

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 513 432 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
13.09.2006 Bulletin 2006/37

(21) Application number: **03760084.8**

(22) Date of filing: **16.06.2003**

(51) Int Cl.:
A47G 27/04 (2006.01) E04F 19/04 (2006.01)

(86) International application number:
PCT/GB2003/002581

(87) International publication number:
WO 2003/105637 (24.12.2003 Gazette 2003/52)

(54) **IMPROVED FINISHING FOR FLOOR COVERING**

VERBESSERTE ENDBEARBEITUNG FÜR FUSSBODENBELAG

REVETEMENT DE SOL A FINITION AMELIOREE

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR**

(30) Priority: **14.06.2002 GB 0213618
16.01.2003 GB 0300968**

(43) Date of publication of application:
16.03.2005 Bulletin 2005/11

(73) Proprietor: **ALTRO LIMITED
Letchworth,
Hertfordshire SG6 1NW (GB)**

(72) Inventor: **GARDNER, Donald Paul
Hertfordshire SG12 7JT (GB)**

(74) Representative: **Peel, James Peter
Barker Brettell,
10-12 Priests Bridge
London SW15 5JE (GB)**

(56) References cited:
**DE-A- 19 623 628 DE-U- 29 506 296
GB-A- 999 829 GB-A- 2 308 857
US-A- 5 850 716 US-A- 5 953 881**

EP 1 513 432 B1

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to finishing floor coverings, particularly to means for sealing a joint between edges of a self-coving floor covering.

[0002] When a floor covering such as a synthetic floor covering is laid, the edge of the floor covering has to be finished so that the resultant covered floor is tidy and aesthetically pleasing. This may be achieved by cutting the floor covering to size so that the floor covering is flush to the edge of the floor area. Alternatively, the floor covering may be cut to a size greater than the floor so that a length of the floor covering continues up the adjacent wall and is attached thereto. If the floor covering is laid up the lower part of the wall in this way, a coved section is desirably formed at the edge at which the floor and the wall meet. This is generally achieved by means of a cove former, which is attached to the wall and floor by contact adhesive, and produces a curved surface over which the floor covering may be laid. There is then the matter of finishing the edge of the floor covering. This is generally achieved by the use of a capping unit, which is attached to the wall at a suitable height. The edge of the floor covering can then be attached to the capping unit in order to provide a tidy finish.

[0003] The known method of laying floor covering in this manner is complicated because at corners in the room where the floor covering is being laid, it is necessary to hot-weld the joint between the edges of the floor covering to provide a water-tight seal.

[0004] Forming a neat and effective hot-weld joint requires skill and experience. Generally the edges of the floor covering to be welded first need to be grooved to receive the welding material. Then the welding material must be applied to the joint using a welding gun. Once the weld is cool, the surplus welding material should be removed and then finally the weld should be chamfered with a sharp blade to give a neat finish. The problem with this procedure is that a water-tight seal is not guaranteed every time.

[0005] DE 196 23 628 A relates to profiled strips comprising a carrier and a cover for use as a skirting board which are attachable.

[0006] It is an aim of the present invention to ameliorate these problems.

[0007] According to the present invention there is provided a sealing kit according to claim 1.

[0008] According to a first embodiment of the present invention the sealing kit comprises a finishing unit for a floor covering which has a lower section adapted to engage a floor and an upper section adapted to engage an adjacent wall, with the area of the lower section adjacent the upper section being adapted so that floor covering laid over said area forms a curved surface and wherein the finishing unit has a wall or floor facing backing face and a floor covering facing front face wherein the backing face and/or front face are provided with attaching means suitable for attaching the finishing unit to the floor or wall where it is to be used and/or suitable for attaching the finishing unit to the floor covering.

[0009] Preferably, the finishing unit of the sealing kit according to the first embodiment has both an upper section and a lower section which are substantially rigid.

[0010] According to an alternative first embodiment of the present invention the sealing kit comprises a finishing unit for floor covering has a lower section adapted to engage a floor and an upper section adapted to engage an adjacent wall, with the area of the lower section adjacent the upper section being adapted so that floor covering laid over said area forms a curved surface wherein the lower section and the upper section of the finishing unit are substantially rigid and wherein the finishing unit has a wall or floor facing backing face and a floor covering facing front face.

[0011] Preferably, the finishing unit of the alternative first embodiment is provided with attaching means suitable for attaching the finishing unit to the floor or wall where it is to be used and/or suitable for attaching the finishing unit to the floor covering.

[0012] It is advantageous for the finishing unit of the sealing kit of the present invention to have an upper section and a lower section which are substantially rigid. A finishing unit having a substantially rigid upper section and lower section provides a consistent surface onto which the floor covering can be laid. For example, a consistently smooth and/or consistently flat surface can be provided by use of a substantially rigid upper and lower section.

[0013] Preferably the finishing unit of the sealing kit of the present invention comprises a backing member which has a front face and a back face, and an upper section and a lower section, wherein the area of the lower section adjacent to the upper section is adapted so that floor covering laid over said area forms a curved surface.

[0014] At least one of the front face and the back face of the backing member are preferably provided with attaching means. More preferably both the front face and the back face of the backing member are provided with attaching means.

[0015] Preferably, some or all of the surface of the backing member is provided with cured or substantially cured adhesive. The cured or substantially cured adhesive is preferably covered with a removable protective liner, which when removed exposes the cured or substantially cured adhesive so that it may be used to attach the unit to a surface. The liner may be, for example, a suitably treated paper such as paper coated with silicone on at least the side which will be in contact with the adhesive, preferably paper coated on both sides with silicone.

[0016] The backing member preferably has a substantially J-shaped profile, more preferably it comprises a substantially straight upper section and a curved lower section. Preferably, the backing member is rigid. It is preferred that the backing

member is made from rigid plastics material, such as rigid PVC.

[0017] It is also preferred that some or all of the backing member is ridged. Preferably, the backing member is formed from ridged material such as ridged plastics material, for example ridged PVC. It is beneficial to use ridged material as this results in a stronger unit that is less prone to damage or failure. Ridged material is also able to cover over bad wall or floor finishes and allows mitres to be more easily formed at corners.

[0018] Preferably, some or all of the lower section of the backing members is substantially in the shape of a quarter circle. The radius of the quarter circle may be selected to give an appropriately sized curve depending on the size of coving required.

[0019] The finishing unit of the sealing kit may be provided in any suitable length and height.

[0020] The finishing unit of the sealing kit may suitably be provided with means for attaching the unit to the wall or floor surface where it is to be used. Preferably, some or all of the back face of the backing member of the unit is provided with cured or substantially cured adhesive. The cured or substantially cured adhesive may be, for example, an acrylic based adhesive such as pure acrylic adhesive. The adhesive may preferably be covered with a removable protective liner as described above.

[0021] The cured or substantially cured adhesive may be provided directly on the unit, covering some or all of the back face of the backing member of the unit. Preferably, the cured or substantially cured adhesive is provided indirectly on the unit with a piece of material covering some or all of the back face of the backing member of the unit, said material being attached to the unit by any suitable means and being provided with a coating of cured or substantially cured adhesive. The material may be any suitable material. For example, a cushioning material such as foam material.

[0022] The finishing unit of the sealing kit may also be adapted so as to provide one or more holes suitable for use in attaching the unit to a surface. For example, bores may be provided in the backing member suitable for allowing the unit to be attached to a surface by means of mechanical fastening means such as screws.

[0023] Preferably, the finishing unit of the sealing kit is also provided with a means for attaching floor covering to the unit. For example, some or all of the front face of the backing member of the unit may be covered with cured or substantially cured adhesive. The cured or substantially cured adhesive is preferably an adhesive as described above. The adhesive may be directly provided on the unit. Preferably, the adhesive is provided indirectly on the unit, in a manner as described above. The adhesive is preferably covered with a liner as described above.

[0024] Preferably both the front face and the back face of the backing member are provided with cured or substantially cured adhesive covered with a protective removable liner.

[0025] The use of cured or substantially cured adhesive on the finishing unit of the sealing kit of the present invention removes the need for contact adhesive to be used in attaching the unit to surfaces such as walls, floors and floor coverings. This is beneficial in terms of health and safety. Standard contact adhesives suitable for use in such an application, for example those generally used in attaching cove formers to wall and floor surfaces and floor covering to cove formers, will tend to contain solvents such as toluene, which require suitable ventilation or are subject to other health and safety requirements. Water based solvents are generally not suitable for such applications, as the water is slow to evaporate and therefore the adhesive takes a long time to be ready for use. It is clearly particularly beneficial for both the front and back faces of the backing member to be provided with cured or substantially cured adhesive covered with a protective removable liner.

[0026] Further, a unit provided with cured or substantially cured adhesive is quicker to install than a unit whereby contact adhesive is used, as it is only necessary to remove the covering liner and join the surfaces, whereas when contact adhesive is used the adhesive has to first be applied to both surfaces being attached and then it is necessary to wait for the adhesive to cure before the surfaces are attached together.

[0027] The upper section of the finishing unit of the sealing kit may be adapted to provide a downwardly directed channel for receiving an edge of the floor covering. The finishing unit may include a capping part wherein the capping part together with the front face of the upper section of the backing member forms a channel having an entrance facing substantially towards the lower section of the backing member.

[0028] The capping part and the front face preferably together form a channel that is narrower at its entrance than at its closed end. It is preferred that the channel runs along all or substantially all of the length of the unit.

[0029] The capping part may be integral with the backing member, or may be attached to the backing member. Preferably, the capping part is attached to or near to an edge of the upper section of the backing part. For example, the capping part may be attached to the top edge of the upper section of the backing member by means of an adhesive.

[0030] The capping part is preferably flexible. Preferably, the capping part is made from flexible plastics material such as flexible PVC. It is preferred that the capping part comprises a channel forming section, which together with the front face of the upper section of the backing member forms a channel, and an upstanding section, which is dimensionally adapted so that in use it will fit against the wall to which the unit is attached. The upstanding section may, for example, substantially follow the line of the backing member part of the unit. The use of a flexible capping part with an upstanding section is beneficial as this enables the unit to be used to form a watertight junction with the wall or wall finish, e.g. wall tiles, water resistant paint or laminated sheet.

[0031] Alternatively, the finishing unit of the sealing kit may not be provided with a capping part. In such a case, finishing of the floor covering may be achieved by use of a conventional capping unit as known in the art. Preferably, the capping unit comprises a back section adapted to engage a wall and a front section, with the back section and front section together forming a downwardly directed channel. Some or all of the surface of the back section of the capping unit may be provided with cured or substantially cured adhesive. Preferably the cured or substantially cured adhesive is provided with a removable protective liner as described above.

[0032] When the finishing unit of the sealing kit is not provided with an integral capping unit, the upper section of the backing member is preferably tapered towards the top; such that the uppermost edge of the upper section has a thickness less than that of the part of the upper section adjacent the lower section. This improves the ability of the finishing unit to cover uneven wall surfaces.

[0033] Accordingly, the present invention also provides a sealing kit with a finishing system comprising a finishing unit as described above and a capping unit as described above.

[0034] Finishing an edge of a piece of floor covering comprises attaching a length of a finishing unit of the sealing kit as detailed above to a section of wall and adjacent floor, attaching the edge area of the floor covering to the front face of the finishing unit and cutting the floor covering to a size such that the edge of the floor covering can be secured in the downwardly directed channel of the unit.

[0035] Preferably, the finishing unit is attached to the wall and adjacent floor at least by means of a cured or substantially cured adhesive as described above. Preferably any liner covering the cured or substantially cured adhesive on the back face of the backing member is removed, and the unit is then attached to the section of the wall and adjacent floor where finishing is required by means of the adhesive.

[0036] It is further preferred that mastic such as Altromastic is also used to adhere the unit to the wall and adjacent floor; this may suitably be applied to the back face of the backing member before attaching the unit to the wall and adjacent floor. The use of mastic as well as the cured or substantially cured adhesive provides an initial adhesion as well as taking up any undulations in the wall or floor surface.

[0037] It is also preferred that the edge area of the floor covering is attached to the finishing unit at least by means of a cured or substantially cured adhesive as described above. Preferably any liner covering the cured or substantially cured adhesive on the front face of the backing member is removed, and the floor covering is then attached to the front face of the backing member of the unit by means of the adhesive.

[0038] It is further preferred that once the floor covering has been attached to the front face of the backing member and subsequently cut to size such that the edge of the floor covering can be tucked into the channel, the edge is attached to the inside of the channel. Preferably the edge of the floor covering is attached to the inside of the channel by means of cured or substantially cured adhesive.

[0039] The front member of the sealing kit according to the invention has at least one connecting formation which allows the front member to be connected to the backing member. The backing member preferably has at least one corresponding formation to enable the connection to be made. The formation on the front member is a projecting formation which is a spike which is preferably barbed such that once it is inserted into a corresponding formation on the backing member, it is difficult to withdraw. The corresponding formation on the backing member is preferably a receiving formation and more preferably the backing member forms at least one corresponding hole suitable to receive a projecting formation from a front member.

[0040] The connecting formation(s) and corresponding formation(s) are preferably of suitable dimensions and/or are arranged such that the gap which is formed between the backing member and the front member is sufficiently wide to be able to receive the floor covering.

[0041] The connecting formation(s) and corresponding formation(s) are preferably provided on the portions of the front and backing member which connect the wall engaging portions to the floor engaging portions. This is because there is generally space between the backing member and the floor or wall to accommodate any part of the connecting formation (s) which protrude beyond the backing member.

[0042] Use of the sealant kit according to the invention simplifies the sealing of a joint between edges of floor covering as it removes the need to use hot-welding. Also it guarantees a water-right seal. It has the advantage of allowing floor covering which cannot be hot-welded to be used in self-coving applications. The use of the kit allows the edges of the floor covering to be sealed by mastic as the front and backing members reinforce the joint.

[0043] The sealant kit is preferably for sealing a join between edges of floor covering at a corner of an area in which the floor covering is to be laid. The backing member is preferably shaped to fit the corner.

[0044] The backing member is preferably formed from a rigid plastics material. The front member is preferably formed from a flexible plastics material. More preferably the front member is formed from a plastics material which has been coloured to match the colour of the floor covering.

[0045] The front member is preferably shaped to have a J-shaped profile. The backing member is preferably lined with adhesive layers, more preferably on both its front and back sides. The adhesive layers are protected before use by removable liners. The presence of such adhesive layers speeds up the sealing of a join between edges of a floor covering

with the sealant kit because they remove the need to apply adhesive to the backing member or to the floor covering before sealing the edges of the floor covering.

[0046] Specific embodiments of the invention are further described with reference to the drawings, in which:

5 **Figure 1** (not according to the invention) is a cross section through a finishing unit which may be incorporated in the present invention;

Figure 2 (not according to the invention) is a perspective view of the finishing unit of Figure 1;

10 **Figure 3** (not according to the invention) is a cross section through an alternative finishing unit which may be incorporated in the present invention; and

Figure 4 (not according to the invention) is a perspective view of the finishing unit of Figure 3.

15 **Figure 5** shows a perspective view of a front member of a sealant kit according to the invention;

Figure 6 shows a horizontal cross-section of a first front member of a sealant kit according to the invention for sealing a floor covering to be laid in an area having an external corner;

20 **Figure 7** shows a horizontal cross-section of a second front member of a sealant kit according to the invention for sealing a floor covering to be laid in an area having an internal corner;

Figure 8 shows a vertical cross-section of a front member of a sealant kit according to the invention having projecting formations;

25 **Figure 9** shows a projecting formation in detail;

Figure 10 shows a first backing member of a sealant kit according to the invention for sealing a floor covering to be laid in an area having an external corner; and

30 **Figure 11** shows a second backing member of a sealant kit according to the invention for sealing a floor covering to be laid in an area having an internal corner.

35 **[0047]** Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 are reference examples demonstrating finishing units which may be included in the sealing kit of the invention.

[0048] The finishing unit 11, 111 for floor covering has a lower section 12b, 112b adapted to engage a floor and an upper section 12a, 112a adapted to engage an adjacent wall, with the area of the lower section adjacent the upper section being adapted so that floor covering laid over said area forms a curved surface.

40 **[0049]** The finishing unit 11, 111 comprises a backing member 12, 112. The unit has a height of 100mm and a depth of 38mm.

[0050] The backing member 12, 112 is substantially J-shaped, with a substantially straight upper section 12a, 112a and a curved lower section 12b, 112b. The curved lower section is substantially in the shape of a quarter circle, with a radius of curvature of 38mm- The backing part is made from ridged, rigid PVC.

45 **[0051]** The back face of the backing member 12, 112 is provided with a strip of covered adhesive 14, 114 along the length of the unit. This comprises a strip of foam material, covered with a layer of substantially cured adhesive covered with a protective removable liner. The adhesive is a pure acrylic adhesive and the liner is naturally coloured paper coated on both sides with silicone. The thickness of the liner and adhesive is 220microns. The thickness of the foam material is 0.8mm.

50 **[0052]** The front face of the backing member 12, 112 is also provided with a strip of covered adhesive 14, 114 along the length of the unit. The strip of covered adhesive covers substantially all of the front face of the backing part.

[0053] The finishing unit 11 shown in Figures 1 and 2 further comprises a capping part 13. The capping part 13 comprises a channel forming section 13a and an upstanding section 13b. The channel forming section 13a is shaped so as to form a channel 15 with the front face of the backing member, with the channel being substantially in the shape of an upside down U and the entrance to the channel being narrower than the closed end. The channel 15 is 12mm in depth, has a maximum width towards its closed end of 4mm and a width at its entrance of 1.5mm and runs the length of the unit. The upstanding section 13b substantially follows the line of the backing member 12 but is slightly curved in the direction of the back face of the backing member. The capping part 13 is made from flexible PVC.

[0054] The finishing unit 111 shown in Figures 3 and 4 has a tapered section 116 at the upper end of the upper section

112a of backing member 112. The finishing unit 111 shown in Figures 3 and 4 may suitably be used in combination with a conventional capping unit as known in the art. The lower end of the tapered section 116 is 2mm in depth and the upper end of the tapered section 116 is 0.5mm in depth.

[0055] The dimensions of the finishing unit given above are exemplary and it is to be understood that finishing units of other dimensions may also suitably be used.

[0056] The finishing unit of the preferred embodiment may suitably be used as follows:

[0057] Firstly, the desired length of finishing unit is cut. Generally the finishing unit may be provided in lengths of 2m from which the required length can be cut. The liner covering the cured or substantially cured adhesive on the back face of the backing member is then removed. Mastic such as Altromastic may be applied to the back face of the backing member. The unit is then attached to the section of the wall and adjacent floor where finishing is required by means of the adhesive and the mastic, such that the curved lower section of the backing member covers the join between wall and floor.

[0058] The floor covering material is cut to approximately the required size and laid on the floor. The liner covering the cured or substantially cured adhesive on the front face of the backing member is then removed, and the adhesive is used to attach the edge area of the floor covering to the front face of the unit. The floor covering may then be cut to size so as to fit into a channel formed between the front face of the backing part and the capping part. Alternatively, the floor covering may then be cut to size so as to fit into a channel provided by a conventional capping unit. The edge of the floor covering is then inserted into said channel.

[0059] The front member 210 shown in Figures 5 to 8 has a J-shaped profile similar to the contours of a coving. In other words it has a straight wall-engaging portion 215 similar to the upper part of a coving, a curved connecting portion 220 similar to the lower part of a coving for where a wall meets a floor and a straight floor-engaging portion 225.

[0060] Projecting formations 230 are provided on connecting portion 220 which are shown in more detail in Figure 9. The projecting formations 230 are arranged to connect the front member 210 to a backing member. They have an elongated body with a cone-shaped tip 235. The diameter of the base of the tip 235 is greater than that of the body such that the projecting formations has a barb. The projecting formation also has a shoulder 240 wherein there is sufficient distance between the top of the shoulder 240 and the base of the tip 235 to accommodate the thickness of a backing member.

[0061] The backing member 250, 280 is made from substantially rigid plastics material and is wider than the front member 210. Backing member 250 is arranged to fit an external corner whereas backing member 280 is arranged to fit an internal corner. Each backing member has two parts 255, 290 and 260, 285 which define a right angle such that the backing member can lie flush with the walls at the corner of a room. In a similar manner to the front member 210, the backing member 250, 280 has a J-shaped profile. The backing member defines a pair of holes 270 which are arranged to receive the projecting formations 230 of the front member. The diameter of the holes 270 is less than the diameter of the base of the cone-shaped tips 235 of the projecting formations 230.

[0062] The front side of the backing member 250, 280 is provided with adhesive layers 295 which are protected by removable liners 300 to aid adhesion of a floor covering to the backing member. Further adhesive layers and removable liners are provided on the reverse side of the backing member 250, 280 for adhering the backing member to a wall.

[0063] In use, where self-coving floor covering is to be fitted to a corner, a suitable backing member 250, 280 is chosen depending on whether the corner is external 250 or internal 280. The floor covering must first be cut to provide edges to be sealed at the corner. The backing member 250, 280 is prepared for use by removing the liners from the adhesive on its reverse side and adhered to the corner. The liners 300 on the front side of the backing member are then removed such that the floor covering can be laid to the corner. The edges of the floor covering are then sealed with mastic. A further layer of mastic is applied to the rear of the front member 210 which is then applied to the corner such that the projecting formations 230 engage the holes 270 on the backing member 250, 280.

[0064] It will be understood that variants of the embodiment shown can be made without affecting the scope of the invention by forming the front member from a plastics material of a colour which matches the colour of the floor covering with which the sealant kit is to be used to provide a more attractive finished flooring; and the projecting formations 230 may not have the shoulders 240.

Claims

1. A sealant kit for sealing a join between edges of a self-coving floor covering laid on a floor and a wall, which kit includes:

at least one backing member (250, 280) in the form of a finishing unit for a floor covering which has

(i) a lower section adapted to engage a floor and an upper section adapted to engage an adjacent wall, with the area of the lower section adjacent the upper section being adapted so that floor covering laid over

said area forms a curved surface and wherein the finishing unit has a wall or floor facing backing face and a floor covering facing front face wherein the backing face and/or front face are provided with attaching means suitable for attaching the finishing unit to the floor or wall where it is to be used and/or suitable for attaching the finishing unit to the floor covering, or

(ii) a lower section adapted to engage a floor and an upper section adapted to engage an adjacent wall, with the area of the lower section adjacent the upper section being adapted so that floor covering laid over said area forms a curved surface wherein the lower section and the upper section of the finishing unit are substantially rigid and wherein the finishing unit has a wall or floor facing backing face and a floor covering facing front face;

at least one front member (210);

the backing member (250, 280) being shaped to have a wall engaging portion, a floor engaging portion and a portion to connect the wall engaging portion to the floor engaging portion and the front member (210) being shaped correspondingly, and wherein the front member (210) has at least one connecting formation (230),

characterised in that the formation (230) on the front member (210) allows the front member to be connected to the backing member (250, 280) and is a projecting formation which is a spike.

2. A sealant kit as defined in claim 1, wherein the spike is barbed such that once it is inserted into a corresponding formation on the backing member (250, 280) it is difficult to withdraw.
3. A sealant kit as defined in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the backing member (250, 280) has at least one corresponding formation to enable the connection to be made.
4. A sealant kit as defined in Claim 3 wherein the corresponding formation on the backing member (250, 280) is a receiving formation and preferably the backing member (250, 280) forms at least one corresponding hole (270) suitable to receive a projecting formation (230) from a front member (210).
5. A sealant kit as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the front member (210) is formed from a flexible plastics material, preferably the front member (210) is formed from a plastics material which has been coloured to match the colour of the floor covering.
6. A sealant kit as defined in Claim 1 wherein the upper section and lower section of the finishing unit are substantially rigid.
7. A sealant kit as defined in Claim 1, wherein the backing face and/or front face of the finishing unit are provided with attaching means suitable for attaching the finishing unit to the floor or wall where it is to be used and/or suitable for attaching the finishing unit to the floor covering.
8. A sealant kit as defined in Claim 1 or Claim 7 wherein the attaching means is cured or substantially cured adhesive, preferably covered with a removable protective liner, which when removed exposes the cured or substantially cured adhesive so that it may be used to attach the unit to a surface.
9. A sealant kit as defined in Claim 8 wherein the cured or substantially cured adhesive is provided indirectly on the unit with a piece of foam material between the adhesive and the unit.
10. A sealant kit as defined in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the finishing unit has a wall-facing backing face and a floor covering facing front face wherein some or all of the backing face is ridged, preferably, the backing face is formed from ridged material.
11. A sealant kit as defined in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the finishing unit is adapted so as to provide one or more holes suitable for use in attaching the unit to a surface.
12. A sealant kit as defined in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the upper section of the finishing unit is adapted to provide a downwardly directed channel for receiving an edge of the floor covering.
13. A sealant kit as defined in Claim 12 wherein the finishing unit includes a capping part wherein the capping part together with the front face of the upper section of the backing member form a channel having an entrance facing

substantially towards the lower section of the backing member.

14. A sealant kit as defined in Claim 13 wherein the capping part is attached to the finishing unit, preferably to the upper section of the finishing unit.

15. A sealant kit as defined in Claim 13 or Claim 14 wherein the capping part is flexible.

16. A sealant kit as defined in any one of Claims 13 to 15 wherein the capping part comprises an upstanding section, which is dimensionally adapted so that in use it will fit against the wall to which the unit is attached.

17. A sealant kit as defined in any one of Claims 13 to 16 wherein the capping unit has a back section adapted to engage a wall and a front section, with the back section and front section together forming a downwardly directed channel, wherein some or all of the surface of the back section of the capping unit is provided with cured or substantially cured adhesive, preferably the cured or substantially cured adhesive is provided with a removable protective liner.

18. A sealant kit as defined in any one of Claims 12 to 17 wherein the channel is narrower at its entrance than at its closed end.

19. A sealant kit as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 12 wherein the upper section of the finishing unit is tapered towards its top, such that the uppermost edge of the upper section has a thickness less than that of the part of the upper section adjacent the lower section.

Patentansprüche

1. Dichtungsset zum Abdichten einer Verbindungsstelle zwischen Kanten eines selbstkrümmenden bzw. selbstbiegenden Fußbodenbelages, der auf einem Fußboden und einer Wand verlegt ist, wobei das Set Folgendes umfasst:

Mindestens ein Trägerelement (250,280) in Form einer Fertigbearbeitungseinheit für einen Fußbodenbelag, der Folgendes umfasst:

(i) einen unteren Abschnitt, der zur Ineingriffnahme eines Fußbodens angepasst ist, und einen oberen Abschnitt, der zur Ineingriffnahme einer angrenzenden Wand angepasst ist, wobei der Bereich des an den oberen Abschnitt angrenzenden unteren Abschnittes so angepasst ist, dass der über den Bereich gelegte Fußbodenbelag eine gekrümmte Oberfläche ausbildet, und wobei die Fertigbearbeitungseinheit eine der Wand oder dem Fußboden gegenüberliegende Trägerfläche und eine dem Fußbodenbelag gegenüberliegende Vorderfläche aufweist, wobei die Trägerfläche und/oder Vorderfläche mit Befestigungseinrichtungen versehen ist, die zum Befestigen der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit an dem Fußboden oder der Wand geeignet sind, wo sie zu verwenden ist, und/oder zum Befestigen der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit an dem Fußbodenbelag geeignet sind, oder

(ii) einen unteren Abschnitt, der zur Ineingriffnahme eines Fußbodens angepasst ist, und einen oberen Abschnitt, der zur Ineingriffnahme einer angrenzenden Wand angepasst ist, wobei der Bereich des an den oberen Abschnitt angrenzenden unteren Abschnittes so angepasst ist, dass der über den Bereich gelegte Fußbodenbelag eine gekrümmte Oberfläche ausbildet, wobei der untere Abschnitt und der obere Abschnitt der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit im Wesentlichen starr sind, und wobei die Fertigbearbeitungseinheit eine der Wand oder dem Fußboden gegenüberliegende Trägerfläche und eine dem Fußbodenbelag gegenüberliegende Vorderfläche aufweist; mindestens ein Vorderelement (210); wobei das Trägerelement (250,280) so geformt ist, dass es einen die Wand in Eingriff nehmenden Abschnitt, einen den Fußboden in Eingriff nehmenden Abschnitt und einen Abschnitt zum Verbinden des die Wand in Eingriff nehmenden Abschnittes mit dem den Fußboden in Eingriff nehmenden Abschnitt aufweist, wobei das Vorderelement (210) dementsprechend geformt ist, und wobei das Vorderelement (210) mindestens eine Verbindungsanordnung (230) aufweist,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Anordnung (230) auf dem Vorderelement (210) das Verbinden des Vorderelementes (210) mit dem Trägerelement (250,280) ermöglicht und eine hervorstehende Anordnung ist, bei der es sich um eine Spitze handelt.

2. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 1,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Spitze so mit Widerhaken versehen ist, dass sie, sobald sie in eine entsprechende Anordnung auf dem Trägerelement (250,280) eingesetzt wird, schwierig zurückziehbar ist.

3. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass das Trägerelement (250,280) mindestens eine entsprechende Anordnung aufweist, um die Herstellung der Verbindung zu ermöglichen.

4. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 3,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die entsprechende Anordnung auf dem Trägerelement (250,280) eine Aufnahmeanordnung ist und das Trägerelement (250,280) vorzugsweise ein entsprechendes Loch (270) ausbildet, welches zur Aufnahme einer hervorstehenden Anordnung (230) von einem Vorderelement (210) ausgebildet ist.

5. Dichtungsset nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass das Vorderelement (210) aus einem flexiblen Kunststoff ausgebildet ist, wobei das Vorderelement (210) vorzugsweise aus einem Kunststoff ausgebildet ist, der so gefärbt ist, dass er zu der Farbe des Fußbodenbelages passt.

6. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 1,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der obere Abschnitt und der untere Abschnitt der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit im Wesentlichen starr sind.

7. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 1,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Trägerfläche und/oder Vorderfläche der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit mit Befestigungseinrichtungen versehen sind, die zum Befestigen der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit an dem Fußboden oder der Wand, wo sie zu verwenden ist, und/oder zum Befestigen der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit an dem Fußbodenbelag geeignet sind.

8. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 7,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Befestigungseinrichtung ein gehärteter oder im Wesentlichen gehärteter Klebstoff ist, der vorzugsweise mit einer entfernbaren Schutzdeckschicht bedeckt ist, die nach ihrem Entfernen den gehärteten oder im Wesentlichen gehärteten Klebstoff freilegt, so dass er zum Befestigen der Einheit an der Oberfläche verwendet werden kann.

9. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 8,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der gehärtete oder im Wesentlichen gehärtete Klebstoff indirekt auf der Einheit mit einem Stück Schaumwerkstoff zwischen dem Klebstoff und der Einheit versehen ist.

10. Dichtungsset nach einem der vorangegangenen Ansprüche,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Fertigbearbeitungseinheit eine der Wand gegenüberliegende Trägerfläche und eine dem Fußbodenbelag gegenüberliegende Vorderfläche aufweist, wobei ein Teil oder die Gesamtheit der Trägerfläche gezahnt ist, wobei die Trägerfläche vorzugsweise aus gezahntem Werkstoff ausgebildet ist.

11. Dichtungsset nach einem der vorangegangenen Ansprüche,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Fertigbearbeitungseinheit so angepasst ist, dass sie eines oder mehrere Löcher bereitstellt, die zur Verwendung zum Befestigen der Einheit an einer Oberfläche geeignet sind.

12. Dichtungsset nach einem der vorangegangenen Ansprüche,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der obere Abschnitt der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit angepasst ist, um einen nach unten ausgerichteten Kanal zur Aufnahme einer Kante des Fußbodenbelages bereitzustellen.

13. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 12,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Fertigbearbeitungseinheit einen Verkapselungsteil umfasst, wobei der Verkapselungsteil gemeinsam mit der Vorderfläche des oberen Abschnittes des Trägerelementes einen Kanal ausbildet, der einen Eingang aufweist, der im Wesentlichen dem unteren Abschnitt des Trägerelementes gegenüberliegt.

14. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 13,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Verkapselungsteil an der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit befestigt ist, vorzugsweise an dem oberen Abschnitt der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit.

15. Dichtungsset nach Anspruch 13 oder Anspruch 14,
dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Verkapselungsteil flexibel ist.
16. Dichtungsset nach einem der Ansprüche 13 bis 15,
dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Verkapselungsteil einen aufrechten Abschnitt aufweist, der größtmäßig so angepasst ist, dass er bei Gebrauch an die Wand angepasst ist, an der die Einheit befestigt ist.
17. Dichtungsset nach einem der Ansprüche 13 bis 16,
dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Verkapselungseinheit einen hinteren Abschnitt aufweist, der so angepasst ist, dass er mit einem Wand- und einem vorderen Abschnitt in Eingriff geht, wobei der hintere Abschnitt und der vordere Abschnitt gemeinsam einen nach unten gerichteten Kanal ausbilden, wobei ein Teil oder die Gesamtheit der Oberfläche des hinteren Abschnittes der Verkapselungseinheit mit gehärtetem oder im Wesentlichen gehärtetem Klebstoff versehen ist, wobei der gehärtete oder im Wesentlichen gehärtete Klebstoff vorzugsweise mit einer entfernbaren Schutzdeckschicht bedeckt ist.
18. Dichtungsset nach einem der Ansprüche 12 bis 17,
dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Kanal an seinem Eingang schmaler als an seinem geschlossenen Ende ist.
19. Dichtungsset nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 12,
dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der obere Abschnitt der Fertigbearbeitungseinheit in Richtung seines oberen Teils verjüngt ist, so dass die oberste Kante des oberen Abschnittes eine Dicke aufweist, die geringer als diejenige des an den unteren Abschnitt angrenzenden Teiles des oberen Abschnittes ist.

Revendications

1. Kit d'étanchéité destiné à rendre étanche un joint entre les bords d'un sol à auto-raccordement déposé et recouvrant un sol et un mur, lequel kit comprend :

au moins un élément arrière (250, 280) sous la forme d'une unité de finition pour un revêtement de sol qui comporte

(i) une section inférieure conçue pour entrer en contact avec un sol et une section supérieure conçue pour engager un mur adjacent, la zone de la section inférieure adjacente à la section supérieure étant conçue de sorte que le revêtement de sol disposé sur ladite zone forme une surface incurvée et où l'unité de finition comporte une face arrière faisant face au mur ou au sol et une face avant faisant face au revêtement de sol, où la face arrière et/ou la face avant sont munies de moyens de fixation appropriés pour fixer l'unité de finition au sol ou au mur où ils doivent être utilisés et/ou appropriés pour fixer l'unité de finition au revêtement de sol, ou

(ii) une section inférieure conçue pour entrer en contact avec un sol et une section supérieure conçue pour engager un mur adjacent, la zone de la section inférieure étant adjacente à la section supérieure qui est conçue de sorte que le revêtement de sol disposé sur ladite zone forme une surface incurvée où la section inférieure et la section supérieure de l'unité de finition sont pratiquement rigides et où l'unité de finition comporte une face arrière faisant face au mur ou au sol et une face avant faisant face au revêtement de sol,

au moins un élément avant (210),

l'élément arrière (250, 280) étant formé pour comporter une partie de contact avec le mur, une partie de contact avec le sol et une partie pour relier la partie de contact avec le mur à la partie de contact avec le sol et l'élément avant (210) étant formé de manière correspondante et où l'élément avant (210) comporte au moins une formation de raccordement (230),

caractérisé en ce que la formation (230) sur l'élément avant (210) permet que l'élément avant soit raccordé à l'élément arrière (250, 280), et est un élément protubérant qui est un clou.

2. Kit d'étanchéité selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le clou est doté de pointes, de sorte qu'une fois qu'il est inséré dans une formation correspondante sur l'élément arrière (250, 280), il est difficile à retirer.
3. Kit d'étanchéité selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, dans lequel l'élément arrière (250, 280) comprend

au moins une formation correspondante pour permettre que le raccord soit fait.

- 5 **4.** Kit d'étanchéité selon la revendication 3, dans lequel la formation correspondante sur l'élément arrière (250, 280) est une formation de réception et de préférence l'élément arrière (250, 280) forme au moins un trou correspondant (270) approprié pour recevoir une formation protubérante (230) depuis un élément avant (210).
- 10 **5.** Kit d'étanchéité selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel l'élément avant (210) est formé d'une matière plastique souple, de préférence l'élément avant (210) est formé d'une matière plastique qui a été colorée pour correspondre à la couleur du revêtement de sol.
- 15 **6.** Kit d'étanchéité selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle la section supérieure et la section inférieure de l'unité de finition sont pratiquement rigides.
- 20 **7.** Kit d'étanchéité selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la face arrière et/ou la face avant de l'unité de finition sont munies de moyens de fixation appropriés pour fixer l'unité de finition au sol ou au mur où elle doit être utilisée et/ou appropriée pour fixer l'unité de finition au revêtement de sol.
- 25 **8.** Kit d'étanchéité selon la revendication 1 ou 7, dans laquelle le moyen de fixation est un adhésif polymérisé ou pratiquement polymérisé, de préférence recouvert d'une doublure protectrice amovible, qui, lorsqu'elle a été enlevée, expose l'adhésif polymérisé ou pratiquement polymérisé de sorte qu'il peut être utilisé pour fixer l'unité à une surface.
- 30 **9.** Kit d'étanchéité selon la revendication 8, dans lequel l'adhésif polymérisé ou pratiquement polymérisé est disposé indirectement sur l'unité, un élément de matériau de mousse étant entre l'adhésif et l'unité.
- 35 **10.** Kit d'étanchéité selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel l'unité de finition comporte une face arrière faisant face au mur et une face avant faisant face au revêtement de sol, où une partie ou la totalité de la face arrière est dotée d'une nervure, de préférence la face arrière est formée à partir d'un matériau doté d'une nervure.
- 40 **11.** Kit d'étanchéité selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel l'unité de finition est conçue de manière à procurer un ou plusieurs trous appropriés à une utilisation pour fixer l'unité sur une surface.
- 45 **12.** Kit d'étanchéité selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la section supérieure de l'unité de finition est conçue pour procurer un canal orienté vers le bas afin de recevoir un bord du revêtement de sol.
- 50 **13.** Kit d'étanchéité selon la revendication 12, dans lequel l'unité de finition comprend une partie de couvercle où la partie de couvercle en même temps que la face avant de la section supérieure de l'élément arrière forme un canal ayant une entrée tournée pratiquement vers la section inférieure de l'élément arrière.
- 55 **14.** Kit d'étanchéité selon la revendication 13, dans lequel la partie de couvercle est fixée à l'unité de finition, de préférence à la section supérieure de l'unité de finition.
- 15.** Kit d'étanchéité selon les revendications 13 ou 14, dans lequel la partie de couvercle est flexible.
- 16.** Kit d'étanchéité selon l'une quelconque des revendications 13 à 15, dans lequel la partie de couvercle comprend une section droite, qui est dimensionnée de manière ce qu'en utilisation elle s'adaptera contre le mur auquel l'unité est fixée.
- 17.** Kit d'étanchéité selon l'une quelconque des revendications 13 à 16 dans lequel la partie de couvercle comprend une section arrière conçue pour entrer en contact avec un mur et une section avant, avec la section arrière et la section avant formant ensemble un canal orienté vers le bas, où une partie ou toute la surface de la section arrière de la partie de couvercle est recouverte d'un adhésif polymérisé ou pratiquement polymérisé, de préférence l'adhésif polymérisé ou pratiquement polymérisé est recouvert d'une doublure protectrice amovible.
- 18.** Kit d'étanchéité selon l'une quelconque des revendications 12 à 17 dans lequel le canal est plus étroit à son entrée qu'à sa partie fermée.
- 19.** Kit d'étanchéité selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 12 dans lequel la section supérieure de l'unité de

EP 1 513 432 B1

finition est effilée vers son dessus, de manière que le bord le plus élevé de la section supérieure a une épaisseur plus faible que celui de la partie de la section supérieure adjacente à la section inférieure.

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

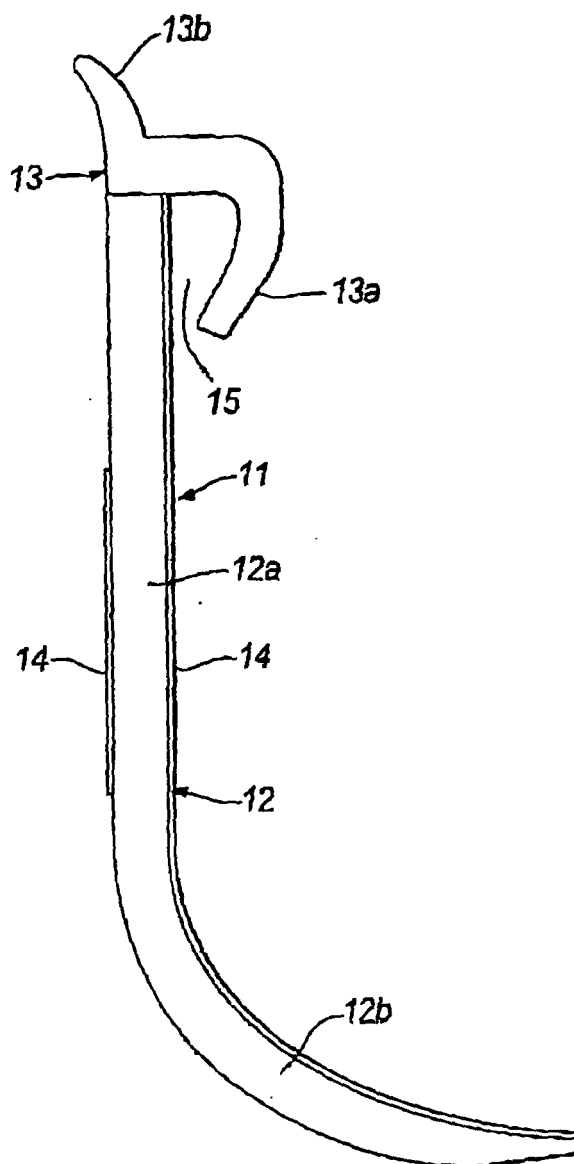


Fig. 1

*(Reference Example -
not according to the invention)*

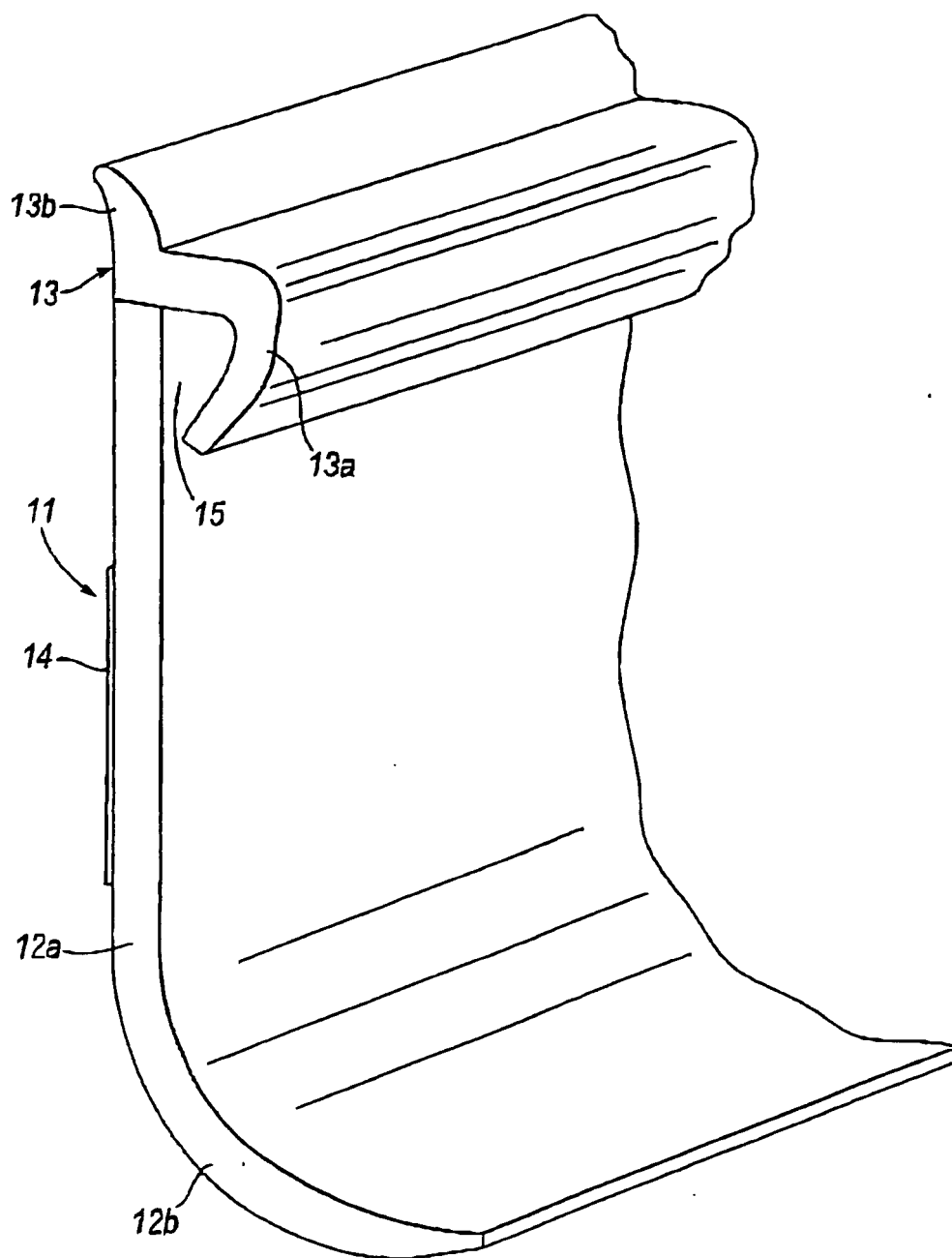


Fig.2
(Reference Example - not according
to the invention)

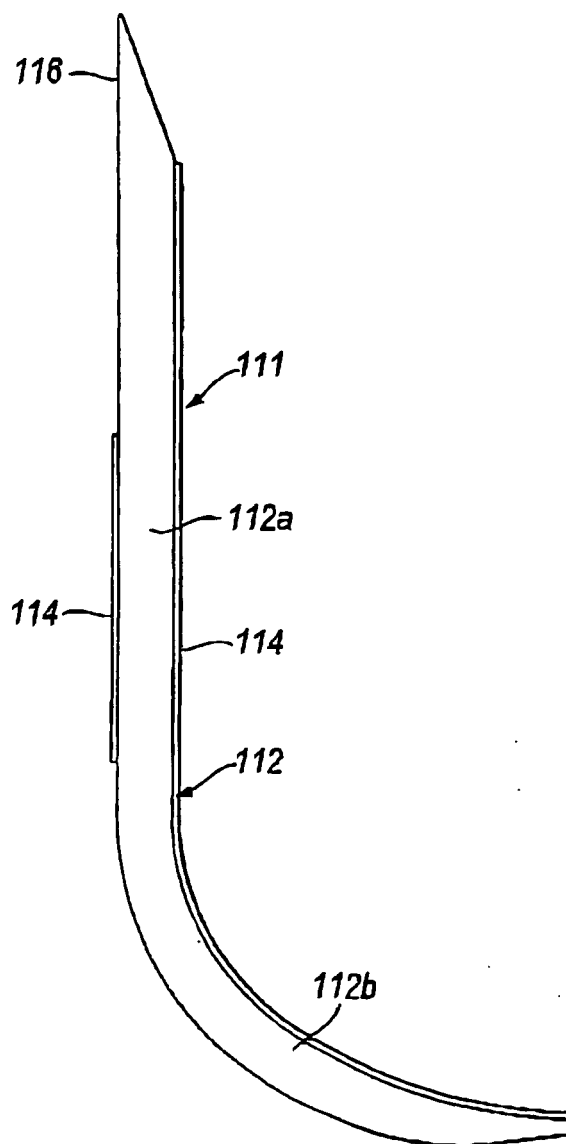


Fig.3

*(Reference Example -
not according to the invention)*

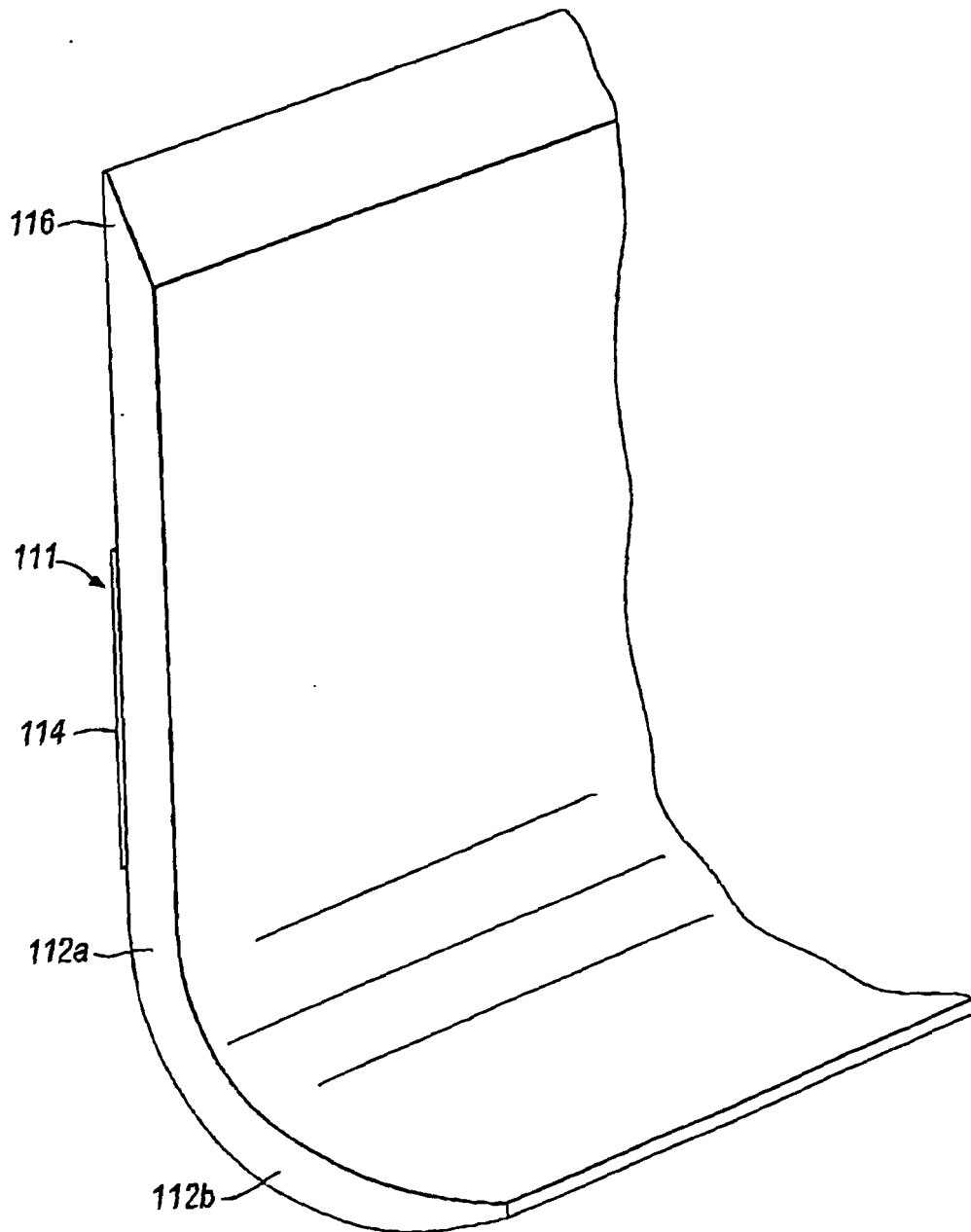


Fig.4
(Reference Example - not
according to the invention)

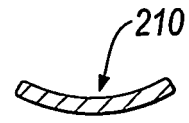
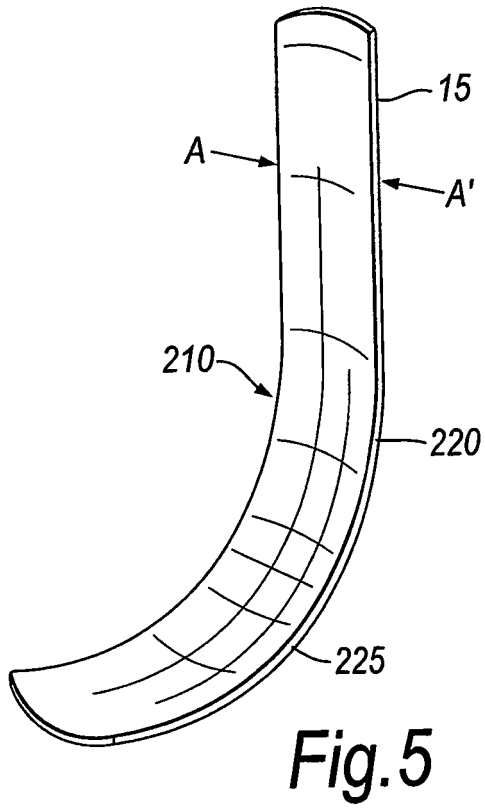


Fig. 6

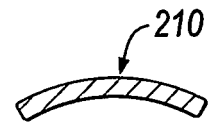


Fig. 7

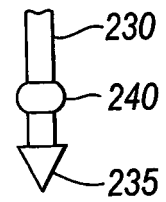
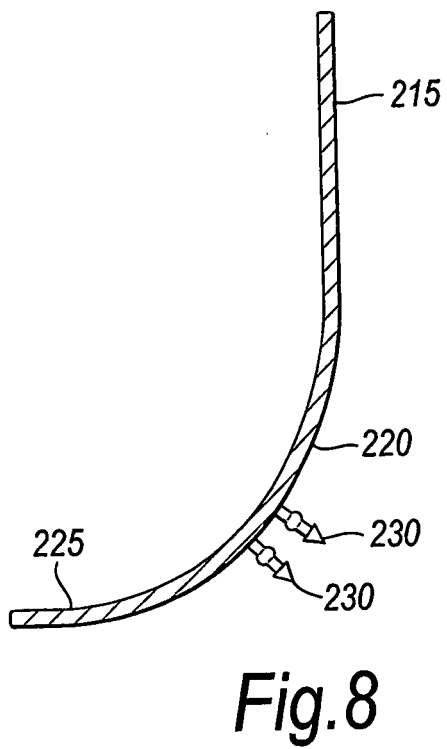


Fig. 9

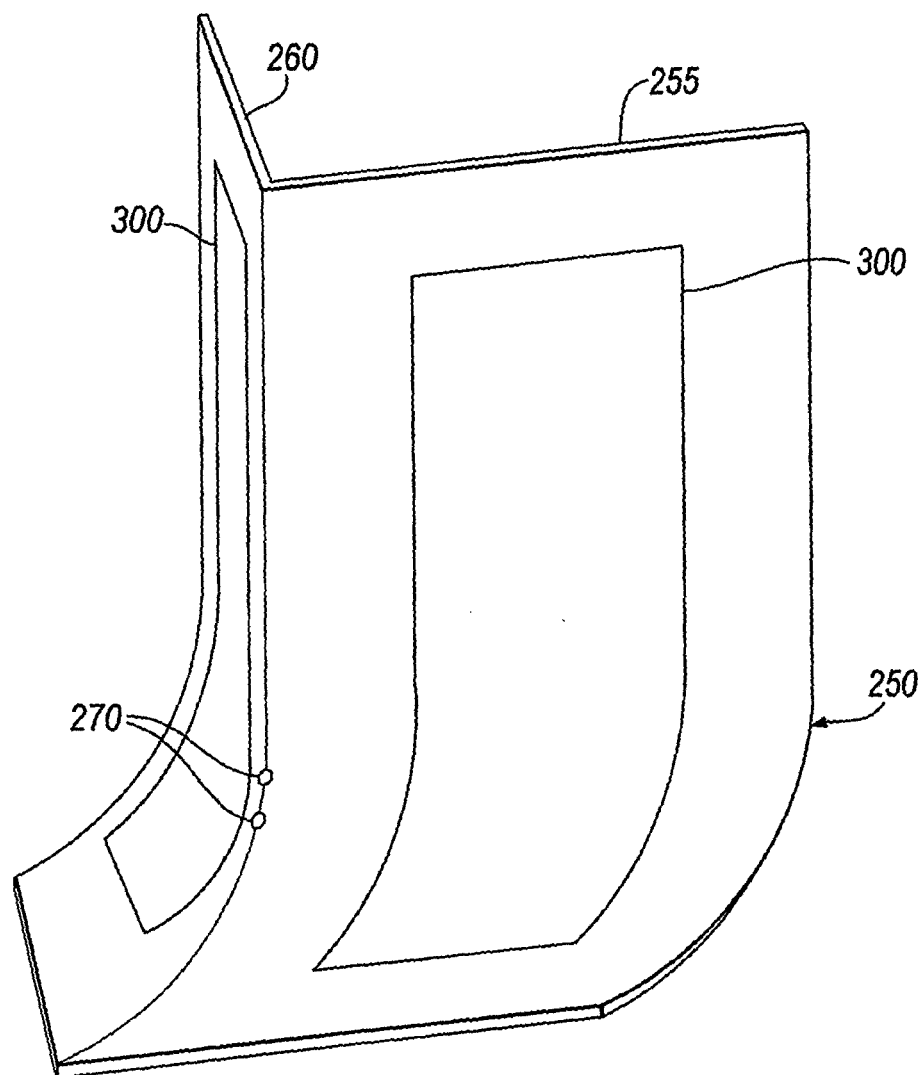


Fig. 10

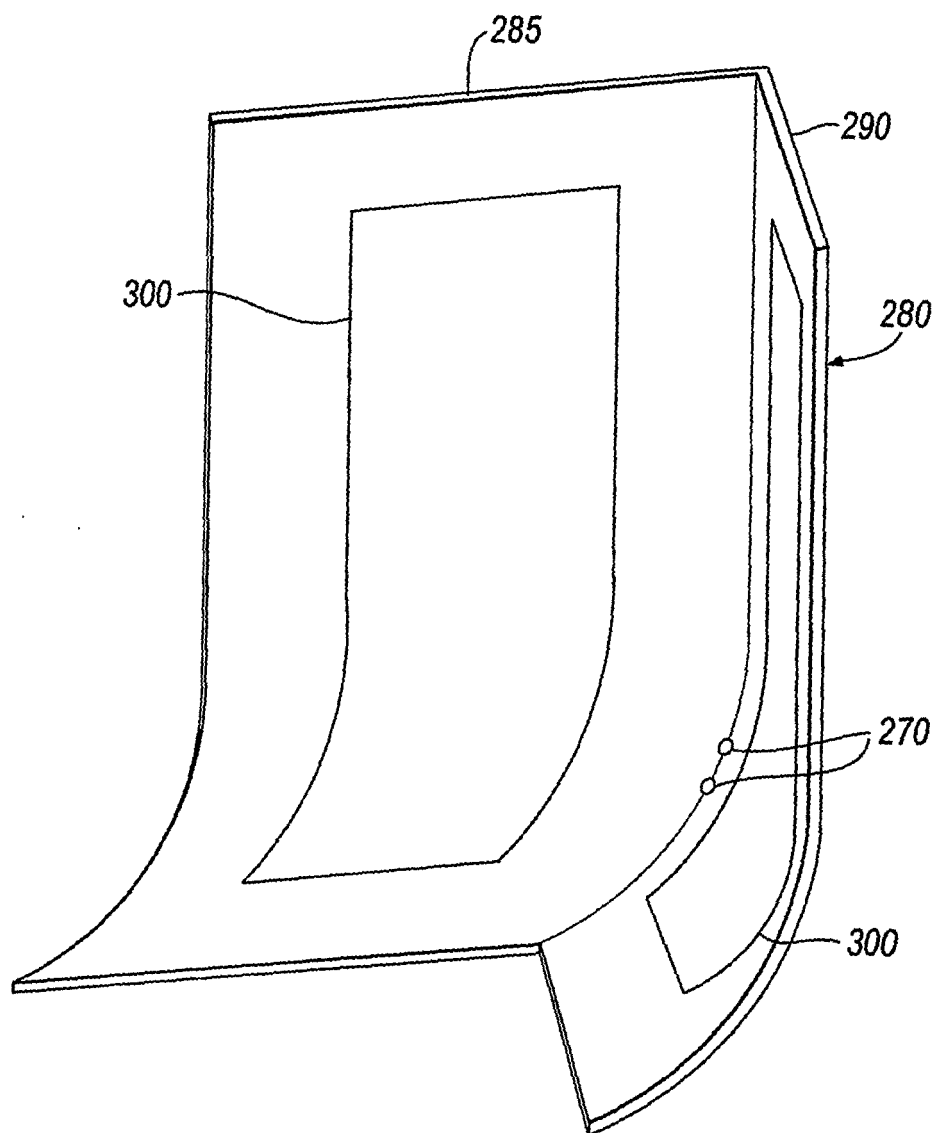


Fig.11