

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 November 2006 (23.11.2006)

PCT

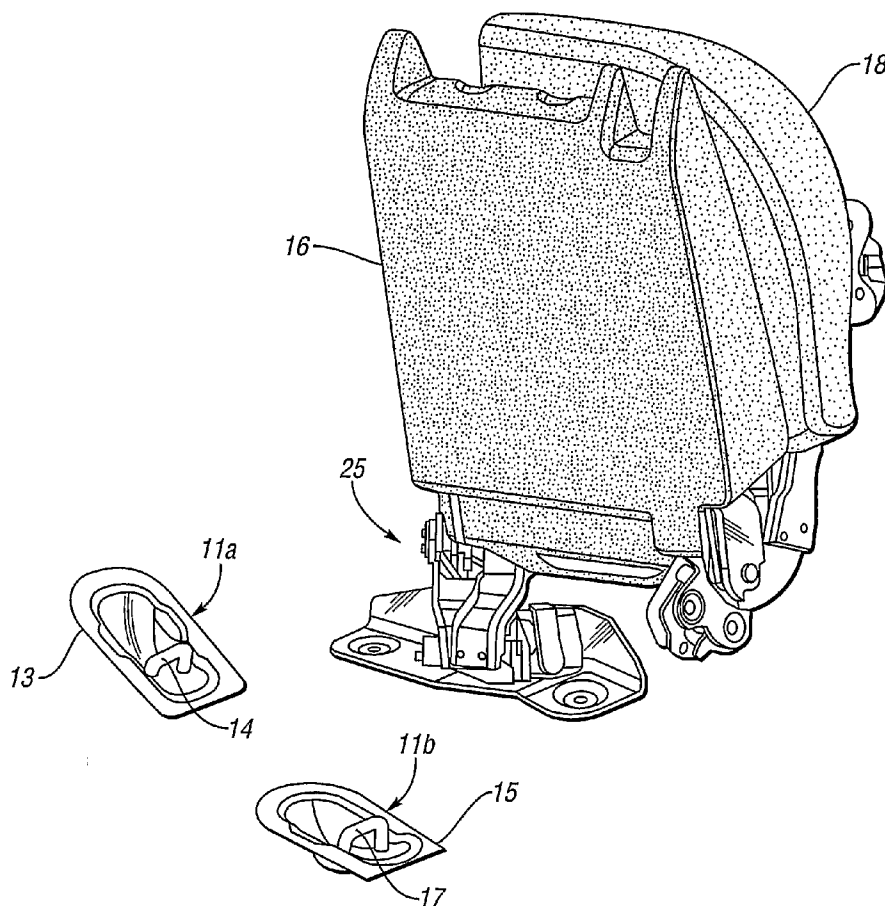
(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/124674 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:
B60N 2/14 (2006.01) *B60N 2/36* (2006.01)
B60N 2/30 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/018551
- (22) International Filing Date: 12 May 2006 (12.05.2006)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/680,597 13 May 2005 (13.05.2005) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VEHICLE SEATING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A vehicle seat assembly includes a seat frame having a seat back and stadium-type seat base for movement between a seating position and a storage position to improve ease of entry to the vehicle area behind the vehicle seat. The vehicle seat assembly includes a swing assembly coupled to the seat back and configured to rotate the folded seat assembly around a substantially vertical axis. A single handle operation is included for unlatching the seat latches - the seat base automatically flips up - and pivoting the entire vehicle seat toward the interior of the vehicle to allow easy entry behind the vehicle seat.

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European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

22 February 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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/018551

<p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. B60N2/14 B60N2/30 B60N2/36</p>		
<p>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>		
<p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</p>		
<p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B60N</p>		
<p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p>		
<p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ</p>		
<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 231 103 B1 (ELSON GERALD LEE ET AL) 15 May 2001 (2001-05-15) column 2, line 11 - column 4, line 32; figures	1,2
A	----- US 5 707 103 A (BALK ET AL) 13 January 1998 (1998-01-13) the whole document	1,2
A	----- US 5 328 231 A (RAYMOND ET AL) 12 July 1994 (1994-07-12) the whole document -----	1,2
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.</p>		
<p>* Special categories of cited documents :</p>		
<p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p>		<p>"T" 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</p>
<p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p>		<p>"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</p>
<p>"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)</p>		<p>"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.</p>
<p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p>		<p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>
<p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>		
<p>Date of the actual completion of the international search 29 September 2006</p>		<p>Date of mailing of the international search report 21.12.06</p>
<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016</p>		<p>Authorized officer Jazbec, Simon</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/018551

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6231103	B1	15-05-2001	NONE
US 5707103	A	13-01-1998	DE 19882254 T0 24-02-2000 WO 9842532 A1 01-10-1998
US 5328231	A	12-07-1994	NONE

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2006/018551

Box 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 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:

see additional 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 an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

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.:

see annex

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1,2

relate to a seat assembly comprising a pivotable seat base and a backrest, a first latch configured to selectively, pivotably lock the seat base relative to the backrest, a second latch coupled to the seat base and configured to selectively couple the seat base to the vehicle, a reclining assembly coupled to the backrest and configured to control the angular orientation of the backrest relative to the seat base, and a swing assembly configured to pivot the seat about its vertical pivot axis.

2. claim: 3

relates to a seat assembly comprising a backrest, a pivotable seat base, a seat frame, a biasing mechanism coupled between the seat base and the backrest to bias the seat base to move toward the backrest, a latch coupled to the seat base and configured to selectively couple the seat base to the vehicle, a swing assembly coupling the seat back to the vehicle to rotate the seat assembly about a pivot axis and a handle located on the backrest and coupled to the latch for releasing the latch and to move seat assembly into an easy entry position.
