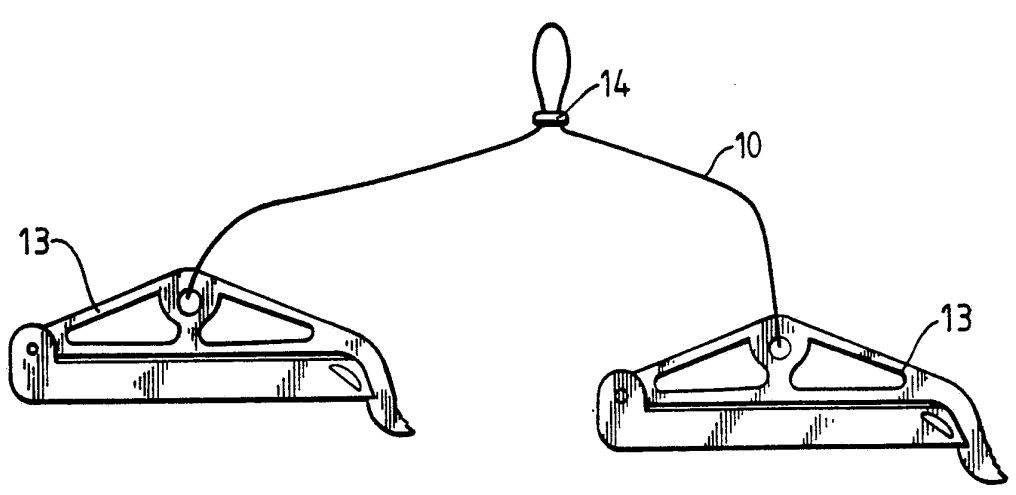


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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB93/00842 (22) International Filing Date: 22 April 1993 (22.04.93) (30) Priority data: 9209073.7 27 April 1992 (27.04.92) GB (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: SCOTT-HUBBARD, John, Edward [GB/GB]; 18 Eastwick Road, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 5AW (GB). (74) Agents: FRY, Alan, Valentine et al.; Fry, Heath & Spence, St. Georges House, 6 Yattendon Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 7BS (GB).		(81) Designated States: CA, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: CLIP ARRANGEMENTS 		
(57) Abstract A clip arrangement for assisting the correct placement of a duvet within a duvet cover comprises a pair of clip members (13) interconnected by means of a flexible line (10), the clips (13) being arranged in use for engagement one with each of corners of the duvet cover remote from an opening flap thereto such as to additionally engage the corresponding corners of the duvet inserted into the said remote corners of the duvet cover, and the line (10) being capable of being fixedly held between its ends, the arrangement being such that the cover may then be manoeuvred over the duvet for fitting thereabout, the clips (13) being arranged for removal thereafter from the said remote corners of the duvet cover and included duvet.		

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CLIP ARRANGEMENTS

This invention relates to clip arrangements and more particularly to clip arrangements for the fitting of a duvet cover about a duvet.

A common problem encountered by those persons remaking bedding materials after washing, for example, both in hotels, and domestically, is the difficulty of inserting a duvet into a duvet cover satisfactorily and easily. The problem arises in ensuring that the corners of the duvet intended for insertion within corresponding corners of the duvet cover remotely from the entry flap for the duvet in the cover are properly located.

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It is an object of the present invention to overcome or at least substantially reduce this problem and difficulty.

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a clip arrangement for assisting the correct placement of a duvet within a duvet cover comprising a pair of clip members interconnected by means of a flexible line, the clips being arranged in use for engagement one with each of the corners of the duvet cover remote from an opening flap thereto such as to additionally engage the corresponding corners of the duvet inserted into the said remote corners of the duvet cover; and the line being capable of being fixedly held between its ends, the arrangement being such that the duvet cover may then be manoeuvred over the duvet for fitting thereabout, the clips being arranged for removal thereafter from the said remote corners of the duvet cover and included duvet.

The line may comprise a cord or tape, for example, attached to each of the clips and may be arranged in operational use such as to be held behind a bed or bed head or tied thereto or to a similar attachment point at least when the duvet cover is pulled across the duvet to enclose it.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention there is provided a clip for use in the clip arrangement hereinabove specified comprising a body member

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-3-and an entrapment member pivotably connected to the body member, the body member including a recess with which the entrapment member is arranged to co-operate, in operation of the clip, in a spaced disposition from the walls of the recess, and securement means for closing the clip with the entrapment member located in its co-operating disposition with the recess.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood one embodiment thereof will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is an isometric view of one duvet clip for use in the arrangement of the invention in an open configuration;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the clip of Figure 1 in a closed configuration;

Figure 3 is a section on the line III-III of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 shows schematically two clips and joining cord.

Referring to the drawings, it is to be seen that an elongate duvet clip comprises two injection moulded parts, a body member 1 and an entrapment member 2, which may be about 110mm long, hinged at one end by means of a pin 3 and locked together in their closed position by means of a catch 4.

The body member 2 of the clip is provided with a recess 5 along its length defined by upstanding side walls

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6, dimensioned such that a lower blade 7 of the entrapment member 2 co-operates with the two sides 5 in the entrapment member 2 in order to force any fabric placed between the two parts to be so deformed into the recess 5 that removal can only be facilitated by opening the clip. The walls of the body member 1 and the blade 7 are so shaped and finished that no damage to a fabric item held by the clip can result therefrom.

The entrapment member 2 is shaped as to provide a lug 8 through which there is a bore 9 of such dimension as to enable a piece of cord or tape 10 to be passed through.

The catch end of the clip is designed to enable one handed operation of right or left handed persons and to facilitate ease of use by a disabled or perhaps arthritic hand. Thus there is a continuation 11 of the catch 4 for some distance beyond the catch shoulder 12 with an ergonomically designed shape for ease of manipulation whilst on the body member there are two small lugs 15 (one on each side) adjacent to the catch end to enable release of the catch with a twist of the thumb and forefinger. As can be seen in Figure 4 two clips 13 are joined by means of the cord or tape 10 passing through the holes 9 in the placement members 2 of both clips in such a way that the clips can be positioned one on one side of the head of a bed and one on the other side. Different sizes of bed can be catered for by lengthening or shortening the cord/tape by means of knots 14 or alternatively by a spring loaded

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plastic closure member or a buckle (neither shown) for example.

In operation the corner of a duvet is placed into its corresponding corner of a duvet cover and the duvet clip located diagonally across the outside corner of both duvet and cover, and then closing the clip so that both duvet and cover are trapped in the clip. By repeating this operation on both sides of the bed head it will be perceived that both corners of the duvet and cover will be held together. Now by passing the cord or tape behind the end of the bed or bed head or by tying the cord to the bed head both clips will be retained at the head of the bed. With corners of both duvet and cover so held it is a simple matter to manoeuvre or tease the cover over the duvet.

By means of the invention a single person, small or large, weak or strong, able or disabled, is enabled with comparative ease to place a cover on a duvet. Having completed this operation it is then a simple matter to release both catches and move to another bed with the clips and cord. Alternatively the clips can easily be left at the bed head and tucked behind or under the mattress (for example) for subsequent repeated use.

It is to be understood that the foregoing is merely exemplary of duvet clips in accordance with the invention and that modifications can readily be made thereto without departing from the true scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. A clip arrangement for assisting the correct placement of a duvet within a duvet cover comprising a pair of clip members interconnected by means of a flexible line, the clips being arranged in use for engagement one with each of the corners of the duvet cover remote from an opening flap thereto such as to additionally engage the corresponding corners of the duvet inserted into the said remote corners of the duvet cover, and the line being capable of being fixedly held between its ends, the arrangement being such that the duvet cover may then be manoeuvred over the duvet for fitting thereabout, the clips being arranged for removal thereafter from the said remote corners of the duvet cover and included duvet.

2. A clip arrangement as claimed in claim 1 wherein the clip comprises a body member and an entrapment member pivotably connected to the body member and being movable between an open and a closed position, the body member including a recess, the entrapment member, when in the closed position, co-operating with the recess but being spaced from the walls of the recess, whereby the corners of the duvet cover and the duvet are capable of being held in use by the entrapment member within the recess without damage thereto with the clip in its closed position, the clip including securement means to hold the entrapment

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member in its closed position.

3. A clip arrangement as claimed in claim 2 wherein the clip is of an elongate nature, the body member having said recess extending along one side thereof, the entrapment member being pivotably connected to or adjacent one end of the body member and, in its closed position, extending along the body member overlying said recess from its pivotal connection to a securement at or adjacent to other end of the body.

4. A clip arrangement as claimed in claim 2 or 3 wherein the securement means comprises a one-hand closable catch arrangement.

5. A clip arrangement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the flexible line comprises a cord or tape attached to each of the clips and arranged such that in operation or use it is capable of being held in position by or secured to attachment means.

6. A clip for use in the clip arrangement of claim 1 comprising a body member and an entrapment member pivotably connected to the body member, the body member including a recess with which the entrapment member is arranged to co-operate, in operation of the clip, in a spaced disposition from the walls of the recess, and

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securement means for closing the clip with the entrapment member located in its co-operating disposition with the recess.

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FIG. 1

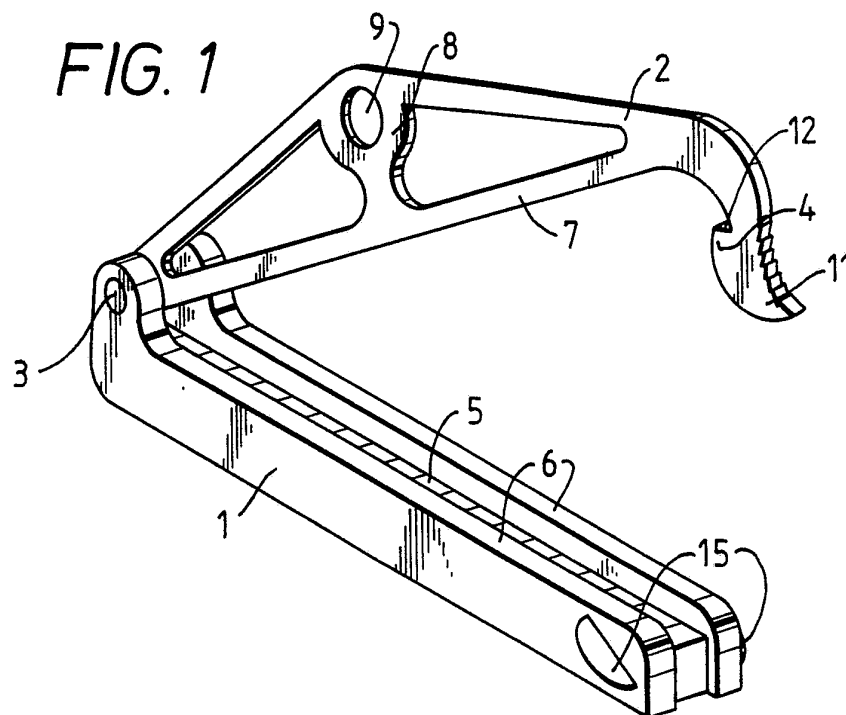
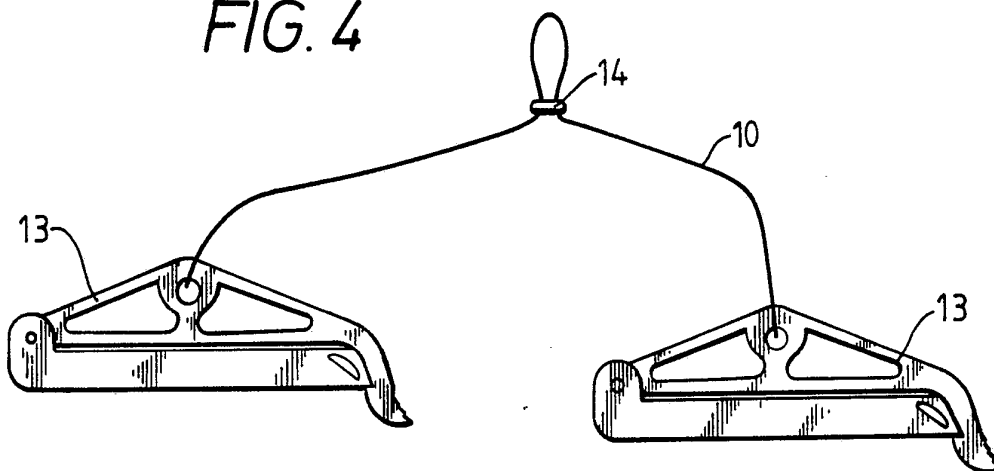


FIG. 4



SUBSTITUTE SHEET

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FIG. 2

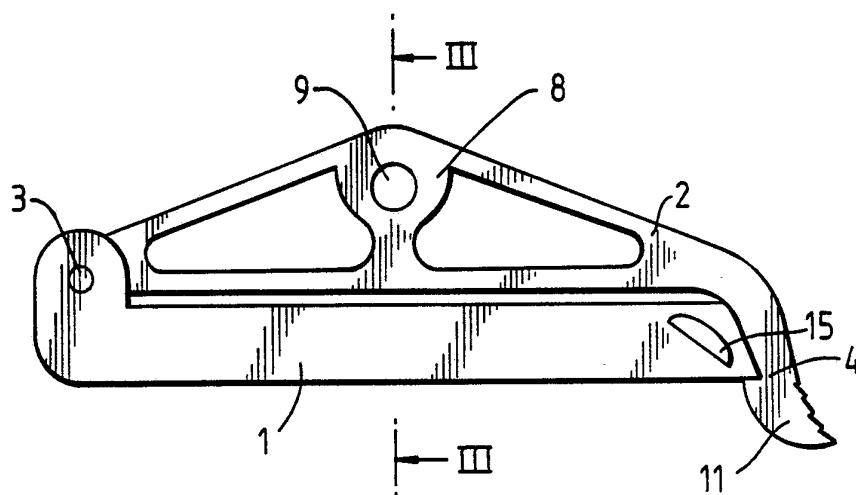
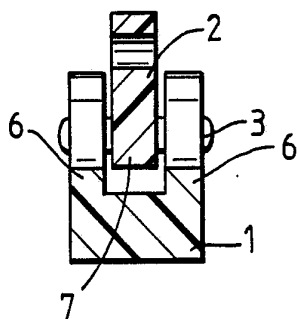


FIG. 3



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 93/00842

International Application No

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
Int.Cl. 5 A47C21/02		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
Int.Cl. 5	A47C ; A47G	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹		
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X	GB,A,2 247 169 (BOOTH) 26 February 1992 see page 2, line 25 - page 4, line 3; figures 1-4	1
A	---	4,5
A	GB,A,725 303 (BEBE-CONFORT) 2 March 1955 see the whole document	1,2,5
A	---	2,3,6
A	DE,C,361 977 (LAMMERS) 20 October 1922 see the whole document	
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IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
15 JULY 1993	29. 07. 93	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	VISTISEN L.	

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

GB 9300842
SA 72715

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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15/07/93

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB-A-2247169	26-02-92	None	
GB-A-725303		None	
DE-C-361977		None	
FR-A-658027		None	