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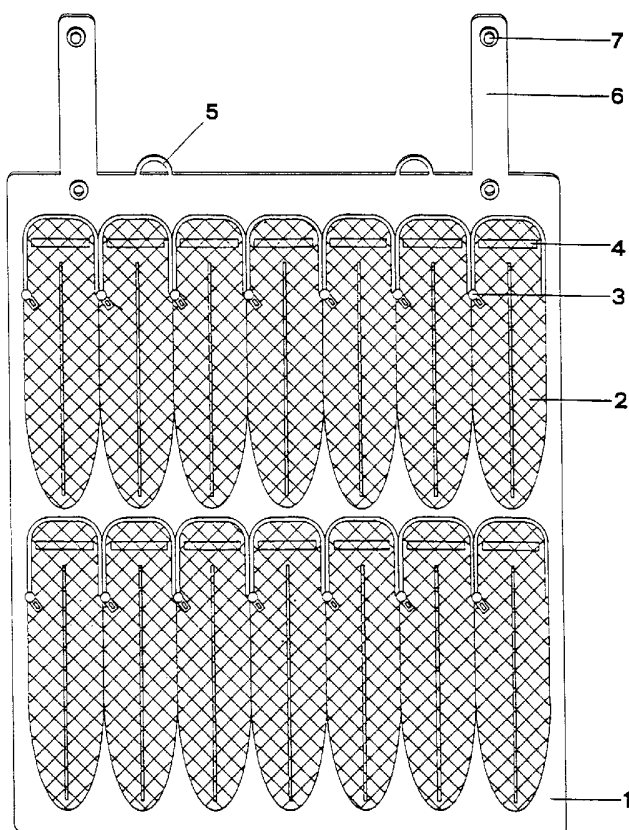
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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: A DEVICE FOR KEEPING PAIRED SOCKS AND SIMILAR BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER WASHING



(57) Abstract: A device for keeping paired socks and similar before, during and after washing, consisting of a cloth (1) having, on one side only or on both, a plurality of net-shaped mesh bags (2) provided with closing and fastening means (3) and (4), each for containing one pair of socks to be washed, and with eyelets (5) for hooking and tying (6) and (7) placed on the upper part of said cloth (1).

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A DEVICE FOR KEEPING PAIRED SOCKS AND SIMILAR BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER WASHING

The present invention concerns a device for keeping paired socks
5 and similar before, during and after washing.

It is well known that, after use, above mentioned garments are usually placed into containers for dirty clothes and then put, all together, into the washing machine; this inevitably determines the
10 separation of the pair of socks and similar, thus also causing the mixing up of different colours and models. As a consequence, once socks and similar are washed and dried, they are to be paired again, with a considerable waste of time and energy. Furthermore, in the case of shapes, colours and patterns similar between each other it
15 appears difficult and boring to pair them again, and errors are sometimes unavoidable.

At present, the prior art does not provide any effective solution to above described need.

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It is therefore the aim of the present invention to provide a device for completely solving above described need in a simple, practical and effective manner.

25 The aim set forth is reached by means of the device according to the present invention, consisting of a cloth having, on one side only

or on both, a plurality of net-shaped mesh bags, with upper closing and fastening means, each able to contain a pair of socks to be washed, with eyelets for hooking and means for getting tied to the drier, provided in the upper part of said mesh.

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According to the present invention, each of said bags has a closing system with a zip, a stretch, buttons or hooks and is internally divided so as to form two sections for housing each of the two socks forming the pair, so as to prevent them from getting intertwined during washing, for making quicker also the following drying. Furthermore, each bag has a fastening system consisting of a small elastic band or a similar clip for fixing the socks during washing and after, when the device according to the present invention is placed onto the drier.

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According to the present invention, said eyelets for hooking placed in the upper part of the carrying mesh shall keep the device tied in a laundry-room rather in the basket for the dirty cloths, until the bags are filled with socks or similar to be washed.

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At last, the device according to the present invention has means for getting tied to the drier consisting of small bands and similar, provided with a closing system making use of snap fasteners, or buttonholes and buttons, or hooks, or small paired strings to be tied to the rope of the drier, or similar mechanisms.

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The advantage deriving from the device according to the present invention is evident.

The device according to the present invention will be explained
5 more in detail hereinbelow relating to the enclosed drawings in which a preferred embodiment is shown.

Figure 1 shows a front view of a device for keeping paired socks and similar before, during and after washing.

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Figure 2 shows a front view of a device containing the socks, ready for use.

Figures 3 and 4 show in detail the housing of the socks or similar
15 before, during and after washing, said housing consisting of a cloth 1 having on one or both sides a plurality of net-shaped mesh bags 2, with upper closing and fastening means 3 and 4, each divided in two parts for containing the elements of each pair of socks, and provided also with upper eyelets 5 for hooking and small bands or
20 similar 6 for getting tied to the drier S for drying, with snap fastener 7 closing system.

It shall be underlined that the net-shaped mesh of said bags 2 allows a perfect passage of the water and therefore a perfect washing of the
25 socks C and similar.

Furthermore, the device according to the present invention may be used also for washing stockings, which are to be carefully handled to their extreme delicacy.

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CLAIMS

1. A device for keeping paired socks and similar before, during and after washing, characterized in a cloth (1) carrying on one or
5 both sides a plurality of net-shaped mesh bags (2), provided with an upper and lower closing and fastening means (3) and (4), each being divided in two sections for containing the elements of each pair of socks, and also provided with upper eyelets (5) for hooking and small bands (6) for being tied to the drier (S) for
10 drying.
2. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that each of said bags (2) is provided with:
 - a system for closing (3) with a zip, a stretch, a button or
15 hooks, and divided inside so as to form two sections for housing each of the two socks, so as to prevent them from intertwining during washing and for making the drying quicker;
 - a fastening system (4) consisting of a small elastic band, or a
20 clip having the same function, for fixing the socks during washing and after, when the device according to the present invention will be placed on the drier.
3. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that it is provided
25 with hooking means (6) consisting of small bands and similar, having a closing system (7) that makes use of snap fasteners,

buttonholes and buttons, small hooks or small paired strings to be tied to the rope of the drier, or similar mechanisms.

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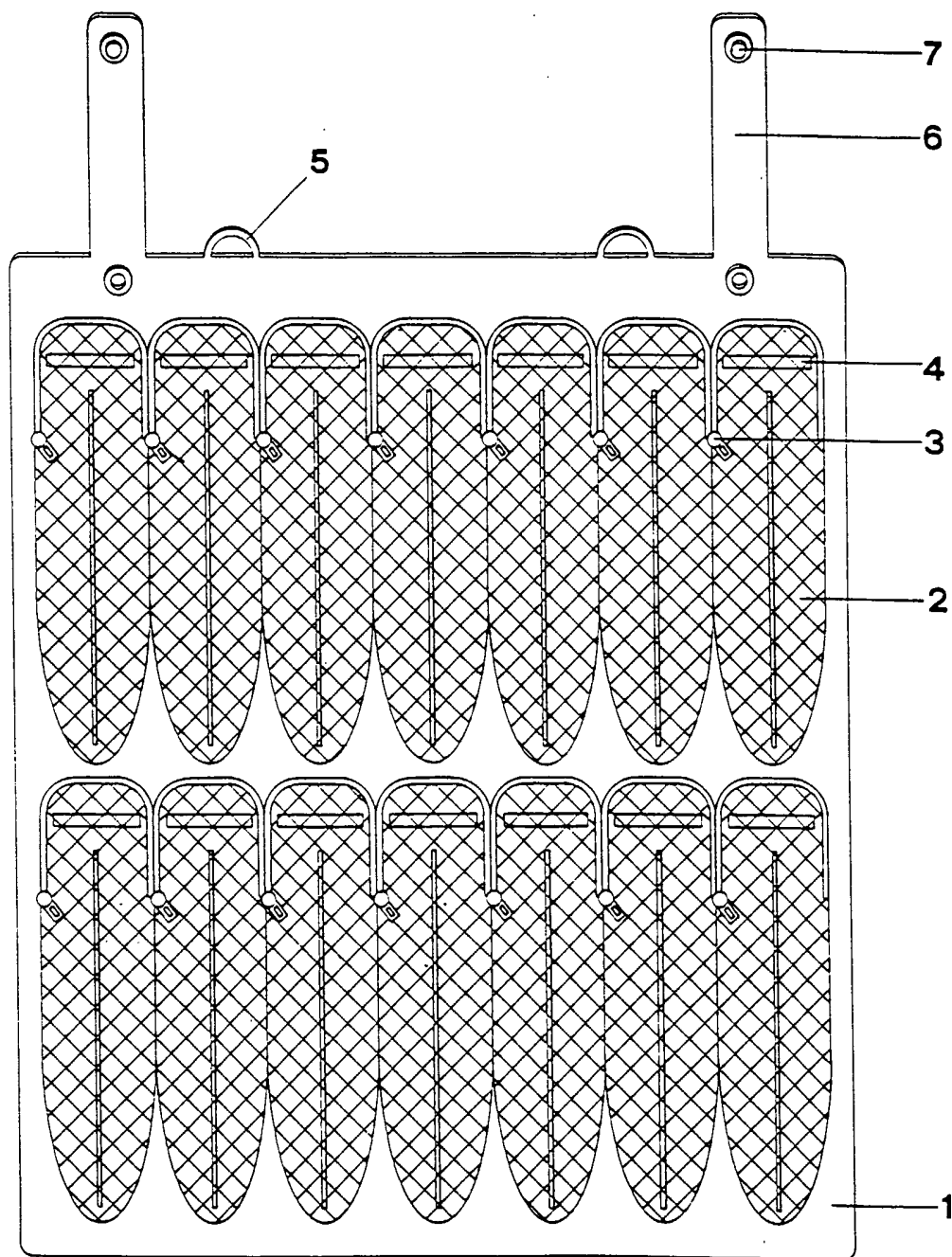


FIG.1

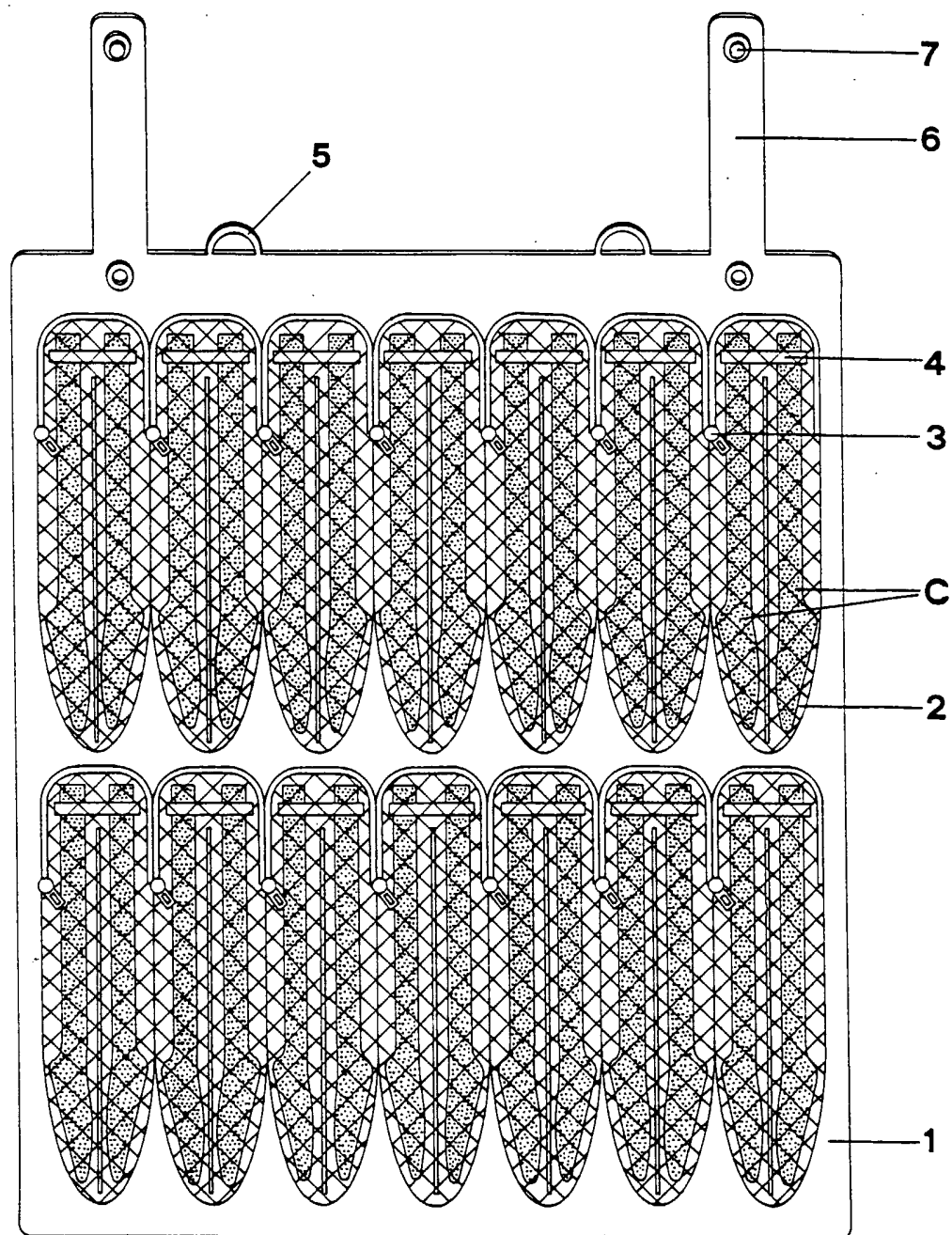
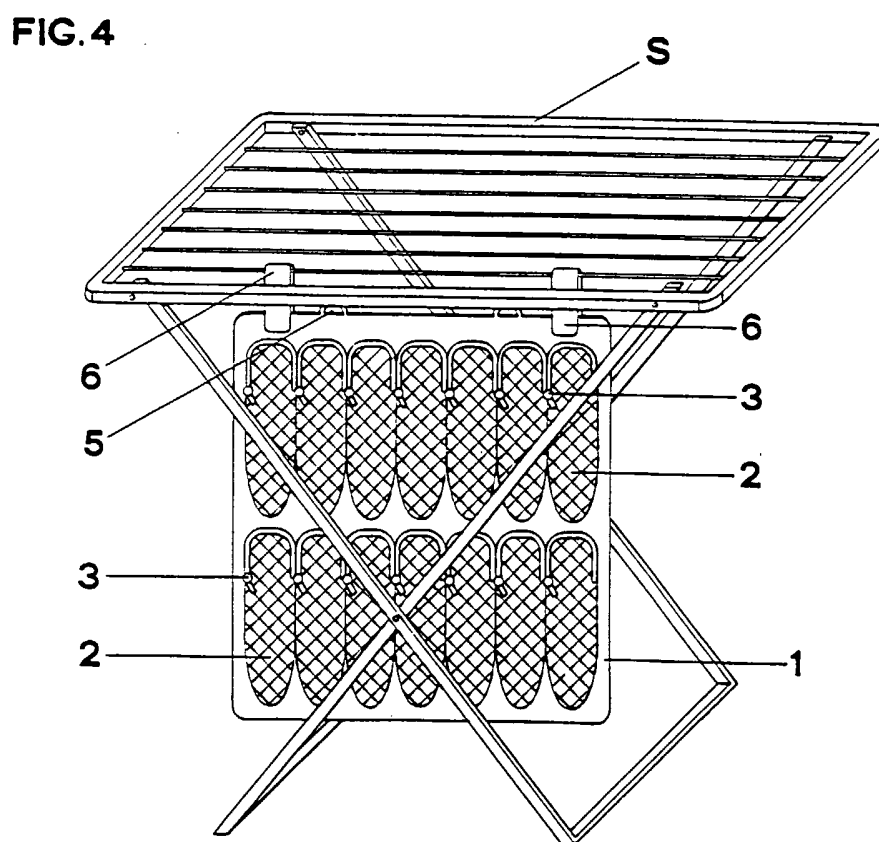
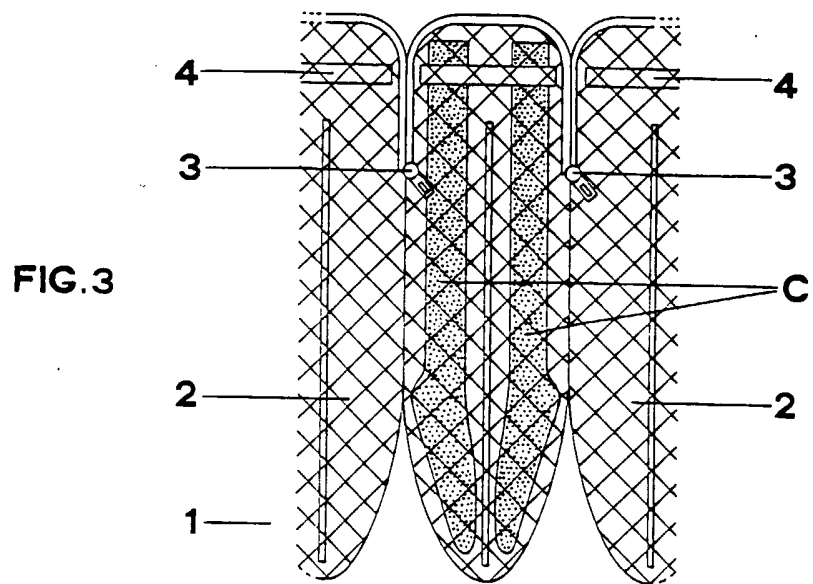


FIG. 2



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
D06F95/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	US 5 803 605 A (MASI ET AL) 8 September 1998 (1998-09-08) claims; figures 1,6,7	1-3
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A	WO 03/083199 A (WILLIAMS, GLENN, D) 9 October 2003 (2003-10-09) the whole document	1-3
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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