Abstract: A method and apparatus is provided for use in spinal fusion procedures. An interbody fusion device has a first piece that is a load bearing device designed to bear the axial loading from the end plates of adjacent vertebrae. A second piece of the interbody fusion device is a retention device whose function is to prevent migration of the load bearing device. One or more fasteners secure the retention device to the vertebrae above and below the load bearing device. The fasteners cause the end plates of the vertebrae to compress the end plates to the load bearing device to facilitate proper fusion. The device includes a snap in mechanism for coupling the first piece to the second piece.
### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

**IPC(8)**: A61 F 2/44 (2012.01)

**USPC**: 623/1 7.1.6; 606/246

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

USPC: 623/17.16; 606/246

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

USPC: 623/17.11

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

- PubWEST (PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB); Google Scholar
- Search terms: Spacer, implant, interbody, cage, prosthesis, plate, pivot, flex, snap, projects, tongue, lip, grooves, recesses, openings, bore, indents, coupling, attach, mats

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 2010/0070037 A1 (PARRY et al.) 18 March 2010 (18.03.2010), Fig 1-12, para[0011], [0021], [0051]-[0068], [0080]</td>
<td>1-9, 12-13; 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2010/0312346 A1 (KUEENZI et al.) 09 December 2010 (09.12.2010), Fig 4A, 5, abstract, para[0004], [0042]</td>
<td>1 and 10; 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 2009/0234455 A1 (MOSKOWITZ et al.) 17 September 2009 (17.09.2009), Fig 2A-4F, para[0022], [0023], [0026], [0049]-[0062]</td>
<td>1, 12-13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further details of cited documents are available in the International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/2) 10 (second sheet) (July 2009)

**Date of the actual completion of the international search**: 25 July 2012 (25.07.2012)

**Date of mailing of the international search report**: 22 August 2012 (22.08.2012)

**Authorized officer**: Lee W. Young

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

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  - "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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