that fixation rod engagement ends (12) are urged into engaged relation with said fixation rod slots (11). The mechanical connection between the railing device (5) and the receiving device (6) is securely established without requiring any connection elements such as screws, nuts, rivets, pins, threaded couplings and the like, which substantially contributes to the manufacturing efficiency of the refrigeration appliance (1) because mounting of a substantial number of connection elements is avoided and manufacturing costs are decreased through reduction of such components and man-hours accordingly.

[0020] In accordance with the present invention, a peripheral frame flange's (14) flange skirt portions (15) press against the lateral wall (3) enclosing the receiving device (6) so as to help retain the railing device (5) in fixed position. Further, an inward skirt portion (16) is fitted in a receiving device channel (17), whereby the receiving device's (5) vertical displacement is prevented.

[0021] In accordance with the present invention, while the upper fixation rods (10) are integrally connected with a frame edge (18) portion of the railing device (5) at two sides, the lower fixation rods (10) extending out from the railing device's (5) internal side in the direction of the receiving device (6) are spaced apart from the inward skirt portion (16) by fixation rod recesses (19). This provides that the lower fixation rods (10) can be resiliently flexed in order for mounting the railing devices (5) in a more practical way. The fixation rods (10) can also be resiliently deformed to be removed or fitted inside the fixation rod slots (11) thanks to fixation rod flange openings (20) in the peripheral frame flange (14). While removing, the fixation rods (10) can be flexed by using a sharp object such as a screwdriver insertable through said rod flange openings (20).

[0022] A rib-like structure (13) may be arranged on the internal surface of the receiving device (6) to define a series of columns. The rib-like structure (13) is effective in overcoming deformation on the surfaces where polyurethane is applied, by providing reinforcement by a plurality of support elements.

[0023] In a nutshell, the present invention proposes a refrigeration appliance (1) having an interior refrigeration cabin (2) enclosed by a heat-insulating housing, a door

opening and closing a front side of the refrigeration cabin (2) and at least one extractable storage container (4) for storing food items in a refrigerated manner, said extractable storage container (4) mechanically communicating with railing devices (5) at lateral sides and the railing devices (5) being in turn fixedly secured on receiving devices (6) embedded in lateral walls (3) of the refrigeration cabin (2).

[0024] According to the invention, the railing device (5) comprises a plurality of fixation rods (10) having a fixation rod engagement end (12) establishing a snap-fit connection with the receiving device (6). The engagement-type snap-fit connection established by flexing respective parts provides a practical yet secure attachment relation obtained without any additional individual intermediate elements.

[0025] In a further embodiment of the invention, the railing device (5) comprises a grappling member (7) with a grappling member engagement end (9) establishing an engagement-type connection with the receiving device (6).

[0026] In a further embodiment of the invention, the fixation rod (10) establishes a snap-fit connection with the receiving device (6) in a first connection direction (D_1) and the grappling member (7) establishes an engagement-type connection with the receiving device (6) in a second connection direction (D_2).

[0027] In a still further embodiment of the invention, the first and second connection directions (D_1 , D_2) are different from each other and the first and second connection directions (D_1 , D_2) are preferably perpendicular to each other. While different connection directions provide a reliable engagement effect with a robust mechanical connection, perpendicular connection directions enhance this effect even further.

[0028] In a yet still further embodiment of the invention, the grappling member (7) establishes an engagement-type connection with a grappling member slot (8) of the receiving device (6). The contact surface between the grappling member engagement end (9) and the grappling member slot (8) therefore provides that a second connection direction (D_2) is established.

[0029] According to the invention, the railing device (5) comprises a peripheral frame flange (14) with a flange skirt portion (15), the flange skirt portion (15) pressing against lateral wall (3) portions of the refrigeration cabin (2) surrounding the receiving device (6) and the fixation rods (10) establish a snap-fit connection with the receiving device (6) fitting which may be in a fixation rod slot (11) of the receiving device (6). The contact surface between the fixation rod engagement end (12) and the fixation rod slot (11) therefore provides that the first connection direction (D_1) is established.

[0030] In a yet still further embodiment of the invention, said fixation rods (10) are oriented in a perpendicular direction from the railing device (5), extending in the direction of the receiving device (6).

[0031] Further according to the invention, an inward

skirt portion (16) of said peripheral frame flange (14) is fitted in a receiving device channel (17).

[0032] Still further according to the invention, fixation rods (10) along a first longitudinal side of the peripheral frame flange (14) are integrally connected with a frame edge (18) portion of the railing device (5) at two sides.

[0033] In a yet still further embodiment of the invention, a rib-like structure (13) is arranged on an internal surface of the receiving device (6) to define a series of columns.

[0034] In a yet still further embodiment of the invention, said receiving devices (6) are either embedded in the lateral walls (3) or provided as an integrally shaped part of said lateral walls (3) of the refrigeration cabin (2).

[0035] Therefore, the present invention provides a refrigeration appliance (1) the extractable storage containers (4) of which travel in engagement with two railing devices (5) being fixedly mounted on lateral receiving devices (6) without requiring any further connection elements.

Claims

1. A refrigeration appliance (1) having an interior refrigeration cabin (2) enclosed by a heat-insulating housing, a door opening and closing a front side of the refrigeration cabin (2) and at least one extractable storage container (4) for storing food items in a refrigerated manner, said extractable storage container (4) communicating with railing devices (5) at lateral sides and said railing devices (5) being fixedly secured on receiving devices (6) in lateral walls (3) of the refrigeration cabin (2),
with the railing device (5) comprising a peripheral frame flange (14) with a flange skirt portion (15), the flange skirt portion (15) pressing against lateral wall (3) portions of the refrigeration cabin (2) surrounding the receiving device (6),
with an inward skirt portion (16) of the peripheral frame flange (14) is fitted in a receiving device channel (17),

characterized in that

said railing device (5) comprises a plurality of fixation rods (10) having a fixation rod engagement end (12) establishing a snap-fit connection with the receiving device (6), wherein fixation rods (10) along a first longitudinal side of the peripheral frame flange (14) are integrally formed with a frame edge (18) portion of the railing device (5) at two sides, and
wherein fixation rods (10) along a second longitudinal side of the peripheral frame flange (14) are spaced apart from the inward skirt portion (16) by lateral fixation rod recesses (19).

2. A refrigeration appliance (1) as in Claim 1, **characterized in that** said railing device (5) comprising a grappling member (7) with a grappling member engagement end (9) establishing an engagement-type

connection with the receiving device (6).

3. A refrigeration appliance (1) as in Claim 1 and 2, **characterized in that** the fixation rod (10) establishes a snap-fit connection with the receiving device (6) in a first connection direction (D1) and the grappling member (7) establishes an engagement-type connection with the receiving device (6) in a second connection direction (D2). 5
4. A refrigeration appliance (1) as in Claim 3, **characterized in that** the first and second connection directions (D1, D2) are different from each other. 10
5. A refrigeration appliance (1) as in Claim 4, **characterized in that** the first and second connection directions (D1, D2) are perpendicular to each other. 15
6. A refrigeration appliance (1) as in Claim 2, **characterized in that** the grappling member (7) establishes an engagement-type connection with a grappling member slot (8) of the receiving device (6). 20
7. A refrigeration appliance (1) as in Claim 1, **characterized in that** the fixation rod (10) establishes a snap-fit connection with the receiving device (6) fitting in a fixation rod slot (11) of the receiving device (6). 25
8. A refrigeration appliance (1) as in Claim 7, **characterized in that** the fixation rods (10) are oriented in a perpendicular direction from the railing device (5), extending in the direction of the receiving device (6). 30
9. A refrigeration appliance (1) as in Claim 1, **characterized in that** a rib-like structure (13) is arranged on an internal surface of the receiving device (6) to define a series of columns. 35
10. A refrigeration appliance (1) as in any of the preceding Claims, **characterized in that** the receiving devices (6) are either embedded in the lateral walls (3) or provided as an integrally shaped part of the lateral walls (3) of the refrigeration cabin (2). 40

Patentansprüche

1. Ein Kältegerät (1) umfasst mit einer von einem wärmeisolierenden Gehäuse umschlossenen inneren Kühlkabine (2), eine Tür zum Öffnen und Schließen der Vorderseite der Kühlkabine (2) und mindestens eines herausnehmbaren Vorratsbehälter (4) zum gekühlten Aufbewahren von Lebensmitteln, wobei der herausnehmbare Vorratsbehälter (4) seitlich mit Geländervorrichtungen (5) in Verbindung steht und die Geländervorrichtungen (5) an Aufnahmevorrichtungen (6) in Seitenwänden (3) der Kühlkabine (2) 50

mit dem Geländer fest verbunden sind, wobei die Geländervorrichtung (5) einen Umfangsrahmenflansch (14) mit einem Flanschrandabschnitt (15) aufweist, wobei der Flanschrandabschnitt (15) gegen die die Aufnahmevorrichtung (6) umgebenden Seitenwandabschnitte (3) der Kühlkabine (2) drückt; mit einem nach innen gerichteten Randabschnitt (16), der umlaufende Rahmenflansch (14) ist und in einen Aufnahmekanal (17) einpasst, gekennzeichnet ist es dadurch, dass die Geländervorrichtung (5) mehrere Befestigungsstangen (10) mit einem Befestigungsstangen-Eingriffsende (12) aufweist, das eine Schnappverbindung mit der Aufnahmevorrichtung (6) herstellt, wobei Befestigungsstangen (10) entlang einer ersten Längsseite des Rahmenflansches (14) an zwei Seiten einstückig mit einem Rahmenrandabschnitt (18) der Geländervorrichtung (5) ausgebildet sind und die Befestigungsstangen (10) entlang einer zweiten Längsseite des Rahmenflansches (14) durch seitliche Befestigungsstangenausnehmungen (19) vom inneren Randabschnitt (16) beabstandet sind.

2. Ein Kältegerät (1), wie in Anspruch 1 aufgeführt, ist **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Geländervorrichtung (5) ein Greifelement (7) mit einem Greifelement-Eingriffsende (9) umfasst, dass eine Eingriffsverbindung mit der Aufnahmevorrichtung (6) herstellt.
3. Ein Kältegerät (1), wie in Anspruch 1 oder 2 aufgeführt, ist **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Befestigungsstab (10) in einer ersten Verbindungsrichtung (D1) eine Schnappverbindung mit der Aufnahmevorrichtung (6) herstellt und das Greifelement (7) eine Eingriffsverbindung mit der Aufnahmevorrichtung (6) in einer zweiten Verbindungsrichtung (D2) herstellt.
4. Ein Kältegerät (1), wie in Anspruch 3 aufgeführt, ist **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die erste und die zweite Verbindungsrichtung (D1, D2) unterschiedlich voneinander sind.
5. Ein Kältegerät (1), wie in Anspruch 4 aufgeführt, ist **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die erste und die zweite Verbindungsrichtung (D1, D2) senkrecht zueinander sind. 45
6. Ein Kältegerät (1), wie in Anspruch 2 aufgeführt, ist **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Greifelement (7) eine Eingriffsverbindung mit einem Greifelementschlitz (8) der Aufnahmevorrichtung (6) herstellt. 50
7. Ein Kältegerät (1), wie in Anspruch 1 aufgeführt, ist **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Befestigungsstab (10) eine Schnappverbindung mit der Aufnahmeeinrichtung (6) herstellt, die in einen Befesti- 55

gungsabschluß (11) der Aufnahmeeinrichtung (6) passt.

8. Ein Kältegerät (1), wie in Anspruch 7 aufgeführt, ist **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Befestigungsstäbe (10) von der Geländevorrichtung (5) in senkrechter Richtung ausgerichtet sind und sich in Richtung der Aufnahmeeinrichtung (6) erstrecken.
9. Ein Kältegerät (1), wie in Anspruch 1 aufgeführt, ist **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** eine rippenartige Struktur (13) auf einer Innenfläche der Aufnahmeeinrichtung (6) angeordnet ist, um eine Reihe von Säulen darzustellen.
10. Ein Kältegerät (1), wie in einem der vorherigen Ansprüche aufgeführt, ist **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Aufnahmeeinrichtungen (6) entweder in die Seitenwände (3) eingebettet oder als einstückiger Teil der Seitenwände (3) der Kühlkabine (2) vorgesehen sind.

Revendications

1. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) comportant une cabine de réfrigération intérieure (2) contenue dans un boîtier d'isolation thermique, une porte ouvrant et fermant la face avant de la cabine de réfrigération (2) et au moins un récipient de stockage extractible (4) pour stocker des produits alimentaires de manière réfrigérée, ledit récipient de stockage extractible (4) communiquant avec des dispositifs de rail (5) sur les faces latérales et lesdits dispositifs de rail (5) étant fixés solidement sur les dispositifs de réception (6) dans les parois latérales (3) de la cabine de réfrigération (2) avec un dispositif de rail (5) comprenant une bride de cadre périphérique (14) avec une partie de jupe de bride (15), la partie de jupe de bride (15) s'appuyant contre les parties de la paroi latérale (3) de la cabine de réfrigération (2) avoisinant le dispositif de réception (6), avec une partie de jupe intérieure (16) de la bride de cadre périphérique (14) qui est insérée dans un canal du dispositif de réception (17), **caractérisé en ce que** ledit dispositif de rail (5) comprend une pluralité de tiges de fixation (10) ayant une extrémité d'engagement du tige de fixation (12) établissant une connexion à encliquetage avec le dispositif de réception (6), où les tiges de fixation (10) le long du premier côté longitudinal de la bride de cadre périphérique (14) sont intégralement formées avec une partie de bord du cadre (18) du dispositif de rail (5) sur les deux côtés, et où les tiges de fixation (10) le long du second côté

longitudinal de la bride de cadre périphérique (14) sont espacées de la partie de jupe intérieure (16) par des niches de tige de fixation latérales (19).

2. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) selon la Revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** ledit dispositif de rail (5) comprend un élément de préhension (7) avec une extrémité d'engagement de l'élément de préhension (9) établissant une connexion de type à engagement avec le dispositif de réception (6).
3. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) selon les Revendications 1 et 2, **caractérisé en ce que** la tige de fixation (10) établit une connexion à encliquetage avec le dispositif de réception (6) dans une première direction de connexion (D1) et l'élément de préhension (7) établit une connexion du type à engagement avec le dispositif de réception (6) dans une deuxième direction de connexion (D2).
4. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) selon la Revendication 3, **caractérisé en ce que** la première et seconde direction de connexion (D1, D2) sont différentes l'une de l'autre.
5. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) selon la Revendication 4, **caractérisé en ce que** la première et seconde direction de connexion (D1, D2) sont perpendiculaires l'une à l'autre.
6. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) selon la Revendication 2, **caractérisé en ce que** l'élément de préhension (7) établit une connexion du type à engagement avec une fente (8) de l'élément de préhension du dispositif de réception (6).
7. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) selon la Revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** la tige de fixation (10) établit une connexion à encliquetage avec le dispositif de réception (6) en s'insérant dans une fente de la tige de fixation (11) du dispositif de réception (6).
8. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) selon la Revendication 7, **caractérisé en ce que** les tiges de fixation (10) sont orientées perpendiculairement au dispositif de rail (5) et s'étendent dans la direction du dispositif de réception (6).
9. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) selon la Revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce qu'**une structure de type nervurée (13) est disposée sur une surface interne du dispositif de réception (6) pour définir une série de colonnes.
10. Un appareil de réfrigération (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** les dispositifs de réception (6) sont soit encastrés dans les parois latérales (3), soit agencés

en tant que partie intégrante des parois latérales (3)
de la cabine de réfrigération (2).

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Fig. 1

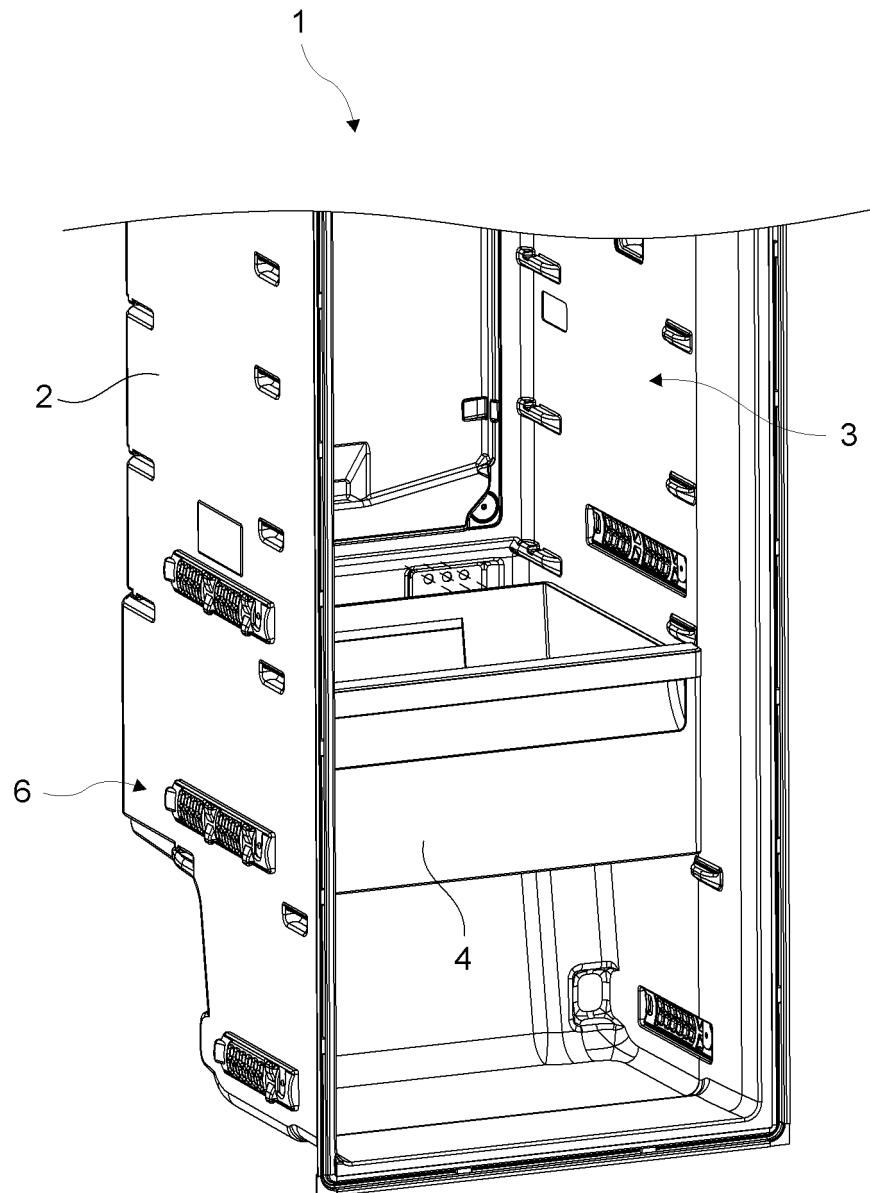


Fig. 2

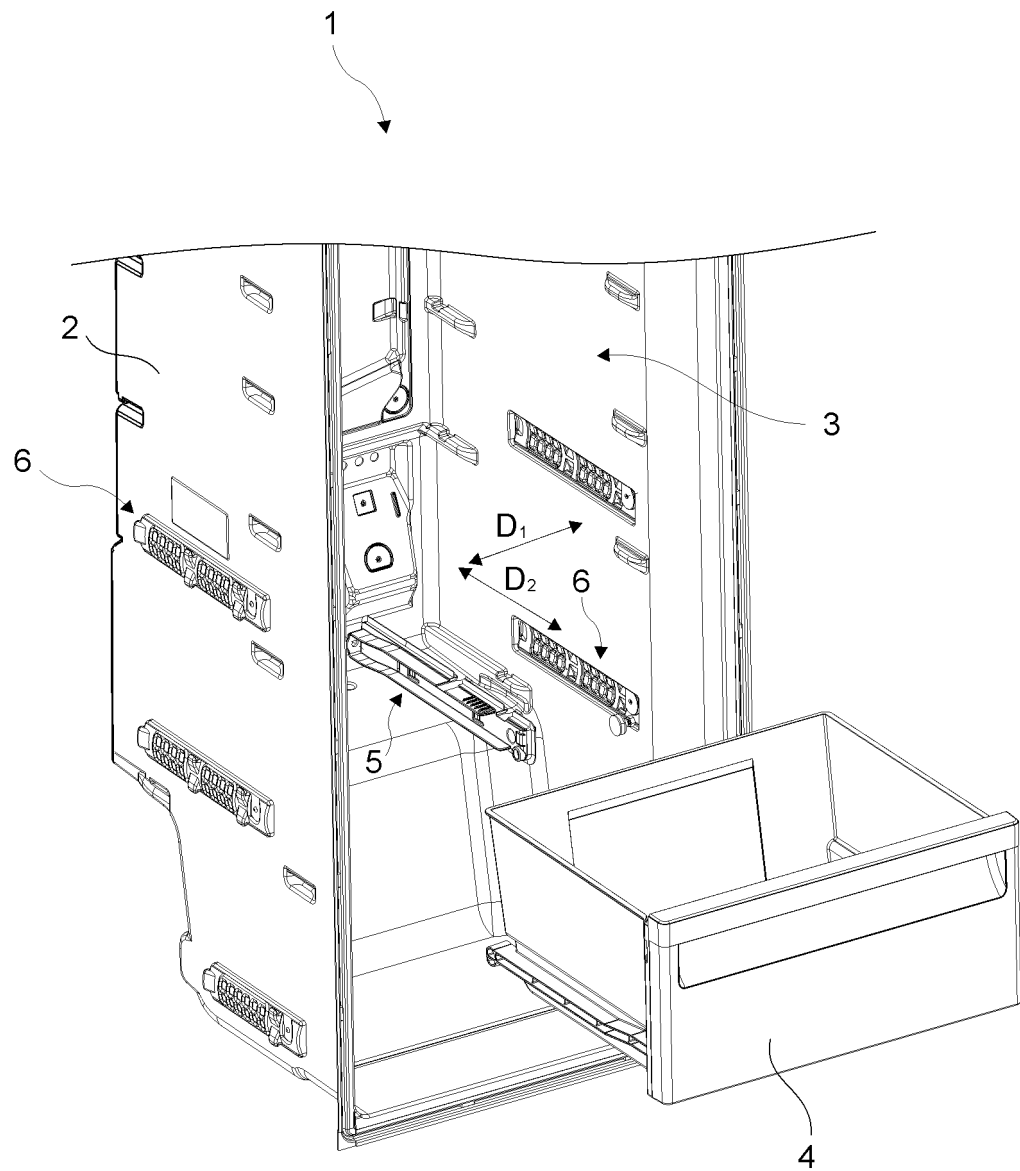


Fig. 3

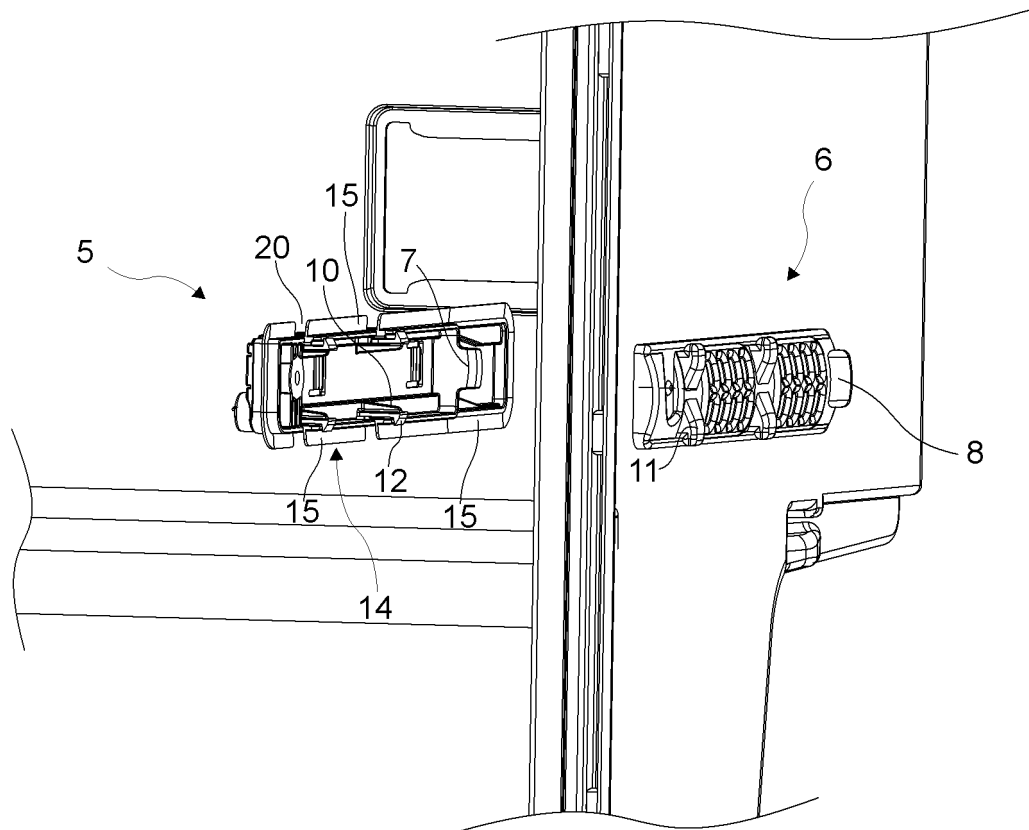


Fig. 4

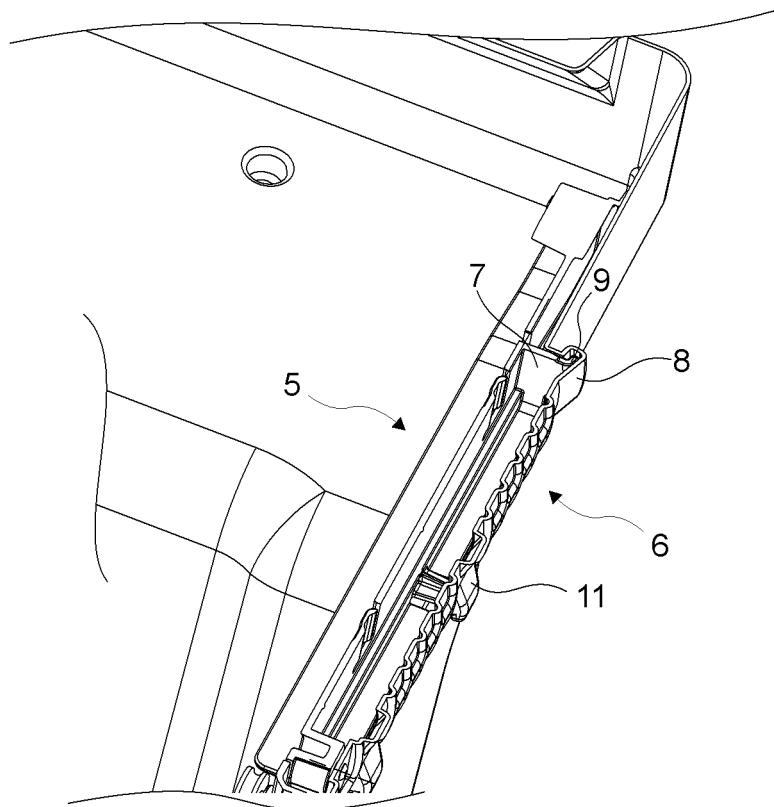


Fig. 5

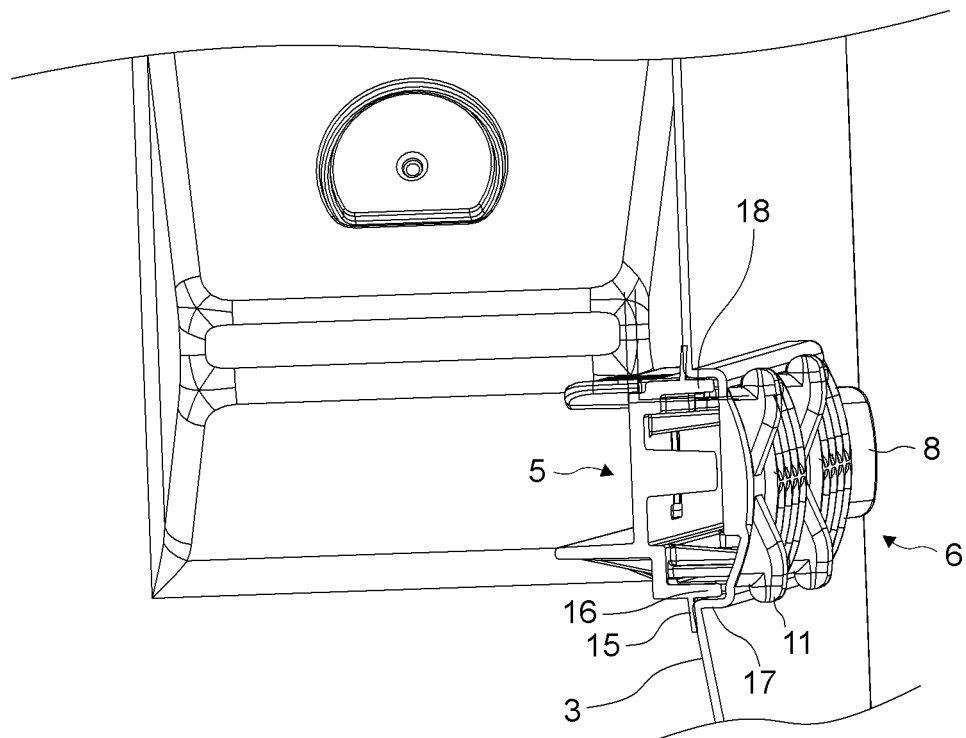


Fig. 6

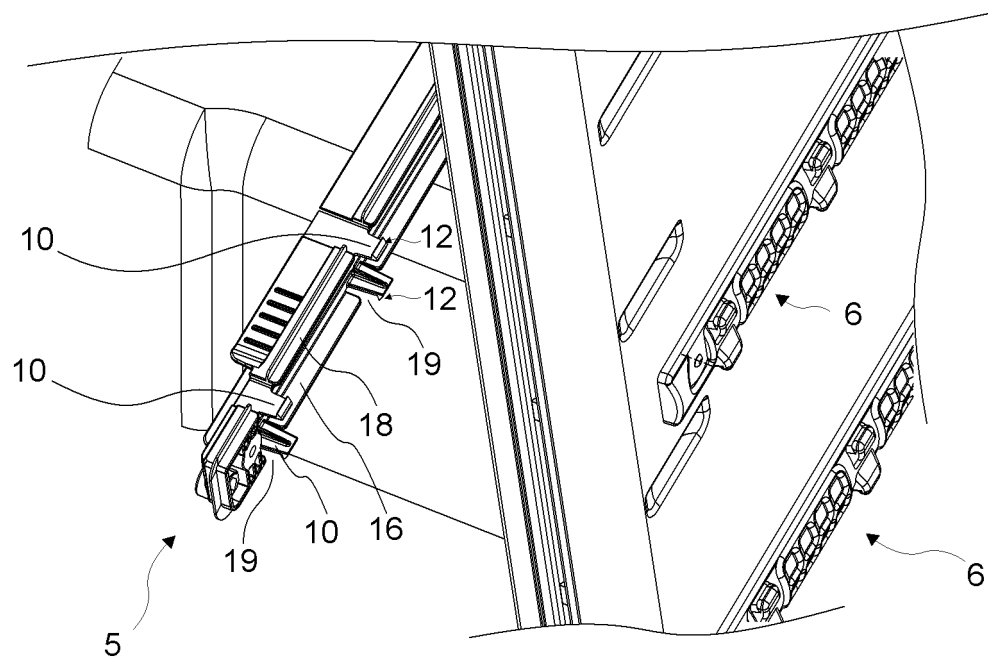


Fig. 7

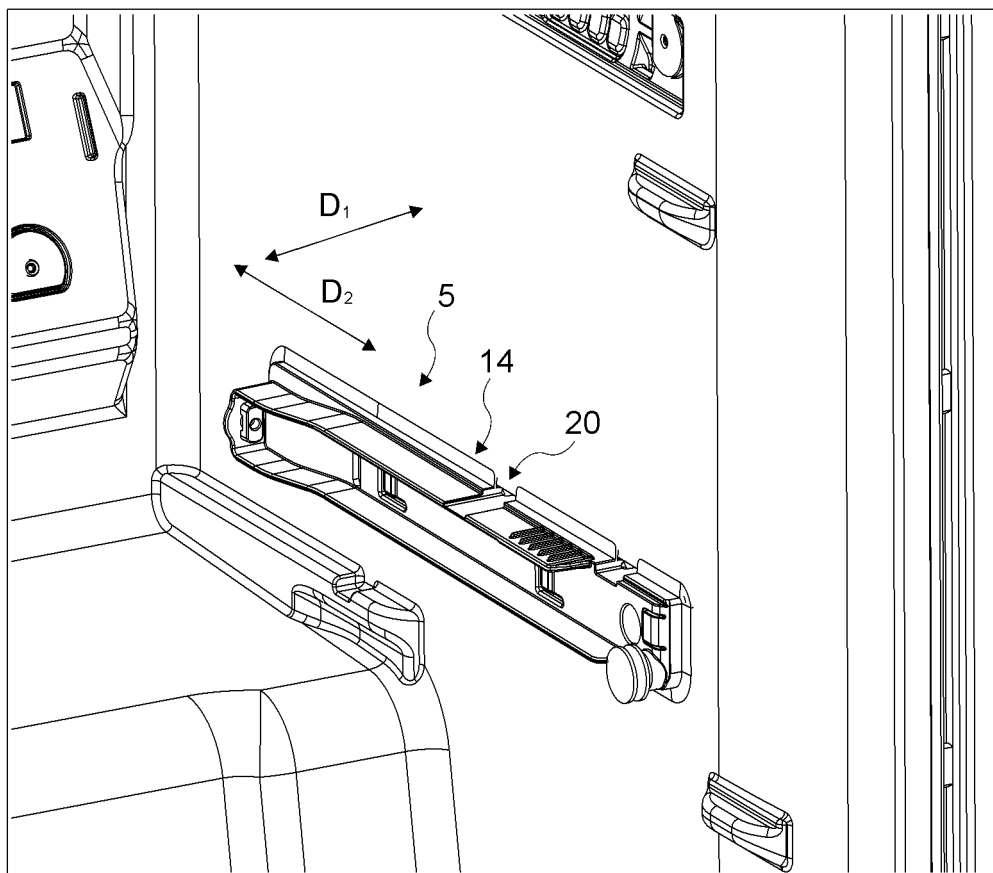
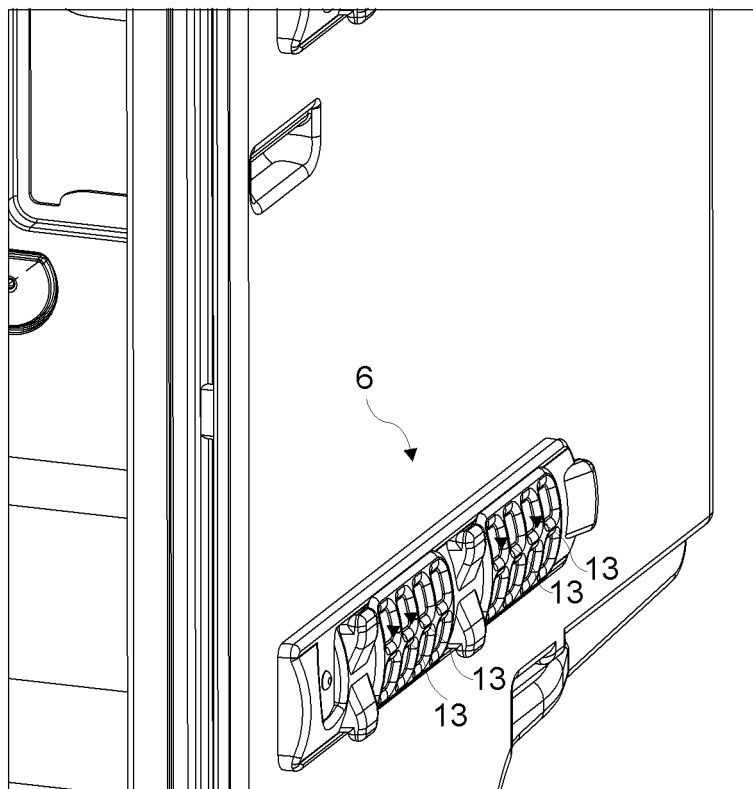


Fig. 8



REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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