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(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
97926278.9 / 0 904 476

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(54) **Venetian blind apparatus**

(57) The invention relates to a venetian blind (1), comprising: a plurality of parallel and horizontally extending slats (2) which are mutually connected by means of suspension means (3), and gathering means (5) for gathering the slats (2) together into a package,

wherein the gathering means (5) are adapted to form the package on the upper part of the venetian blind (1), wherein a cleaning device (6) is arranged for cleaning the slats (2), wherein the cleaning device (6) is arranged on the upper part of the venetian blind (1) below the position where the package of slats (2) is formed.

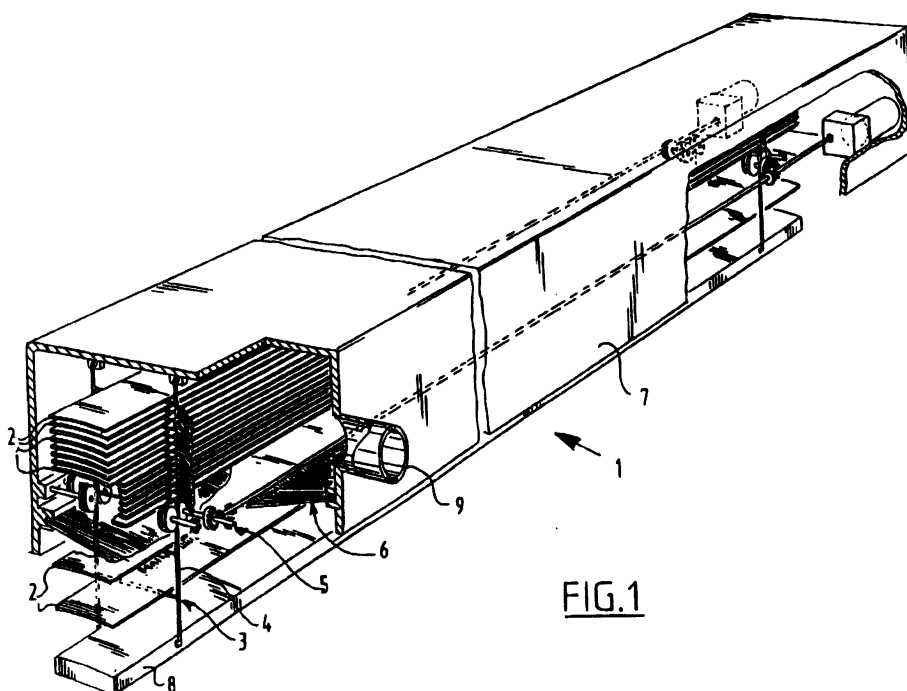


FIG.1

EP 1 004 742 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 20 0511

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
D,A	US 1 929 071 A (LEVY) 3 October 1933 (1933-10-03) * page 1, line 38 - line 65; figure 1 * ---	1,5	E06B9/30 E06B9/06 E06B9/382
D,A	EP 0 140 103 A (SCHLITZBERGER HANS) 8 May 1985 (1985-05-08) * abstract; figure 5 * -----	1,5	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			E06B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		16 November 2000	Peschel, G
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



European Patent
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Application Number
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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 00 20 0511

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-4,16,17

Venetian blind with a cleaning device for cleaning the slats

2. Claims: 5-15

Venetian blind with gathering means for gathering the slats
in a location remote from a bottom one

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

EP 00 20 0511

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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16-11-2000

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 1929071	A	03-10-1933	NONE		
EP 0140103	A	08-05-1985	DK	450984 A	23-03-1985

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82