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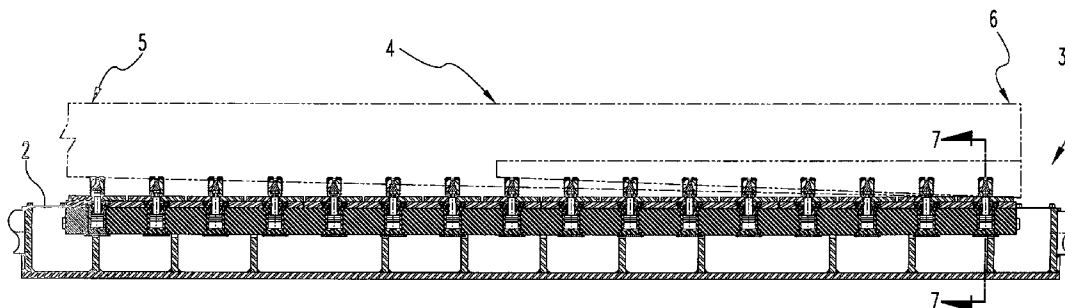
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27 September 2007

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CUTTING VENEER SHEETS FROM A FLITCH



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for retaining a flitch on a staylog or slicer (3) for slicing veneer from the flitch (4), the staylog or slicer (3) having a plurality of expandable wedge-clamp dogs (1), the method comprising the steps of providing a flitch having a plurality of dados for receiving a plurality of wedge-clamp dogs (1), positioning the plurality of wedge-clamp dogs (1) within the plurality of dados in the flitch (4), and expanding the wedge-clamp dogs (1) to retain the flitch (4) on the staylog or slicer (3).



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/12884

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **B27C 1/00(2006.01),527L 5/100**

 USPC: 144/332,363,178,214
 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)
 U.S. : 144/332, 363, 178, 214

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

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,865,232 A (Miller et al.) 2 February 1999 (02.02.1999) fig. 4, 5, 8-10	1-11, 12-30, 32-38
Y	US 5,562,137 A (Brand) 8 October 1996 (08.10.1996) Figures 1-10	1-11, 12-30, 32-38
Y	US 5,868,187 A (Brand) 9 February 1999 (02.09.1999) Figures 1-24	1-11, 12-30, 32-38
Y	US 5,678,619 A (Brand) 21 October 1997 (21.10.1997) Figures 1-13	1-11, 12-30, 32-38
Y	US 5,819,828 A (Brand) 13 October 1998 (13.10.1998) Figures 1-11	1-11, 12-30, 32-38
Y	US 5,701,938 A (Brand) 30 December 1997 (30.12.1997) Figures 1-11	1-11, 12-30, 32-38
Y	US 5,694,995 A (Brand) 9 December 1997 (09.12.1997) Figures 1-11	1-11, 12-30, 32-38

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
 15 August 2006 (15.08.2006)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/12884

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

- 1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

- 2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

- 3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

- 1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
 - 2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
 - 3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

 - 4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
 - The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
 - No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US05/12884

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,503,896 A (Brand) 12 March 1985 (12.03.1985) Figures 1-3	1-38
A	US 4,352,488 A (Cremona) 5 October 1982 (05.10.1982) Figures 2-3	1-38

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8 and 20-27 drawn to method for retaining a flitch.

Group II, claim(s) 9-18 and 28-37 drawn to an apparatus for retaining a flitch including the specifics of hydraulically driven expanding dog.

Group III, claim(s) 19 and 38, drawn to a dog for retaining a flitch having specifics to the structure of the dog.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: As noted above the invention of Group III includes the specifics as to the structure of a retaining dog. Neither the inventions of Group I or II require the specifics of the invention of Group III for their patentability and in fact do not recite such structure as it relates to the dogs. The inventions of Group I and that of Groups II and II not have the same or general inventive concept. For example, the invention of Group I does not require the particulars of either Group II or Group III for its practice or patentability. Accordingly the inventions of Group I-III lack unity.