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(54) WASHING AND/OR DRYING DEVICE WITH A DAMPER

WASCH- UND/ODER TROCKNUNGSVORRICHTUNG MIT EINEM DÄMPFER
DISPOSITIF DE LAVAGE ET/OU SÉCHAGE AVEC UN AMORTISSEUR

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EP-A1- 2 848 723 EP-A2- 1 757 724
CN-A- 1 730 782 KR-A- 20080 057 073

Remarks:

The file contains technical information submitted after the application was filed and not included in this specification

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Description

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a washing and/or drying device with a damper, which may be exemplified as a washing machine.

Background Art

[0002] Nowadays, washing and/or drying devices such as washing machines, drying machines etc. comprise dampers for absorbing motion generated during the operation of the device. One end of said dampers is connected to a part such as a drum, chamber etc. wherein cleaning process is performed and the other end thereof is connected to the base contained in body of the washing and/or drying device. The washing machine disclosed in the prior art document US2007044518A1 comprises a water tank positioned in a body, a damper to support the said water tank, and a damper fixing member to secure the damper on the bottom plate of the body. Said fixing member is formed by cutting of the bottom plate. However, a connecting region comprised by the said fixing member may deform over time since the damper to which it is connected is subjected to a rotational movement during the movement (i.e. vibration) of the tank (in other words, the position of the connecting region may change). Therefore, various supporting pieces may be used to support the said connecting region. A supporting member, which is illustrated in US2005262886A1, comprises a supporting wall that prevents rotational movement of the connecting region located thereon. However, the movement of the damper disclosed in US2005262886A1 which is dependent upon the movement of the tank makes the damper strike to the supporting member, thereby making noise. In another exemplary published document EP 1 783 260 A1, a washing machine comprising a shock-absorber is disclosed. The washing machine also comprises a fork joint in order to connect the shock-absorber to the lower region of a washing tank of the washing machine. In addition, a shock-absorbing plate made of resilient material is provided for the connection of the shock-absorber to the lower region for damping the vibration of the shock-absorber. Furthermore the shock-absorbing plate is placed in a "U" shaped base plate which is made of rubber or some other suitable shock-absorbing material, increases the effect of absorption of the oscillations of the tank that occur during operation of the machine and prevents the movement of the absorber. However this plate prolongs the production duration and increases the production costs. Additionally in document EP1757724A2, the disclosed washing machine comprises a damper-supporter spaced from the outer case so as to be vibration-isolated therefrom, for supporting one end of the damper connected to the base. However, the structure of the supporter is complicated and also increases the production

costs. In another published document EP2848723A1, the rotational movement of the damper is prevented by means of a fixing assembly comprising a pair of shoulders and a pin. However, due to force exerted on the damper during rotation of the drum, the pin comprised by the fixing assembly can be broken. Therefore, this type of movement prevention will not be long-lasting. Therefore, when an additional piece is used to connect the dampers to the body (which is also the case in US2007044518A1 and US2005262886A1), since the force exerted upon the said supporting piece is high, the size of the said piece is increased so as to increase the strength thereof. In this case, both the production cost is increased and since the size of the damper is increased, the area where it may be connected on the body is restricted.

Brief Description of the Invention

[0003] With the present invention, there is provided a washing and/or drying device comprising at least one body; at least one body base (G) located at that part facing a floor where the body is situated; at least one chamber which is located in the said body and in which stuff is put and washing/wringing/drying processes are performed; and at least one damper (S) which absorbs the movement of the said chamber during the washing/wringing/drying processes, and at least one end of which is connected to the said chamber and at least another end thereof is connected to at least one connecting region (K) provided in the said body base (G) and which is preferably in the form of a flange, wherein said device comprising at least one plastic supporting piece (P), which is independent from said damper (s) and located at said connecting region (K), for preventing strike of the connecting region (K) thereto and making noise during the operation of the washing and/or drying device, which supporting piece (P) is located such that it is in contact with the connecting region (K) of the body base (G) so as to prevent rotational movement of the connecting region (K) which may result from the force exerted on the chamber while the damper (S) is absorbing the movement of the chamber and the supporting piece (P) comprises at least one rear wall (D1) at a certain height which extends at that part facing the connecting region (K) so as to move away from the body base (G) and at least one lug (T) in order to engage and disengage it from the body base (G), and the washing and/or drying device also comprises at least one hole suitable for receiving said lug (T). Thanks to the inventive device, any deformation is prevented to occur over time at the region where the damper of the device is connected to the device while at the same time noise is reduced that may occur due to the use of a piece for preventing deformation, whereby a useful and long-lasting washing and/or drying device is obtained.

Object of the Invention

[0004] An object of the present invention is to provide a washing and/or drying device wherein the connecting region connected with an end of the damper therein is prevented from being deformed.

[0005] Another object of the present invention is to provide a washing and/or drying device wherein noise generated during operation thereof is reduced.

[0006] A further object of the present invention is to provide a washing and/or drying device wherein the supporting piece therein is independent from the damper therein.

[0007] Another object of the present invention is to provide a washing and/or drying device wherein the supporting piece therein is robust, useful and low-cost.

[0008] Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a washing and/or drying device which is economic and long-lasting.

Description of the Drawings

[0009] Exemplary embodiments of the washing and/or drying device according to the present invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side perspective view of a base of the washing and/or drying device according to the present invention and a damper connected with the base.

Figure 2 is a view of detail "A" shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a front perspective view of a supporting piece of the washing and/or drying device according to the present invention.

[0010] All the parts illustrated in the figures are individually assigned a reference numeral and the corresponding terms of these numbers are listed as follows:

Body base	(G)
Connecting region	(K)
Damper	(S)
Supporting piece	(P)
Rear wall	(D1)
Side wall	(D2)
Supporting wall	(D3)
Lug	(T)
Protrusion	(T1)
Hole	(B)
Detail	(A)

Description of the Invention

[0011] The washing and/or drying devices such as washing machines and drying machines comprise a damper for absorbing movement/vibration at those parts

such as a drum, chamber etc. where washing is performed, which is particularly generated while such processes as washing/wringing/drying are being performed. At one end, said damper is connected with the said chamber and at the other end, it is generally connected to the body base of the device. The body base typically comprises a connecting region in order to connect the damper to the said body base. The damper of the washing and/or drying device transfers the movement of the chamber to which it is connected to the said connecting region, during movement absorption, whereby the said connecting region is made subject to rotational movement and deformation over time. On the other hand, supporting pieces used to reduce/prevent said deformation may generate further noise during said movement. Therefore, with the present invention, there is provided a washing and/or drying device comprising a supporting piece independent from the said damper and located at the said connecting region so as to prevent deformation of the said connecting region, in which device noise generated during operation thereof is also reduced.

[0012] The washing and/or drying device according to the present invention, as illustrated in figures 1-3, comprises at least one body (not shown); at least one body base (G) located at that part facing a floor where the body is situated; at least one chamber (not shown) which is located in the said body and in which stuff is put and washing/wringing/drying processes are performed; and at least one damper (S) which absorbs the movement of the said chamber during the washing/wringing/drying processes, and at least one end of which is connected to the said chamber and at least another end thereof is connected to at least one connecting region (K) of the said body base (G), which is preferably in the form of flange. The washing and/or drying device according to the present invention also comprises at least one plastic supporting piece (P) for preventing strike of the connecting region (K) thereto and making noise during the operation of the washing and/or drying device, which is preferably located at that part of the connecting region (K) facing the chamber (i.e. at that part facing away from the outer environment where the washing and/or drying device is situated and particularly so as not to be located under such structures as flanges that the connecting regions (K) may include) such that it is in contact with the connecting region (K), so as to prevent rotational movement of the connecting region (K) which may result from the force exerted on the chamber while the damper (S) is absorbing the movement of the chamber. In another preferred embodiment, said supporting piece (P) may be located at any side of the connecting region (K). Said supporting piece (P) comprises at least one rear wall (D1) at a certain height which is located at that part facing the connecting region (K), which is preferably in contact with the connecting region (K) and extends so as to move away from the body base (G). Said rear wall (D1) prevents rotational movement of the connecting region (K) while preventing the moment generated by pull-

ing the connecting region (K) towards center of the body base (G) by the damper (S) during the movement of the chamber. According to the invention, said supporting piece (P) comprises at least one lug (T) in order to engage and disengage it from the body base (G). In this embodiment, the washing and/or drying device also comprises at least one hole (not shown) for receiving said lug (T). With the said lug (T), montage of the supporting piece (P) on the body is facilitated and any possible montage errors are prevented. In another preferred embodiment, the washing and/or drying device may comprise at least another connecting member such as a screw for fixing the said supporting piece (P) on the body base (G) or at least one slide (not shown) so as to prevent the said supporting piece (P) from being fixed on the body base (G) in a reverse manner.

[0013] In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the supporting piece (P) comprises at least two lugs (T) made of a flexible material and those ends of the said lugs (T) that are distal to the supporting piece (P) are inclined so as to move away from each other. In this embodiment, when the supporting piece (P) is fitted to the body base (G), said lugs (T) are positioned such that they exert power in an opposite direction to the body base (G). Thus, the supporting piece (P) is stably fixed on the body and a reliable supporting structure is achieved for the connecting region (K). In this embodiment, the lugs (T) comprise at least one protrusion (T1) positioned at that part facing towards the outer environment (i.e. at that part of the lugs (T) not facing each other). In this embodiment, when the lug (T) is positioned in the said hole, the surface of the said protrusion (T1) facing the body base (G) rests on the body base (G) in order to prevent the supporting piece (P) from being released from the body base (G). In order to release said supporting piece (P) from the body base (G), said flexible lugs (T) are moved so as to come close to each other, and when the protrusion (T1) is released from the body base (G), the supporting piece (P) may be disengaged from the body.

In another alternative embodiment of the invention, said supporting piece (P) comprises at least one side wall (D2) which is positioned on at least one side of the said rear wall (D1) such that there is preferably a right angle between the rear wall (D1) and the side wall, in order to increase resistance of the supporting piece. In a preferred embodiment, an angle between the said rear wall (D1) and the side wall (D2) may be an angle other than a right angle.

[0014] In another alternative embodiment of the invention, the supporting piece (P) comprises at least one supporting wall (D3) in order to increase the strength thereof and the said supporting wall (D3) is positioned such that it is preferably perpendicular to the rear wall (D1) and preferably parallel to the side wall (D2). In a preferred embodiment, the angle between the said rear wall (D1) and the supporting wall (D3) may be an angle other than a right angle and/or the supporting wall (D3) may be positioned such that there is a certain angle (i.e. larger than

0 deg) between the supporting wall and the side wall (D2).

[0015] In another embodiment of the invention, said supporting piece (P) comprises a high mechanical strength material (i.e. thermoplastic and/or composite).

[0016] In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the supporting piece (P) includes at least one space (B) in order not to become unnecessarily heavy and also to reduce production cost.

[0017] With the supporting piece (P) provided in the washing device according to the present invention, deformation of the connecting region (K), to which the damper (S) of the washing device is connected, is prevented while any noise that may occur during the operation of the washing device is suppressed though an additional piece is employed. In addition, since the supporting piece (P) is independent from the damper (S) and the connecting region (K), said pieces upon which load is applied are replaced independent from each other.

Claims

1. A washing and/or drying device comprising at least one body; at least one body base (G) located at that part facing a floor where the body is situated; at least one chamber which is located in the said body and in which stuff is put and washing/wringing/drying processes are performed; and at least one damper (S) which absorbs the movement of the said chamber during the washing/wringing/drying processes, and at least one end of which is connected to the said chamber and at least another end thereof is connected to at least one connecting region (K) provided in the said body base (G), which is preferably in the form of a flange, **characterized by** comprising at least one plastic supporting piece (P), which is independent from said damper (S) and which is located at said connecting region (K), for preventing strike of the connecting region (K) thereto and making noise during the operation of the washing and/or drying device, which supporting piece (P) is located such that it is in contact with the connecting region (K) of the body base (G) so as to prevent rotational movement of the connecting region (K) which may result from the force exerted on the chamber while the damper (S) is absorbing the movement of the chamber and the supporting piece (P) comprises at least one rear wall (D1) at a certain height which extends at that part facing the connecting region (K) so as to move away from the body base (G) and at least one lug (T) in order to engage and disengage it from the body base (G), and the washing and/or drying device also comprises at least one hole suitable for receiving said lug (T).
2. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 1, **characterized by** comprising at least another connecting member for fixing the said supporting piece

(P) on the body base (G).

3. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 1, **characterized by** comprising at least one slide for fixing the said supporting piece (P) on the body base (G). 5
4. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the supporting piece (P) comprises at least two lugs (T) made of a flexible material. 10
5. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 4, **characterized in that** those ends of the said lugs (T) that are distal to the supporting piece (P) are inclined so as to move away from each other. 15
6. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 5, **characterized in that** the lugs (T) comprises at least one protrusion (T1) positioned at that part facing towards the outer environment. 20
7. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said supporting piece (P) comprises at least one side wall (D2) which is positioned on at least one side of the said rear wall (D1) in order to increase resistance of the supporting piece. 25
8. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 7, **characterized in that** the side wall (D2) is positioned such that there is a right angle between the rear wall (D1) and the side wall. 30
9. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the supporting piece (P) comprises at least one supporting wall (D3) in order to increase the strength thereof. 35
10. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the supporting piece (P) comprises at least one supporting wall (D3) in order to increase the strength thereof. 40
11. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 10, **characterized in that** said supporting wall (D3) is positioned such that it is perpendicular to the rear wall (D1). 45
12. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 9, **characterized in that** the supporting wall (D3) is parallel to the side wall (D2). 50
13. A washing and/or drying device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the supporting piece (P) includes at least one space (B). 55

Patentansprüche

1. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung mit wenigstens einem Gehäuse, wenigstens einer Gehäusebasis (G), die an dem dem Boden zugewandten Teil liegt, auf dem das Gehäuse steht, wenigstens einer Kammer, die in dem Gehäuse angeordnet ist und in die Sachen eingefüllt werden und in der die Wasch/Schleuder/Trocken-Vorgänge durchgeführt werden, und wenigstens einem Dämpfer (S), der Bewegung der Kammer während der Wasch/Schleuder/Trocken-Vorgänge absorbiert und dessen eines Ende mit der Kammer verbunden ist und wenigstens dessen anderes Ende mit wenigstens einer Verbindungsregion (K) verbunden ist, die in der Gehäusebasis (G) vorgesehen ist und die vorzugsweise die Form eines Flansches hat, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Vorrichtung wenigstens ein Kunststoff-Unterstützungsteil (P) hat, das unabhängig von dem Dämpfer (S) ist und das an der Verbindungsregion (K) angeordnet ist, um zu verhindern, dass die Verbindungsregion (K) dagegen schlägt und während des Betriebs der Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung Geräusche erzeugt, wobei das Unterstützungsteil (P) so angeordnet ist, dass es in Kontakt mit der Verbindungsregion (K) des Gehäusebodens (G) ist, um so Drehbewegungen der Verbindungsregion (K) zu verhindern, die aus der auf die Kammer ausgeübte Kraft resultieren können, während der Dämpfer (S) die Bewegung der Kammer absorbiert, und wobei das Unterstützungsteil (P) wenigstens eine Rückwand (D1) bei einer gewissen Höhe hat, die an dem Teil verläuft, der der Verbindungsregion (K) zugewandt ist, um sich von dem Wandboden (G) weg zu bewegen, und wenigstens einen Ansatz (T) aufweist, um es an dem Gehäuseboden (G) einrasten zu lassen und zu lösen, und wobei die Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung wenigstens eine Öffnung aufweist, die zur Aufnahme des Ansatzes (T) geeignet ist.
2. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** sie wenigstens ein weiteres Verbindungsteil zum Befestigen des Unterstützungsteils (P) an dem Gehäuseboden (G) hat.
3. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** wenigstens eine Schiene zum Befestigen des Unterstützungsteils (P) an der Gehäusebasis (G) vorhanden ist.
4. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Unterstützungsteil (P) wenigstens zwei Ansätze (T) hat, die aus einem flexiblen Material hergestellt sind.

5. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 4, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** diejenigen Enden der Ansätze (T), die von dem Unterstüzungsteil (P) entfernt sind, geneigt sind, um sich voneinander weg zu bewegen.
6. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 5, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Ansätze (T) wenigstens einen Vorsprung (T1) aufweisen, der an dem der äußeren Umgebung zugewandten Teil angeordnet ist.
7. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Unterstüzungsteil (P) wenigstens eine Seitenwand (D2) aufweist, die an wenigstens einer Seite der Rückwand (D1) liegt, um die Widerstandsfähigkeit des Unterstüzungsteils zu erhöhen.
8. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 7, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Seitenwand (D2) so angeordnet ist, dass zwischen der Rückwand (D1) und der Seitenwand ein rechter Winkel liegt.
9. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Unterstüzungsteil (P) wenigstens eine Stützwand (D3) aufweist, um dessen Festigkeit zu erhöhen.
10. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Unterstüzungsteil (P) wenigstens eine Stützwand (D3) aufweist, um dessen Festigkeit zu erhöhen.
11. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 10, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Stützwand (D3) so positioniert ist, dass sie senkrecht zu der Rückwand (D1) steht.
12. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 9, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Stützwand (D3) parallel zu der Seitenwand (D2) ist.
13. Wasch- und/oder Trockenvorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Unterstüzungsteil (P) wenigstens einen Hohlraum (B) aufweist.

Revendications

1. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage comprenant au moins une carcasse ; au moins une base de carcasse (G) située dans la partie en regard du plancher où la carcasse est située ; au moins une chambre qui est située dans ladite carcasse et dans laquelle des matières sont placées et des procédés de lava-

ge/essorage/séchage sont effectués ; et au moins un amortisseur (S) qui absorbe le mouvement de ladite chambre au cours des procédés de lavage/essorage/séchage, et dont au moins une extrémité est raccordée à ladite chambre et au moins une autre extrémité de celui-ci est raccordée à au moins une région de raccordement (K) disposée dans ladite base de carcasse (G), qui se présente de préférence sous la forme d'une bride, **caractérisé en ce qu'il** comprend au moins une pièce de support en matière plastique (P) qui est indépendante dudit amortisseur (S) et qui est située dans ladite région de raccordement (K), pour empêcher un impact de la région de raccordement (K) sur celle-ci et la génération de bruit au cours du fonctionnement du dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage, laquelle pièce de support (P) est située en sorte qu'elle soit en contact avec la région de raccordement (K) de la base de carcasse (G) de façon à empêcher le mouvement de rotation de la région de raccordement (K) qui peut résulter de la force exercée sur la chambre tandis que l'amortisseur (S) absorbe le mouvement de la chambre et la pièce de support (P) comprend au moins une paroi arrière (D1) à une certaine hauteur qui s'étend dans la partie en regard de la région de raccordement (K) de façon à s'écarter de la base de carcasse (G) et d'au moins un ressaut (T) de façon à l'engager dans la base de carcasse (G) et à la dégager de celle-ci, et le dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage comprend également au moins un trou convenant pour recevoir ledit ressaut (T).

2. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce qu'il** comprend au moins un autre élément de raccordement pour fixer ladite pièce de support (P) sur la base de carcasse (G).
3. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce qu'il** comprend au moins une coulisse pour fixer ladite pièce de support (P) sur la base de carcasse (G).
4. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** la pièce de support (P) comprend au moins deux ressauts (T) constitués d'un matériau souple.
5. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 4, **caractérisé en ce que** les extrémités desdits ressauts (T) qui sont distales à la pièce de support (P) sont inclinées de manière à s'écarter l'une de l'autre.
6. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 5, **caractérisé en ce que** les ressauts (T) comprennent au moins une saillie (T1) positionnée dans la partie tournée vers l'environnement ex-

terne.

7. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** ladite pièce de support (P) comprend au moins une paroi latérale (D2) qui est positionnée sur au moins un côté de ladite paroi arrière (D1) afin d'augmenter la résistance de la pièce de support. 5
8. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 7, **caractérisé en ce que** la paroi latérale (D2) est positionnée de sorte qu'il y ait un angle droit entre la paroi arrière (D1) et la paroi latérale. 10
9. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** la pièce de support (P) comprend au moins une paroi de support (D3) afin d'en augmenter la résistance. 15
10. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** la pièce de support (P) comprend au moins une paroi de support (D3) afin d'en augmenter la résistance. 20
11. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 10, **caractérisé en ce que** ladite paroi de support (D3) est positionnée de sorte qu'elle soit perpendiculaire à la paroi arrière (D1). 25
12. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 9, **caractérisé en ce que** la paroi de support (D3) est parallèle à la paroi latérale (D2). 30
13. Dispositif de lavage et/ou de séchage selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** la pièce de support (P) comprend au moins un espace (B). 35

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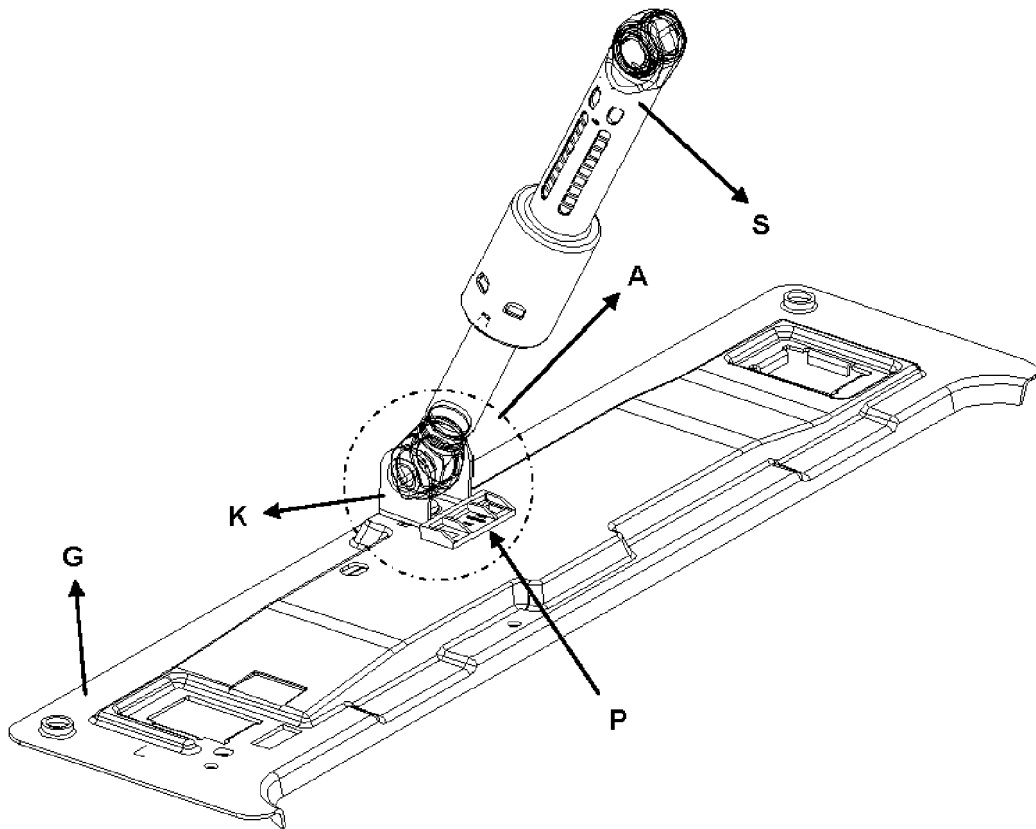


Figure 1

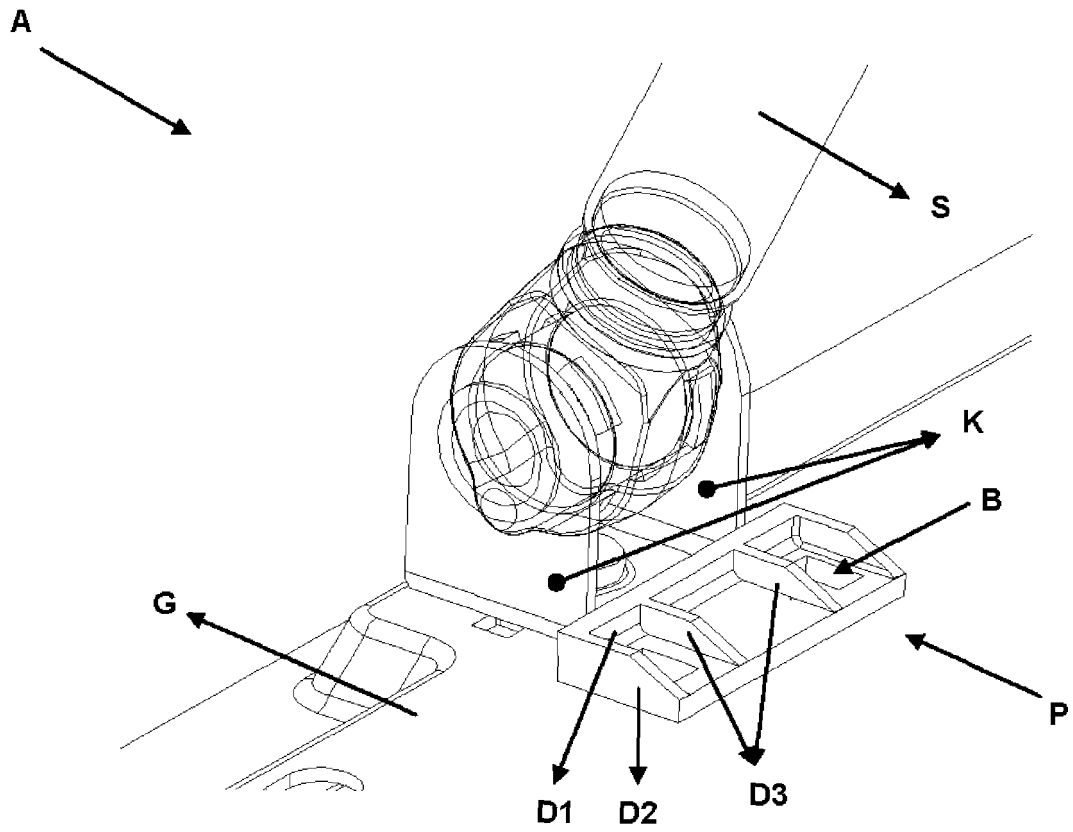


Figure 2

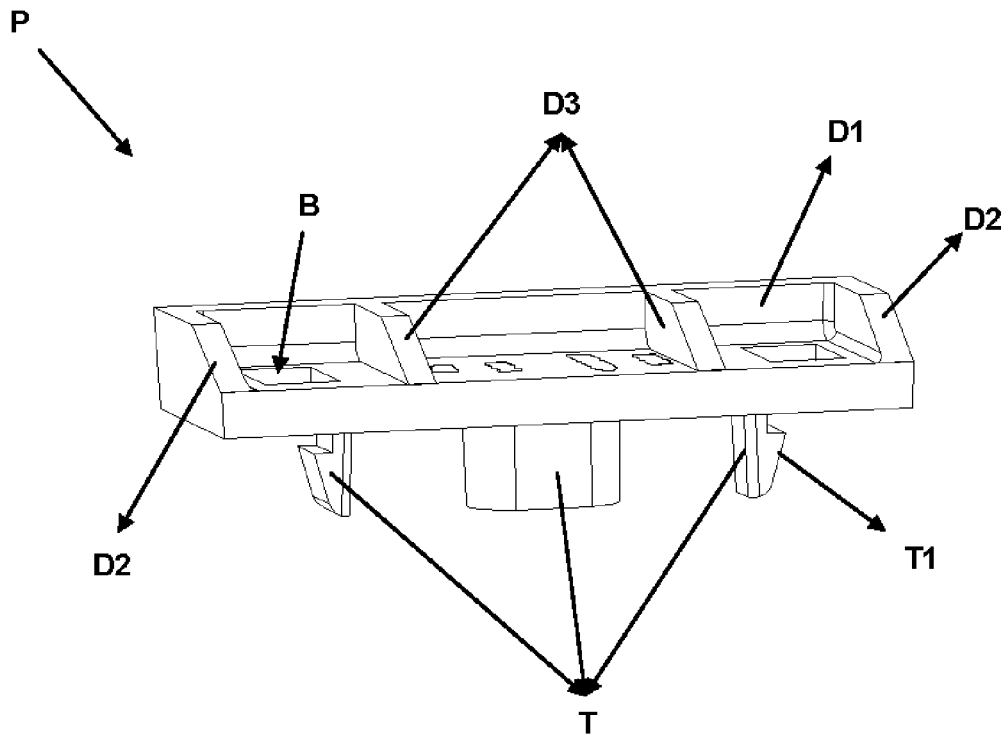


Figure 3

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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