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Déclarations en vertu de la règle 4.17 :

— *relative au droit du déposant de revendiquer la priorité de la demande antérieure (règle 4.17.iii)) pour la désignation suivante US*

— *relative à la qualité d'inventeur (règle 4.17.iv)) pour US seulement*

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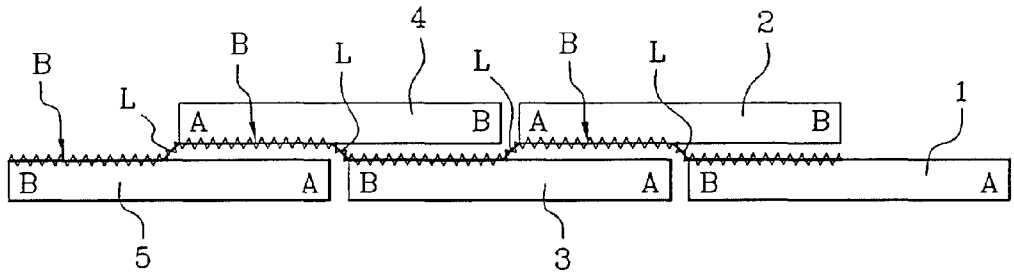
[Suite sur la page suivante]

(54) **Title:** FAST UNFOLDING TWO-LAYER TEMPORARY FLOORING STRUCTURE

(54) **Titre :** STRUCTURE DE REVETEMENT DE SOL PROVISOIRE BICOUCHE A DEPLOIEMENT RAPIDE



(57) **Abstract:** The invention concerns a fast unfolding two-layer temporary flooring structure consisting of preferably rigid plates (1 to 6), made of a suitable material. The invention is characterized in that said plates (1 to 6) are arranged mutually parallel and cascade-linked by an articulated linking element (B) so that between two consecutive plates, said element (B) is linked to an edge of the other plates, and also preferably in a central zone of the other plate, said elements defining hinge lines between parallel planes with longitudinal or transverse axis of the plates.

(57) **Abrégé :** L'objet de l'invention est une structure de revêtement de sol provisoire, bicouche, à déploiement rapide formé de plaques (1 à 6) de préférence rigides, en matériau approprié caractérisée en ce que lesdites plaques (1 à 6) sont disposées parallèlement entre elles et reliées entre elles en cascade par un élément de liaison articulée (B) en sorte qu'entre deux plaques et, d'autre part et de préférence dans une zone centrale de l'autre plaque, lesdits éléments définissant des axes d'articulation entre plaques parallèles à l'axe longitudinal ou transversal des plaques.

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— *avant l'expiration du délai prévu pour la modification des revendications, sera republiée si des modifications sont reçues*

En ce qui concerne les codes à deux lettres et autres abréviations, se référer aux "Notes explicatives relatives aux codes et abréviations" figurant au début de chaque numéro ordinaire de la Gazette du PCT.

FAST UNFOLDING TWO-LAYER TEMPORARY FLOORING STRUCTURE

The present invention relates to a temporary dual-layer rapid-deployment ground-covering structure.

The aim of the invention is to propose a structure formed from panels, for example rectangular, formed of rigid individual plates made from plastic or composite material, able to be deployed easily and rapidly so as to form a temporary surface or track for storing products or for movement for vehicles.

To this end, the object of the invention is a temporary dual-layer rapid-deployment ground-covering structure formed from plates, preferably rigid, made from suitable material, characterised in that the said

plates are disposed parallel to each other and are connected together in cascade by a connecting element articulated so that, between two consecutive plates, the said element is connected firstly to one edge of one of the plates and secondly and preferably in a central area of the other plate, the said element defining inter-plate articulation axes parallel to the longitudinal or transverse axis of the plates.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate schematically a first embodiment.

The plates 1 to 6 are for example rectangular, identical and parallel to each other.

Figure 1 depicts the storage position of the structure and Figure 2 the position deployed on the ground.

The plates 1 to 6 are connected by a flexible band B fixed successively to a half-face of each plate and preferably over its entire length.

Between two consecutive plates, the band B defines an articulated connecting area L forming a hinge and connecting the edge of one plate to the central part of the following plate.

Figures 3 to 5 illustrate the deployment of the plates 1 to 6 of Figure 1 in order to arrive at the

double-covering layer of Figure 2, where the plates are superimposed in a staggered manner and are all aligned in the same direction, which is parallel for example to the transverse axis of the band B completely deployed and sandwiched between the two layers of plates, moreover practically contiguous.

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate another variant in which the articulated connecting element is a hinge C, one element of which is fixed to the edge of a plate 1 and the other element of which is fixed to the associated plate 2, in its central part.

The hinge C is a single one and extends over the entire width (or length) of the plate 2 or is formed from several individual aligned elements.

Figure 8 illustrates a variant in which the plates of the bottom layer (the odd plates) are offset longitudinally with respect to the (even) plates of the top layer. In this case, the connecting elements, for example, of the hinges C do not extend over the entire length of the plates but only opposite the overlapping areas.

This makes it possible (Figure 9) to position two covering structures side by side and contiguous whilst having a partial overlapping of one structure (N° 1) by the other structure (N° 2). Thus there does not exist, between the structures 1 and 2, any area of lesser

strength because of the offset of the top layer of the plates with respect to the bottom, in the two directions defined by the longitudinal and transverse axes respectively of the plates.

A reversible mechanical locking can be provided between the two structures 1 and 2, for example between the bottom plates of one structure and the top plates of the second structure, in order to guarantee good positioning of the structures and perfect connection between them.

CLAIM

1. A temporary dual-layer rapid-deployment ground-covering structure formed from plates (1 to 6), preferably rigid, made from suitable material, characterised in that the said plates (1 to 6) are disposed parallel to each other and connected to each other in cascade by an articulated connecting element (B) so that, between two consecutive plates, the said element (B) is connected firstly to one edge of one of the plates and secondly and preferably in a central area of the other plate, the said elements defining inter-plate articulation axes parallel to the longitudinal or transverse axis of the plates.

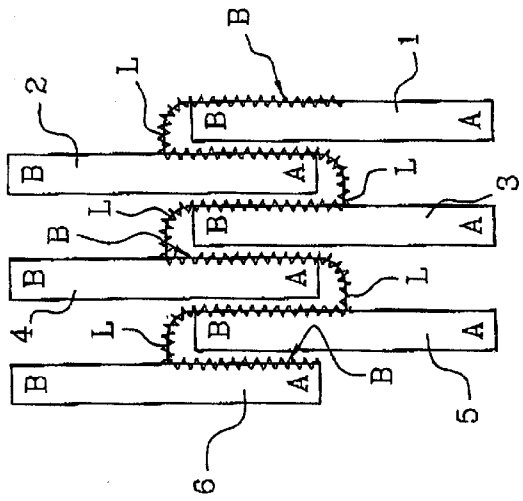

Fig.1

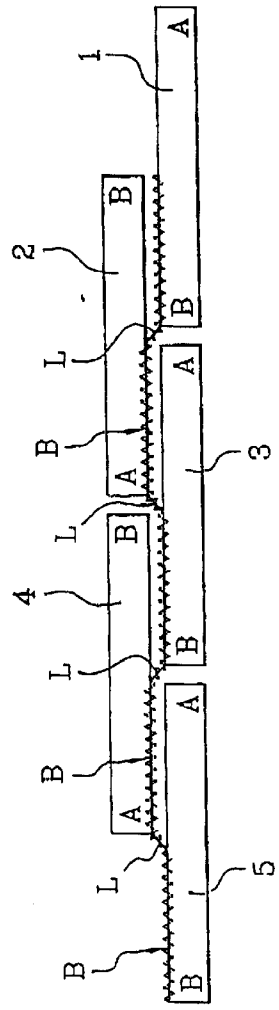

Fig.2

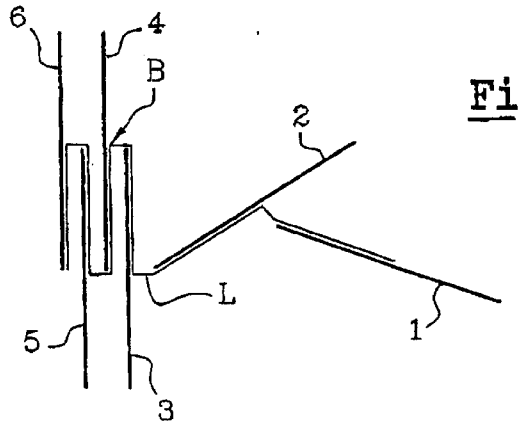

Fig. 3

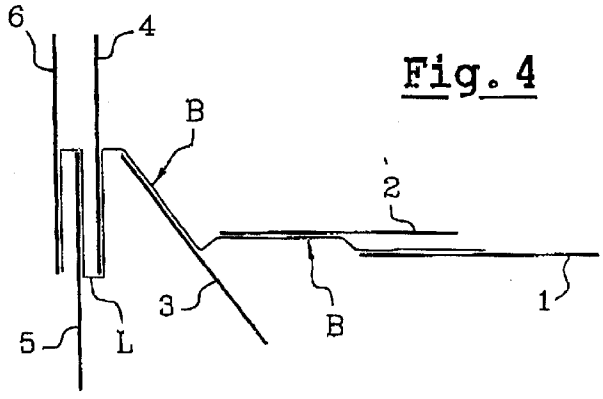

Fig. 4

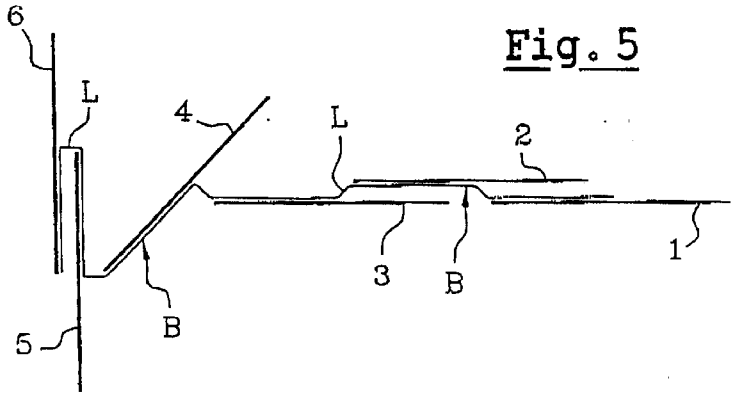

Fig. 5

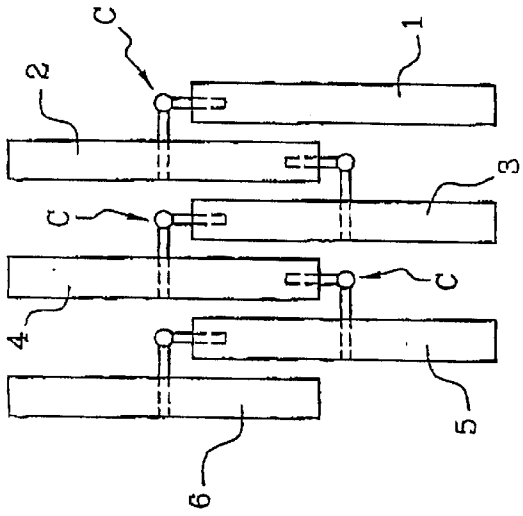

Fig. 6

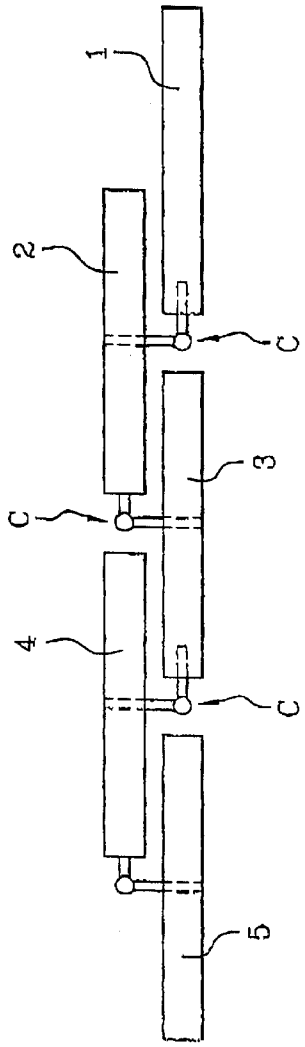

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

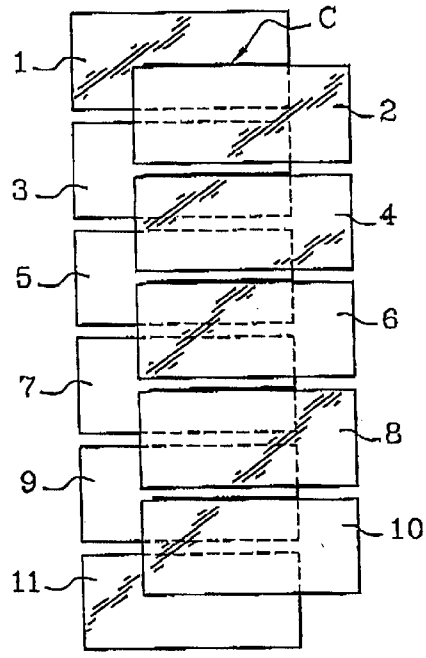

Fig. 9