



**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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**54 Wall.**

57 A sheet metal post (4), for use with a wall structure comprising wallboards (1) joined by tongue and groove joints (2,3), which comprises a metal sheet, preferably of galvanized sheet iron or steel, and having a flange (5) at each end of the section of the post, is characterized by one or more of the following features.

1. The post has a series of lips (8) having a reduced profile (8a), and also a series of slots (9) for receiving the smaller ends (8a) of a like sheet metal post, for easier stacking.

2. The flanges (5) are bent back on themselves at least once to provide flanges of increased thickness, to increase rigidity and also to improve fire resistance.

3. The post is provided with further flanges (10), to be bent back for retaining fire insulation material.

4. The flanges (5) are disposed at a small angle with respect to the plane of the post, to allow the strength of the wall structure as a whole to be improved.

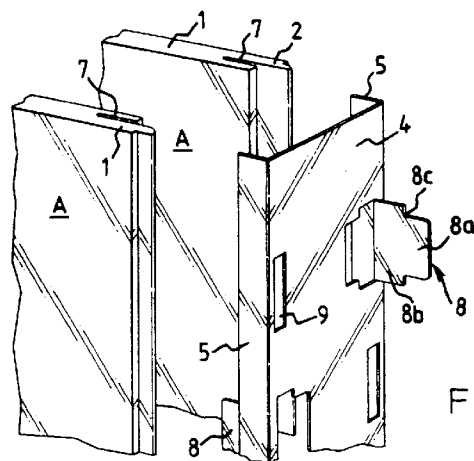


FIG.1a

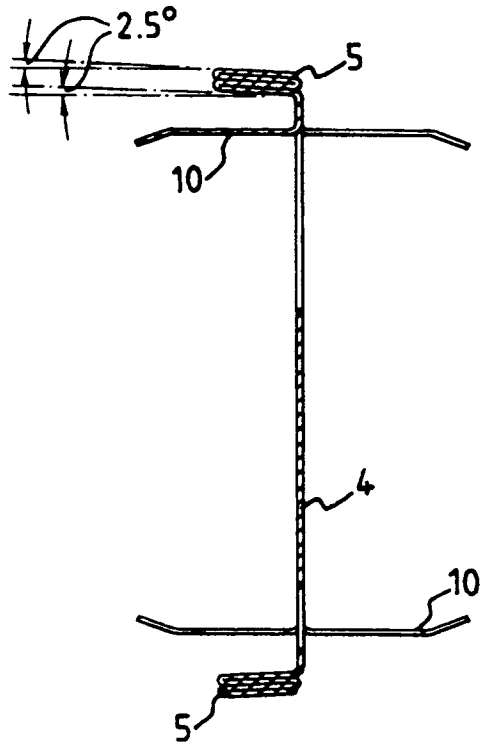


FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 30 6859

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
D,Y	EP-A-0 243 134 (GUDMUNDSON) * Abstract; page 1, lines 1-11; page 2, lines 7-14; page 12, lines 6-20; claim 1; figures *	1,2,10	E 04 B 2/78 E 04 B 2/72
Y	US-A-2 075 773 (VASS) * Page 1, column 1, lines 1-16; column 2, lines 18-27; claim 6; figures 1,3,4 *	1,2,10	
A	FR-A-2 134 005 (UNITED STATES GYPSUM CO.) * Page 8, lines 16-28; page 9, lines 7-37; claim 1; figures *	1,2,10	
A	FR-A-2 196 056 (VINCENS) * Page 1, lines 8-33; page 10, lines 9-16; figure 10 *	3,4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			E 04 B
<del>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</del>			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 08-04-1992	Examiner HENKES R.H.A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P0401)



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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid,  
namely claims:
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions,  
namely:

See sheet -B-

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid,  
namely claims:
- None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims,

namely claims: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1,2,3,4 and 10: Metal post with lips perpendicular to it and slots for receiving lips during stacking.
2. Claims 5,6 and 10: Metal post with flanges, bent back on themselves to increase thickness.
3. Claims 7 and 10: Metal post with further flanges then "end-flanges", for holding insulation.
4. Claims 8,9 and 10: Metal post, where end-flanges have a small angle to the perpendicular of posts web.