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(54) **Surround for swimming pools**

Schwimmbeckenwand

Mur de piscine

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Description**Technical field**

[0001] The invention relates to a surround which is placed around a collapsible, dismantlable or removable swimming pool, chiefly for decorative purposes.

Prior art

[0002] As is already known, collapsible swimming pools are undergoing an important upsurge in popularity, parallel to the aesthetic and functional improvements which are being achieved in these swimming pools with the passage of time. Consequently, the idea that collapsible swimming pools are a lower quality product than built-in swimming pools is losing validity.

[0003] Even though the aesthetic appearance of the swimming pools has improved, it has been demonstrated that the colour and the materials used in them might prove to be somewhat cold for their users and owners, thereby affecting their satisfaction with the product. It must be taken into account that it is still a general practice to install these swimming pools standing on the ground, i.e. not embedded or sunk into the ground, and usually in the open air and in gardens or green areas, and that in these environments the generally plastic or metallic materials and the usually bright colours of collapsible swimming pools are very especially noticeable.

[0004] In order to improve the aesthetic appearance of dismantlable swimming pools, some swimming pools have been designed to be built of wood. Examples of the sort can be found in FR2809428, US4223498, FR2709144 and FR2839334. However, it has been proved that wooden swimming pools are more bound to deteriorate because of contact with water and humidity. In order to solve this problem, swimming pools being provided with an internal conventional swimming pool structure and an outer wooden decorative cover are known. An example is shown in FR2843769, which features a surround for a swimming pool, comprising a series of fundamentally flat vertical panels mounted around and connected to a collapsible, dismantlable or removable swimming pool, so that they cover the swimming pool mainly for decorative purposes, where the panels are joined to each other at angles so that the final shape of the surround is polygonal. Both kind of swimming pools (either fully wooden, or conventional pools provided by a wooden cover) usually comprise a decking made of fundamentally flat horizontal parts fixed on top of the panels, generally in such a way that the area of connection between adjacent sections of decking coincide in the plan view with the area of connection between adjacent panels.

[0005] The objective of the present invention is to provide a design of a surround for collapsible swimming pools which is easy to install and has a pleasant aesthetic appearance, and which achieves greater integration of

collapsible swimming pools into the environment where they are used.

Detailed description of the invention

[0006] In order to achieve this objective, a surround for swimming pools is defined, preferably made of wood, which is installed around the exterior of the swimming pool and connected to it, and which is made up of fundamentally flat vertical panels which are joined to each other at angles so that the final shape of the surround is polygonal, the surround being defined by the combination of features according to claim 1.

[0007] The surround comprises two types of panels: on the one hand, a simple panel without any important cavities or holes and, on the other hand, a complex panel provided with cavities or holes to enable connection of the pump and other items linked to the swimming pool which require a means of communication between the interior part of the swimming pool and the exterior.

[0008] The panels are preferably produced by means of boards or laths (i.e. strips of wood) assembled to each other. All the laths are preferably the same width, although some of them might be of a different width, such as in the case of the top board on the panel, the bottom board in the panel, or others.

[0009] The assembly between the boards in each panel is strengthened by fixing at least two frame or support pieces, one at each side of the panel, on its inner side or side which is closer to the swimming pool, although further frame pieces might be added on this said inner side or even on the outer side. The frame pieces protrude from the panel and due to this they also provide an additional surface to which other parts can be fixed.

[0010] On the upper part of its outer side or side farther from the swimming pool, the panels have at least one reinforcing part, which protrudes outwards and due to this it also provides an additional surface to which other parts can be fixed.

[0011] The outer edges of the connection between panels are covered, protected and embellished by an angle-shaped part, or part that comprises two flat portions that form a certain angle between them. This part has the same height as that of the panels, so as to protect the complete edge and, as is logical, it is produced with an angle very similar to the angle formed by the panels.

[0012] Some horizontal parts, known as "decking", are fixed above the panels, and so called because they provide a flat support surface where the user can lie, sit, etc. The decking is composed of fundamentally flat parts with rounded outer edges and, in the preferred method of production of the invention, are composed of two sections, inner decking and outer decking, in which the inner decking is a part which is fixed from the panel towards the interior and the outer decking a part which is fixed from the panel towards the exterior. The decking has edges produced with the appropriate inclination or angle so that the resulting shape of the connection of adjacent pieces

of decking follows the profile of the swimming pool. In addition, the area of connection between adjacent pieces of decking coincides in the plan view with the area of connection between adjacent panels.

[0013] The connection area between pieces of decking is protected, reinforced and embellished by means of a trim, which can be a flat part in a very simple method of production of the invention, although it can be produced in several shapes in practice.

[0014] With regard to the way of making the connection between parts, most of the connections are made by means of wood screws or some other easily inserted fixing system. In order to do this, parts such as the trim, the angle-shaped part and the decking are provided with holes, into which the wood screws can be screwed or the fixing systems inserted.

[0015] More specifically, the angle-shaped part is screwed or fixed to the panels, the decking is fixed to the frame pieces, panels and reinforcing parts, and the trim is fixed to the decking.

Description of the drawings

[0016] The details of the preferred method of production of the invention can be appreciated in the figures in the accompanying figures, which do not seek to be restrictive as regards the scope of the invention:

- Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a part of the swimming pool surround in accordance with the invention, with some parts in breakdown form.
- Figure 2-A and Figure 2-B show two perspective views of a simple panel, seen from the exterior and the interior of the surround respectively.
- Figure 3-A and Figure 3-B show two perspective views of a complex panel, seen from the exterior and the interior of the surround respectively
- Figure 4 shows a perspective view of some inner decking and some outer decking.

[0017] Figure 1 shows a perspective view of one part of the preferred method of production of the swimming pool surround in accordance with the invention. In this figure it can be seen how the surround (1) is formed by the connection, at an angle, of a series of panels (2, 3), which are installed so that they, surround, coat or cover all or part of the outside of the perimeter of the swimming pool. Two types of panels are included in this surround (1): a simple panel (2) and a complex panel (3). The simple panel (2) does not have any kind of important cavity or hole, whereas the complex panel (3) is provided with some cavities or holes (11, 12) to enable connection of the pump and other items linked to the swimming pool which require a means of communication between the interior part of the swimming pool and the exterior.

[0018] The panels (2, 3) are provided with certain reinforcing elements, in the way of some frame pieces (9) at the ends of their inner sides or sides closer to the swim-

ming pool, and some on the upper part of their outer side. In addition to providing robustness to the surround (9), both the frame pieces (9) and the reinforcing parts (10) provide and are used as connection surfaces to which other parts can be fixed, as can be observed in the figure.

[0019] The outer connection edges between panels (2, 3) are covered, protected and embellished by means of an angle-shaped part (4). This part is of the same height as that of the panels (2, 3) so as to protect the entire edge. Moreover, as is logical, the part is produced with an angle (15) very similar to the angle formed by the panels (2, 3).

[0020] The decking (5, 5') is fixed on top of the panels (2, 3), with each piece of decking in the case of the figure being made of two separate parts: an inner decking (6, 6') and an outer decking (7, 7'). As can be appreciated in the figure, the decking (5, 5'), like the other elements of the surround (1), have ends which are produced with the appropriate inclination or angle so that the resulting shape of the connection of adjacent pieces of decking follows the profile of the swimming pool.

[0021] The connection between adjacent inner and outer decking sections (6, 7, 6', 7') is protected, reinforced and embellished by the trim (8).

[0022] As can be observed in the drawing, the parts such as the trim (8), the angle-shaped part (4) and the decking (5, 5') are provided with the necessary holes (13) to carry out their connection to the corresponding elements by means of wood screws or some other kind of fixing system (14). The location of these holes (13) and the correct placement of the fixing systems (14) enable the angle-shaped part (4) to be fixed to the panels (2, 3), the decking (5, 5') to be fixed to the frame pieces (9), the panels (2, 3) and the reinforcing parts (10), and the trim (8) to be fixed to the decking (5, 5').

[0023] In Figures 2-A and 2-B, two perspective views of a simple panel (2) are shown, with the first of these being a view from the exterior of the surround in accordance with the invention, while the second of them is a view of the panel from the interior of the surround. In both figures it can be clearly appreciated that the simple panel is made up of a set of boards (17) of a certain size which are suitably assembled to each other, whose connection when assembled is reinforced throughout the entire height of the simple panel (2) by the two frame pieces (9). Moreover, the reinforcing parts (10) can be seen on the panels.

[0024] In Figures 3-A and 3-B, two perspective views of a complex panel (3) are shown, with the first of these being a view from the exterior of the surround in accordance with the invention, while the second of them is a view of the panel from the interior of the surround. As with the simple panel (2) in Figures 2-A and 2-B, the complex panel is made up of boards (17) assembled together, onto which some frame pieces (9) and reinforcing parts (10) are fixed. However, in this case the boards are cut in such a way that cavities or holes (11, 12) for the swimming pool pump and other similar items are provid-

ed in the complex panel (3).

[0025] In Figure 4 a perspective view is shown of the inner decking (6) and the outer decking (7), in which the rounded edges (16) made on both sections of decking for reasons of comfort and safety can be appreciated.

Claims

1. Surround (1) for swimming pools, comprising a series of fundamentally flat vertical panels (2, 3), said panels being suitable to be mounted around and connected to a collapsible, dismantlable or removable swimming pool, so that they cover the swimming pool mainly for decorative purposes, where the panels (2, 3) are joined to each other at angles so that the final shape of the surround (1) is polygonal, the surround further comprising some decking (5) fixed on top of the panels (2, 3) in such a way that the area of connection between adjacent sections of decking (5) coincided in the plan view with the area of connection between adjacent panels (2, 3), the surround further comprising:

- at least one frame piece (9) fixed to each side end of each panel (2, 3), on its inner side or side which is closer to the swimming pool, in which the frame pieces (9) protrude from the panel (2, 3) and provide an additional surface to which other parts can be fixed,

- at least one reinforcing part (10) fixed to each panel (2, 3), on the upper part of its outer side or side farther from the swimming pool, in which the reinforcing part (10) protrudes outwards and thereby provides an additional surface to which other parts can be fixed, **characterised in that**

- the surround (1) comprises a trim (8) in order to reinforce and embellish the area of connection between adjacent sections of decking (5), wherein the trim (8) is fixed to the decking (5) and the decking (5) is fixed to the panels (2, 3), frame pieces (9) and reinforcing parts (10) on each side of the panels (2, 3).

2. Surround (1) for swimming pools, according to claim 1, which is **characterised in that** the panels (2, 3) are connected to each other by means of angle-shaped parts (4).

3. Surround (1) for swimming pools, in accordance with claim 1, which is **characterised in that** the outer edges of the decking (5) are rounded.

4. Surround (1) for swimming pools, in accordance with claim 1, which is **characterised in that** the vertical panels (2, 3) comprise two type of panels: on the one hand, a simple panel (2) without any important cavities or holes and, on the other hand, a complex panel

(3) provided with one or more cavities or holes to enable connection of the pump and other items linked to the swimming pool.

5. Surround (1) for swimming pools, in accordance with claim 1, which is **characterised in that** the panels (2, 3) are produced by means of boards (17) of the same or different widths which are assembled to each other.

6. Surround (1) for swimming pools, in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, which is **characterised in that** one, all or some of the parts that make up the surround (1) are made of wood.

7. Surround (1) for swimming pools, in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, which is **characterised in that** one, all or some of the connections between parts are carried out by means of wood screws or some other kind of fixing system, and that the parts into which the wood screws or other fixing system are applied are provided with holes into which the wood screws are screwed or the fixing systems inserted.

8. Surround (1) for swimming pools, according to claim 1, which is **characterised in that** each decking (5) comprises two sections, i.e. an inner decking (6) and an outer decking (7), in which the inner decking (6) is fixed from the panel (2, 3) towards the interior and the outer decking (7) is fixed from the panel (2, 3) towards the exterior.

Patentansprüche

1. Einfassung (1) für Schwimmbecken, die eine Reihe von im Wesentlichen flachen, senkrechten Tafeln (2, 3) umfasst, wobei besagte Tafeln dafür geeignet sind, rund um einen faltbares, demontierbares oder ortsbewegliches Schwimmbecken montiert und damit verbunden zu werden, so dass das Schwimmbecken hauptsächlich für dekorative Zwecke abdecken, und die Tafeln (2, 3) miteinander an den Ecken verbunden sind, so dass die endgültige Form der Einfassung (1) polygonal ist. Die Einfassung umfasst ferner eine Abdeckung (5), die an der Oberseite der Tafeln (2, 3) derart befestigt ist, dass der Bereich der Verbindung zwischen angrenzenden Abschnitten der Abdeckung (5) in der Draufsicht mit dem Bereich der Verbindung zwischen angrenzenden Tafeln (2, 3) übereinstimmt. Die Einfassung umfasst außerdem Folgendes:

- mindestens ein Rahmenteil (9), das am Seitene jeder Tafel (2, 3) befestigt ist, und zwar an deren Innenseite oder an der Seite, die näher am Schwimmbecken liegt, wobei die Rahmen-

teile (9) von der Tafel(2, 3) hervorstehen und für eine zusätzliche Oberfläche sorgen, an die andere Teile befestigt werden können,
 - mindestens ein Verstärkungsteil (10), das an jeder Tafel(2, 3) befestigt ist, und zwar am oberen Teil von dessen Außenseite oder an der Seite die am weitesten vom Schwimmbecken entfernt ist, wobei das Verstärkungsteil (10) nach außen hervorsteht, und somit für eine zusätzliche Oberfläche sorgt, an der andere Teile befestigt werden können,

dadurch gekennzeichnet,

- **dass** die Einfassung (1) eine Zierleiste (8) zur Verstärkung und Verzierung des Bereiches der Verbindung zwischen angrenzenden Abschnitten der Abdeckung (5) umfasst, wobei die Zierleiste (8) an der Abdeckung (5) befestigt wird, und die Abdeckung (5) an den Tafeln(2, 3), Rahmenteil (9) und Verstärkungsteilen (10) an jeder Seite der Tafeln(2, 3) befestigt wird. 15
- 2. Einfassung (1) für Schwimmbecken nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, dass die Tafeln(2, 3) miteinander mit Hilfe von winkelförmigen Teilen (4) verbunden sind. 25
- 3. Einfassung (1) für Schwimmbecken nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, dass die äußeren Kanten der Abdeckung (5) abgerundet sind. 30
- 4. Einfassung (1) für Schwimmbecken nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, dass die senkrechten Tafeln(2, 3) zwei Arten von Tafeln umfassen: einerseits eine einfache Tafel(2) ohne besondere Aushöhlungen oder Löcher, und andererseits eine komplexe Tafel(3), die miteinander oder mehreren Aushöhlungen oder Löchern versehen ist, um die Verbindung der Pumpe und anderer Gegenstände zu ermöglichen, die im Zusammenhang mit dem Schwimmbecken stehen. 40
- 5. Einfassung (1) für Schwimmbecken nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, dass die Tafeln(2, 3) mit Hilfe von Brettern (17) der gleichen oder unterschiedlicher Breiten hergestellt werden, die aneinander montiert werden. 45
- 6. Einfassung (1) für Schwimmbecken nach irgendeinem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, dass ein Teil, alle Teile oder einige der Teile, die die Einfassung (1) bilden, aus Holz sind. 50
- 7. Einfassung (1) für Schwimmbecken nach irgendeinem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, dass eine Verbindung, alle Verbindungen oder einige der Verbindungen zwischen Teil-

len mit Hilfe von Holzschrauben oder einer anderen Art von Befestigungssystem ausgeführt werden, und dass die Teile, an denen die Holzschrauben oder andere Befestigungssysteme angebracht werden, mit Löchern versehen sind, in die die Holzschrauben geschraubt oder die Befestigungssysteme eingeführt werden.

- 8. Einfassung (1) für Schwimmbecken nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, dass jede Abdeckung (5) zwei Abschnitte umfasst, d.h. eine innere Abdeckung (6) und eine äußere Abdeckung (7), wobei die innere Abdeckung (6) von der Tafel(2, 3) aus nach innen hin, und die äußere Abdeckung (7) von der Tafel(2, 3) aus nach außen hin befestigt wird. 50

Revendications

- 1. Entourage (1) pour piscines, comprenant plusieurs panneaux (2, 3) verticaux principalement plats, ces panneaux pouvant être montés autour et fixés à une piscine pliable, démontable ou amovible, couvrant la piscine dans un but décoratif principalement, où les panneaux (2, 3) sont reliés les uns aux autres en angle de telle sorte que la forme finale de l'entourage (1) soit polygonale, l'entourage comprenant également un pontage (5) fixé sur le haut des panneaux (2, 3) de telle sorte que la partie de jointure entre les sections adjacentes du pontage (5) coïncident dans la vue de haut avec la partie de jointure entre les panneaux adjacents (2, 3), l'entourage comprenant également

- au moins un cadre (9) fixé à l'extrémité latérale de chaque panneau (2, 3) sur son côté intérieur ou latéral le plus proche de la piscine, dans lequel les cadres (9) sortent du panneau (2, 3) et fournissent une surface supplémentaire sur laquelle des autres pièces peuvent être fixées,
- au moins une pièce de renfort (10) fixée sur chaque panneau (2, 3) sur la partie supérieure du côté extérieur ou latéral le plus éloigné de la piscine, dans laquelle la pièce de renfort (10) dépasse vers l'extérieur et fournit par conséquent une surface supplémentaire sur laquelle des autres pièces peuvent être fixées,

caractérisé par le fait que:

- l'entourage (1) comprend une découpe (8) pour renforcer et enjoliver la surface de jointure entre les sections adjacentes du pontage (5), où la découpe (8) est fixée au pontage (5) et le pontage (5) est fixé aux panneaux (2, 3), pièces d'encadrement (9) et pièces de renfort (10) de chaque côté des panneaux (2, 3).

2. Entourage (1) pour piscines, conformément à la revendication 1, **caractérisé par le fait que** les panneaux (2, 3) sont reliés les uns aux autres au moyen de pièces en angles (4). 5
3. Entourage (1) pour piscines, conformément à la revendication 1, **caractérisé par le fait que** les bords extérieurs du pontage (5) sont arrondis.
4. Entourage (1) pour piscines, conformément à la revendication 1, **caractérisé par le fait que** les panneaux verticaux (2, 3) comprennent deux types de panneaux: d'une part un panneau simple (2) sans cavités ni orifice importants, et, d'autre part, un panneau complexe (3) muni d'une cavité ou orifice ou plus, pour permettre la connexion de la pompe et d'autres éléments en rapport avec la piscine. 10 15
5. Entourage (1) pour piscines; conformément à la revendication 1, **caractérisé par le fait que** les panneaux (2, 3) sont produits par des planches (17) de mêmes largeurs ou de largeurs différentes qui sont assemblées ensemble. 20
6. Entourage (1) pour piscines, selon l'une des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé par le fait que** l'une, toutes ou quelques pièces qui composent l'entourage (1) sont fabriquées en bois. 25
7. Entourage (1) pour piscines, selon l'une des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé par le fait qu'une**, toutes ou plusieurs des jonctions entre les pièces sont assurées par des vis en bois ou tout autre type de système de fixation, et que les pièces dans lesquelles les vis en bois ou autres systèmes de fixations sont appliqués sont munies d'orifices dans lesquels les vis en bois ou d'autres systèmes de fixation sont insérés. 30 35
8. Entourage (1) pour piscines, conformément à la revendication 1, **caractérisé par le fait que** chaque pontage (5) comprend deux sections, c'est-à-dire un pontage intérieur (6) et un pontage extérieur (7) dans laquelle le pontage intérieur (6) est fixé du panneau (2, 3) vers l'intérieur et le pontage extérieur (7) est fixé du panneau (2, 3) vers l'extérieur. 40 45

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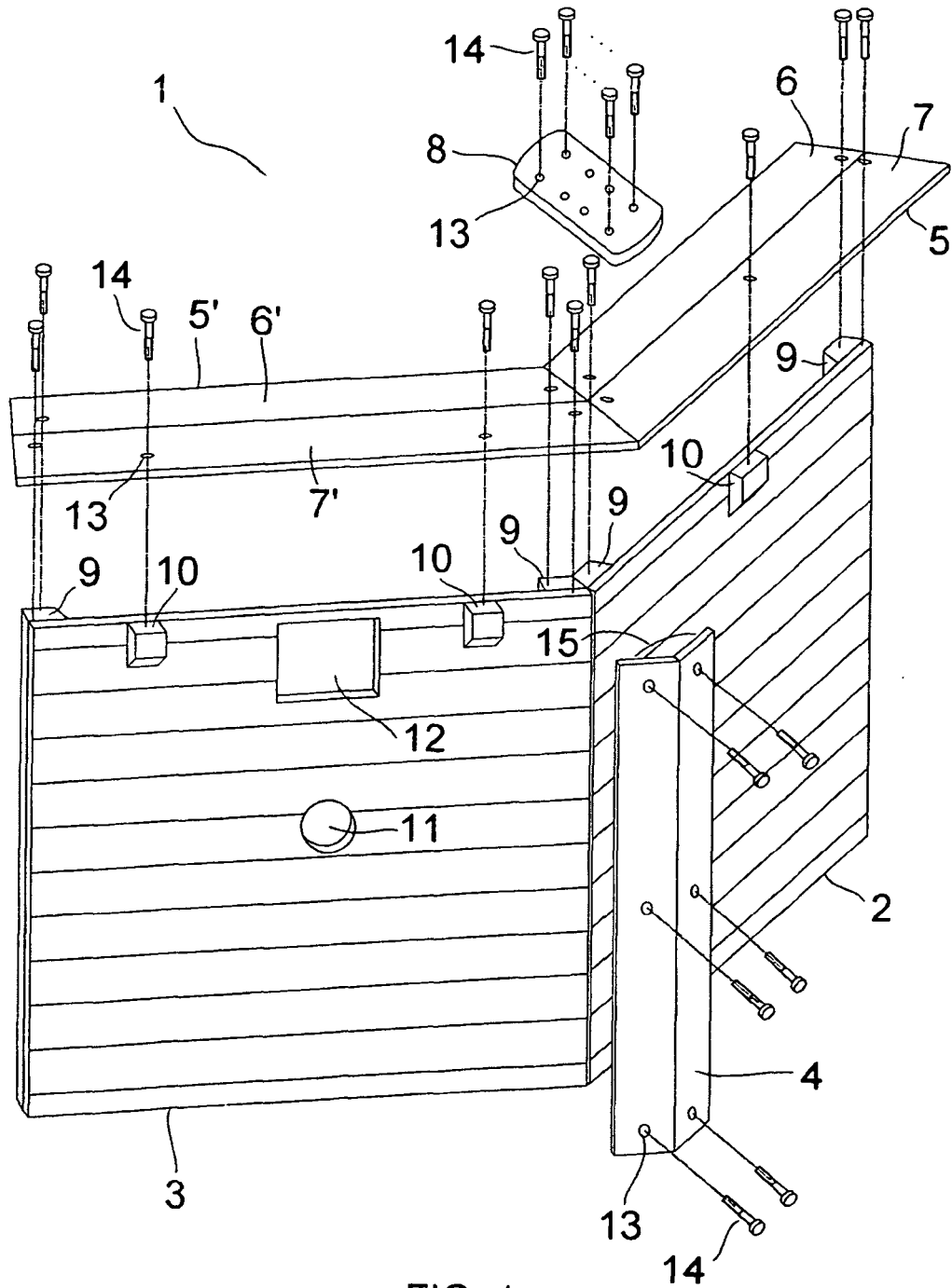


FIG. 1

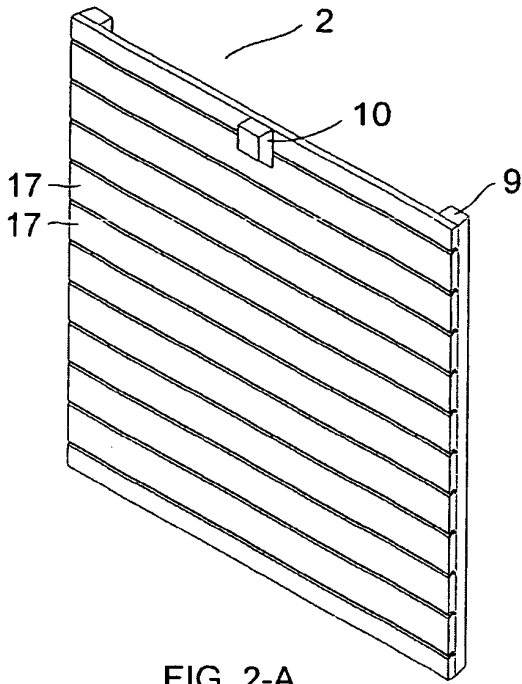


FIG. 2-A

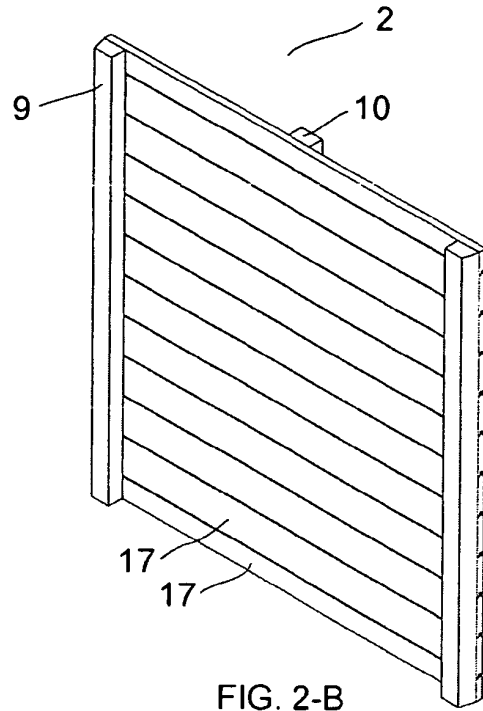


FIG. 2-B

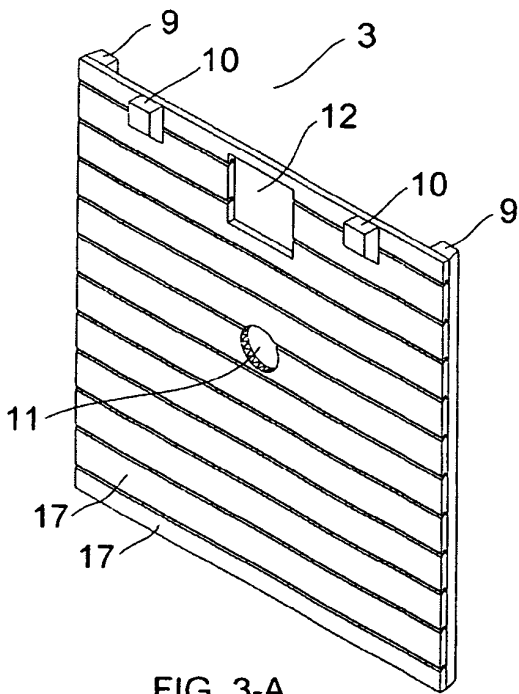


FIG. 3-A

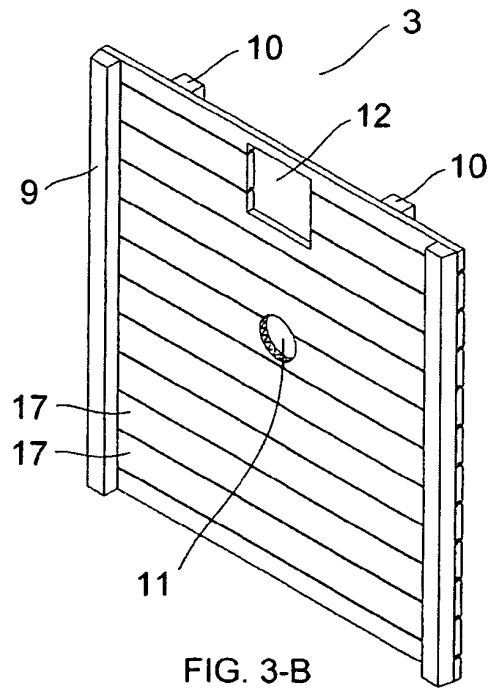


FIG. 3-B

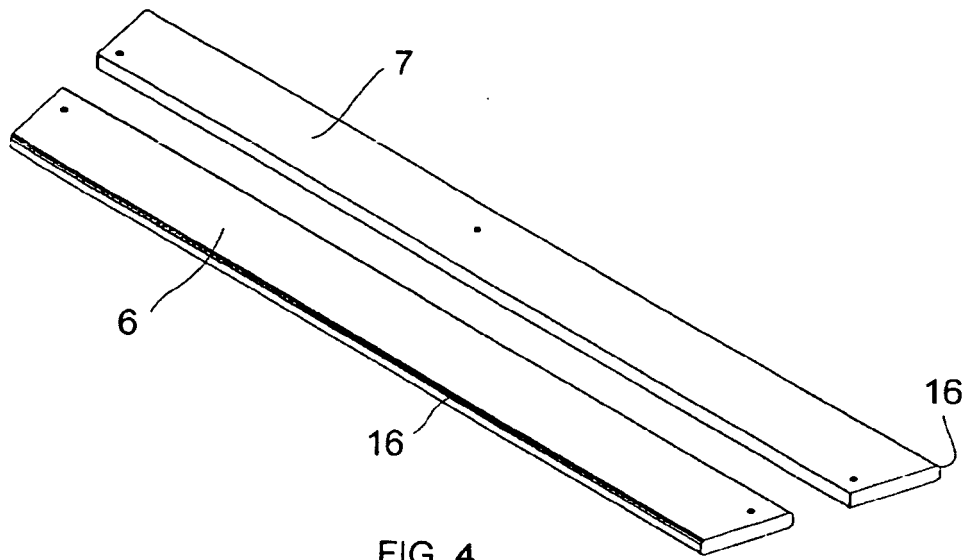


FIG. 4

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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