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(71) Applicant: MANN+HUMMEL GMBH [DE/DE]; Schwieberdinger Str. 126, 71636 Ludwigsburg (DE).

(72) Inventors: DOS SANTOS ASCENSAO, Macario Francisco; c/o MANN+HUMMEL GmbH, Schwieberdinger Str. 126, 71636 Ludwigsburg (DE). THEBAULT, Er-

ic; c/o MANN+HUMMEL GmbH, Schwieberdinger Str. 126, 71636 Ludwigsburg (DE). JUNGINGER, Bernd; c/o MANN+HUMMEL GmbH, Schwieberdinger Str. 126, 71636 Ludwigsburg (DE).

(74) Agent: MANN + HUMMEL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY / MANN + HUMMEL INTERNATIONAL GMBH & CO. KG; Schwieberdinger Str. 126, 71636 Ludwigsburg (DE).

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(54) Title: FILTER COOLER SYSTEM FOR MOTOR VEHICLE

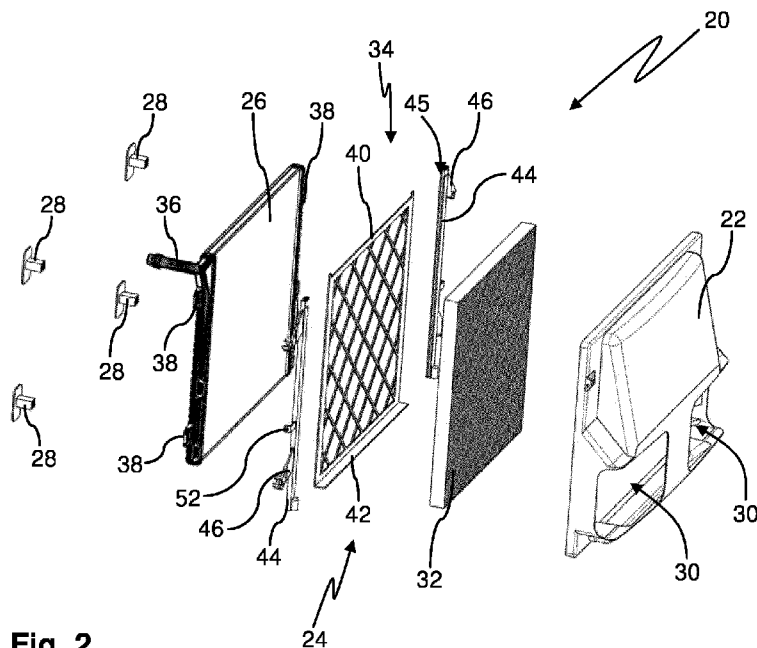


Fig. 2

(57) Abstract: The invention refers to a filter cooler system comprising a cooler assembly, a filter assembly and an air duct. These components are jointly mounted to at least one mounting tab. The filter assembly is held clamped between the at least one mounting tab and the air duct. The cooler assembly may engage around the at least one mounting tab. A snap fit between the filter assembly and the cooler assembly may be provided.



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Filter Cooler System for Motor Vehicle

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention refers to a filter cooler system for a motor vehicle, comprising a cooler assembly; an air duct having at least one inlet opening; and a filter assembly with a filter element.

Background Art

[0002] Such a filter cooler system is known from WO 2019/110223 A1.

[0003] WO 2019/110223 A1 discloses a motor vehicle, which has at least one air inlet opening in a front region, behind which an ambient air cleaning device is arranged, which is designed, for the removal of particles, in particular fine dust and/or gases from the ambient air. The ambient air cleaning device has at least one filter element with at least one filter medium that is folded to form at least one filter bellows, wherein the filter element has a plurality of fold stabilising means which support the filter bellows and are provided at a lateral distance of no more than 130 mm from one another.

[0004] Filter cooler systems of this kind can be used to filter ambient air in order to decrease the total dust emission balance of a vehicle. To this end, the filter element may remove dust particles from the ambient air in order to compensate, preferably overcompensate, the dust production during use of the vehicle.

[0005] Depending on the intended area of use or with regard to production cost, it may be sufficient to equip some but not all vehicles of a certain type with a filter element for ambient air filtration. Furthermore, the optional mounting of an air filter element shall not alter insurance classification of the vehicle.

[0006] It is an object of the invention to facilitate mounting of an air filter assembly to a cooler assembly for a vehicle.

[0007] This is achieved by a filter cooler system according to claim 1, a filter assembly according to claim 12 and a motor vehicle according to claim 13. Advantageous embodiments are given in the subclaims and the description.

Summary

[0008] In accordance with the invention, a filter cooler system for a motor vehicle is provided. The filter cooler system comprises a cooler assembly, an air duct having at least one inlet opening, and a filter assembly.

5 **[0009]** The cooler assembly may comprise a liquid cooler and a fan. Cooling liquid for an engine of the vehicle may be fed through the liquid cooler.

[0010] The filter assembly comprises a filter element and a holder. Preferably, the filter element is permanently affixed to the holder. For instance, the filter element may be glued to the holder. The filter element is preferably a flat filter element. With a
10 flat filter element, the risk of damage to the cooler system during an accident is reduced. A thickness of the filter element may be less than 5 cm, preferably less than 3 cm. The filter element may be pleated.

[0011] The air duct is generally arranged in front of the cooler assembly. The air duct is typically designed for arrangement behind a front skirt of the vehicle or for being
15 part of the front skirt.

[0012] According to the invention, the filter element is arranged between the air duct and the cooler assembly. Consequently, air entering a front end of the vehicle is guided through the inlet opening first to the filter element and then to the cooler assembly. Furthermore, the filter element protects the cooler assembly from being hit
20 by stones or the like. The air duct may be sealed against the filter element using foam.

[0013] Further according to the invention, the cooler assembly, the filter assembly, and the air duct are fixed to at least one common mounting tab. This facilitates mounting of the filter cooler system. A mounting sequence for the filter cooler system is typically arranging the cooler assembly at the mounting tab, arranging the
25 filter assembly at the mounting tab, arranging the air duct at the mounting tab, fixing the air duct to the mounting tab.

[0014] By fixing the air duct to the mounting tab, also the filter assembly and preferably the cooler assembly are fixedly secured at the mounting tab. In particular, the filter assembly is fixed to the mounting tab via the holder. In other words, the holder

is fixed to the mounting tab, thereby securing the filter element relative to the mounting tab, and consequently relative to the air duct and the cooler assembly.

[0015] If at all, only a slight modification of the air duct is required for use with or without the filter assembly. In particular, slightly shifting the position of a mounting surface of the air duct forward or backward a few millimeters may suffice to adapt the air duct for use with or without a filter assembly.

[0016] The mounting tab may also be referred to as a mounting stud. Typically, the mounting tab or stud extends along a longitudinal axis, preferably with a rectangular cross section. A front surface of the mounting tab is preferably arranged perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

[0017] The mounting tab is typically permanently fixed to the body. Preferably, four mounting tabs are provided. With four mounting tabs at the corners of the filter assembly, of the cooler assembly and of the air duct a particularly solid mounting of the aforementioned components can be achieved.

[0018] Preferably, the holder is clamped (in other words compressed) between the air duct and the mounting tab. This contributes to securely fixing the filter assembly to the mounting tab.

[0019] Preferably, the cooler assembly, the filter assembly and the air duct are screwed to the at least one common mounting tab. A screw penetrates at least through the air duct and into a screw hole of the mounting tab. A particular secure and tight fixation can be obtained using at least one screw. Further, screws are easy to install and allow for automatic adaption of the fixation to the presence or absence of the filter assembly. The screw hole in the mounting tab is typically provided with an internal thread for engagement of an external thread of the screw.

[0020] In an advantageous embodiment, the screw penetrates through the holder of the filter assembly. Consequently, even if the screw is not completely tightened, the holder cannot disengage from the mounting tab. Typically, an opening of the holder, through which the screw passes, is free of threads.

[0021] Alternatively, the screw may pass besides the holder into the mounting tab. In this embodiment, an engagement section of the holder may complement a

mounting surface of the air duct in order to completely covering a front surface of the mounting tab. Both, the mounting section of the holder and the mounting surface of the air duct are preferably pressed against the front surface of the mounting tab by tightening the screw.

5 **[0022]** A mounting eye of the cooler assembly may engage around the mounting tab. This ensures that the cooler assembly rests in place while mounting the other components of the system. Preferably, the mounting eye is completely closed in circumferential direction. The mounting eye may surround the mounting tab.

[0023] In an advantageous embodiment, the holder of the filter assembly
10 comprises a plurality claws for engagement on different sides of the mounting tab. The claws position the filter assembly transverse to a longitudinal direction of the mounting tab. In particular during assembly of the system, i. e. prior to fixation of the air duct, the claws may hold the filter assembly to the mounting tab in a substantially vertical plane.

[0024] It may be provided, that two claws engage on two adjacent side faces of
15 the mounting tab. Thereby, the filter assembly is positioned in two different directions relative to the mounting tab. The two claws may be orthogonal to one another.

[0025] Additionally or alternatively, two claws may engage on two opposing side faces of the mounting tab. In particular, two pairs of claws may engage on two pairs of opposing side faces. Opposing claws ensure precise alignment of the filter assembly
20 relative to the mounting tab.

[0026] The holder may comprise two mounting rails and a grid frame. The grid frame stabilizes the filter element. The filter element may be glued to the grid frame. Preferably, a support leg protrudes from the grid frame. The support leg may engage a lower side of the filter element.

25 **[0027]** The mounting rails each may have a slot for engagement of the grid frame. The slots facilitate mounting of the filter assembly.

[0028] Preferably, the holder has at least one latching hook for engagement on the cooler assembly. This prevents the filter assembly from disengaging from the mounting tab during assembly of the system.

[0029] The holder may have a centering hole into which a centering pin of the air duct engages. This contributes to ensure alignment of the air duct relative to the filter assembly, and thereby relative to the mounting tab on which the filter assembly is (pre-) mounted, in particular prior to insertion of a screw.

5 **[0030]** The filter element may be a fine dust filter element, preferably according to class ISO ePM2,5 70%, particularly preferably according to class ISO ePM1 70%, of EN ISO 16890.

[0031] The invention also relates to a filter assembly for a filter cooler system according to the invention. The filter assembly comprises a filter element and a holder.

10 The holder is designed to be fixed to a mounting tab. In particular, the holder is designed to be clamped between an air duct and the mounting tab. The filter assembly may comprise further features as described above. The filter element may be glued to the holder. The filter element is preferably a flat filter element. The holder may have an opening free of threads, through which a screw may be led to fix the holder to the mounting tab. The holder may comprise a plurality of claws extending perpendicular to
15 an extension plane of the flat filter element. The holder may comprise two mounting rails and a grid frame. The mounting rails each may have a slot for engagement of the grid frame. The holder may have a centering hole for engagement of a centering pin of the air duct.

20 **[0032]** The invention further relates to a motor vehicle, in particular a passenger car, van or truck, comprising a filter cooler system according to the invention, as described above.

[0033] Preferably, the at least one mounting tab is fixed to a body of the vehicle. This allows securely positioning the filter assembly as required, in particular at a front
25 end of the vehicle.

[0034] The filter cooler system may be arranged at a front end of the vehicle, in particular behind a front skirt and/or in front of an engine, in particular a combustion engine or an electric engine. In this position, the efficiency of both the filter element and the cooler are increased. With a combustion engine, reduction of ambient air
30 pollution may be required to fulfill legal requirements.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0035] Other advantages and features of the invention will be appreciated from the following description of embodiments of the invention with reference to the figures of the drawing, which show significant details, and from the claims. The individual features, as described above or explained below, may each be implemented individually or implemented together in any useful combination in variants of the invention.

[0036] Fig. 1 shows a vehicle according to the invention having a filter cooler system according to the invention in a schematic sketch.

[0037] Fig. 2 shows a first embodiment of a filter cooler system according to the invention, in a schematic exploded view.

[0038] Fig. 3 shows a mounting eye of a cooler assembly of the filter cooler system of Fig. 2 engaging around a mounting tab, in a schematic perspective view.

[0039] Fig. 4 shows a holder of a filter assembly of the filter cooler system of Fig. 2 arranged on the mounting tab, in a schematic perspective view.

[0040] Fig. 5 shows a schematic front view of the filter cooler system of Fig. 2 in an assembled state with an air duct attached to the mounting tabs.

[0041] Fig. 6 shows a schematic side view of the filter cooler system of Fig. 2 in an assembled state.

[0042] Fig. 7 shows a schematic longitudinal section through a mounting tab of the filter cooler system of Fig. 2 with the holder and the air duct being fixed to the mounting tab by a screw.

[0043] Fig. 8 shows a schematic cross section through a mounting tab of the filter cooler system of Fig. 2 with angular claws of the air duct engaging edges of the mounting tab.

[0044] Fig. 9 shows a similar view as Fig. 4 for a second embodiment of a filter cooler system according to the invention, with a mounting eye of a cooler assembly engaging around a mounting tab and a holder of a filter assembly arranged on the mounting tab.

[0045] Fig. 10 shows a schematic longitudinal section through the mounting tab of the filter cooler system of Fig. 9, with the holder and the air duct being pressed against a front surface of the mounting tab besides each other by a screw.

[0046] Fig. 11 shows a schematic cross section through the mounting tab of the filter cooler system of Fig. 9 with claws of the holder engaging on adjacent side faces of the mounting tab.

Description of Embodiments

[0047] Figure 1 shows a vehicle 10, here a passenger car. The vehicle is powered by an engine 12, in this case a combustion engine. Passengers and luggage may be accommodated inside a cabin 14. A body 16 of the vehicle 10 comprises a front skirt 18.

[0048] The vehicle 10 comprises a filter cooler system 20. The filter cooler system 20 is arranged behind the front skirt 18 and in front of the engine 12 at a front end of the vehicle 10.

[0049] The filter cooler system 20 comprises an air duct 22, a filter assembly 24 and a cooler assembly 26. The filter assembly 24 is arranged behind the air duct 22 and in front of the cooler assembly 26. The air duct 22, the filter assembly 24, and the cooler assembly 26 are collectively mounted to several, here four, common mounting tabs 28, two of which are visible in Figure 1. The mounting tabs 28 are fixed to the body 16, as indicated by hatchings.

[0050] Air passes through not depicted openings in the front skirt 18 and enters the air duct 22 at an inlet opening 30. The air is guided to the filter assembly 24 in the air duct 22. A filter element 32 of the filter assembly 24 captures particles, in particular fine dust, from air flow 33. Here, the filter element is a fine dust filter element. The filter element 32 can be made from pleated filter paper. The filter element 32 is attached to a holder 34 of the filter assembly 24, which holder 34 provides fixation of the filter assembly 24 to the mounting tabs 28.

[0051] After passing through the filter element 32, the air strikes the cooler assembly 26. Thereby, cooling is provided to a cooling fluid for the engine 12, cf. fluid lines 36.

[0052] After having passed the cooler assembly 26, the air is released into the environment of the vehicle 10, for instance through an underside 37 of the vehicle 10. The air, which is guided through the filter cooler assembly 26 is in particular neither introduced into the engine 12 nor into the cabin 14.

5 **[0053]** Figure 2 shows an embodiment of a filter cooler system 20 in an exploded view.

[0054] Four mounting tabs 28 have a basically rectangular cross section and extend along a longitudinal axis.

10 **[0055]** A cooler assembly 26 has four mounting eyes 38, each configured to engage around one of the mounting tabs 28, cf. Figure 3. Here, the mounting eyes 38 are completely closed in circumferential direction.

15 **[0056]** A filter assembly 24 of system 20 comprises a holder 34 and a plate shaped filter element 32. The holder 34 comprises a grid frame 40, to which the filter element 32 is affixed, e.g., glued or welded. A support leg 42 protrudes from a lower side of grid frame 40. The support leg 42 ensures vertical support and vertical alignment of filter element 32.

20 **[0057]** The holder 34 further comprises two mounting rails 44. Each mounting rail 44 has a slot 45 for receiving the grid frame 40. The holder 34 has four mounting brackets 46 for fixation to the mounting tabs 28, cf. also Figure 4. Here, two mounting brackets 46 are provided at each of the mounting rails 44.

[0058] A front surface 47 of the mounting tabs 28 serves for axial abutment of the mounting brackets 46 of holder 34. Four claws 48, which protrude from each of the mounting brackets 46, engage the mounting tab 28 on its four side faces 50.

25 **[0059]** The holder 34 further has two latching hooks 52, one of which is provided at each mounting rail 44, cf. in particular Figure 2. During assembly of system 20, the latching hooks 52 engage the cooler assembly 26 in a snap fit, to prevent the filter assembly 24 from disengaging from the mounting tabs 28 prior to fixation of air duct 22.

30 **[0060]** Finally, the air duct 22, which in this embodiment has two inlet openings 30, is mounted to the mounting tabs 28 in front of the filter assembly 24, cf. Figures 5

and 6. At each mounting tab 28, a screw 54 is used to fix the air duct 22 and the filter assembly 24 to the respective mounting tab 28, cf. Figure 7. In this embodiment, the screw 54 penetrates through the air duct 22 and through an opening 56 of the mounting bracket 46 of the holder 34. No threaded engagement of the screw 54 with the air duct 22 and the holder 34 is provided. The screw 54 engages internal threads (not shown) of a screw hole 58 of the mounting tab 28, the screw hole 59 extending along the mounting tab 28 perpendicular to its front surface 47. Thereby, the holder 34, particularly its mounting brackets 46, is held clamped between a mounting surface 60 of the air duct 22 and the front surface 47 of the mounting tab 28.

[0061] As can be seen in Figure 8, angular claws 62 protruding from the air duct 22 near its mounting surface 60 (see Figure 7) may engage edges between the side faces 50 of the mounting tab 28.

[0062] Figures 9, 10 and 11 show an embodiment of filter cooler system 20', which in many aspects corresponds to the filter cooler system 20 depicted in Figures 2 to 8. Mainly the differences will be described below. For common features, reference is made to the description above and Figures 2 to 8.

[0063] A mounting bracket 46' of holder 34 is designed to partially cover a front surface 47 of a mounting tab 28, cf. Figure 9. A mounting surface 60' of air duct 22 is designed to abut the remainder of the front surface 47, cf. Figure 10. By tightening a screw 54, both the air duct 22 and the mounting bracket 46' of holder 34 are pressed against the mounting tab 28. In particular, the mounting bracket 46' of the holder 34 is clamped between the air duct 22 and the mounting tab 28. The screw 54 penetrates through the air duct 22 and passes besides the mounting bracket 46'.

[0064] In this embodiment of system 20', two claws 48', which are integrally formed with one another, protrude from mounting bracket 46 and engage two adjacent side faces 50 of the mounting tab 28, cf. Figure 11. An annular claw 64 of the air duct 22, which annular claw 64 is partially closed in circumferential direction, engages all four side faces 50 of the mounting tab 28. The claws 48' of holder 34 are received in a circumferentially open section of the annular claw 64 of the air duct 22.

[0065] In this embodiment of system 20', the holder 34 is provided with centering holes 66, which may be arranged at the mounting brackets, cf. Figure 9. Centering pins 68 of the air duct 22 are received in the centering holes 66, when the air duct 22 is being attached. The centering pins 68 may be integrally formed with the air duct 22.

5 **[0066]** In summary, the invention relates to a filter cooler system comprising a cooler assembly, a filter assembly and an air duct. These components are jointly mounted to at least one mounting tab. Preferably, the filter assembly is held clamped between the mounting tab and the air duct. A mounting eye of the cooler assembly may engage around the mounting tab. A snap fit between the filter assembly and the
10 cooler assembly may be provided.

Reference Signs List

	Vehicle	10
	Engine	12
	Cabin	14
5	Body	16
	Front skirt	18
	Filter cooler system	20; 20'
	Air duct	22
	Filter assembly	24
10	Cooler assembly	26
	Mounting tab	28
	Inlet opening	30
	Filter element	32
	Air flow	33
15	Holder	34
	Fluid line	36
	Underside	37
	Mounting eye	38
	Grid frame	40
20	Support leg	42
	Mounting rail	44
	Slot	45
	Mounting bracket	46; 46'
	Front surface	47
25	Claw	48; 48'
	Side face	50
	Latching hook	52
	Screw	54
	Opening	56
30	Screw hole	58

Mounting surface 60; 60'

Angular claw 62

Annular claw 64

Centering hole 66

5 Centering pin 68

Claims

1. A filter cooler system (20, 20') for a motor vehicle (10), the filter cooler system (20, 20') comprising:

a cooler assembly (26);

an air duct (22) having at least one inlet opening (30); and

a filter assembly (24) comprising a filter element (32) and a holder (34), the filter element (32) being arranged between the air duct (22) and the cooler assembly (26),

wherein the cooler assembly (26), the holder (34) and the air duct (22) are fixed to at least one common mounting tab (28), and

wherein the holder (34) is clamped between the air duct (22) and the at least one mounting tab (28).

2. The filter cooler system (20, 20') according to claim 1, wherein the cooler assembly (26), the filter assembly (24) and the air duct (22) are screwed to the at least one common mounting tab (28) by a screw (54) penetrating at least through the air duct (22) and into a screw hole (58) of the at least one mounting tab (28).

3. The filter cooler system (20) according to claim 2, wherein the screw (54) further penetrates through the holder (34) of the filter assembly (24).

4. The filter cooler system (20, 20') according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the cooler assembly (26) comprises a mounting eye (38) for engagement around the at least one mounting tab (28).

5. The filter cooler system (20, 20') according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the holder (34) of the filter assembly (24) comprises a plurality of claws (48, 48') for engagement on different sides of the at least one mounting tab (28).

6. The filter cooler system (20, 20') according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of claws (48, 48') comprises two claws (48, 48') for engagement on two adjacent side faces (50) of the at least one mounting tab (28).

5 7. The filter cooler system (20) according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the plurality of claws (48, 48') comprises two pairs of claws (48) for engagement on two pairs of opposing side faces (50) of the at least one mounting tab (28).

10 8. The filter cooler system (20, 20') according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the holder (34) comprises two mounting rails (44), a grid frame (40), and a support leg (42) protruding from the grid frame (40).

15 9. The filter cooler system (20, 20') according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the holder (34) has at least one latching hook (52) for engagement on the cooler assembly (26).

20 10. The filter cooler system (20') according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the holder (34) has a centering hole (66) into which a centering pin (68) of the air duct (22) engages.

11. A filter assembly (24) for the filter cooler system (20, 20') according to one of claims 1 to 10.

25 12. A motor vehicle (10) comprising the filter cooler system (20, 20') according to one of claims 1 to 10.

13. The motor vehicle (10) according to claim 12, further comprising a body (16) to which the at least one mounting tab (28) is fixed.

14. The motor vehicle (10) according to claim 12 or 13, further comprising an engine (12) and a front skirt (18),

wherein the filter cooler system (20, 20') is arranged at a front end of the motor vehicle (10), behind the front skirt (18) and in front of the engine (12).

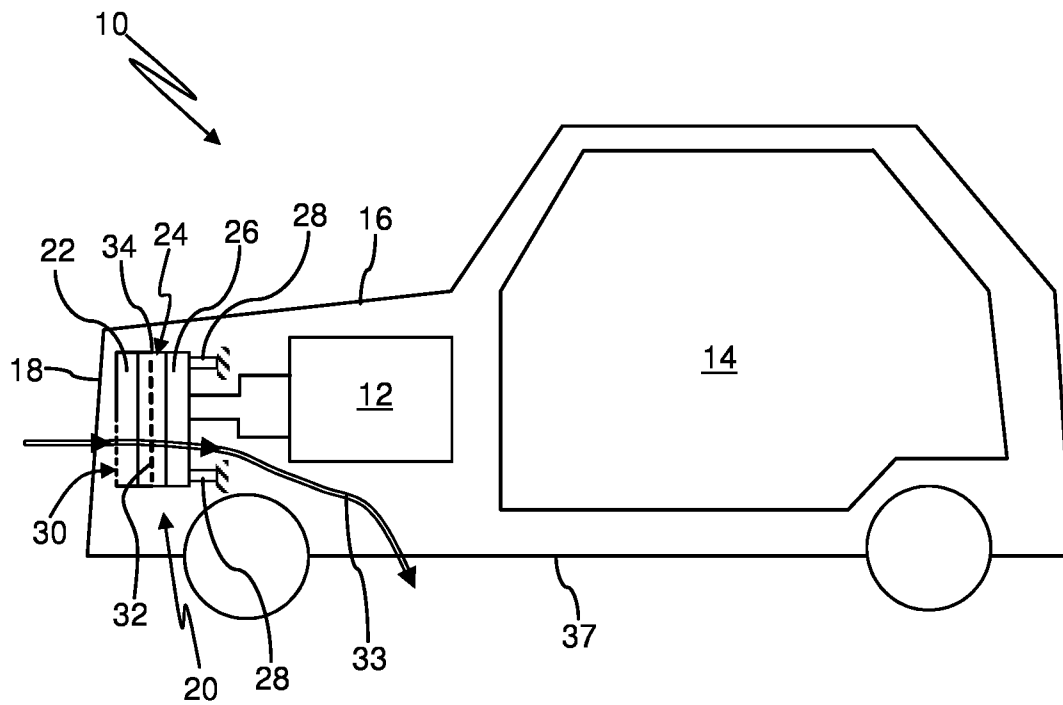


Fig. 1

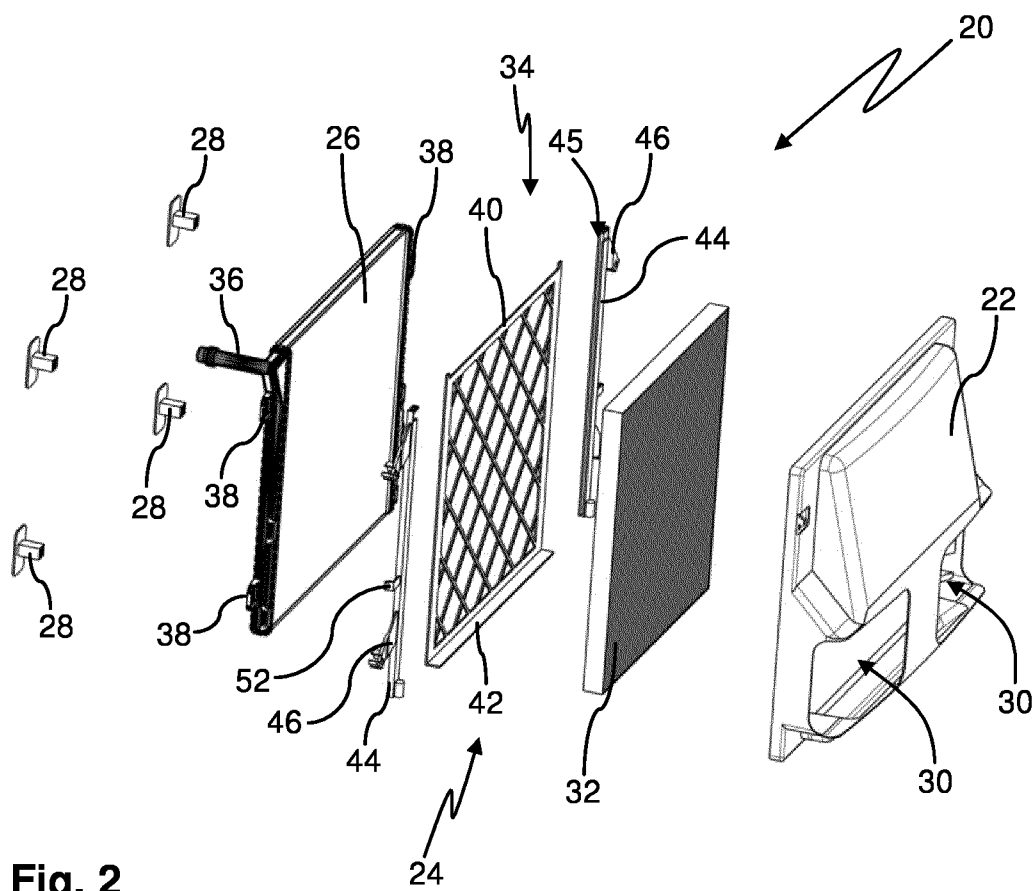


Fig. 2

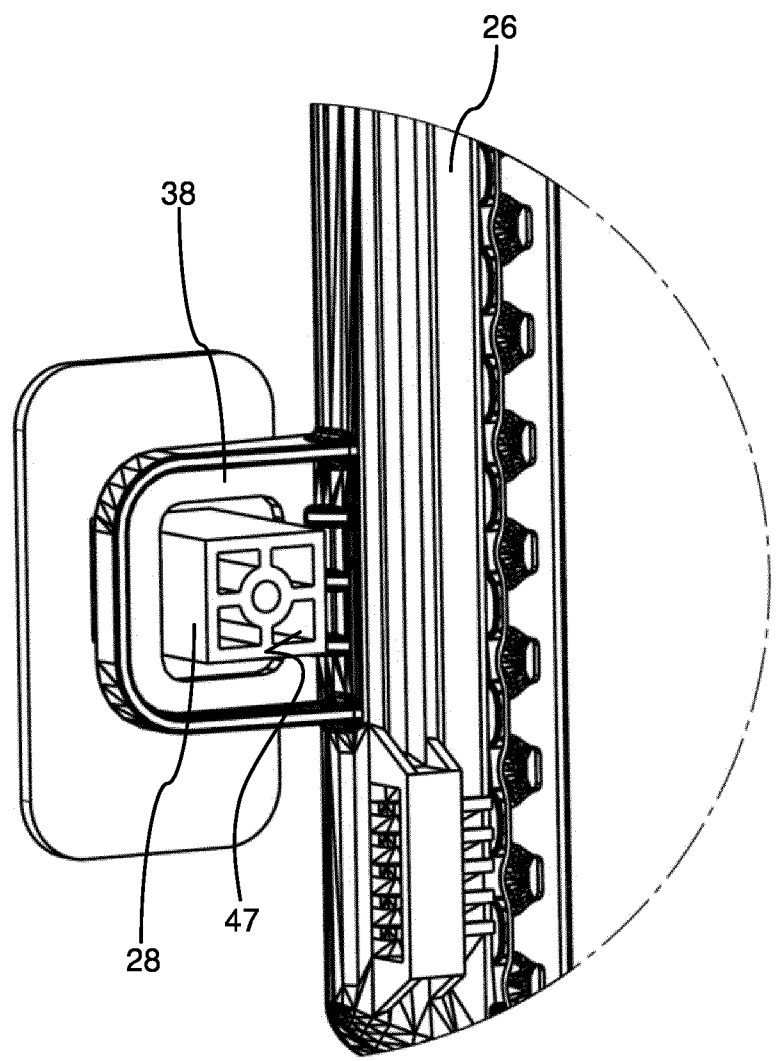


Fig. 3

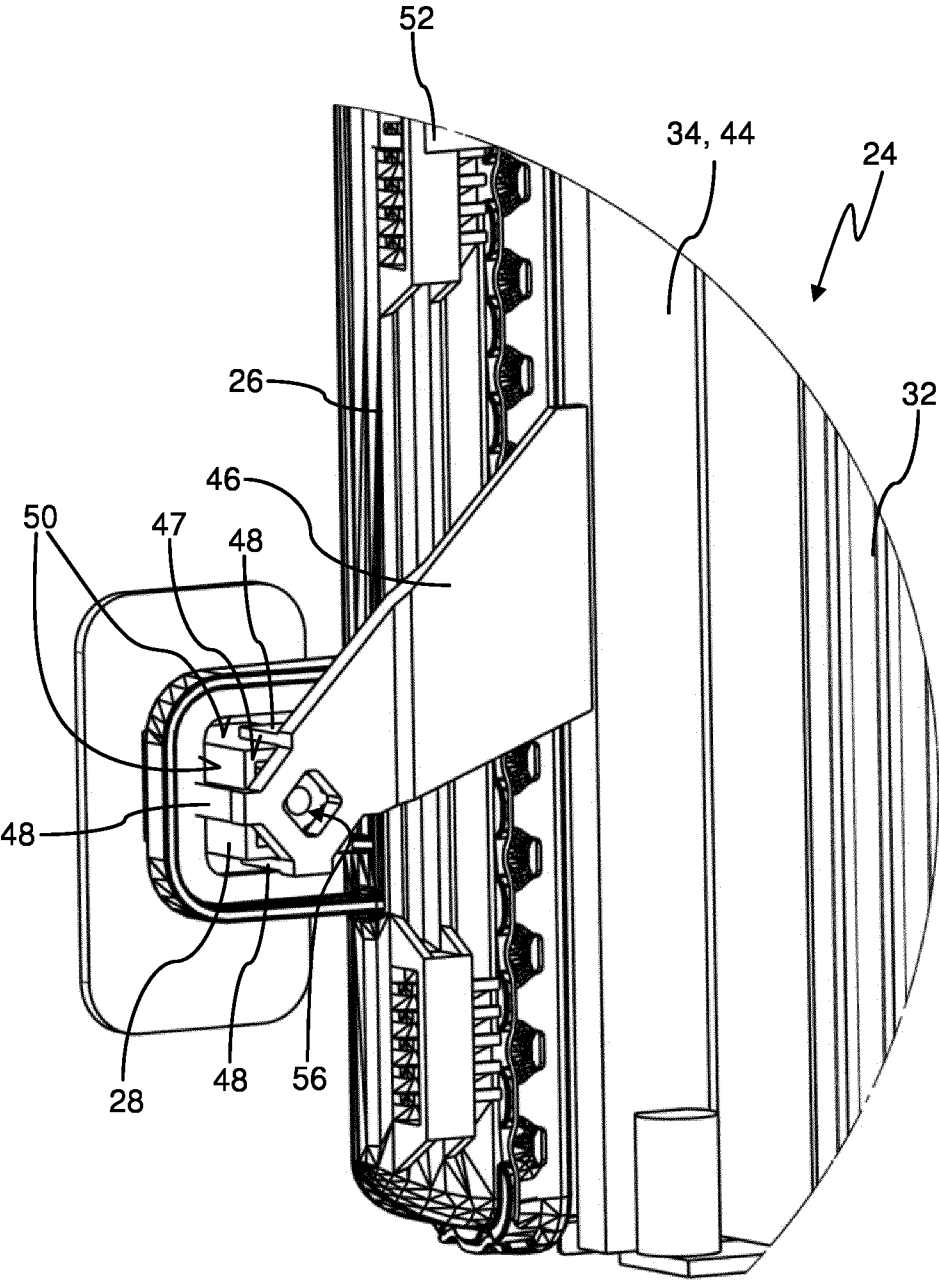


Fig. 4

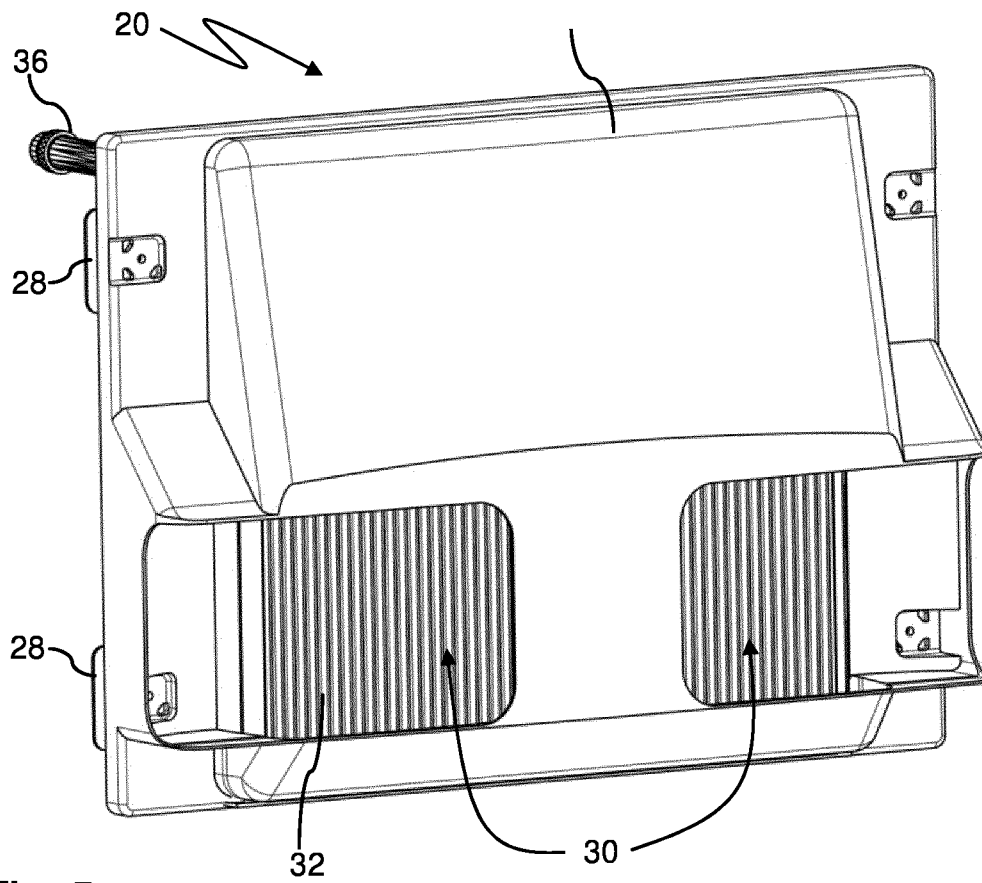


Fig. 5

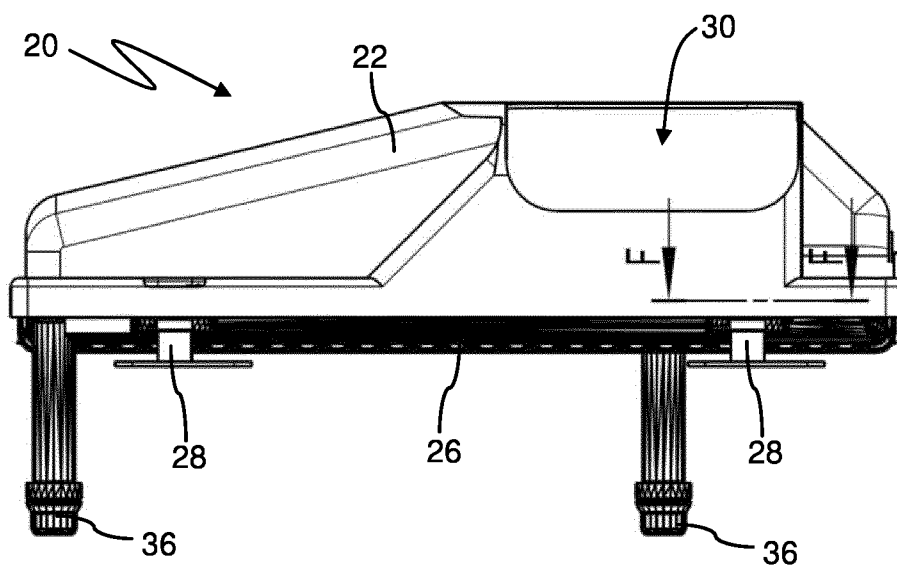


Fig. 6

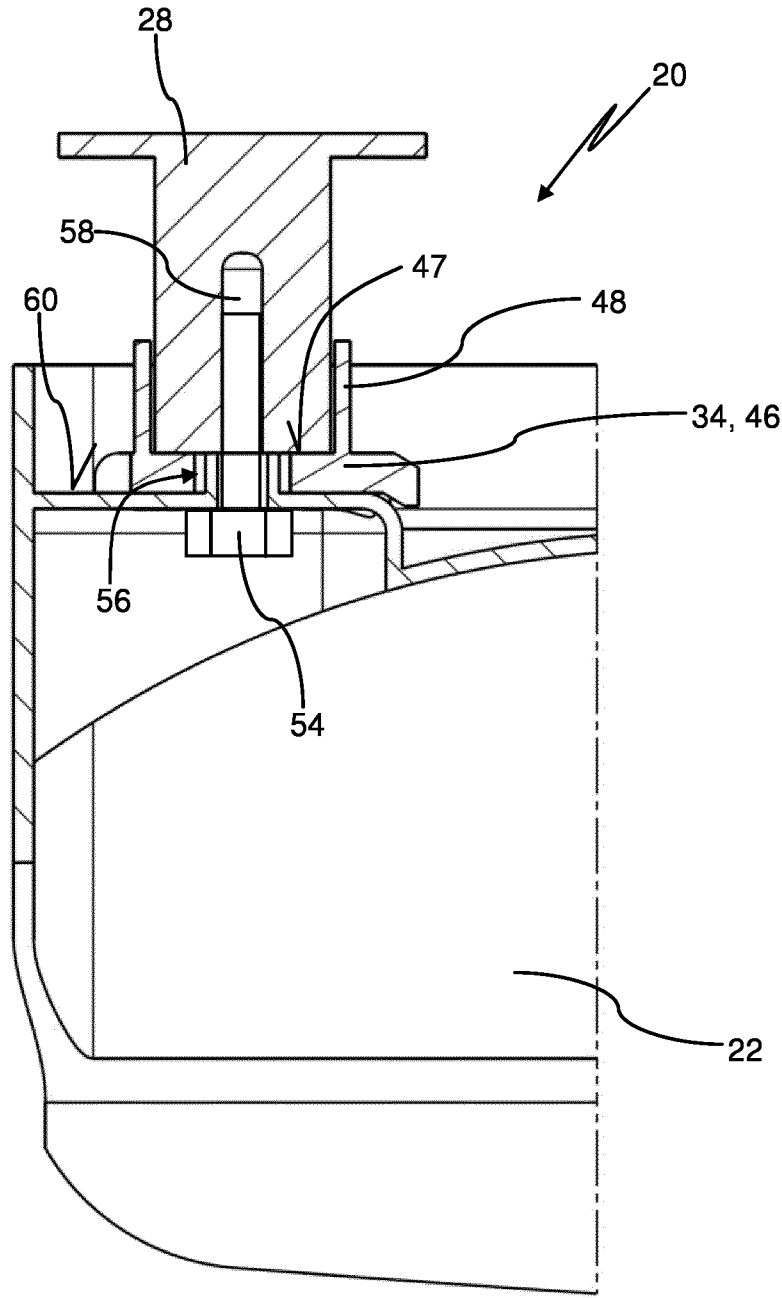


Fig. 7

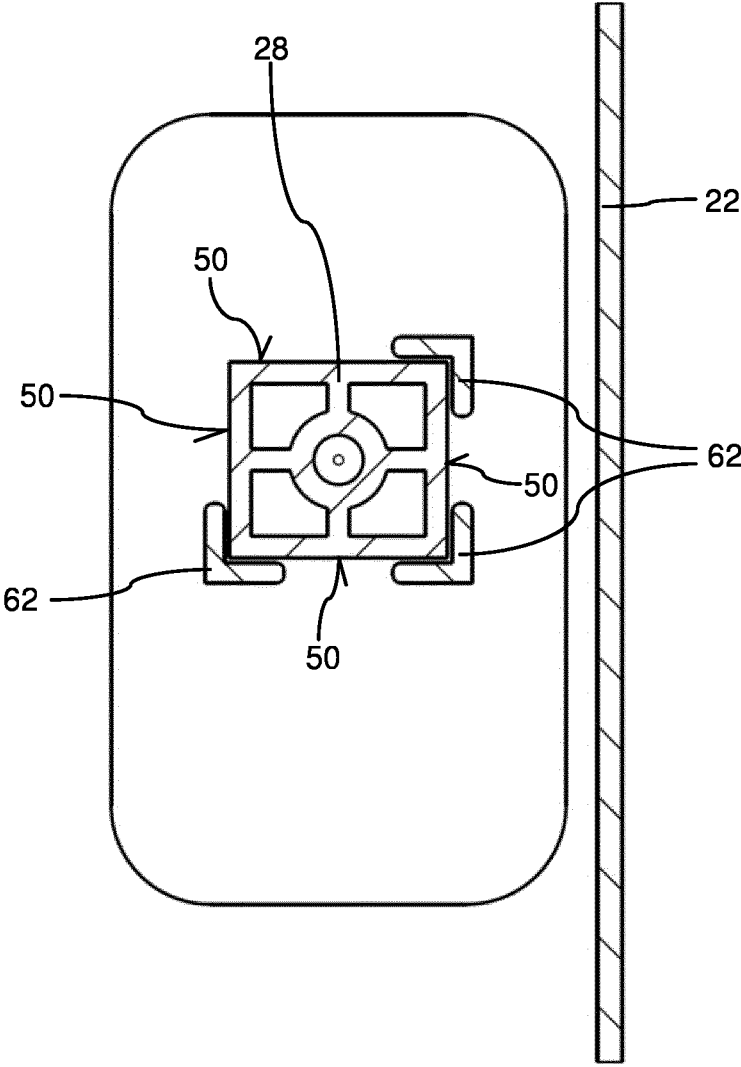


Fig. 8

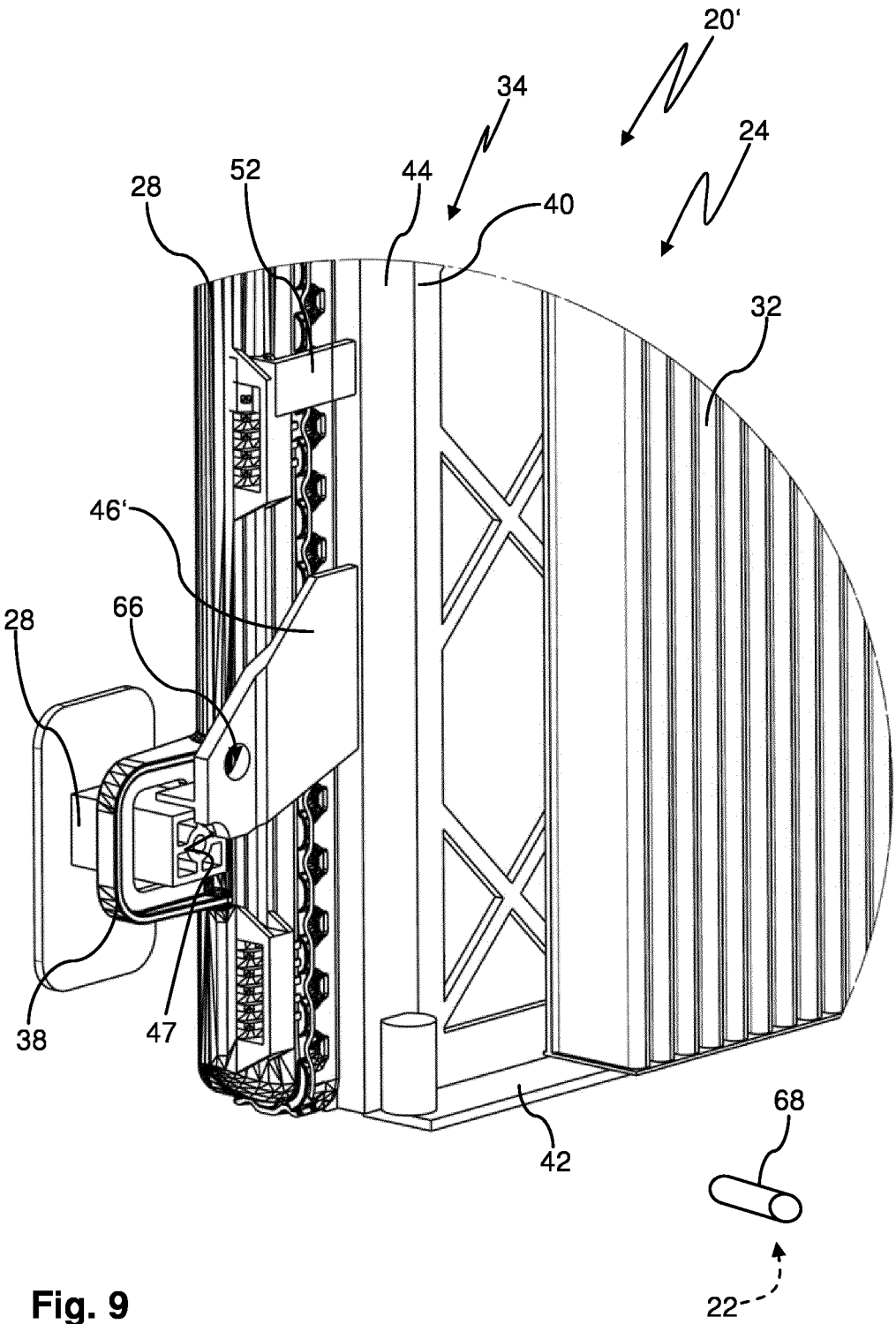


Fig. 9

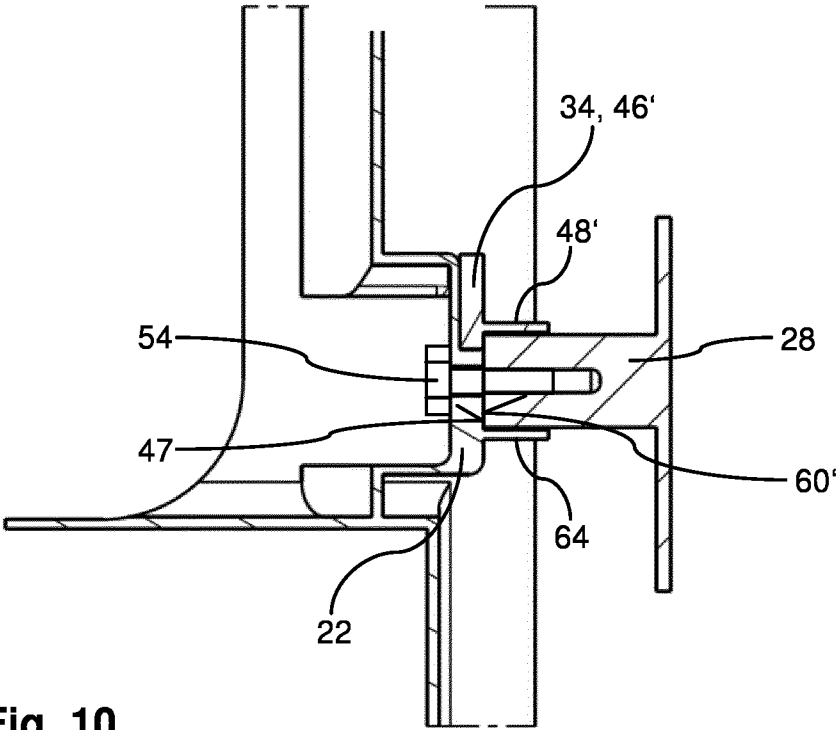


Fig. 10

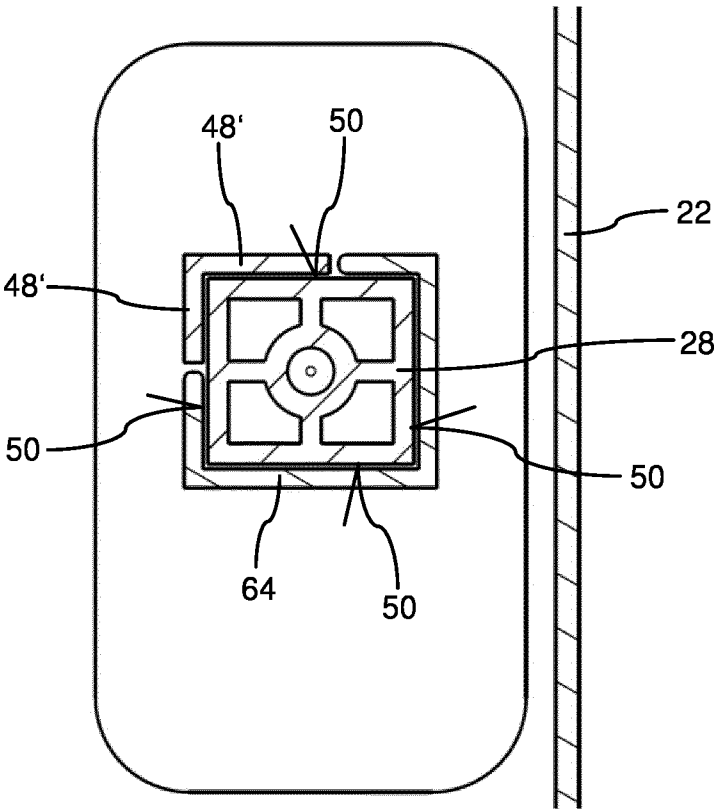


Fig. 11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2024/057897

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
INV.	F01P11/12 F01P3/18 B60H3/06 B60H1/00	B60K11/04 B01D46/10 F01P11/10 B60K11/08 B01D46/52
ADD.		
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) F01P B60K B60H B01D		
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 practicable, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2015/171183 A1 (ABELL NED [US]; CHAMBERS MARK D [US]; ANDERSON ROSS L [US]) 12 November 2015 (2015-11-12)	11
A	pages 4-7 figures 1-5	1-10, 12-14
X	DE 10 2012 009950 A1 (BROSE FAHRZEUGTEILE [DE]) 21 November 2013 (2013-11-21)	11
A	paragraphs [0028] - [0036] figures 1-5	1-10, 12-14
X	DE 20 2006 004522 U1 (BLUE CORPORATE FINANCE GMBH & [DE]) 8 June 2006 (2006-06-08)	11
A	figure 1	1-10, 12-14
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 June 2024		Date of mailing of the international search report 12/07/2024
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Schwaller, Vincent

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2024/057897

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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X	WO 2019/110223 A1 (MANN & HUMMEL GMBH [DE]) 13 June 2019 (2019-06-13) cited in the application	11
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Information on patent family members

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