



(11) **EP 2 770 873 B1**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION**

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
22.08.2018 Bulletin 2018/34

(51) Int Cl.:
A47B 7/02 (2006.01) A47B 3/08 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **12707145.4**

(86) International application number:
PCT/IT2012/000003

(22) Date of filing: **05.01.2012**

(87) International publication number:
WO 2013/061345 (02.05.2013 Gazette 2013/18)

(54) **SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR TABLES AND TABLE COMPRISING SAID SUPPORT STRUCTURE**
TRÄGERSTRUKTUR FÜR TISCHE UND TISCH MIT DIESER TRÄGERSTRUKTUR
STRUCTURE DE SUPPORT POUR TABLES ET TABLE COMPRENANT LADITE STRUCTURE DE
SUPPORT

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO
PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

(30) Priority: **28.10.2011 IT VI20110289**

(43) Date of publication of application:
03.09.2014 Bulletin 2014/36

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Description

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

STATE OF THE ART

[0001] The present invention relates to the sector of furniture. In particular, the present invention concerns the field of table production.

[0002] In detail, the present invention concerns a bearing structure for tables with tilting top.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE OF THE ART

[0003] In the state of the art applications in the sector of table production bearing structures are used, which are typically made of a light material and on which a plane constituting the supporting surface of the table is fixed.

[0004] Tables are known in the state of the art, in which the supporting plane is of the tilting type, meaning that during normal usage the supporting plane is in horizontal position, while it can assume a vertical or substantially vertical position when it is not in use.

[0005] In the configuration in which it is not in use, the table has reduced overall dimensions and can be comfortably stored and kept ready to be used at a later moment.

[0006] For this purpose, the bearing structures of the tables carried out according to the known technique are provided with a mechanical tilting system suited to be activated by the user that when necessary makes it possible to position the supporting plane in the above mentioned horizontal and vertical positions. Depending on the dimensions of the supporting plane, the bearing structures of known type are made to measure and sized so as to guarantee the desired mechanical resistance and the desired stability. Said stability is obtained, in particular, by arranging the feet of the bearing structure at suitable distances from one another.

[0007] Examples of bearing structures of the type above described are known from documents DE3800151A1 and EP1308109A1.

[0008] The solution provided according to the state of the art, however, poses some drawbacks.

[0009] A drawback posed by the tables with tilting tops of known type lies in the construction complexity deriving from the need to provide different bearing structures depending on the size of the supporting plane to which they are applied.

[0010] This requires the availability of sufficient space for storing bearing structures having different dimensions or, alternatively, requires the specific design of different bearing structures for each type of plane to which they are applied.

[0011] This affects the design costs of the bearing structures and the production and delivery times of the same.

[0012] The main object of the present invention is thus

to solve or at least partially overcome the problems mentioned above that characterize the bearing structures of known type.

[0013] In particular, it is one object of the present invention to propose an innovative solution regarding a bearing structure usable in the sector of tilting tables that can be adapted in a simple manner to supporting planes of different sizes.

[0014] It is another object of the invention to propose a bearing structure that makes it possible to reduce design and production times and/or costs of the bearing structures.

[0015] It is a further object of the invention also to propose a bearing structure that makes it possible to reduce delivery times compared to the known technique.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0016] The present invention is based on the general consideration that the problems found in the state of the art can be at least partially overcome by means of a bearing structure for a supporting surface that can be adapted to supporting surfaces of different types. This problem is solved by the bearing structure according to claim 1. According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the adaptation means comprise displacement means suited to move the contact areas of the bearing means near or away from one another.

[0017] The adaptation means preferably comprise displacement means suited to move the connection areas near or away from one another.

[0018] Advantageously, the displacement means comprise telescopic means.

[0019] The connection means suitably comprise two or more brackets suitable for connection to the supporting surface.

[0020] According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the displacement means comprise means for rotating the connection means. According to the invention, the structure comprises locking means associated with the displacement means in order to allow them to be locked in the first position. According to the invention, the locking means comprise two handles arranged on different areas of the bearing structure.

[0021] The adaptation means preferably comprise displacement means suited to move the manoeuvring elements near or away from one another.

[0022] According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the bearing means comprise two or more legs and the adaptation means comprise one or more inter-connection elements of the telescopic type.

[0023] The condition of usage of the supporting surface suitably corresponds to the horizontal position of the supporting surface.

[0024] The condition in which the supporting surface is not in use preferably corresponds to the substantially vertical arrangement of the supporting surface. According to another aspect of the invention, it concerns a fur-

niture element comprising a supporting surface and a bearing structure for the supporting surface, wherein the bearing structure is of the type described above.

[0025] Said furniture element is preferably constituted by a table.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0026] Further advantages, objects and characteristics, as well as further embodiments of the present invention are defined in the claims and will be illustrated in the following description, with reference to the enclosed drawings; in the drawings, corresponding or equivalent characteristics and/or components of the present invention are identified by the same reference numbers. In particular:

- Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a table comprising a bearing structure according to a first embodiment of the present invention in the usage position;
- Figure 2 shows the table with the bearing structure of Figure 1 in a position ready for storage;
- Figure 3 shows three tables of the type shown in Figure 2 in the storage position;
- Figure 4 shows a partially exploded view of the table shown in Figure 1;
- Figure 5 shows a partially exploded view of Figure 4;
- Figure 6 shows a partially exploded view of the bearing structure shown in Figure 5;
- Figure 7 shows an enlarged detail of Figure 4;
- Figure 8 shows the detail shown in Figure 7 in a different operating condition;
- Figure 9 shows an exploded view of Figure 7.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0027] Although the present invention is described below with reference to its embodiment illustrated in the drawings, the present invention is not limited to the embodiment described below and illustrated in the drawings. On the contrary, the embodiment described below and illustrated in the drawings clarifies some aspects of the present invention, the scope of which, however, is defined in the claims.

[0028] The present invention can be especially but not exclusively used in the field of furniture. In particular, the present invention can be especially applied in the production of tables with tilting supporting plane. For this reason, the present invention will be described below with particular reference to a bearing structure for a table with tilting supporting plane. It should however be noted that the present invention is not intended to be used exclusively for a table; on the contrary, the present invention can also be advantageously applied in all the cases where it is necessary to use a supporting plane that can

be easily stored when not in use.

[0029] Here below is the description of a first embodiment of a bearing structure 1 according to the present invention; in the figures similar or equivalent characteristics and/or component parts are identified by the same reference numbers.

[0030] In Figure 1, the bearing structure 1 according to an embodiment of the present invention is represented when applied to a supporting plane 50 to define a table 100.

[0031] In Figure 1, the table 100 is shown in its usage configuration, with the supporting plane 50 in horizontal position.

[0032] In Figure 2, the table 100 is shown in the configuration ready for storage, that is, with the supporting plane 50 in vertical or substantially vertical position.

[0033] In the storage position shown in Figure 2, in fact, the table 100 has reduced overall dimensions compared to the usage position, and it can be comfortably stored together with other similar tables, as shown in Figure 3.

[0034] As already explained, the table 100 comprises a bearing structure 1 arranged under a supporting plane 50, as shown also in Figures 4 and 5.

[0035] The supporting plane 50 can consist of a panel in the desired shape, rectangular in the case at hand, and made of a material suitable for its specific use, for example wood, aluminium, glass, etc.

[0036] The bearing structure 1, too, will be made of a material suitable for the purpose, which will be able to ensure that the tables 100 has the desired mechanical resistance, the desired lightness and the desired stability in both the conditions described above, that is, with the supporting plane 50 in horizontal or vertical position.

[0037] The bearing structure 1 comprises an upper area 2 for connection to the supporting plane 50 and a lower area 3 for resting the structure on the ground. The lower area 3 comprises contact points 4a-4d, four in the embodiment illustrated herein, suited to give stability to the table 100.

[0038] The contact areas 4a-4d are constituted by the ends of corresponding legs 6a-6d and are substantially arranged at the vertices of a rectangle.

[0039] The ends of the legs 6a-6d are preferably provided with wheels 7a-7d suited to facilitate the movements of the table 100. In preferred embodiments of the invention at least one of said wheels 7a-7d is provided with a brake element, not illustrated in the figures, suited to lock the table 100 in position once it has been positioned in the desired place.

[0040] In variant embodiments of the invention, however, the table legs may not be provided with wheels.

[0041] The four legs 6a-6b are advantageously connected to each other in pairs. In particular, the upper portion 8a, 8c of a leg is joined to the upper portion 8b, 8d of the other leg arranged on the same side of the table 100 in a corresponding union area 9, 10.

[0042] The union areas 9, 10 of the two pairs of legs 8a, 8b and 8c, 8d are connected at the top by a horizontal

connection structure 11, shown in Figure 6 and described in greater detail below.

[0043] The legs 6a-6b are joined to the supporting plane 50 through connection means, indicated as a whole by 15.

[0044] The connection means 15 comprise two side brackets 16, 17 suited to be integrally joined to the supporting plane 50, for example through fixing screws not illustrated in the figures. According to variant embodiments of the invention, said connection can be carried out through different and suitable connection means, for example by glueing, with snap-in connection means, with closure through clamps, clips or rivets.

[0045] The two side brackets 16, 17 are connected to each other through a horizontal connection structure 18, described more clearly below.

[0046] The side brackets 16, 17 and the horizontal connection structure 18 can be rotated with respect to the legs 6a-6d in order to allow the supporting plane 50 to be arranged in the horizontal and vertical usage positions.

[0047] For this purpose, the side brackets 16, 17 and the horizontal connection structure 18 can be rotated around an axis X with respect to the horizontal connection structure 11 of the legs 6a-6d.

[0048] More particularly, each side bracket 16, 17 is articulated through a rotation pin 22, 23 with a corresponding projecting bearing element 20, 21 of the horizontal connection structure 11 of the legs 6a-6d.

[0049] The supporting plane 50 can thus be arranged from the horizontal position to the vertical position, and vice versa, through its rotation around the rotation pins 22, 23. Said rotation pins 22, 23 are therefore aligned along the above mentioned rotation axis X.

[0050] A locking device 24 allows the supporting plane 50 to be maintained safely and securely in its horizontal position. The same device 24, which can be operated manually, allows the supporting plane 50 to be released and brought to the vertical position.

[0051] The locking device 24 comprises two coupling elements, only one of which is shown in the Figures from 7 to 9 and indicated by number 25, suited to be engaged in corresponding coupling seats 26, 27 obtained in the projecting bearing element 20, 21.

[0052] Each coupling element 25 can be positioned in a coupling configuration, as shown in Figure 7, in which it is housed in the corresponding coupling seat 26, 27 in the projecting bearing element 20, 21. In this coupling configuration, the supporting plane 50 is maintained securely and stably in horizontal position.

[0053] The coupling elements 25 can be rotated through corresponding manoeuvring elements 28, 29 constituted by handles.

[0054] Advantageously, the operation of one of the two handles 28, 29 allows the rotation of both the coupling elements 25 in order to enable them to be released from the coupling seat 26, 27 in the bearing element 20, 21, as shown in Figure 8, and thus make the supporting plane

50 free to be rotated around the rotation pins 22, 23.

[0055] The integral rotation of both the coupling elements 25 is obtained through an interconnection element 30 that joins the handles 28, 29.

5 **[0056]** An elastic element 31 interposed between the coupling element 25 and the side bracket 16, 17, preferably constituted by a helical spring, maintains the coupling element pushed in its coupling position, as shown in Figure 7.

10 **[0057]** According to the present invention, the horizontal connection structure 11 of the union areas 9, 10 of the two pairs of legs 6a, 6b and 6c, 6d preferably comprises two tubular portions 11a, 11b that can be coupled with and engaged in each other in a telescopic way.

15 **[0058]** Depending on the extent to which the two tubular portions 11a, 11b are inserted in each other, it is possible to arrange the two pairs of legs 6a, 6b and 6c, 6d at the desired distance, starting from a minimum distance with the tubular portions 11a, 11b completely inserted in
20 each other.

[0059] The two tubular portions 11a, 11b are preferably maintained at the desired distance by means of suitable locking elements, not shown in the figure, like for example locking pins, fixing screws, with closure through clamps, clips or rivets. Said horizontal connection structure 11 of the telescopic type allows the distance between the legs 6a-6d of the bearing structure 1 to be regulated. This makes it possible to adapt the same bearing structure 1 to different measures of the supporting plane 50 guaranteeing the correct distance between the legs 6a-6d and the consequent stability of the table 100.

25 **[0060]** Advantageously, it will be possible to produce a single bearing structure 1 that from time to time, during the assembly stage, will be adapted to the supporting plane selected to make the table.

30 **[0061]** This reduces the design and production times and costs of the bearing structure. Furthermore, a single bearing structure makes it possible to satisfy any request for any type of supporting plane, with the consequent reduction of delivery times for the manufacturer of said bearing structures.

35 **[0062]** Always according to the present invention, the horizontal connection structure 18 of the side brackets 16, 17 preferably comprises two portions 18a, 18b that can be coupled to each other in a telescopic way. In particular, the two portions 18a, 18b have a conjugated V-shaped profile.

40 **[0063]** Depending on the distance selected between the two pairs of legs 6a, 6b and 6c, 6d, as described above, it will thus be possible to arrange also the two side brackets 16, 17 at the correct distance.

45 **[0064]** The two V-shaped portions 18a, 18b are preferably maintained at the desired distance by means of suitable locking means, not shown in the figure, like for example locking pins, fixing screws, with closure through clamps, clips or rivets. Always according to the present invention, the interconnection element 30 of the handles 28, 29 preferably comprises two tubular portions 30a,

30b that can be coupled to and inserted in each other in a telescopic way.

[0065] The two tubular portions 30a, 30b preferably have a conjugated shape, substantially square in the embodiment illustrated herein, suited to allow their integral rotation when one of the two handles 28, 29 to which they are connected is rotated.

[0066] Depending on the distance selected between the two pairs of legs 6a, 6b and 6c, 6d, as described above, it will thus be possible to adapt the locking device 24 to the selected configuration. In particular, the locking elements 25 will be arranged at the correct distance and at the level of the projecting bearing elements 20, 21. The two tubular portions 30a, 30b are preferably maintained at the selected distance by means of suitable locking means, not shown in the figure, like for example locking pins, fixing screws, with closure through clamps, clips or rivets. It should be noted that in different embodiments of the invention the locking device may be different from the one described herein. For example, there may be just one locking element and just one corresponding locking seat, in this case preferably arranged in a central area of the structure.

[0067] Alternatively, again, it is possible to use equivalent locking devices of the type that can be operated through wires, connection bars with tie rods, etc..

[0068] The above thus shows that the bearing device that is the subject of the invention makes it possible to achieve the set objects, and in particular makes it possible to adapt a single structure to supporting planes having different dimensions in a simple way.

[0069] While the present invention has been described with reference to the particular embodiment shown in the figures, it should be noted that the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiment illustrated and described herein; on the contrary, further variants of the embodiment described herein fall within the scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

Claims

1. Bearing structure (1) for a supporting surface (50), comprising:

- bearing means (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) suited to be arranged on the ground on two or more contact areas (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d) and comprising two or more legs;
- connection means (15) suited to connect said bearing means (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) to said supporting surface (50) in two or more connection areas;
- means for moving said connection means (15), suited to allow them to be positioned in a first position corresponding to a condition of usage of said supporting surface (50) and in a second position corresponding to a condition in which said supporting surface (50) is not used,

- locking means (24) associated with said moving means in order to allow them to be locked in said first position,

- two coupling seats (26, 27) obtained in projecting bearing elements (20, 21) for engaging a corresponding coupling element, wherein said locking means (24) comprise two handles (28, 29) arranged on different areas of said bearing structure (1), and

wherein said locking means (24) comprise two coupling elements (25) suited to be positioned in a coupling configuration, in which the supporting plane (50) is maintained securely and stably in horizontal position, and **wherein** the coupling elements (25) can be rotated through the handles (28, 29), wherein it comprises adaptation means (11) suited to allow said bearing structure (1) to adapt to different dimensions of said supporting surface (50), **wherein** said adaptation means (11) comprise one or more interconnection elements (11a, 11b) of the telescopic type, **characterized in that** it comprises an interconnection element (30) joining the handles (28, 29), **wherein** the interconnection element (30) comprises two tubular portions (30a, 30b) that can be coupled to and inserted in each other in a telescopic way.

2. Structure (1) according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said adaptation means comprise displacement means suited to move said contact areas (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d) of said bearing means (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) near or away from one another.

3. Structure (1) according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** said adaptation means comprise displacement means suited to move said connection areas near or away from one another.

4. Structure (1) according to claim 2 or 3, **characterized in that** said displacement means (10) comprise telescopic means.

5. Structure (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said connection means (15) comprise two or more brackets (16, 17) suitable for connection to said supporting surface (50).

6. Structure (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said moving means comprise means for rotating said connection means (15).

7. Structure (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said adaptation means comprise displacement means suited to move said handles (28, 29) near or away from one another.

8. Structure (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said condition of usage of said supporting surface (50) corresponds to the horizontal arrangement of said supporting surface (50). 5
9. Structure (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said condition in which said supporting surface (50) is not used corresponds to the substantially vertical arrangement of said supporting surface (50). 10
10. Furniture element (100) comprising a supporting surface (50) and a bearing structure (1) for said supporting surface (50), **characterized in that** said bearing structure (1) is a bearing structure (1) according to any of the preceding claims. 15
11. Furniture element (100) according to claim 10, **characterized in that** it consists of a table (100). 20

Patentansprüche

1. Tragstruktur (1) für eine Trägerfläche (50), Folgendes umfassend: 25
 - Stützmittel (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d), dazu geeignet, am Boden von einem oder mehreren Kontaktbereichen (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d) positioniert zu werden und zwei oder mehrere Beine umfassend; 30
 - Verbindungsmittel (15), dazu geeignet, die besagten Stützmittel (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) in zwei oder mehreren Verbindungsbereichen mit der besagten Trägerfläche (50) zu verbinden; 35
 - Mittel zur Bewegung der besagten Verbindungsmittel (15), dazu geeignet zu erlauben, dass diese in einer ersten Position positioniert werden können, welche einer Bedingung der Benutzung der besagten Trägerfläche (50) entspricht, sowie in einer zweiten Position, die einer Bedingung entspricht, in der die besagte Trägerfläche (50) nicht benutzt wird, 40
 - Verriegelungsmittel (24), die so mit den besagten Bewegungsmitteln verbunden sind, dass diese in der besagten ersten Position blockiert werden können, 45
 - zwei Kupplungsaufnahmen (26, 27), die aus hervorstehenden Stützelementen (20, 21) gewonnen sind, um mit einem entsprechenden Kupplungselement in Eingriff zu gelangen, wobei besagte Verriegelungsmittel (24) zwei Griffe (28, 29) umfassen, die in unterschiedlichen Bereichen der besagten Tragstruktur (1) angeordnet sind, und 50

wobei die besagten Verriegelungsmittel (24) zwei Kupplungselemente (25) umfassen, die geeignet

sind, in einer Kupplungskonfiguration positioniert zu werden, in welcher die Trägerebene (50) sicher und stabil in waagerechter Position gehalten wird, und **wobei** die Kupplungselemente (25) mittels der Griffe (28, 29) gedreht werden können, wobei sie Anpassungsmittel (11) umfasst, die geeignet sind zu erlauben, dass die besagte Tragstruktur (1) sich unterschiedlichen Abmessungen der besagten Trägerfläche (50) anpasst, **wobei** die besagten Anpassungsmittel (11) ein oder mehrere Verbindungselemente (11a, 11b) vom teleskopischen Typ umfassen, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** sie ein Verbindungselement (30) umfasst, das die Griffe (28, 29) verbindet, **wobei** das Verbindungselement (30) zwei röhrenförmige Abschnitte (30a, 30b) umfasst, die teleskopisch aneinander gekoppelt und ineinander eingesteckt werden können.

2. Struktur (1) nach Patentanspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die besagten Anpassungsmittel Verschiebemittel umfassen, die geeignet sind, die besagten Kontaktbereiche (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d) der besagten Stützmittel (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) aufeinander zu oder voneinander weg zu bewegen.
3. Struktur (1) nach Patentanspruch 1 oder 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die besagten Anpassungsmittel Verschiebemittel umfassen, die geeignet sind, die besagten Verbindungsbereiche aufeinander zu oder voneinander weg zu bewegen.
4. Struktur (1) nach Patentanspruch 2 oder 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die besagten Verschiebemittel (10) teleskopische Mittel umfassen.
5. Struktur (1) nach einem jeden der vorstehenden Patentansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die besagten Verbindungsmittel (15) zwei oder mehr Bügel (16, 17) umfassen, die zur Verbindung mit der besagten Trägerfläche (50) geeignet sind.
6. Struktur (1) gemäß eines jeden der vorstehenden Patentansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die besagten Bewegungsmittel Mittel zur Drehung der besagten Verbindungsmittel (15) umfassen.
7. Struktur (1) nach einem jeden der vorstehenden Patentansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die besagten Anpassungsmittel Verschiebemittel umfassen, die geeignet sind, die besagten Griffe (28, 29) aufeinander zu oder voneinander weg zu bewegen.
8. Struktur (1) nach einem jeden der vorstehenden Patentansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die besagte Bedingung der Benutzung der besagten Trägerfläche (50) der waagerechten Anordnung der besagten Trägerfläche (50) entspricht.

9. Struktur (1) nach einem jeden der vorstehenden Patentansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die besagte Bedingung, in der die besagte Trägerfläche (50) nicht benutzt wird, der im Wesentlichen senkrechten Anordnung der besagten Trägerfläche (50) entspricht. 5
10. Einrichtungselement (100), eine Trägerfläche (50) und eine Tragstruktur (1) für die besagte Trägerfläche (50) umfassend, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die besagte Tragstruktur (1) eine Tragstruktur (1) nach einem jeden der vorstehenden Patentansprüche ist. 10
11. Einrichtungselement (100) nach Patentanspruch 10, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** es aus einem Tisch (100) besteht. 15

Revendications

1. Structure de support (1) pour une surface d'appui (50) comprenant :

- des moyens de soutien (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) aptes à être disposés au sol sur deux ou plusieurs zones d'appui (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d) et comprenant deux ou plusieurs jambes ;
- des moyens de connexion (15) aptes à relier lesdits moyens de soutien (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) à ladite surface d'appui (50) dans deux ou plusieurs zones de connexion ;
- des moyens de manutention desdits moyens de connexion (15) aptes à consentir leur positionnement dans une première position correspondant à une condition d'utilisation de ladite surface d'appui (50) et dans une deuxième position correspondant à une condition de non utilisation de ladite surface d'appui (50) ;
- des moyens de blocage (24) associés avec lesdits moyens de manutention de manière à ce qu'ils puissent être bloqués dans ladite première position,
- deux sièges d'accouplement (26, 27) obtenus dans des éléments de support saillants (20, 21) pour l'engagement avec un élément d'accouplement correspondant, où lesdits moyens de blocage (24) comprennent deux poignées (28, 29) disposées sur des zones différentes de ladite structure de support (1), et 50

où lesdits moyens de blocage (24) comprennent deux éléments d'accouplement (25) aptes à être positionnés dans une configuration d'accouplement, où la surface d'appui (50) est maintenue solidement et stablement en position horizontale, et où les éléments d'accouplement (25) peuvent être tournés au moyen des poignées (28, 29), 55

où elle comprend des moyens d'adaptation (11) aptes à consentir l'adaptation de ladite structure de support (1) à des dimensions différentes de ladite surface d'appui (50), où lesdits moyens d'adaptation (11) comprennent un ou plusieurs éléments d'interconnexion (11a, 11b) de type télescopique, **caractérisée en ce qu'elle** comprend un élément d'interconnexion (30) qui unit les poignées (28, 29), où l'élément d'interconnexion (30) comprend deux portions tubulaires (30a, 30b) qui peuvent être accouplées et insérées l'une dans l'autre de manière télescopique.

2. Structure (1) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisée en ce que** lesdits moyens d'adaptation comprennent des moyens d'éloignement/rapprochement desdites zones d'appui (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d) desdits moyens de soutien (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d).

3. Structure (1) selon la revendication 1 ou 2, **caractérisée en ce que** lesdits moyens d'adaptation comprennent des moyens d'éloignement/rapprochement desdites zones de connexion.

4. Structure (1) selon la revendication 2 ou 3, **caractérisée en ce que** lesdits moyens de manutention (10) comprennent des moyens télescopiques.

5. Structure (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** lesdits moyens de connexion (15) comprennent deux ou plusieurs étriers (16, 17) aptes à la connexion à ladite surface d'appui (50). 30

6. Structure (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** lesdits moyens de manutention comprennent des moyens de rotation desdits moyens de connexion (15). 35

7. Structure (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** lesdits moyens d'adaptation comprennent des moyens d'éloignement/rapprochement desdites poignées (28, 29). 40

8. Structure (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** ladite condition d'utilisation de ladite surface d'appui (50) correspond à la disposition horizontale de ladite surface d'appui (50). 45

9. Structure (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** ladite condition de non utilisation de ladite surface d'appui (50) correspond à la disposition essentiellement verticale de ladite surface d'appui (50). 50

10. Élément mobilier (100) comprenant une surface

d'appui (50) et une structure de support (1) pour la-dite surface d'appui (50), **caractérisé en ce que** la-dite structure de support (1) est une structure de support (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes.

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11. Élément mobilier (100) selon la revendication 10, **caractérisé en ce qu'il** est constitué d'une table (100).

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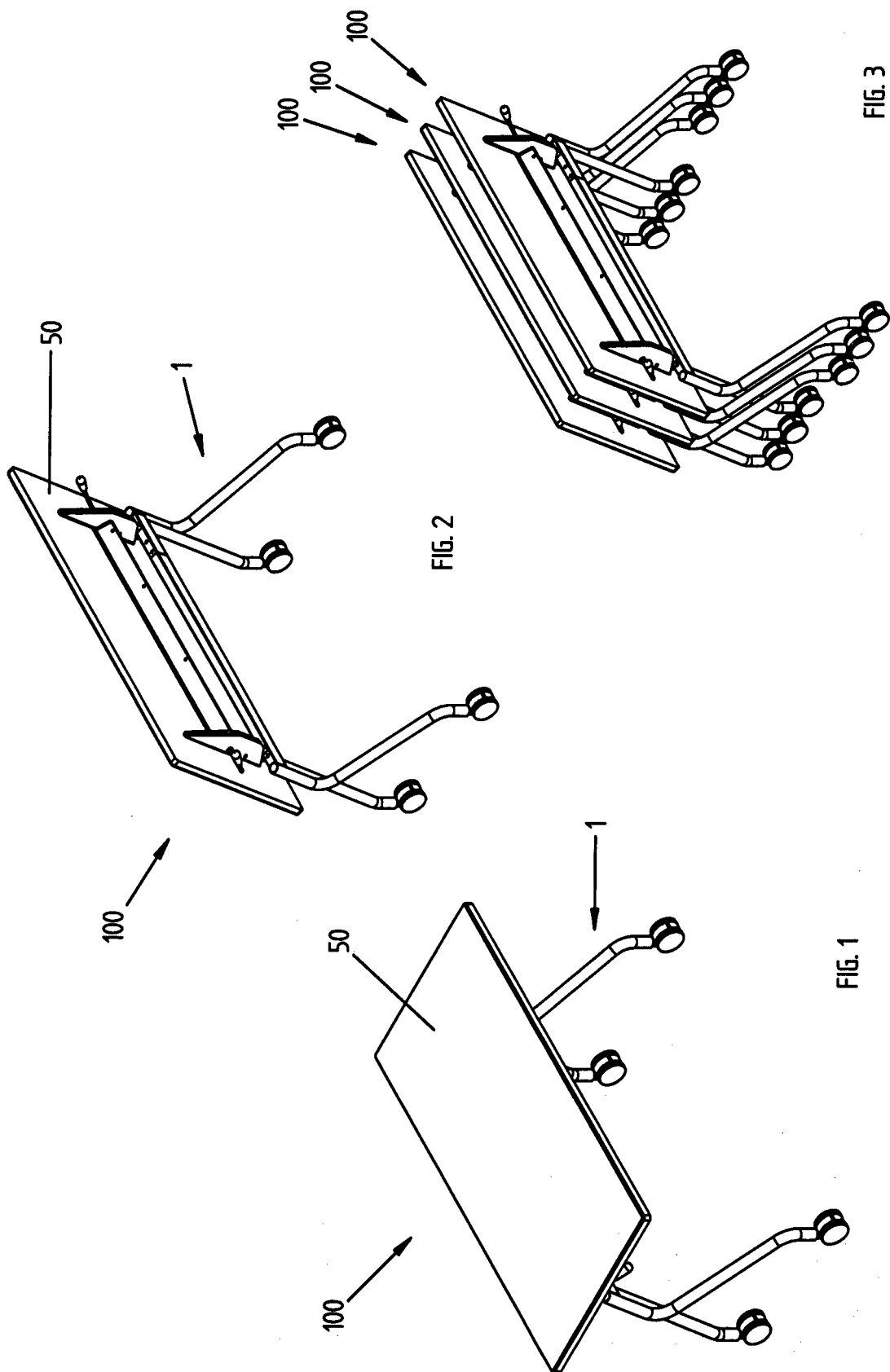
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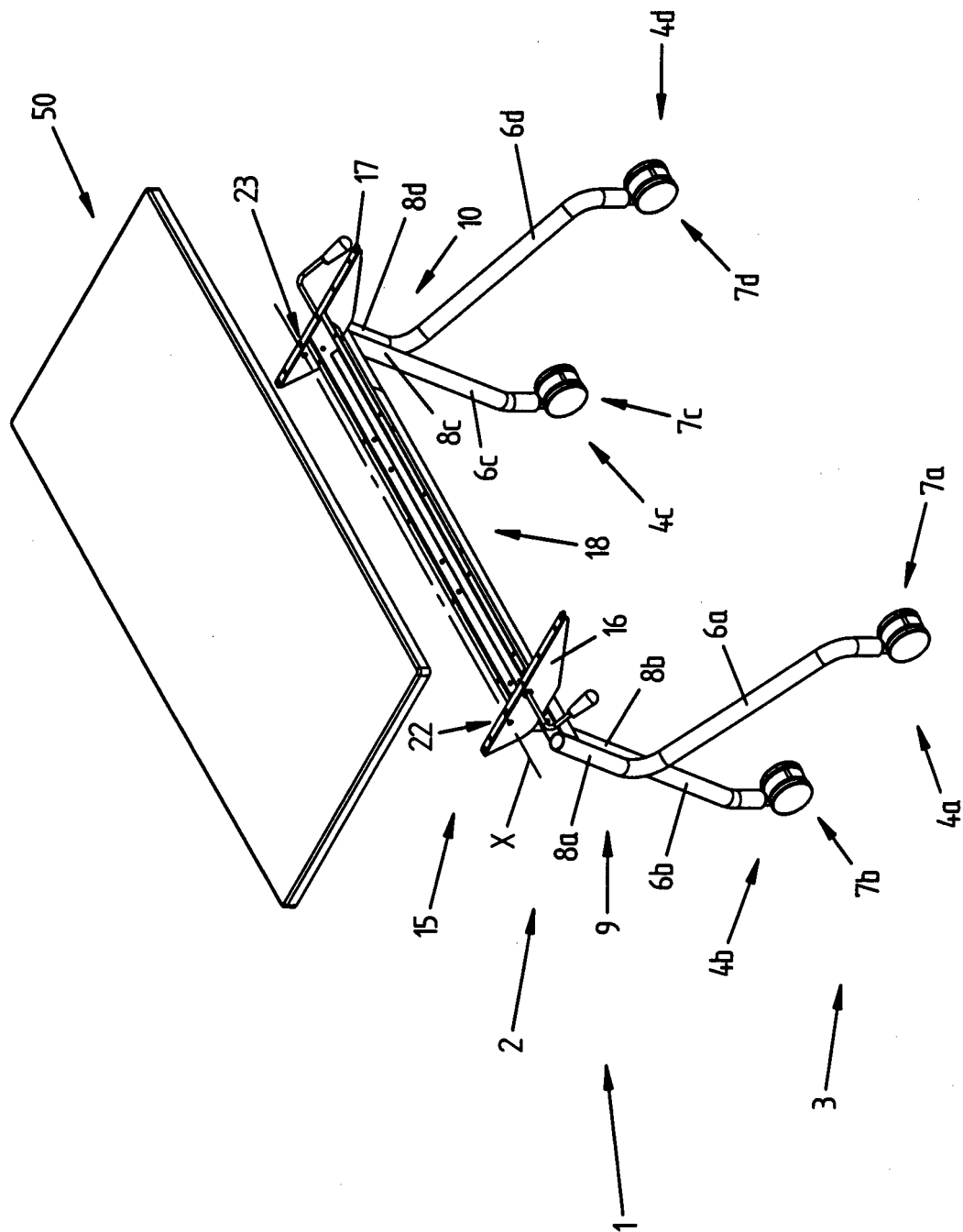
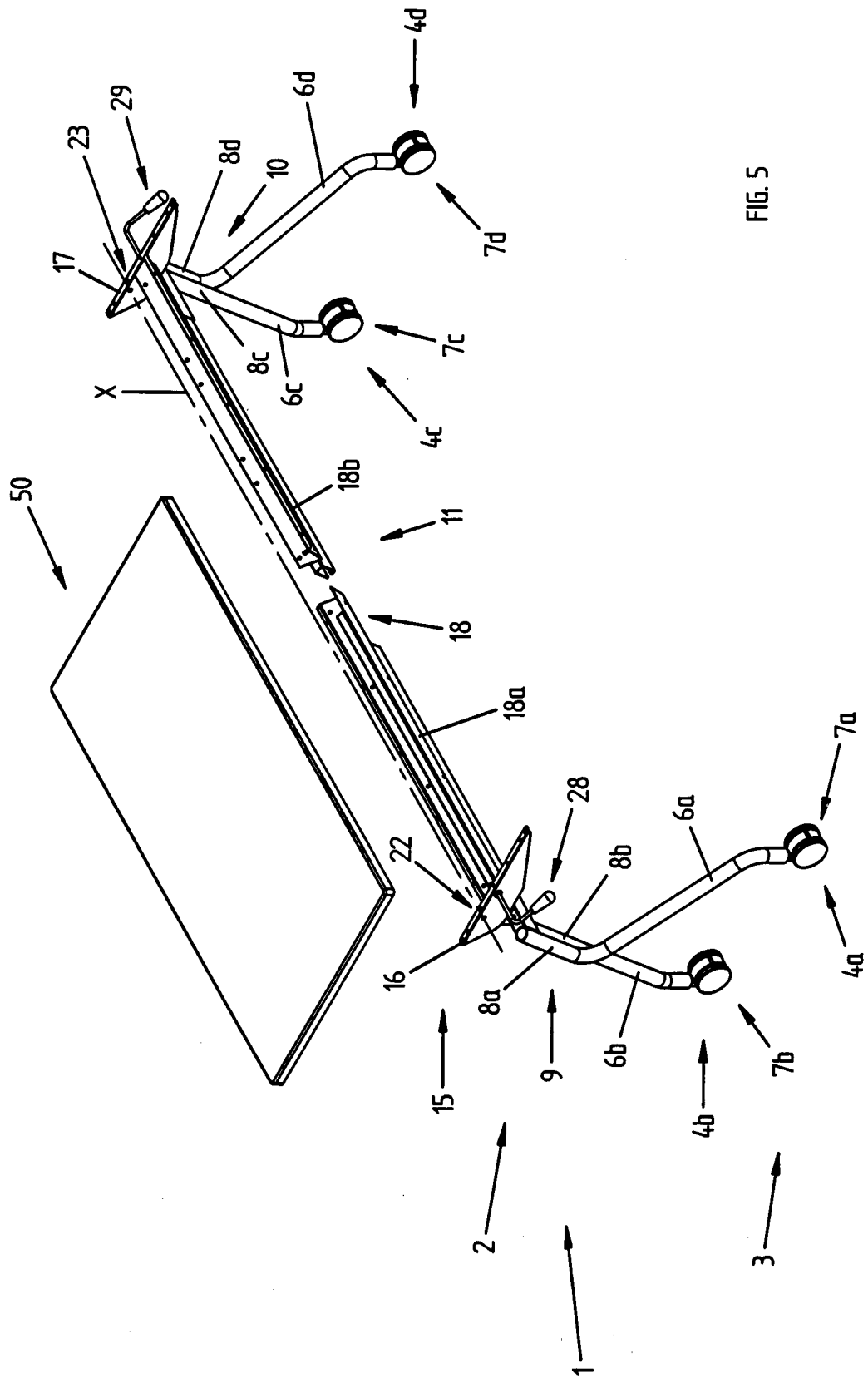


FIG. 4



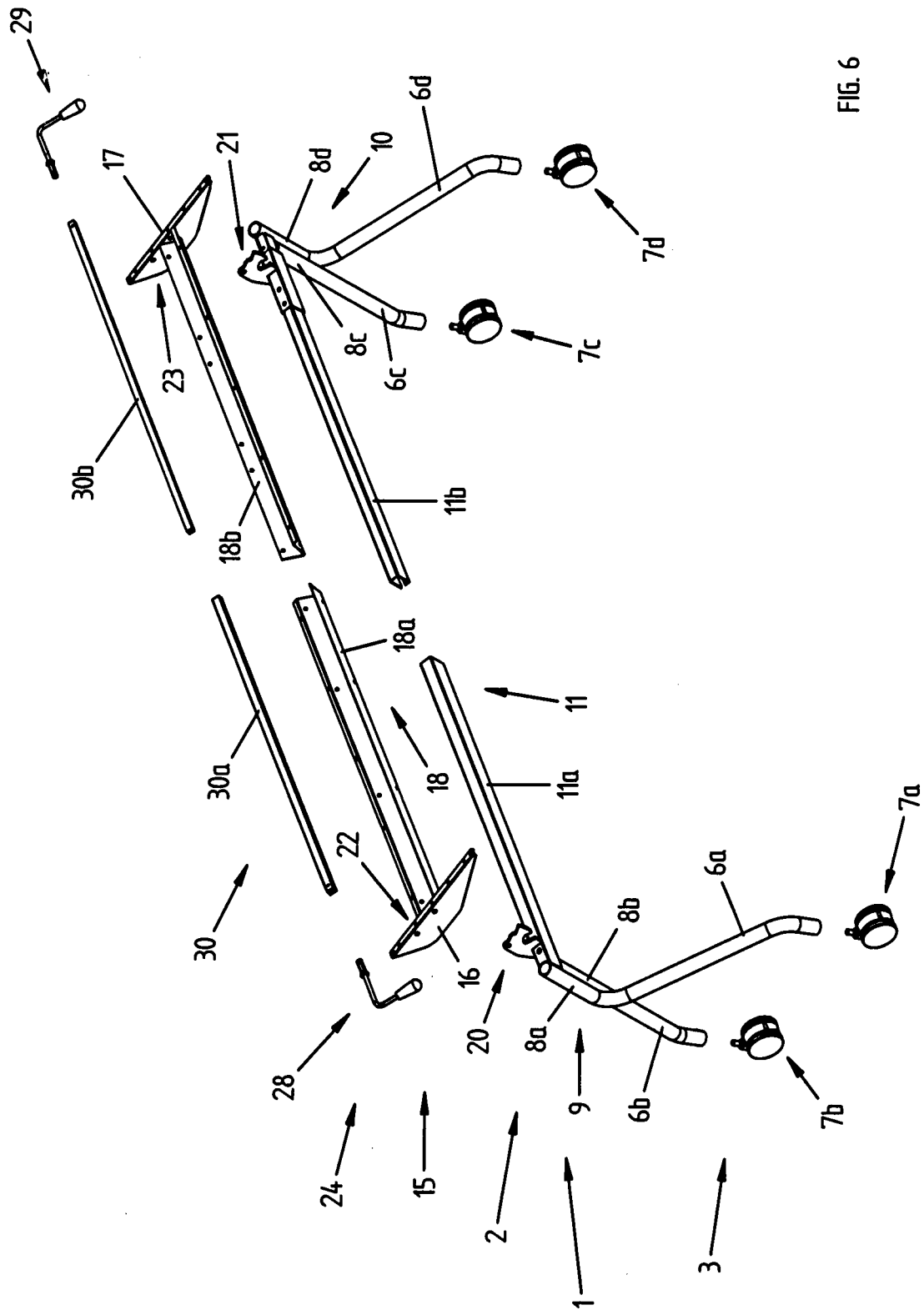


FIG. 6

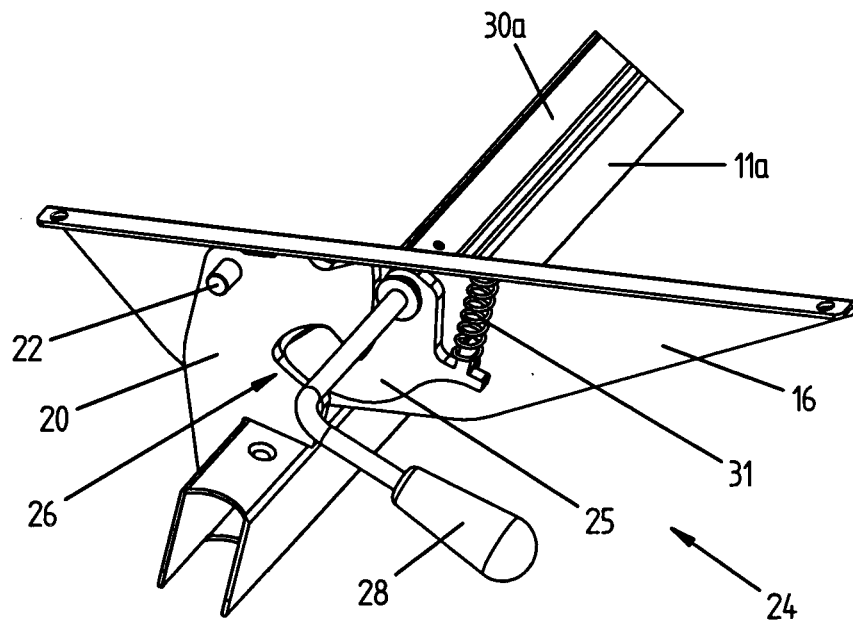


FIG. 7

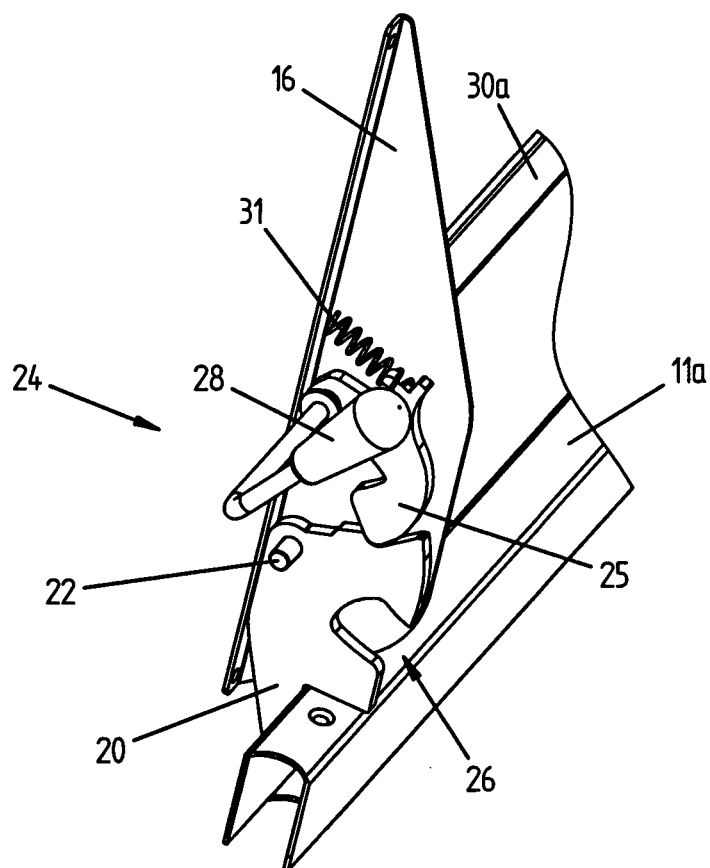


FIG. 8

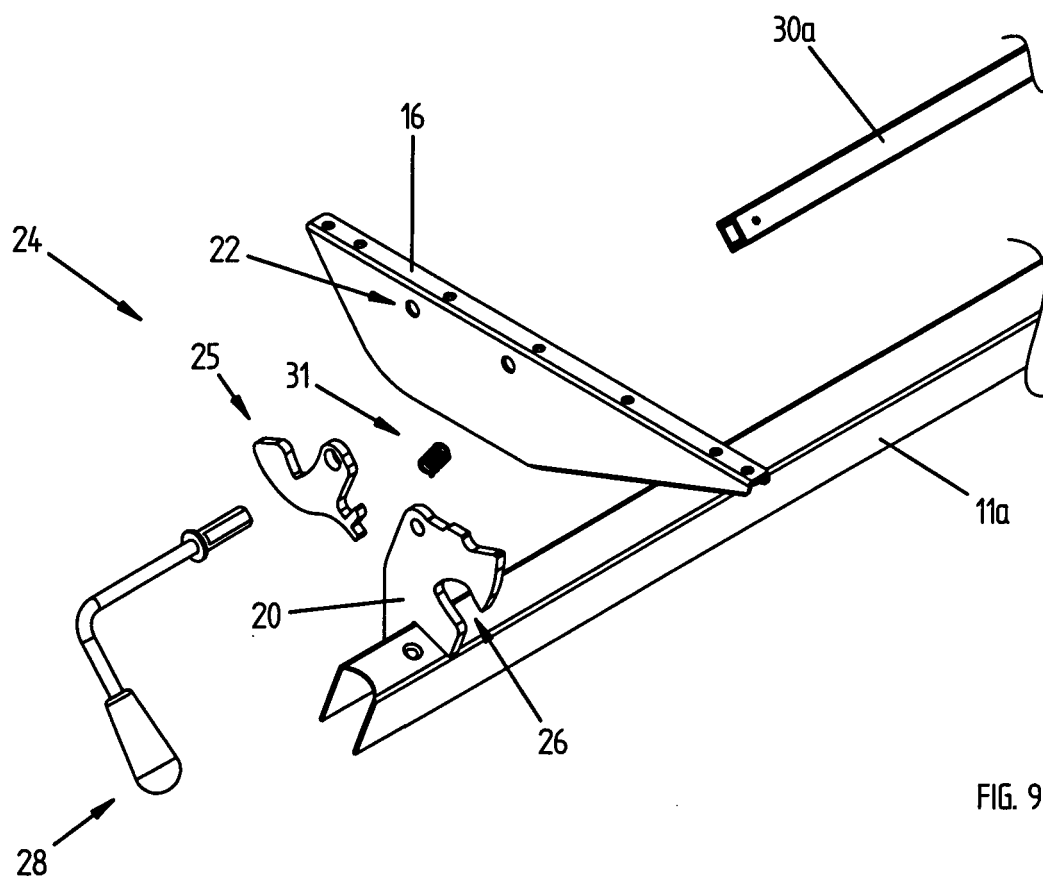


FIG. 9

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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