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DESCRIPTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates to a floating unit and a floating structure constructed by assembling said floating units.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] Floating structures such as a dock, a jetty, a raft, etc. constructed from a single floating unit or a plurality of floating units assembled together, which can be utilized or towed, are well known.

[0003] For the floating structure constructed from a plurality of floating units assembled together, US patent No. US8,037,837 B2 assigned to Candock Inc., Canada, discloses a dock unit attachable to another dock unit with a fastener for forming a floating dock. Likewise, for assembling a plurality of floating units as disclosed in European patent application, publication No. EP 2 682 336 A1 owned by Marine System Europa S.L., Spain, floating units are interlinked to each other in a jointed form by means of connectors being in the form of perforated projections and bolts.

[0004] In said existing inventions as described above, the floating unit has protrusions each of which is laterally extended for receiving the respective fasteners or bolts, thereby the floating unit can be attached to another floating unit. This structure has several disadvantages including: these components are easily damaged; and the components of the floating unit formed by a plastic molding may leads to a complicated mold, so that it may cause increases in production cost of the floating unit.

[0005] Meanwhile, in the invention according to European patent application, publication No. EP 0 385 903 A1 owned by S.A. Ateliers Polyvalents Chateauneuf, France, floating units are attached together by using bolts and nuts having four horizontal arms each of which is adapted in order to be fitted into a cavity on the lower surface of the floating unit, so that the floating units can be attached together without using any protrusions for receiving the bolts. However, since said floating units are attached together by screwing-in force for the bolts, it is possible that the bolts may be loosened.

[0006] US patent No. 5.281.055 A discloses a floating unit capable of attaching to another floating unit by locks for constructing a floating structure. The floating unit comprises a polygonally shaped, hollow floating body having an upper, a lower, and a plurality of lateral surfaces. The upper and the lower surfaces each comprise at least one engaging surface each being adapted to be fitted with a locking surface of the lock, thereby, attaching the floating body

to another floating body. The upper and lower engaging surfaces comprise openings.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] In order to overcome the problems as mentioned above, an objective of the present invention is to provide a floating unit capable of attaching to another floating unit by locks for assembling a floating structure which is simple and not complex, so that the manufacturing cost is low. The floating units can be locked together by the locks without using screws or other fastening means, so that the floating units can be easily assembled and firmly attached together.

[0008] In addition, another objective of this invention is to construct a multi-floor floating structure with or without a space between floors, wherein the lower floor(s) is weighed by a material with a density higher than that of water such as sand, concrete, etc., so that the floating structure is more stable and can be further utilized.

[0009] The floating unit capable of attaching to another floating unit by the locks for constructing the floating structure according to this invention comprises a floating body being in the form of a hollow polygonal shape as viewed from above. The floating body comprises an upper surface, a lower surface, and a plurality of lateral surfaces connected to said upper surface and said lower surface. Said upper surface and said lower surface of the floating body respectively comprise at least one upper engaging surface and at least one lower engaging surface respectively on each associated side of said polygonal floating body, wherein the upper and lower engaging surface are respectively adapted in order to be fitted with a locking surface of said lock. Therefore, said floating body can be attached to a floating body of another floating unit.

[0010] The foregoing and other objectives and features of this invention will become more clearly apparent from the following detail description of this invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011]

Figures 1A- 1D show the first embodiment of a floating unit according to this invention;

Figures 2A- 2C show the second embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention;

Figures 3A-3C show the third embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention;

Figures 4A- 4D show the forth embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention;

Figure 5 shows a process for assembly the floating units according to Figure 4 in order to construct a single-floor floating structure;

Figures 6A - 6C show the fifth embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention;

Figure 7 shows a process for assembly the floating units according to Figure 6 together in order to construct a single-floor floating structure;

Figures 8A- 8C show the sixth embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention;

Figure 9 shows a structure of the floating unit according to the forth embodiment as shown in Figure 4 for facilitating assembly with another floating unit or assembly with an external device;

Figure 10 shows a detail of an auxiliary floating unit used in combination with the structure for facilitating assembly between floating units or assembly with the external connecting device such as a water pipe, an electric conduit, etc.;

Figure 11 shows one form of a main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the first embodiment as shown in Figure 1;

Figure 12 shows another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the second embodiment as shown in Figure 2;

Figures 13A, 13B 14A, and 14B show another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the third embodiment as shown in Figure 3;

Figure 15 shows another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the forth embodiment as shown in Figure 4;

Figure 16 shows another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the fifth embodiment as shown in Figure 6;

Figure 17 shows another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the seventh embodiment;

Figure 18 shows the seventh embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention used with the main lock-connecting element as shown in Figure 17;

Figure 19 shows another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the sixth embodiment as shown in Figure 8;

Figure 20 shows detail of the lock comprising a locking rod, an inner lock-inserting element, a

locking element, and a lock-inserting element.

Figures 21A- 21E show steps of assembling the lock as shown in Figure 20;

Figure 22 shows an example of a two-floor floating structure constructed from the floating units and the locks according to this invention; and

Figure 23 shows the second example of a three-floor floating structure constructed by assembling the floating units according to this invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] A floating unit according to this invention is in the form of a hollow polygonal floating unit, and preferably made of a plastic material such as high-density polyethylene (HDPE), polyprolylene random copolymer (PPR), polyester, polycarbonate, ABS plastic, or similar plastic materials, or a metal such as aluminium, rust-preventive plated iron, etc. The floating unit is formed such that lateral surfaces, corners, an upper surface, and a lower surface have the structure capable of attachment for an extension in a longitudinal direction of all lateral surfaces, and an extension in a vertical direction of the upper and lower surfaces. The embodiments of this invention are only exemplified for clear disclosure in detail description of this invention, and the enlarged figures and the additional figures are provided for clarity of the disclosure.

[0013] According to one embodiment, the floating unit according to this invention can be attached to another floating unit by locks for constructing the floating structure, wherein said floating unit comprises a floating body being in the form of a hollow polygonal shape as viewed from above. The floating body comprises an upper surface, a lower surface, and a plurality of lateral surfaces connected to said upper and lower surfaces. Said upper surface and said lower surfaces of the floating body comprise at least one upper engaging surface and at least one lower engaging surface respectively on each associated side of said polygonal floating body, wherein the upper and lower engaging surfaces are respectively adapted in order to be fitted with a locking surface of said lock, therefore, said floating body can be attached to a floating body of another floating unit, and said upper and lower engaging surfaces of said floating body respectively comprise a number of notches, each of which has a contact surface inclined outwardly of said floating body, wherein, in use, the corresponding contact surfaces of the notches of said upper engaging surface and the corresponding contact surfaces of the notches of said lower engaging surface are contacted with the locking surfaces of said locks, therefore, said floating unit can be attached to another floating unit.

[0014] According to another embodiment of this invention, the floating unit can be attached to another floating unit by the locks for constructing the floating structure, wherein said floating unit comprises a floating body being in the form of a hollow polygonal shape as viewed from

above. The floating body comprises an upper surface, a lower surface, and a plurality of lateral surfaces connected to said upper and lower surfaces. Said upper surface and said lower surface of the floating body comprise at least one upper engaging surface and at least one lower engaging surface respectively on each associated side of said polygonal floating body, wherein the upper and lower engaging surfaces are respectively adapted in order to be fitted with a locking surface of said lock, and therefore, said floating body can be attached to a floating body of another floating unit, and said upper and lower engaging surfaces of said floating body respectively comprise a peripheral groove **10** and a radial groove(s) **2** communicated with said peripheral groove, in which contact surfaces of said upper engaging surface **200** and said lower engaging surface **202** are inclined, wherein, in use, the corresponding peripheral grooves (10), radial recesses **2** and contact surfaces of said upper engaging surface **200** and of said lower engaging surface **202** are contacted with the locking surfaces of said locks, therefore, said floating unit can be attached to another floating unit.

[0015] According to another embodiment of this invention, the floating structure comprises a plurality of floating units according to one of the embodiments of this invention and a plurality of locks, wherein each said floating unit is attached to another floating unit by said locks respectively comprising: a locking rod being in the form of a hollow cylindrical rod with at least two holes pierced through the wall of said locking rod and located adjacent to one end of said locking rod; a lock-connecting element having a central through hole adapted for snugly inserting of said locking rod therethrough, wherein said lock-connecting element comprises an engaging surface capable of snugly engaging with said upper engaging surface or said lower engaging surface of said floating unit; a pair of lock-engaging elements, wherein each lock-engaging element is in the form of an arc-shaped portion capable of snugly enclosing the outside of the locking rod, and the inside of each lock-engaging element is provided with at least one latch for snugly inserting into the corresponding hole of the locking rod, while said pair of lock-engaging elements is enclosed the outside of the locking rod; and a lock-inserting element for putting on and covering on the end of the locking rod, while the outside of the locking rod is snugly enclosed by the pair of said lock-engaging elements, wherein, in use, an edge of each lock-engaging element is abutted on the corresponding lock-connecting element, such that the engaging surface of said lock-connecting element is locked onto said corresponding upper or lower engaging surfaces of at least two floating units together, whereby the floating units can be locked and attached together, and the floating structure can be constructed therefrom.

[0016] The detailed description of this invention is given hereafter in a way of exemplary embodiments of this invention and taken in conjunction with the appended drawings, in which like elements in the appended drawings are identified by like reference numerals. While particular embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated and described, it is not intended to limit this invention, and the scope of this invention is defined in the appended claims.

[0017] Figures 1A- 1D show the first embodiment of the floating unit capable of attaching to another floating unit by the locks for constructing the floating structure according to this

invention.

[0018] According to Figure 1A, the floating unit comprises the floating body **100** being in the form of a hollow equilateral triangular prism as shown an elevation view, while Figure 1D is a plan view as viewed from below. The floating body **100** comprises an upper surface **101**, a lower surface **103** (see Fig 1D which is the plan view as viewed from below), and three lateral surfaces 105 connected to said upper surface **101** and said lower surface **103**.

[0019] Figures 1B and 1C show the engaging surfaces located at the corners and the lateral edge respectively. The floating body **100** is provided with the upper engaging surfaces **200** located at the corner (as shown in Figure 1B) and the lateral edge (at least one engaging surface on each lateral edge of said polygonal-shaped floating body, as shown in Figure 1C), and the lower engaging surfaces **202** (see Figure 1D). The lower engaging surfaces **202** are identical and appear to be a mirror image of the upper engaging surfaces **200**.

[0020] Each upper and lower engaging surface (**200** and **202**) is adapted in order to fitted with the locking surface of the lock, wherein the detail of the lock will be described hereafter. Therefore, said floating body can be attached to a floating body of another floating unit.

[0021] These engaging surfaces serve as surfaces for facilitating assembly with another floating unit and assembly with external connecting devices in both horizontal and vertical directions.

[0022] According to Figure 1A at least one lateral surface **105** of the floating body **100** may be provided with a main concave portion **1** and/or a recess **6** being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width and curvature, and the length fully extended along the lateral surface from the top to the bottom. The recess **6** is extended from the upper surface **101** to the lower surface **103** of the floating body. Likewise, it may be provided with at least one projection **7** being in the form of a convex portion outwardly extended and having a certain size and shape on the lateral surface of the floating body, such that the projection can be snugly engaged to the recess **6**.

[0023] According to Figures 1B and 1C, at least one or a plurality of grooves **2** each of which has a certain width, length and depth, and not penetrated into the inside are formed on the respective regions of the upper surface and the lower surfaces located adjacent to the main concave portion 1. The grooves **2** located adjacent to the main concave portion 1 are periodically spaced apart on both upper and lower surfaces. The depression(s) **3** having a certain diameter and depth and not penetrated into the inside is(are) formed on the respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces of the floating unit. The depression **3** can also be an elliptic shape or another shape and is communicated to the corresponding groove **2**, wherein the depth of one end of the groove **2** located near the depression **3** is shallower than that of the other end of the groove **2** located near the main concave portion **1**, such that the groove **2** is upwardly inclined from the main concave portion **1** to the depression **3**. A curved groove **4** having a certain width, curvature and depth, and not penetrated into the inside may be formed

on the respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces of the floating unit, wherein the curved groove **4** is communicated with the corresponding and existing depressions **3**, and both ends of the curved groove **4** are terminated at the respective left and right sides or the corresponding same side of the equilateral triangular prism-shaped floating unit.

[0024] At least one of either side of the floating unit is provided with at least one recess **6** having a certain width and the length fully extended along the side from the upper engaging surface to the lower engaging surface, so that the projection **7** of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this recess. Likewise, at least one of either side of the equilateral triangular prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one projection **7** having a certain width and the length fully extended along the lateral surface between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface, so that the recess **6** of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this projection.

[0025] According to Figure 1B, the 60-degree corner of the hollow equilateral triangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with a main concave portion **5** or a recess 6 being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width for inserting a shaft of the lock, or it can be a beveled portion at this corner fully extended between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface.

[0026] Said upper engaging surface **200** and said lower engaging surface **202** of said floating body have the same features. Each engaging surface comprises a peripheral groove **4** being in the form of a groove extended into the surface, and a plurality of radial grooves **2** obliquely extended, communicated with the peripheral groove **4**, and having a ridge at both walls of the groove, such that movement of the lock (not shown) can be prevented by the walls of said peripheral groove **4**. This ridge may have an inclined contact surface being in the form of a wedge in order to produce friction between the engaging surface and the lock. While being used, the peripheral groove **4** and the corresponding contact surface of the upper engaging surface **200** and the lower engaging surface **202** are engaged to the locking surface of the lock (not shown). Therefore, said floating unit can be firmly attached to another floating unit.

[0027] According to Figures 1B and 1C, a groove **2** being in the form of a inclined groove having a certain width, length and depth, and not penetrated into the inside are formed on the respective regions of the upper surface and the lower surface of the floating unit located adjacent to the main concave portion **5**. A depression **3** having a certain diameter and depth, and not penetrated into the inside is formed on the respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces of the floating unit. The depression **3** can also be an elliptic shape or another shape and is communicated to the corresponding groove **4** and inclined groove **2**, wherein the depth of one end of the groove **2** located near the depression **3** is shallower than that of the other end of the groove **2** located near the main concave portion **5**, such that the groove **2** is upwardly inclined from the main concave portion **5** to the depression **3**. At least one curved groove **4** having a certain width, curvature and depth, and not penetrated into the inside may be formed on the respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces of the floating unit, wherein the curved groove **4** is communicated with both left and right side of the depression **3**,

and both ends of the curved groove **4** are terminated at the respective adjacent sides of the equilateral triangular prism-shaped floating unit.

[0028] According to Fig 1D, the hollow equilateral triangular prism-shaped floating unit has the lower surface which is identical to the upper surface as described above, so that it will not repeatedly described. An anti-slip surface may be arranged on the equilateral triangular prism-shaped floating unit in the form of an anti-slip groove pattern (not shown in this figure), an anti-slip coating layer, or an anti-slip sheet attached to the floating unit by an adhesive or screws. At least one hole **8** having a certain diameter and depth, and not penetrated into the inside may be arranged on the upper and lower surface of the floating unit, wherein the hole may have internal threads for facilitating fastening of a plug (not show), wherein the holes may be spaced apart with a certain distance. The hole **8** serves as a hole for filling a material with a density equal to or higher than that of water such as water, sand, cement concrete, etc. into the floating unit, and then the hole is closed, so that the floating unit is submerged in water as required. Furthermore, the hole can serve as a hole for filling air in order to expel liquid (water) out of the floating unit, so that the submerged floating unit can be lifted up. In addition, the hole **8** may have female threads or an internal threads, such that an external-threaded plug (not shown) served as a cap can be screwed into the hole.

[0029] Figures 2 A- 2C show the second embodiment of a floating unit according to this invention, which is modified from the first embodiment, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers.

[0030] According to Figures 2A and 2B, another structure for facilitating lock-connecting of an external device is shown. The floating body of the floating unit is in the form of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism. The floating body having a structure for facilitating assembly between the floating units comprises an upper engaging surface **200** and a lower engaging surface **202** for facilitating assembly with the external connecting device on the upper side and the lower side of the floating unit respectively.

[0031] Figure 2B shows the engaging surface at the right-angle corner of the floating unit comprising a peripheral groove **10** and ridges located adjacent to the peripheral groove, wherein at least one inclined groove **2** having inclined surface radially extended are formed from the ridges for producing friction. A main concave portion **9** being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width may be formed at a right-angle corner for inserting of the lock, or it can be a beveled portion at the right-angle corner fully extended between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface. At least one or a plurality of grooves **2** each of which has a certain width, length and depth, and not penetrated into the inside are formed on the respective regions of the upper surface and the lower surfaces located adjacent to the main concave portion **9**. The grooves **2** located adjacent to the main concave portion **9** and periodically radially spaced apart, wherein this feature is the same on upper and lower surfaces. The respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces of the floating unit are provided with the curved groove **10** having a certain width, curvature and depth, not penetrated into the inside, and connected to the existing inclined grooves **2**, and the respective

inclined grooves **2** have the depth of one end communicated with the peripheral groove **10** shallower than that of the other end communicated with the main concave portion **9**, such that the inclined groove **2** is inclined from the main concave portion **9** to the peripheral groove **10**, and both ends of the peripheral groove **4** are terminated at the respective adjacent sides of the right-angle corner.

[0032] Figure 2C shows the lower surface of the floating body, which is identical and appears to be a mirror image of the upper surface, therefore it is not repeatedly described.

[0033] Figure 2A shows all three sides of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit, wherein at least one lateral surface of the floating body may be provided with a main concave portion **1** being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width and curvature, and the length fully extended along the lateral surface from the upper surface to the lower surface. The respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces located adjacent to the main concave portion **1** are provided with the peripheral groove **10** and a plurality of the inclined radial grooves **2** radially spaced apart. The inclined grooves **2** are communicated with the main concave portion **1** and periodically spaced apart. As assembling the floating unit to other floating units, on the respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces, the peripheral grooves **10** will substantially form an outer circle, and the ridges will substantially form an inner circle, as viewed from above.

[0034] According to Figure 2, the 45-degree corner of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with a main concave portion **11** being in the form of a concave portion or a beveled portion fully extended along the corner between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface. The respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces of the floating unit located adjacent to the main concave portion **11** are provided with an inclined groove **2** having a certain width, length and depth, and not penetrated into the inside, and communicated with the main concave portion **11** on both upper and lower surfaces. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit are provided with the peripheral groove **10** having a certain width, curvature and depth, and not penetrated into the inside, and communicated with the inclined groove **2**, and the inclined groove **2** having the depth of one end communicate with the peripheral groove **10** shallower than that of the other end communicated with the main concave portion **11**, such that the inclined groove **2** is upwardly inclined from the main concave portion **11** to the peripheral groove **10**, and both ends of the peripheral groove **10** are terminated at the respective adjacent sides of the corner.

[0035] According to Figure 2A, at least one of either side of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one engaging recess 6 and at least one engaging projection 7 having a size corresponding to the recess 6, such that the projection can be snugly engaged to the recess. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with an anti-slip groove pattern, or an anti-slip layer (not shown in this figure). The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit are also provided with at least one hole 8 which is the same as the previous embodiments, and it is not repeatedly described.

[0036] Figures 3A-3C show the third embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0037] According to Figures 3, another structure of the floating unit for facilitating lock-connecting of an external device is shown. The floating body of the floating unit is in the form of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism having the structure for facilitating assembly between the floating units and assembly with the external connecting device on both horizontal and vertical directions. All three lateral surfaces of the floating unit may be provided with at least one main concave portion 1 or recess being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width and the length fully extended along the height of the lateral surface from the upper engaging surface to the lower engaging surface. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit located adjacent to the main concave portion **1** are provided with the upper and lower engaging surface respectively comprising notches **12** each of which is in the form of an outwardly downwardly inclined indentation, wherein the width of the notch **12** located toward the inside is more than that located toward the outside in the form of a widening indentation. The notch **12** has a specific width and depth, such that the widening inclined notch **12** can be engaged with the device required to securely be engaged thereto.

[0038] According to Figure 3A, at least one of either side of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one engaging recess **6** having a certain width and the length fully extended along the side from the upper engaging surface to the lower engaging surface, so that the engaging projection 7 of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this recess. Likewise, at least one of either side of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one engaging projection **7** having a certain width and curvature, and the length fully extended along the lateral surface between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface, so that the engaging recess **6** of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this projection. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with an anti-slip groove pattern, or an anti-slip layer (not shown in this figure). The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit are also provided with at least one hole **8**, wherein the holes may be spaced apart with a certain distance. The hole **8** serves as a hole for filling a material with
a density equal to or higher than that of water into the floating unit, and then the hole is closed, so that the floating unit is submerged in water as required. Furthermore, the hole can serve as a hole for filling air in order to expel liquid (water) out of the floating unit, so that the submerged floating unit can be lifted up.

[0039] Figure 3B is an enlarged view for illustrating the specifically designed notch **12** on the engaging surface.

[0040] Figure 3C shows the top plan view of the surface of the floating unit, wherein the lower

surface is the same as the upper surface, and it appears to be a mirror image of the upper surface.

[0041] Figure 4 shows the forth embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0042] According to Figure 4, another structure of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit for facilitating lock-connecting of an external device is shown. The floating unit has the structure for facilitating assembly between the floating units and assembly with the external connecting device on both horizontal and vertical directions. At least one of either side of all three lateral surfaces of the floating unit may be provided with at least one main concave portion 1 or recess being in the form of a concave portion extended between the upper engaging surface **200** and the lower engaging surface **202** (not shown). The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit located adjacent to the main concave portion **1** are provided with at least one or a plurality of inclined grooves or indentation **14**, wherein they are periodically spaced apart. The widening inclined indentation **14** has a certain width and depth, and is widened and inclined toward the respective edge corners **15**, such that the distance between the edge corners **15** is more than the width of the indentation **14** located adjacent to the main concave portion **1**, and the space between the edge corners **15** is steeper than that of the indentation located adjacent to the main concave portion **1**. A curved groove **4a** having a certain width, depth, curvature and length, and not penetrated into the inside may be formed on the respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces of the floating unit, wherein the curved groove is formed in order to communicate the corresponding widening inclined indentations **14** at the existing edge corners **15** together, and both ends of the curved groove **4a** are terminated at the respective left and right sides of the main concave portion on the corresponding same side.

[0043] According to Figure 4B, the right-angle corner of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one main concave portion **9** or recess being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width, or it can be a beveled portion at the right-angle corner fully extended between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit located adjacent to the main concave portion **9** are provided with at least one or a plurality of widening inclined indentation **14**, wherein they are periodically spaced apart. The widening inclined indentation **14** has a certain width and depth, and is widened and inclined toward the respective edge corners **15**, such that the distance between the edge corners **15** is more than the width of the widening inclined indentation **14** located adjacent to the main concave portion **9**, and the space between the edge corners **15** is steeper than that of the indentation **14** located adjacent to the main concave portion **9**. A curved groove **4a** having a certain width, depth, curvature and length, and not penetrated into the inside may be formed on the respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces of the floating unit, wherein the curved groove is formed in order to communicate the corresponding widening inclined indentations **14** at the existing edge corners **15** together, and both ends of the curved groove

4a are terminated at the respective adjacent sides of the right-angle corner.

[0044] According to Figure 4C, the 45-degree corner of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with a main concave portion **11** or a recess being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width, or it can be a beveled portion at the corner fully extended between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit located adjacent to the main concave portion **11** are provided with at least one widening inclined indentation **14**. The widening inclined indentation **14** has a certain width and depth, and is widened and inclined toward the respective edge corners **15**, such that the distance between the edge corners **15** is more than the width of the widening inclined indentation **14** located adjacent to the main concave portion **11**, and the space between the edge corners **15** is steeper than that of the indentation **14** located adjacent to the main concave portion **11**. A curved groove **4a** having a certain width, depth, curvature and length, and not penetrated into the inside may be formed on the respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces of the floating unit, wherein the curved groove is formed in order to communicate the corresponding widening inclined indentations **14** at the existing edge corners **15** together, and both ends of the curved groove **4a** are terminated at the respective adjacent sides of the corner.

[0045] According to Figure 4A, at least one of either side of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one engaging recess **6** having a certain width and the length fully extended along the side from the upper engaging surface to the lower engaging surface, so that the engaging projection of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this recess. Likewise, at least one of either side of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one engaging projection **7** having a certain width and curvature, and the length fully extended along the lateral surface between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface, so that the engaging recess **6** of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this projection. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with an anti-slip groove pattern, or an anti-slip layer (not shown in this figure). The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit are also provided with at least one hole 8 having a certain diameter and depth, and not penetrated into the inside, wherein the holes may be spaced apart a the certain distance. The hole **8** serves as a hole for filling a material with a density equal to or higher than that of water into the floating unit, and then the hole is closed, so that the floating unit is submerged in water as required. Furthermore, the hole can serve as a hole for filling air in order to expel liquid (water) out of the floating unit, so that the submerged floating unit can be lifted up.

[0046] Figure 5 shows an example of a process for assembly the floating units according to Figure 4 in order to construct a single-floor floating structure.

[0047] According to Figure 5, the engaging projections **7** and the engaging recesses **6** of one floating unit are engaged to the engaging recesses **6** and the engaging projections **7** of

another floating unit respectively, while lock-connecting elements **36** of the lock are snugly engaged to the corresponding upper and lower engaging surface (**200** and **202**) (not shown), so that the floating units can be locked together. An external device installing channel **300** formed after this assembly is in the form of a substantially circular shape located in the middle of the floating structure.

[0048] Figure 6 shows the fifth embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0049] According to Figures 6, another structure of the hollow hexagonal prism-shaped floating unit for facilitating lock-connecting of an external device is shown. The floating unit has the structure for facilitating assembly between the floating units and assembly with the external connecting device on both horizontal and vertical directions. At least one of all six lateral surfaces of the hollow hexagonal prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with a main concave portion **1** or a recess being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width and extended between the upper engaging surface to the lower engaging surface. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit located adjacent to the main concave portion **1** are provided with the engaging surfaces comprising notches 16 having a certain width and depth. The notch 16 is depressed to a portion **17** and inwardly and upwardly widened to the respective corners 18 in order to form the structure capable of being engaged to the device required to be engaged thereto.

[0050] According to Figure 6A, at least one of either side of the hollow hexagonal prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one engaging recess **6** having a certain width and the length fully extended along the side from the upper engaging surface to the lower engaging surface, so that the engaging projection of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this recess. Likewise, at least one of either side of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one engaging projection **7** having a certain width and curvature, and the length fully extended along the lateral surface between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface, so that the engaging recess **6** of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this projection.

[0051] Figure 6B is the top plan view of the hexagonal floating unit according to this embodiment. Figure 6C is an enlarged view of the engaging surface of the floating unit.

[0052] According to Figure 6B, the respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the hollow hexagonal prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with an anti-slip groove pattern (not shown in this figure). The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit are provided with at least one hole 8 having a certain diameter and depth, and not penetrated into the inside, wherein the holes may be spaced apart with the certain distance. The hole **8** serves as a hole for filling a material into the floating unit, and then the hole is closed, so that the floating unit is submerged in water as required. Furthermore, the hole can serve as a hole for filling air in order to expel liquid (water) out of the floating unit, so that the

submerged floating unit can be lifted up.

[0053] Figure 7 shows an example of a process for assembly the floating units according to Figure 6 in order to construct a single-floor floating structure.

[0054] Figures 8A-8C show the sixth embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0055] According to Figure 8, another structure of the hollow rectangular prism-shaped floating unit for facilitating lock-connecting of an external device is shown. The floating unit has the structure for facilitating assembly between the floating units and assembly with the external connecting device on both horizontal and vertical directions. The respective right-angle corner of the rectangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with a main concave portion **9** or a recess being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width and curvature at the right-angle corner, or it can be a beveled portion at this corner fully extended between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit located adjacent to the main concave portion **9** are provided with curved ridges **19** each of which has a certain width and length corresponding to the curved edge of the main concave portion **9**, and the level of the top portion of the curved ridge **19** is not reached to that of the upper surface, and the level of the bottom portion of the curved ridge is also not reached to that of the lower surface.

[0056] According to Figures 8B and 8C, the region of the engaging surface **200** located adjacent to the curved ridge **19** has a peripheral groove **20**. The peripheral groove 20 has the certain width and depth, and both ends of the peripheral groove **20** are terminated at the respective adjacent sides of the right-angle corner.

[0057] According to Figure 8C, at least one side of all four lateral surfaces of the hollow rectangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with a main concave portion **1** or a recess being in the form of a concave portion having a certain width and curvature, and the length fully extended along the height of the lateral surface, such that the upper portion is located next to the upper surface, and the lower portion is also located next to the lower surface. The respective regions of the upper and lower portion of the main concave portion **1** have curved ridges **19** located next to the main concave portion **1**. The curved ridge **19** has a certain width and length corresponding to the curved edge of the main concave portion **1**, wherein the level of the top portion of the curved ridge **19** is not reached to that of the upper surface, and the level of the bottom portion of the curved ridge is also not reached to that of the lower surface. The respective regions located next to the corresponding curved ridges **19** have the peripheral groove **20** each of which has a certain width and depth, and both ends of the peripheral groove **20** are terminated at the respective left and right sides on the corresponding same side of the floating unit.

[0058] According to Figure 8, at least one of either side of the hollow rectangular prism-shaped

floating unit is provided with at least one engaging recess 6 having a certain width and the length fully extended along the side from the upper engaging surface to the lower engaging surface, so that the engaging projection of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this recess. Likewise, at least one of either side of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit is provided with at least one engaging projection **7** having a certain width and curvature, and the length fully extended along the lateral surface between the upper engaging surface and the lower engaging surface, so that the engaging recess **6** of another floating unit required to be attached thereto can be engaged to this projection.

[0059] The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the hollow rectangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with an anti-slip groove pattern, or an anti-slip layer (not shown in this figure). The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit are also provided with at least one hole 8 having a certain diameter and depth, and not penetrated into the inside, wherein the holes may be spaced apart with a certain distance. The hole **8** serves as a hole for filling a material into the floating unit, and then the hole is closed, so that the floating unit is submerged in water as required. Furthermore, the hole can serve as a hole for filling air in order to expel liquid (water) out of the floating unit, so that the submerged floating unit can be lifted up.

[0060] Figure 9 shows another structure of the floating unit according to the fourth embodiment as shown in Figure 4 for facilitating assembly with another floating unit or assembly with an external device, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0061] Figure 9 shows the structure of the floating unit for facilitating assembly with another floating unit or assembly with the external device. The floating unit according to the fourth embodiment as shown in Figure 4 is the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit having the structure for facilitating assembly between floating units and assembly with the external connecting device on both horizontal and vertical directions as previously described.

[0062] A general-purpose channel used for installing the external device such as a post, a pipe or the likes is described hereafter.

[0063] According to Figure 9, the region of the hypotenuse of the triangular floating unit may be provided with a concave portion **21** having a certain width and curvature, and the length fully extended along the height of the hypotenuse of the triangular floating unit from the upper engaging surface to the lower engaging surface. Both left and right sides of the concave portion **21** are respectively provided with a curved beveled shoulder **22** having a certain curvature and width, and the length fully extended along the height of the hypotenuse of the triangular floating unit from the upper engaging surface to the lower engaging surface. At least one recess **23** may be formed inside the concave portion **21**, wherein the recess **23** has a certain curvature and width, and the length fully extended along the length of the concave portion **21**. The respective regions of the upper and lower surfaces located adjacent to the concave portion **21** are provided with widening inclined indentations **24** each of which is

upwardly widened to a stop edge **25** of the upper and lower surfaces respectively. The stop edge **25** has a certain curvature, width, and length, and it is terminated at the respective left and right edge corners **26**. The length of the stop edge 25 between the edge corners **26** is more than that of the indentation **24** located adjacent to the concave portion **21**. The widening inclined indentation **24** is also partially intersected with the upper and lower portions of the recess **23**. The widening inclined indentation **24** is served as a lock for locking and engaging an auxiliary floating unit required to be engaged and locked thereto. Furthermore, the lower surface is identical to the upper surface and appears to be a mirror image of the upper surface.

[0064] Figure 10 shows detail of the auxiliary floating unit used in combination with the structure for facilitating assembly between floating units or assembly with the external connecting device such as a water pipe, an electric conduit, etc.

[0065] According the Figure 10, the auxiliary floating unit **27** is in the form of two half-cylindrical pieces. The half-cylindrical piece **27** is hollow, and has a certain diameter, width and length, wherein the upper portion is located next to the upper surface, and the lower portion is also located next to the lower surface. The respective upper and lower surfaces are provided with a wing **28** having a certain width, curvature, and length, and extended to the left and right edge corners **29** on both upper and lower portions. The wing **28** is projected from the outside of the half-cylindrical piece **27**, but the edge corners **29** of the wing **28** is extended such that it is not reached to the edge corner **30** at the half-cut line of the cylindrical floating unit on both upper and lower portions. Both left and right edge corners **29** of the wing extended through the wing **28** are respectively inclined toward and reached the outside of the auxiliary floating unit **27** at the corresponding edge line **31**, and both edge corners **29** are respectively inclined toward the left and right edge corners **32** at the outside of the auxiliary floating unit **27** on the upper and lower portions. The respective edge corners **32** are not reached to the half-cut line of the cylindrical floating unit. The edge corner **29** is extended to the edge corner **33** on the upper and lower surfaces of the auxiliary floating unit **27** in both left and right sides of the upper and lower portions, such that a gap is formed between the edge corner **30** and the edge corner **33** having a certain distance. The outside of the auxiliary floating unit **27** is provided with a convex projection **34** having a certain width and curvature, and the length extended fully along the lateral side of the auxiliary floating unit **27**, such that the upper and lower portions of the convex projection is extended partially into the wing **28**. The auxiliary floating unit **27** is engaged to the concave portion **21** of the right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating unit according to Figure 9 as disclosed in the detailed description, such that, at the same time, the wing **28** of the auxiliary floating unit **27** is fitted with the widening inclined indentation **24** of the floating unit according to Figure 9, and the left and right edge corners **26** of the widening inclined indentation **24** on both upper and lower portions according to Figure 9 are respectively locked onto the gap formed between the edge corner **30** and the edge corner **33** of the auxiliary floating unit **27**, and the convex projections **34** or the convex wedge of the auxiliary floating unit **27** are respectively fitted with the concave portion **23** according to Figure 9.

[0066] The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit are provided

with at least one hole **8** having a certain diameter and depth, and not penetrated into the inside, wherein the holes may be spaced apart a the certain distance. The hole **8** serves as a hole for filling a material into the floating unit, and then the hole is closed, so that the floating unit is submerged in water as required. Furthermore, the hole can serve as a hole for filling air in order to expel liquid (water) out of the floating unit, so that the submerged floating unit can be lifted up.

[0067] The flat inner surface of the half-cylindrical pieces **27a** can be corrugated or has reinforcing fins for reinforcement. The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the hollow rectangular prism-shaped floating unit may be provided with an anti-slip groove pattern (not shown in this figure). The respective regions of the upper and lower surface of the floating unit are provided with at least one hole **8** having a certain diameter and depth, and not penetrated into the inside, wherein the holes may be spaced apart a the certain distance. The hole **8** serves as a hole for filling a material into the floating unit, and then the hole is closed, so that the floating unit is submerged in water as required. Furthermore, the hole can serve as a hole for filling air in order to expel liquid (water) out of the floating unit, so that the submerged floating unit can be lifted up.

[0068] Figure 11 shows one form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the first embodiment as shown in Figure 1, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0069] According to Figure 11, the main locking shaft **35** is shown as viewed from above and below. The main locking shaft **35** is in the form of a hollow cylindrical element having a certain diameter and length, and has a base **36** formed at the certain depth inside the main locking shaft **35**. The base **36** has a hole **37** having a certain diameter, and penetrated into the inside, and the base **36** can also be flush with the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**. The outside of the main locking shaft **35** is provided with portions **38** each of which has a certain width, length and height, wherein the two (or at least one) portions **38** are connected to the outside of the main locking shaft **35** and periodically spaced apart with a certain distance along the outside of the main locking shaft **35**. The respective ends of the portions **38** are connected to the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35** and the respective other ends of the portion **38** are connected to the respective portions **39**. The portion **39** is a hollow cylindrical portion having a certain diameter, width and length, and the portion **39** can also be in the form of the portion with an elliptical cross-section or other cross-section shape, and the upper portion of the portion **39** can be closed. The height of the portion **38** located next to the portion **39** is less than that of the portion **38** locate next to the outside of the main locking shaft **35**, such that the portion **38** connected to the main locking shaft **35** at the lower part of the upper edge is inclined toward the portion **39**.

[0070] A curved portion **40** may be arranged between two portions **39**, and the curved portion **40** has a certain width and thickness, and the length corresponding to the distance between two portions **39**, wherein each curved portion connects two portions **39** together all existing

portions **39**, such that the portions **39** are connected together by the curved portions and formed into a circle loop. The main locking shaft **35** is the lock-connecting element for the engaging structure of the floating unit according to Figure 1.

[0071] Figure 12 shows another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the second embodiment as shown in Figure 2, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0072] According to Figure 12, a main locking shaft **41** as viewed from below is in the form of a hollow cylindrical element having a certain diameter and length, and has a base **36** formed at a certain depth inside the main locking shaft **35**. The base **36** has a hole **37** having a certain diameter, and penetrated into the inside, and the base **36** may be flush with the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**. The outside of the main locking shaft **35** is provided with portions **38** each of which has a certain width, length and height, wherein the two (or at least one) portions **38** are connected to the outside of the main locking shaft **35** and periodically spaced apart with a certain distance along the outside of the main locking shaft **35**. The respective ends of the portions **38** are connected to the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**, and the respective other ends of all portions 38 are connected to an annular compartment portion **41**, wherein the annular compartment portion **41** is in the form of a hollow annular portion having a certain width, and cut in half in order to obtain the annular compartment portion **41** having a base **41b** at the certain depth, wherein the annular compartment portion is flush with the portions **38**. The height of the portion **38** located next to the annular compartment portion **41** is less than that of the portion **38** locate next to the main locking shaft **35**, such that the portion **38** connected to the main locking shaft **35** at the lower part of the upper edge is inclined toward the annular compartment portion 41. The inside of the annular compartment portion **41** is provided with at least one or a plurality of portions 41a, wherein the portion **41a** has the certain width and length corresponding to the inside of the annular compartment portion **41**, and the respective portions **41a** are connected to the inner surface of the compartment of the annular compartment portion **41**. The respective portions **38** are inserted into the corresponding grooves **2** and fitted with the corresponding peripheral grooves **10** of the upper and lower engaging surface **200** and **202** (Figure 2) according to the second embodiment, so that the lock-connecting element is fastened to the engaging surfaces of the floating units.

[0073] Figures 13 and 14 show another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the third embodiment as shown in Figure 3, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0074] According to Figures 13A and 13B, a wing-type locking shaft **42** is shown as viewed from the first side and the second side respectively. According to Figures 14A and 14B, the other form of the wing-type locking shaft **42** is shown as viewed for the first side and the second side respectively.

[0075] The wing-type locking shaft **42** has a main locking shaft **35**, wherein the main locking shaft is in the form of a hollow cylindrical element having a certain diameter and length, and a base **36** is formed at the certain depth inside the main locking shaft 35 (as shown in Figure 14A). The base **36** has a hole **37** having a certain diameter, and penetrated into the inside as shown in Figure 13A, and the base **36** can also be flush with the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**. A wing **42** is projected and widened from the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35** to the left and right corners **44**, wherein the left and right edges of the wing **42** are respectively formed into the V shape, such that the edge are widened from the edge corner **43** located at the middle of the wing **42** and on the bottom portion of the "V" shape along the leg portion of the "V" shape to the respective corners **44**, so that the wing width between corners **44** (not V-shaped portion) is more than that between edge corners **43** (V-shaped portion); and wherein the inclined edge is formed from the corner **44** to the corner **45** located next to the outside of the main locking shaft **35**, the wing thickness is formed from the corner **45** to the corner **43**, such that the triangular walls located at the level lower than that of the wing **42** for all four corners are formed by the corner **43**, **44**, and **45** being vertices of the triangular wall, so that the wing-type locking shaft **42** is obtained.

[0076] According to Figure 13B, pieces **42a** are arranged underneath the wing **42** and served as reinforcing pieces according to Figure 13B. A plurality of the reinforcing pieces **42a** respectively have a certain width and length according to Figure 14(B), and are being connected to the wing **42** from underneath.

[0077] Furthermore, all of the reinforcing pieces **42a** according to Figure 13(B) are already installed to the wing **42** from underneath, wherein the wing-type locking shaft **42** is served as the lock-connecting element associated to the engaging structure of the floating unit according Figure 3.

[0078] Figure 15 shows another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock as viewed from above and below served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the fourth embodiment as shown in Figure 4, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0079] Figures 15A and 15B show a widening inclined locking shaft **50** as viewed from above and below respectively. The locking shaft **50** has main locking shaft **35** being in the form of a hollow cylindrical element having a certain diameter and length, and a base **36** formed at the certain depth inside the main locking shaft **35**. The base **36** has a hole **37** having a certain diameter, and penetrated into the inside, and the base **36** can also be flush with the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**. The outside of the main locking shaft **35** is provided with portions **49** each of which has a certain width, length and height, such that they can respectively be fitly engaged to the widening inclined indentation **14** according to Figure 4. The respective ends of the portions **49** are connected to the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**, and the respective other ends of all portions **49** are connected to an annular portion **50** at the level of the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**, like the portion **49**. The annular portion **50** is in the form of an annular portion having a certain width and thickness. The width

of the portion **49** located next to the annular portion **50** is more than that of the portion **49** located next to the main locking shaft **35**, and the height of the portion **49** located next to the annular portion **50** is less than that of the portion **49** located next to the main locking shaft **35**, such that the portions **49** connected to the main locking shaft **35** at the lower part of the upper edge is widened and inclined toward the annular portion **50**. Therefore, the widening inclined locking shaft **50** is the lock-connecting element associated to the engaging structure of the floating unit according Figure 4.

[0080] Figure 16 shows another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the fifth embodiment as shown in Figure 6, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0081] According to Figures 16, a wing-type locking shaft **46** is shown. The wing-type locking shaft **46** has a main locking shaft **35**, wherein the main locking shaft is in the form of a hollow cylindrical element having a certain diameter and length, and a base **36** is formed at the certain depth inside the main locking shaft **35**. The base **36** has a hole **37** having a certain diameter, and penetrated into the inside, and the base **36** can also be flush with the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**. At the upper edge level of the main locking shaft **35**, wings **46** are projected and widened from both sides of the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35** at the same level as the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**, such that the wing is widened to the respective corners **47** on both sides, so that the wing width between corners **47** is more than that of the wing located next to the outside of the main locking shaft **35**, and the lower portion of the wing is in the form of a curved surface similar to a quarter-sphere, such that the hollow quarter sphere is connected to the main locking shaft **35** served as the main structure and a point **48** is the lowest point of the curved surface, so that both wings have respectively the curved surface pointed downward.

[0082] According to Figure 16, the wing **46** may preferably be provided with a reinforcing piece **48a** for reinforcement. At least one reinforcing piece **48a** having a certain width, height and length is arranged inside the quarter-sphere for reinforcement of the wing **46**.

[0083] The wing-type locking shaft **46** is the locking component associated to the engaging structure of the floating unit according Figure 6 as shown in the way of an example of the floating structure in Figure 7.

[0084] Figure 17 shows another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the sixth embodiment as shown in Figure 6, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0085] According to Figures 17, a lock-connecting element **46a** has the similar feature to the lock-connecting element **46** as shown in Figure 16. However, the main locking shaft **35a** which is the main structure is different therefrom, and the main locking shaft has a hexagonal shape.

The other portions are the same, so that they are not repeatedly described.

[0086] Figure 18 shows the seventh embodiment of the floating unit according to this invention used with the main lock-connecting element as shown in Figure 17.

[0087] According to Figure 18, the top plan view of a surface **101** of the floating body is shown which is similar to that of Figure 6B. However, the main concave portion **1a** has the shape which is one section a hexagonal shape, such that when this floating unit is assembled to another floating unit, the hexagonal shape is obtained, so that the lock-connecting element **46a** can be snugly engaged therein.

[0088] Figures 19A and 19B show another form of the main lock-connecting element of the lock as viewed from above and below served as the element engaged to the engaging surface of the floating unit according to the sixth embodiment as shown in Figure 8, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0089] A lock-connecting element **36** comprises a through hole **37** in the middle adapted for inserting of the locking rod **55** through said through hole **37**, wherein the lock-connecting element **36** comprises an engaging surface which can be snugly engaged to the upper engaging surface **200** or the lower engaging surface **202** of said floating unit.

[0090] Furthermore, the lock-connecting element has a main locking shaft **35** being in the form of a hollow cylindrical shaft with a certain diameter. A base **36** is formed at the certain depth inside the main locking shaft **35**. The base **36** has the hole **37** having a certain diameter, and penetrated into the inside, and the base **36** can also be flush with the upper edge of the main locking shaft **35** at the curved edge of the main locking shaft **35**.

[0091] For this embodiment, the engaging surface of this lock-connecting element comprises a curved rim **51** connected to the main locking shaft **35**, and an annular indentation **52** located adjacent to the curved rim **51**, wherein the annular indentation **52** has a rim **54** having the height approximately equal to that of the rim **51**, and the rim **51** is obliquely extended and connected to the main locking shaft **35** which is corresponding to the inside surface of the groove **20** and the wall of the ridge **19** of the engaging surface of the floating body according to the sixth embodiment as shown in Figure 8, so that they can be snugly engaged.

[0092] According to Figure 19, the detail of the locking shaft **52** is shown, wherein the locking shaft **52** has a main locking shaft **35**, wherein the main locking shaft is in the form of a hollow cylindrical shaft having a certain diameter, and a base **36** formed at the certain depth inside the main locking shaft **35**. The base **36** has a hole **37** having a certain diameter, and penetrated into the inside. The upper edge region of the main locking shaft **35** is provided with the curved rim **51**, wherein the curved rim **51** has a certain width and length, and is extended throughout the curved upper edge of the main locking shaft **35**. The annular indentation **52** is located adjacent to the curved rim **51**, wherein the annular indentation **52** is arranged next to

the curved rim **51**, and the annular indentation **52** has the certain depth obtained by the base **53**, such that the depth of the annular indentation **52** is determined by the base **53**. A surface **54** is formed at the outer upper edge of the annular indentation **52**, wherein the surface **54** is the curved upper edge of the annular indentation **52** and is flush with the curved rim **51**. The inside of the annular indentation **52** is provided with at least one or a plurality of pieces **51a**, wherein the piece **51a** has a certain width and length corresponding to the inside of the annular indentation **52**, and the pieces **51a** are connected to the inner surface of the annular indentation **52**.

[0093] Figure 20 shows detail of the lock comprising a locking rod, an inner lock-inserting element, a locking element, and a lock-inserting element.

[0094] According to Figure 20A, the lock-connecting element (according to Figure 13), the locking rod **55**, the inner lock-inserting element **59**, the locking element, and the lock-inserting element are shown.

[0095] According to Figure 20, the locking rod **55** is in the form of a hollow cylindrical rod having at least two holes **58** penetrated through the wall of said locking rod **55**, and the holes **58** are located on said locking rod **55** at the level according to the desired height of the floor of the structure.

[0096] The lock-connecting element is comprises a central through hole adapted for snugly inserting of said locking rod **55** therethrough, wherein said locking-connecting element comprises the engaging surfaces capable of fitted engaging to the upper engaging surface **200** or the lower engaging surface **202** of said floating unit (not shown).

[0097] According to Figure 20B, a pair of the lock-engaging element **63** is shown, wherein each lock-engaging element **63** is in the form of an arc-shaped portion capable of snugly enclosing the outside of the locking rod **55**, and the inside of each lock-engaging element **63** is provided with at least one latch **65** for snugly inserting into the corresponding hole **58** of the locking rod **55**, while said pair of lock-engaging elements **63** is enclosed the outside of the locking rod **55**.

[0098] The lock-inserting element **59** is put on and covered on the end of the locking rod **55** enclosed by the pair of said lock-engaging elements **63**, wherein, in use, an edge of each lock-engaging element **63** is abutted on the corresponding lock-connecting element **36**, such that the engaging surface of said lock-connecting element **36** is locked onto said corresponding upper or lower engaging surfaces **200** or **202** of at least two floating units together, whereby the floating units can be locked and attached together, and the floating structure can be constructed therefrom as shown in a way of an example in Figures 5 and 7. The detail of the assembly procedure will be described later.

[0099] According to Figure 20, the elements **55**, **59**, **63**, and **67**, which are external lock-inserting device, are show. The locking rod **55** is in the form of a cylindrical rod having a certain

diameter, wherein the rod has a through hole **56** extended longitudinally along the rod, and a rod wall **57** has a certain thickness. The locking rod **55** is provided with holes **58** having a certain width and length, and periodically spaced apart along the length of the locking rod **55**. Figure **20** also shows the inner lock-inserting element **59** being in the form of a hollow cylindrical shaft having a certain diameter, wherein the inner lock-inserting element comprises a shoulder **60** projected from one end, at least one protrusion **61** having a certain width and projected distance and the length fully extended longitudinally along the lock-inserting element **59**, and at least one button **62** projected inwardly.

[0100] Said lock-engaging element **63** also comprises at least one through hole **66** on the its side. Said lock may further comprises a lock-inserting element **67** shaped in order to be snugly put on and covered the hole **56** of the locking rod **55**. The lock-inserting element has a protrusion **69** for inserting into said through hole **66** of said lock-engaging element **63**, so that they can be fastened together.

[0101] The protrusion **69** of the lock-inserting element **67** may be further provided with a concave groove **70** used for positioning, and said lock-inserting element **59** may be further provided with a button **62** for position determination, wherein, in use, said button **62** of said lock-inserting element **59** is fitted into the concave groove **70** of said protrusion **69** of said lock-inserting element **67**.

[0102] According to Figure 20, the locking element **63** is in the form of an arc-shaped portion, wherein the inner surface of the arc-shaped portion **63** has a certain curvature in order to be snugly engaged to the outside of the locking rod **55**. The locking element **63** has a certain thickness and height, wherein a flange **64** having a certain width served as a shoulder and extended throughout the arc-shaped portion **63** is provided at one end; and at least one latch **65** having a certain width, length and thickness in order to be fitted into the hole **58** of the locking rod **55** is projected from the inner surface of the arc-shaped portion **63**. The wall of the locking element **63** is also provided with a through hole **66**. The locking elements **63** are used in pairs for locking onto the holes **58** in pairs of the locking rod **55**.

[0103] According to Figure 20, the lock-inserting element **67** is shown, wherein the lock-inserting element is in the form of a cylindrical shaft having the certain diameter equal to that of the locking rod **55**, and a certain length. The lock-inserting element has a through hole **68** wherein the hole may be provided with female threads. One end of the lock-inserting element **67** is smaller than the other end, which has a certain length and diameter, such that it can be inserted into the hole **56** of the locking rod **55**, so that the lock-inserting element **67** can be snugly seated on the wall **57** of the locking rod **55**. The outside of the lock-inserting element **67** is provided with at least one protrusion **69** having a projected length not more than the wall thickness of the locking element **63**, and the proper size in order to be fitted into the through hole **66** of the locking element **63**, and the concave groove **70** having the proper width and depth in order to be locked onto the button **62** of the lock-inserting element **59**.

[0104] Figures 21A- 21E show steps of assembling the lock as shown in Figure 20, wherein

the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0105] According to Figure 21, an example of the assembly method of the locking rod **55** according to Figure 20 in order to lock onto the wing-type locking shaft **42** according to Figure 13 is shown.

[0106] According to Figure 21A, the wing-type locking shaft **42** is shown, wherein the locking rod **55** is inserted into the hole **37** of the wing-type locking shaft **42**.

[0107] According to Figure 21B, the locking rod **55** is already inserted into the hole **37** of the wing-type locking shaft **42**. According to Figure 21C, the lock-inserting element **67** is put on the hole **56** of the locking rod **55**. According to Figure 21D, the latches **65** of the locking element **63** are respectively inserted into both holes **58** of the locking rod **55**.

[0108] According to Figure 21E, the protrusions **61** of the inner lock-inserting element are respectively inserted into the gaps between the arc-shaped portions **63**, while the buttons **62** are respectively locked onto holes **66** of both left and right arc-shaped portions **63**, and respectively put on the grooves **70** and then fitted into the grooves **70** in order to be locked onto the locking rod **55**. At the same time, the through holes **66** are respectively locked onto both protrusions **69**, and the protrusions **61** of the lock-inserting element **59** are respectively snugly inserted into the gaps formed between the arc-shaped portions **63**, and the buttons **62** is respectively snugly inserted into the holes **66** of the locking element **63**, so that the lock-inserting element **59** is locked onto both locking elements **63**, and the buttons **62** is respectively forcibly locked onto the holes **66** and grooves **70**.

[0109] At any rate, the locking rod **55** should be made of a rigid material such as stainless steel, or a strong plastic such as polyester, high density PPE, etc., or the likes, such that the rod can support the whole load and structure.

[0110] Figure 22 shows an example of the floating structure constructed from the floating units and the locks according to this invention, wherein the same parts are referred to by the same reference numbers, and they will not be repeatedly described.

[0111] Figure 22 shows a horizontal lock-connecting method of the hollow right isosceles triangular prism-shaped floating units and the hollow half-cylindrical auxiliary floating units **27** having the external structure for facilitating lock-connecting of external connecting devices.

[0112] According to the enlarged views in Figure 22, said lock-inserting element **67** also further comprises a hole **68** on its upper portion, wherein the hole **68** is provided with internal threads for fastening in order to install external devices such as for installing and connecting of other structures or other auxiliary devices such as metal posts or electrical conduits by using screws for fastening the other auxiliary devices into said holes, etc., and the holes 68 may be provided with female threads.

[0113] Figure 23 shows the second example of a three-floor floating structure constructed by attaching the various floating units as previously described.

[0114] Furthermore, the structure of the lowest floor floating units may be filled with a material with a density equal to or higher than that of water, so that the lowest floor is submerged in water, therefore, the floating structure is more stable.

[0115] As described above, the floating unit according to this invention is the floating unit capable of attaching to another floating unit by the locks for constructing the floating structure, wherein the floating unit comprises a floating body being in the form of a hollow polygonal shape as viewed from above. The floating body comprises an upper surface, a lower surface, and a plurality of lateral surfaces connected to said upper surface and said lower surface. Said upper surface and said lower surface of the floating body respectively comprise at least one upper engaging surface and at least one lower engaging surface respectively on each associated side of said polygonal floating body, wherein the upper and lower engaging surface arc respectively adapted in order to be fitted with a locking surface of said lock. Therefore, said floating body can be attached to a floating body of another floating unit. The floating unit and the floating structure according to this invention is simple and not complex, so that the manufacturing cost is low, and each floating unit can be locked together by the locks without using screws, so that the floating units can be easily assembled and firmly attached together.

[0116] While this invention has been described in the detailed description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, it will be evident to persons having ordinary skill in the art that various modifications and changes may be made therein without departing from the scope and objectives of this invention. The scope of this invention complies with this invention as stated in the appended claims. However, the scope of this invention is not only particularly covered in the claims, but it is also covered those of its utilization and the likes of the embodiments of this invention as stated in the claims.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- US8037837B2 **[0003]**
- EP2682336A1 **[0003]**

- EP0385903A1 **[0005]**
- US5281055A **[0006]**

Patentkrav

1. Flydeenhed i stand til at fastgøres til en anden flydeenhed ved hjælp af låse for at konstruktere en flydende struktur, idet nævnte flydeenhed omfatter:

et flydelegeme (**100**), der er i form af en hul polygonal form, som betragtet ovenfra, hvor flydelegemet omfatter en øvre overflade (**101**), en nedre overflade (**103**), og en flerhed af laterale overflader forbundet til nævnte øvre og nedre overflader (**105**),

idet nævnte flydeenhed er **kendetegnet ved at**:

nævnte øvre overflade og nævnte nedre overflader af flydelegemet omfatter mindst en øvre indgrebsoverflade (**200**) og mindst en nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**) henholdsvis på hver associerede side af nævnte polygonale flydelegeme, hvor de øvre og nedre indgrebsoverflader (**200, 202**) er henholdsvis indrettet med henblik på at bliver udstyret med en låseoverflade af nævnte lås, hvorved nævnte flydelegeme fastgøres til et flydelegeme af en anden flydeenhed, og

nævnte øvre og nedre indgrebsoverflader (**200, 202**) af nævnte flydelegeme henholdsvis omfatter indsnit (**12**), idet hver af disse har en kontaktoverflade, der hælder udad og nedad af nævnte flydelegeme, hvor bredden af nævnte indsnit beliggende mod indersiden af nævnte flydelegeme, hvor bredden af nævnte indsnit beliggende mod indersiden af nævnte flydelegeme er mere end det beliggende mod ydersiden i form af udvidende fordybning,

hvor, i anvendelse, de tilsvarende kontaktoverflader af indsnittene af nævnte øvre indgrebsoverflade og de tilsvarende kontaktoverflader af indsnittene af nævnte nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**) er i tætpasset kontakt med låseoverfladerne af nævnte låse, hvorved nævnte flydeenhed fastgøres til en anden flydeenhed uden at anvende fastgørelsesorganer, hvor flydeenheden yderligere omfatter

en installationskanal (**300**) til en ekstern indretning, hvor kanalen er i form af en semicirkulær kanal, der strækker sig fra den øvre overflade til den nedre overflade, så kanalen faciliterer forbindelse af den eksterne forbindelsesindretning i både horisontale og vertikale retninger.

2. Flydeenhed ifølge krav 1, hvor nævnte øvre indgrebsoverflade (**200**) er i alt væsentligt identisk med nævnte nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**).

3. Flydeenhed ifølge krav 1 eller 2, hvor nævnte indsnit (**12**) af nævnte øvre og nedre indgrebsoverflade (**200, 202**) er i form af en indadgående udvidende fordybning.

4. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-3, hvor flydelegemet yderligere omfatter en flerhed af hovedkonkave dele (**1**), der strækker sig mellem nævnte øvre indgrebsoverflade (**200**) og nævnte nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**), sådan, at nævnte låse kan indsættes i nævnte hovedkonkave dele.

5. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-4, hvor nævnte indsnit (**12**) har en trapezlignende form eller en semicirkulær form, som betragtet i en planbillede.

6. Flydeenhed ifølge krav 5, hvor, som betragtet ovenfra, nævnte indsnit (**12**) har en semicirkulær form, og nævnte hovedkonkave del (**1**) har en semicirkulær form, sådan at en omkreds af nævnte indsnit (**12**) krydser en omkreds af nævnte hovedkonkave del (**1**).

7. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst foregående krav, hvor nævnte flydelegeme (**100**) er af den polygonale form valgt fra gruppen bestående af en ligesidet trekant, en retvinklet ligesidet trekant, en firkant, et rektangel eller en sekskant.

8. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst foregående krav, hvor mindst en lateral overflade (**105**) af flydelegemet yderligere omfatter mindst en indgrebsreces (**6**) og/eller mindst et indgrebsfremspring (**7**), sådan at nævnte reces og fremspring henholdsvis strækker sig mellem nævnte øvre overflade (**101**) og nævnte nedre overflade (**103**), og nævnte indgrebsreces (**6**) er formet med henblik på at gå i tætpasset indgreb med indgrebsfremspringet (**7**) af en anden flydeenhed, så flydeenhederne kan fastgøres til hinanden.

9. Flydeenhed ifølge krav 1, yderligere omfattende en cylindrisk enhed (**27**), hvor den cylindriske enhed er formet, så den kan passes ind i nævnte eksterne installationskanal (300) til en ekstern indretning med henblik på at lukke nævnte kanal, når den ikke er i anvendelse.

10. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst foregående krav, hvor flydelegemet yderligere omfatter mindst et hul (**8**), som ikke er trængt igennem væggen af flydelegemet, på den øvre overflade (**101**) og/eller den nedre overflade (**103**) af flydelegemet sådan, at hullet kan fungere som et hul til at fylde et et materiale i nævnte flydelegeme, sådan at flydeenheden er nedsunket i vand som påkrævet, eller hullet kan fungere som et hul til at fylde luft i nævnte flydeenhed, så flydeenheden hæves.

11. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst foregående krav, hvor flydelegemet yderligere omfatter et skridsikkert lag anbragt på den øvre overflade og/eller den nedre overflade af nævnte flydelegeme.

12. Flydeenhed i stand til at fastgøres til en anden flydeenhed ved hjælp af låse for at konstruktere en flydestruktur, idet nævnte flydeenhed omfatter:

et flydelegeme (**100**), der er i form af en hul polygonal form som betragtet ovenfra, hvor flydelegemet omfatter en øvre overflade (**101**), en nedre overflade (**103**) og en flerhed af laterale overflader (**105**) forbundet til nævnte øvre og nedre overflader (**101 , 103**),

idet nævnte flydeenhed er **kendetegnet ved at**:

nævnte øvre overflade (**101**) og nævnte nedre overflader (**103**) af flydelegemet (**100**) omfatter mindst en øvre indgrebsoverflade (**200**) og mindst en nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**) henholdsvis på hver associerede side af nævnte polygonale flydelegeme, hvor de øvre og nedre indgrebsoverflader (**200, 202**) er henholdsvis indrettet med henblik på at blive udstyret med en låseoverflade af nævnte lås, hvorved nævnte flydelegeme fsatgøres til et flydelegeme af en anden flydeenhed, og nævnte øvre og nedre indgrebsoverflader (**200, 202**) af nævnte flydelegeme henholdsvis omfatter en perifer rille (**10**) og en radial rille(r) (**2**) i forbindelse med nævnte perifere rille (**10**), hvori kontaktoverflader af

nævnte øvre indgrebsoverflade (**200**) og nævnte nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**) hælder,
hvor, i anvendelse, de tilsvarende perifere riller (**10**), radiale recesser (**2**) og kontaktoverflader af nævnte øvre indgrebsoverflade (**200**) og af nævnte nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**) bringes i forbindelse med låseoverfladerne af nævnte låse, hvorved nævnte flydeenhed fasgøres til en anden flydeenhed.

13. Flydeenhed ifølge krav 12, hvor nævnte øvre indgrebsoverflade (**200**) er i alt væsentligt identisk med nævnte nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**).

14. Flydeenhed ifølge krav 13, hvor nævnte rille og kontaktoverflade har en halvcirkelform som betragtet ovenfra, sådan at radiussen af den perifere rille (**10**) er større end den af nævnte konkave del.

15. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 12-14, hvor nævnte kontaktoverflade omfatter en flerhed af riller (**2**), idet hver er konfigureret sådan, at rillerne er anbragt med lige radial afstand til hinanden.

16. Flydeenhed ifølge krav 15, hvor nævnte riller (**2**) er henholdsvis konfigureret sådan, at de udad hældende.

17. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 12-16, hvor flydelegemet yderligere omfatter en flerhed af hovedkonkave dele (**1**), der strækker sig mellem nævnte øvre indgrebsoverflade (**200**) og nævnte nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**), sådan at nævnte låse kan indsættes i nævnte hovedkonkave dele.

18. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 12-17, hvor nævnte flydelegeme (**100**), der er i form af den polygonale form er enten en af formen valgt fra gruppen bestående af en ligesidet trekant, en retvinklet ligesidet trekant, en firkant, et rektangel eller en sekskant.

19. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 12-18, hvor mindst en lateral overflade (**105**) af flydelegemet yderligere omfatter mindst en indgrebsreces (**6**) og/eller mindst et indgrebsfremspring (**7**), sådan at nævnte

reces og fremspring er henholdsvis udstrakte mellem nævnte øvre overflade (**101**) og nævnte nedre overflade (**103**), og nævnte indgrebsreces (**6**) er formet med henblik på at være i tætpasset indgreb med indgrebsfremspringet (**7**) af en anden flydeenhed, sådan at flydeenhederne kan fastgøre sammen.

20. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 12-19, yderligere omfattende en installationskanal (**300**) til en ekstern indretning, hvor kanalen er i form af en semicirkulær kanal udstrakt fra den øvre overflade til den nedre overflade, så kanalen kan facilitere forbindelse af den eksterne indretning i både horisontale og vertikale retninger.

21. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 12-20, yderligere omfattende en cylindrisk enhed (**27**), hvor den cylindriske enhed er formet, så den kan tilpasses i nævnte eksterne installationskanal (**300**) til en ekstern indretning med henblik på at lukke nævnte kanal, når den ikke er i anvendelse.

22. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 12-21, hvor flydelegemet (**100**) yderligere omfatter mindst et hul (**8**), som ikke er trængt gennem væggen af flydelegemet, på den øvre overflade og/eller den nedre overflade af flydelegemet, sådan at hullet kan fungere som et hul til at fylde et materiale i nævnte flydelegeme, så flydeenheden nedsænkes i vand som påkrævet, eller hullet kan fungere som et hul til at fylde luft i nævnte flydeenhed, så flydeenheden hæves.

23. Flydeenhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 12-22, hvor flydelegemet yderligere omfatter et skridsikkert lag anbragt på den øvre overflade og/eller den nedre overflade af nævnte flydelegeme.

24. Flydestruktur omfattende en flerhed af flydeenheder ifølge kravene 1 eller 12, en flerhed af låse, hvor hver nævnte flydeenhed er fastgjort til en anden flydeenhed ved hjælp af nævnte låse, **kendetegnet ved at** nævnte lås omfatter:

en låsestang (**55**), der er i form af en hul cylindrisk stang med mindst to huller (**58**) boret gennem væggen af nævnte låsestang (**55**) og beliggende tilstødende til en ende af nævnte låsestang (**55**);

et låseforbindelseselement (**36**), der har et midterste gennemgående hul (**37**) indrettet til at tætpasset indsætte nævnte låsestang (**55**) gennem nævnte gennemgående hul (**37**), hvor nævnte låseforbindelseselement (**36**) omfatter en indgrebsoverflade i stand til at gå i tætpasset indgreb med nævnte øvre indgrebsoverflade (**200**) eller nævnte nedre indgrebsoverflade (**202**) af nævnte flydeenhed;
et par af låseindgrebselementer (**63**), hvor hvert låseindgrebselement (**63**) er i form af en bueformet del, der er i stand til at tætpasset omslutte ydersiden af låsestangen (**55**), og indersiden af hvert låseindgrebselement (**63**) er forsynet med mindst en rigel (**65**) til at tætpasset indsætte i det tilsvarende hul (**58**) af låsestangen (**55**), mens nævnte par af låseindgrebselementer (**63**) omslutter ydersiden af låsestangen (**55**); og
et låseindsættelseselement (**59**) til at sætte på og dække på enden af låsestangen (**55**), mens ydersiden af låsestangen (**55**) tætpasset omsluttes af parret af nævnte låseindgrebselementer (**63**),
hvor, i anvendelse, en kant af hvert låseindgrebselement (**63**) tilstøder på det tilsvarende låseforbindelseselement (**36**), sådan at indgrebsoverfladen af nævnte låseforbindelseselement (**36**) låses på nævnte tilsvarende øvre eller nedre indgrebsoverflader (**200** eller **202**) af mindst to flydeenheder sammen, hvorved flydeenhederne kan låses og fastgøres til hinanden, og flydestrukturen kan konstrueres derfra.

25. Flydestruktur ifølge krav 24, hvor nævnte låseindgrebselement (**63**) yderligere omfatter en flange (**64**), der fremspringer udad fra kanten langs omkredsen af nævnte låseindgrebselementer (**63**) til at tilstøde med nævnte låseforbindelseselement (**36**).

26. Flydestruktur ifølge krav 24 eller 25, hvor nævnte låseindgrebselementer (**63**) yderligere omfatter mindst et gennemgående hul (**66**) på sin side, og nævnte lås yderligere omfatter et låseindsættelseselement (**67**) formet med henblik på at blive tætpasset påsat på og dække hullet (**56**) af låsestangen (**55**), og låseindsættelseselementet har fremspring (**69**) til at indsætte i nævnte tilsvarende gennemgående huller (**66**) af nævnte låseindgrebselementer (**63**) med henblik på at fastgøre dem til hinanden.

27. Flydestruktur ifølge krav 26, hvor nævnte fremspring (**69**) af låseindsættelseselementet (**67**) yderligere omfatter en konkav rille (**70**) anvendt til at positionere, og nævnte låseindsættelseselement (**59**) er yderligere forsynet med en knap (**62**) til positionsbestemmelse, hvor, i anvendelse, nævnte knap (**62**) af nævnte låseindsættelseselement (**59**) er tilpasset i den konkave rille (**70**) af nævnte fremspring (**69**) af nævnte låseindsættelseselement (**67**).

28. Flydestruktur ifølge krav 24, hvor nævnte struktur omfatter en flerhed af flydeenheder (**100**) samlet i den første etage, og en flerhed af flydeenheder samlet i den anden etage anbragt med vertikal afstand fra nævnte første etage.

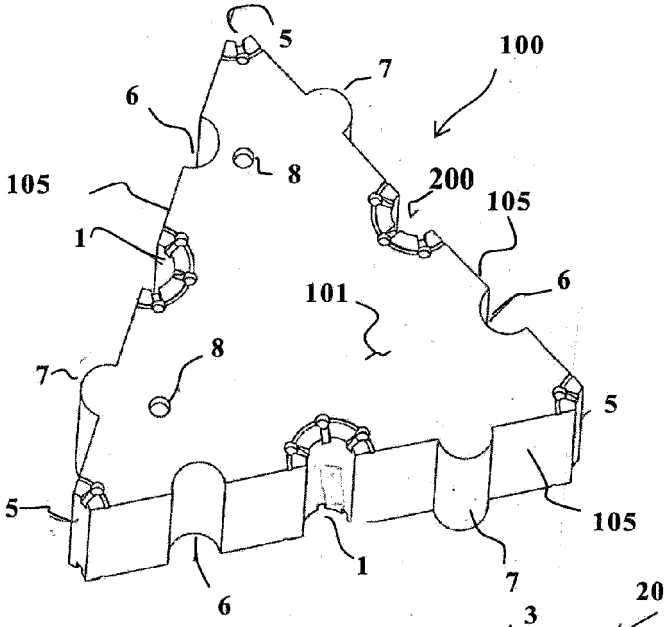
29. Flydestruktur ifølge krav 28, hvor nævnte første etage er fyldt med et materiale med en densitet højere end denne af vand i indersiden af nævnte flydeenhed.

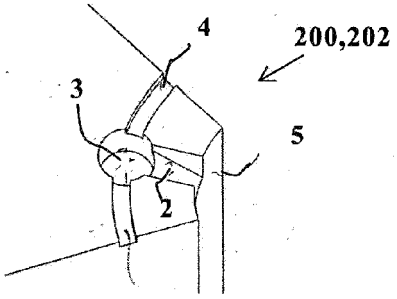
30. Flydestruktur ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 26-29, hvor nævnte låseindsættelseselement (**67**) yderligere omfatter et hul (**68**) på sin øvre del, sådan at hullet (**68**) er forsynet med indvendige gevind til at installere den eksterne indretning ved hjælp af en skrue.

31. Flydeenhed ifølge krav 1 til 23, hvor nævnte hul (**8**) er forsynet med indvendige gevind til at lukke hullet ved hjælp af en gevindskåret indsats.

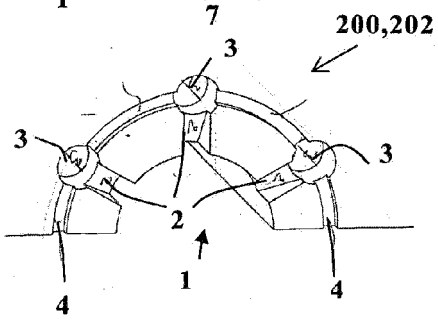
DRAWINGS

[FIG. 1A]

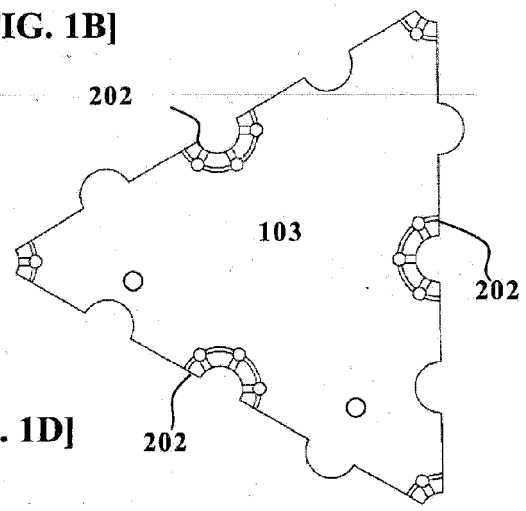




[FIG. 1B]

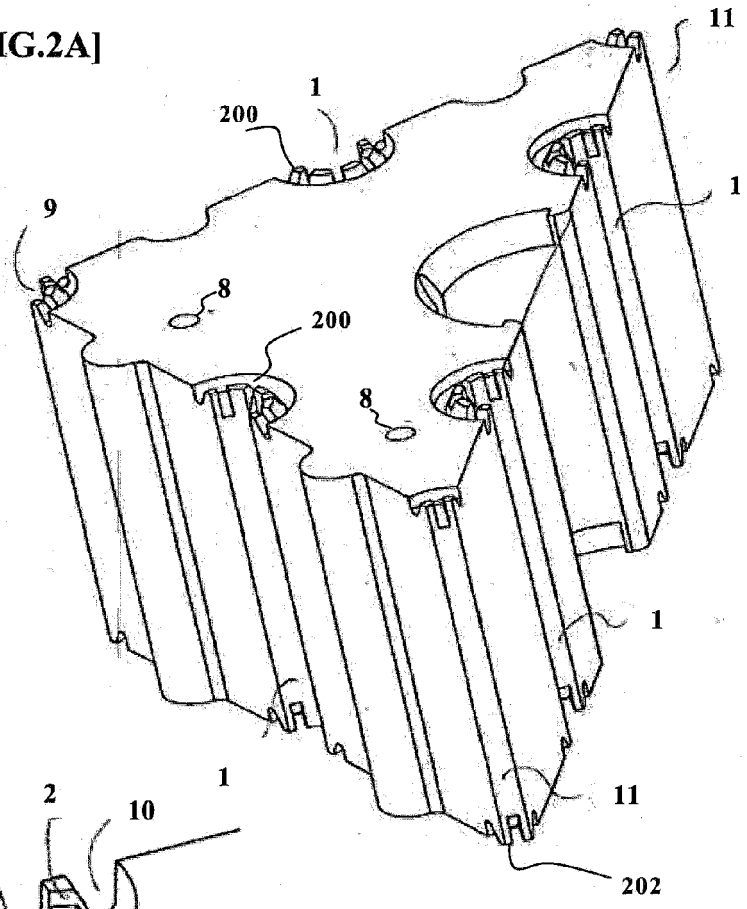


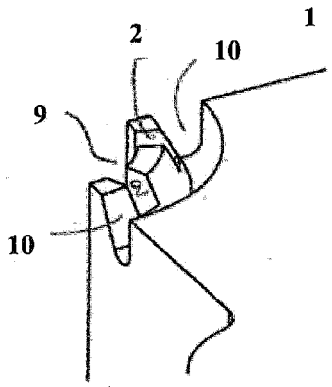
[FIG. 1C]



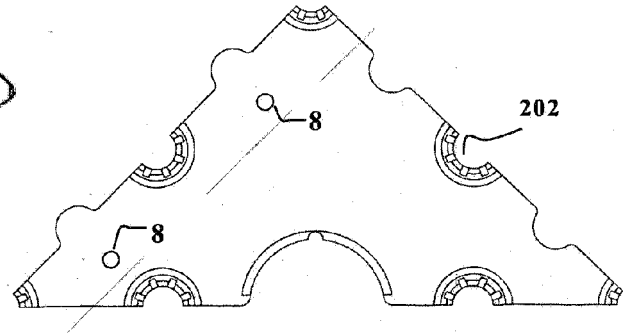
[FIG. 1D]

[FIG.2A]

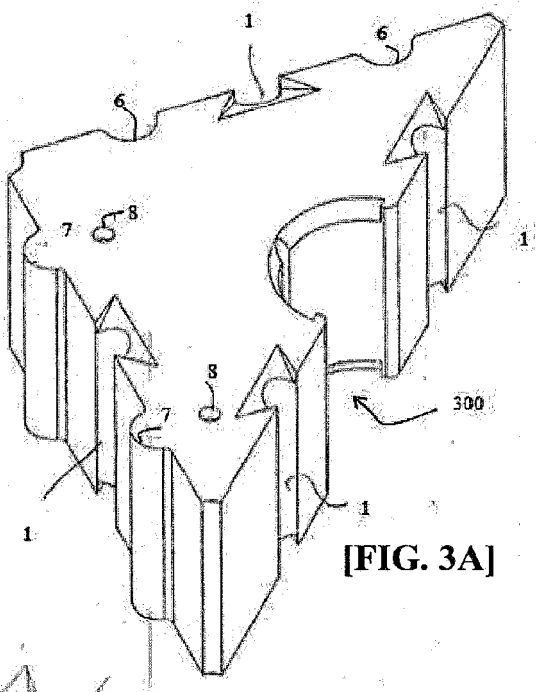




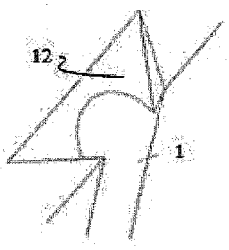
[FIG. 2B]



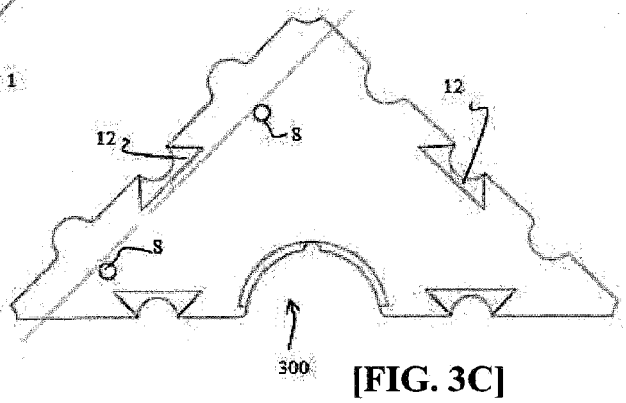
[FIG. 2C]



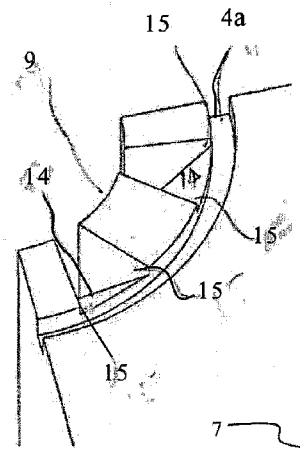
[FIG. 3A]



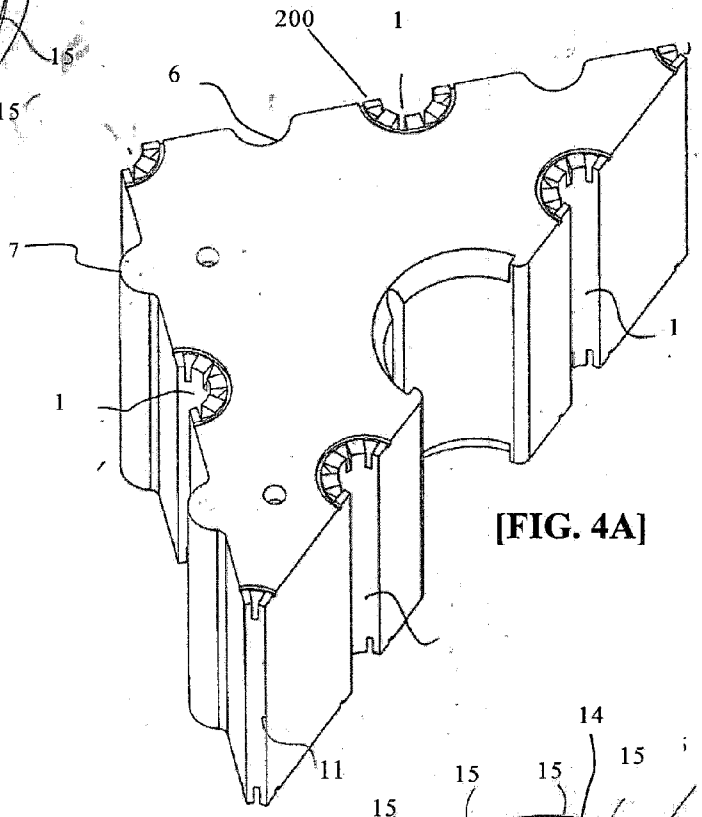
[FIG. 3B]



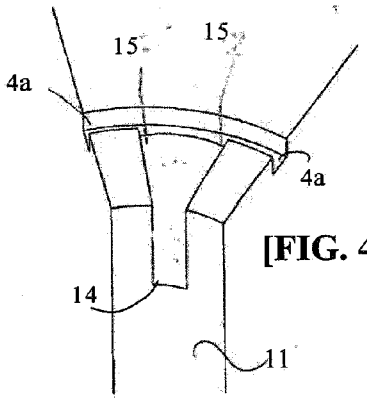
[FIG. 3C]



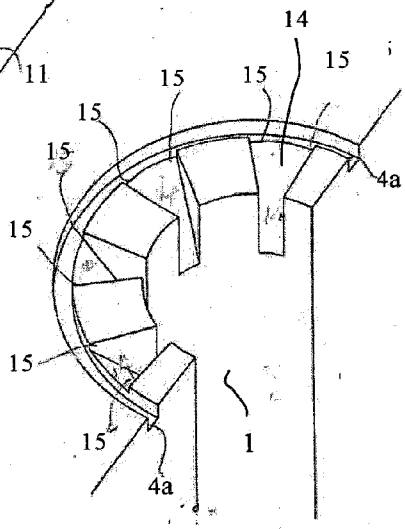
[FIG. 4B]



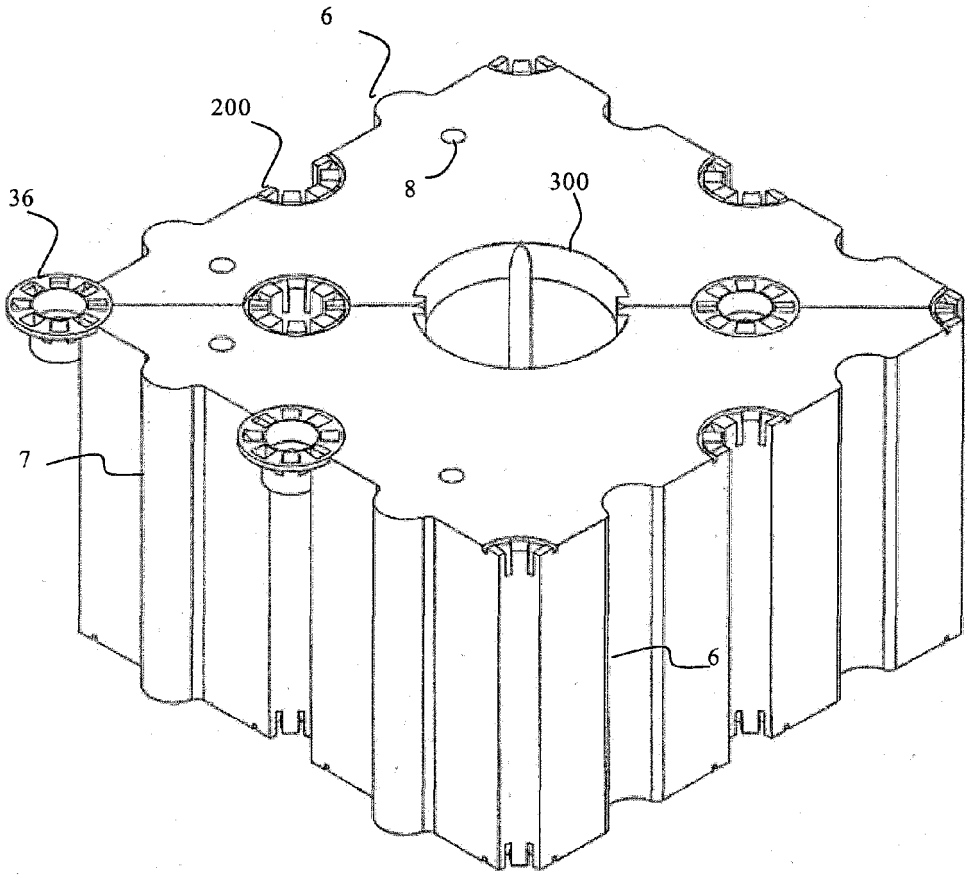
[FIG. 4A]



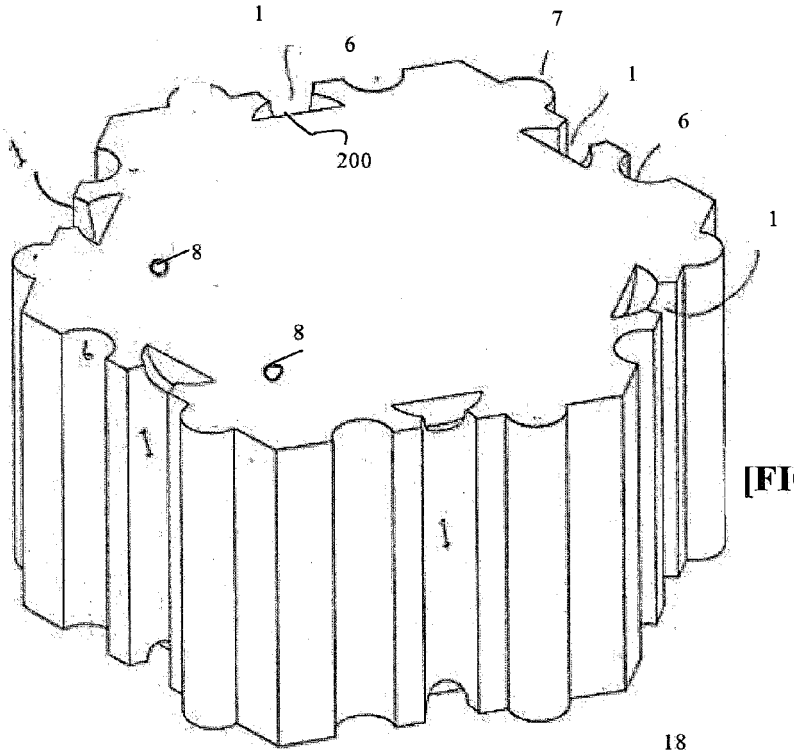
[FIG. 4C]



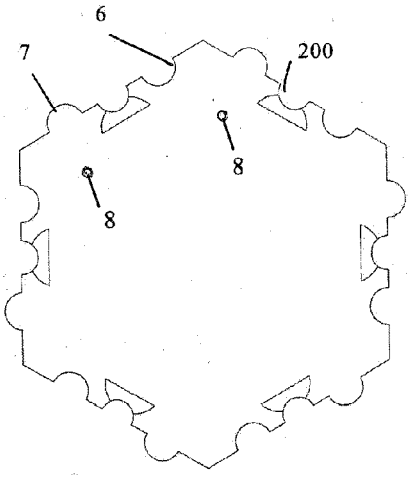
[FIG. 4D]



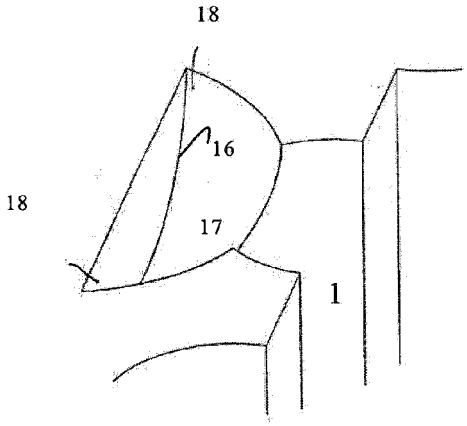
[FIG. 5]



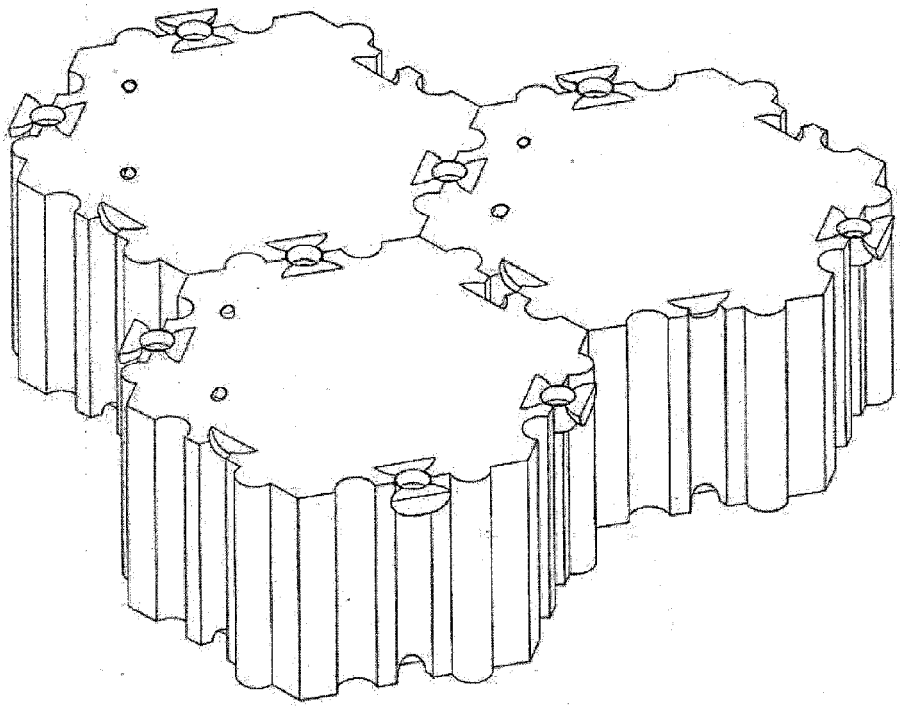
[FIG. 6A]



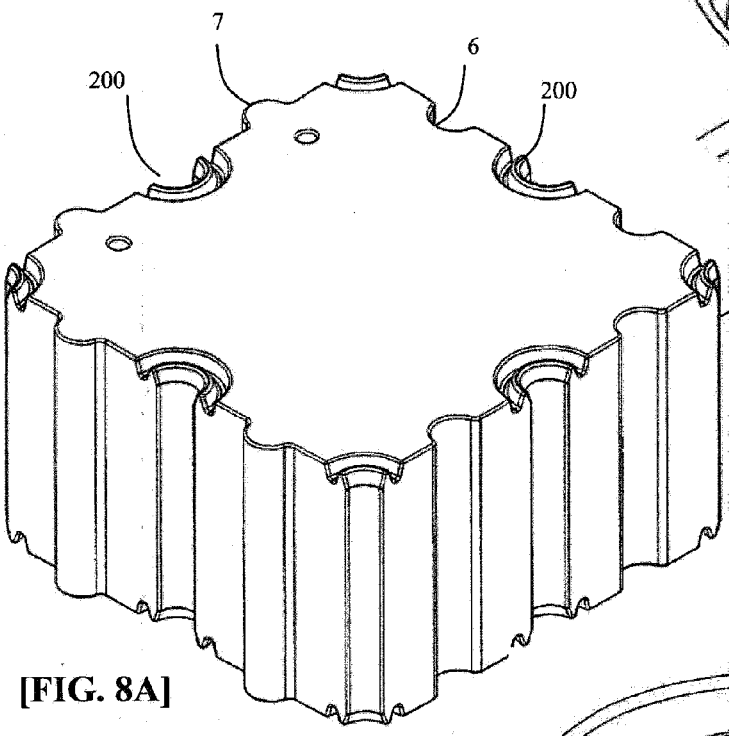
[FIG. 6B]



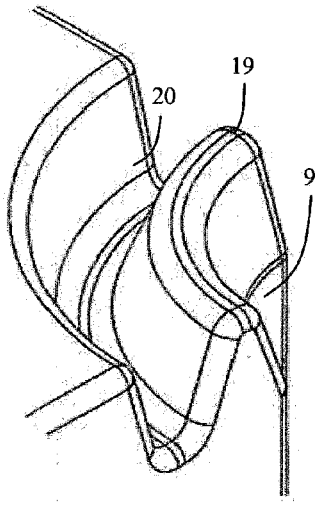
[FIG. 6C]



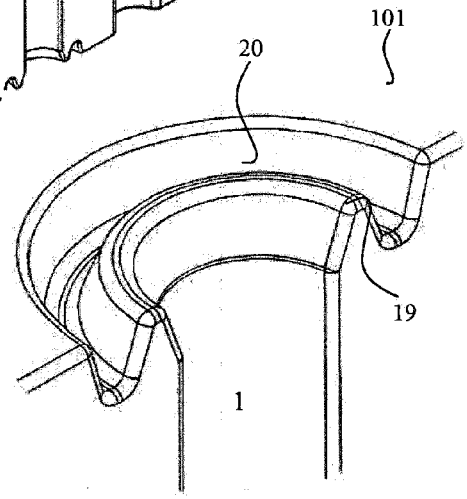
[FIG. 7]



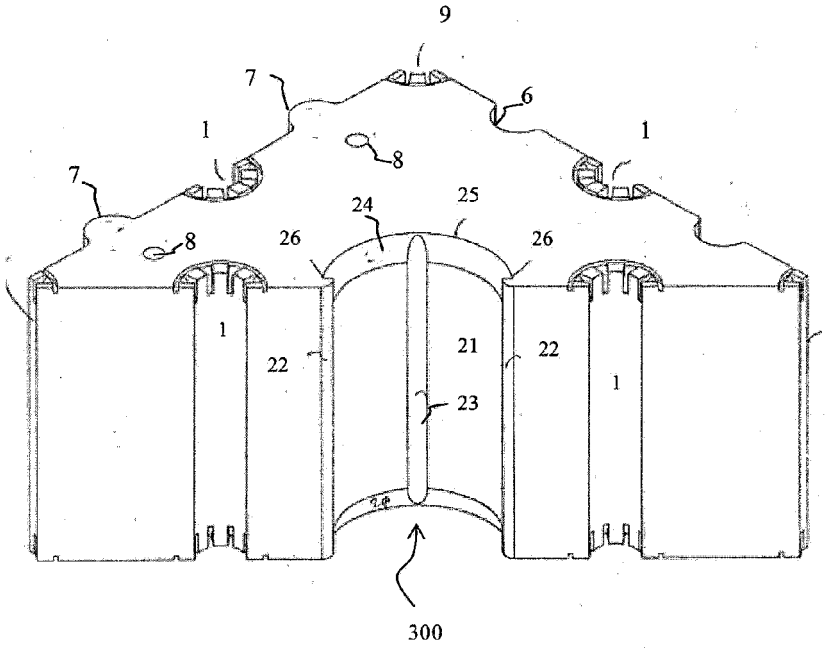
[FIG. 8A]



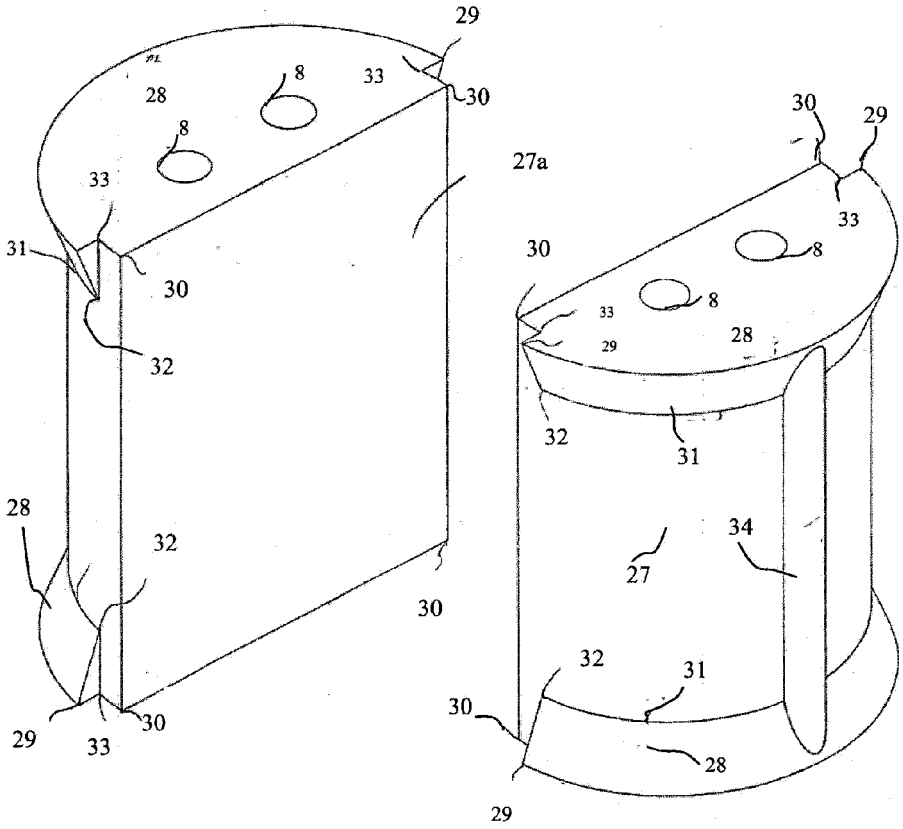
[FIG. 8B]



[FIG. 8C]



[FIG. 9]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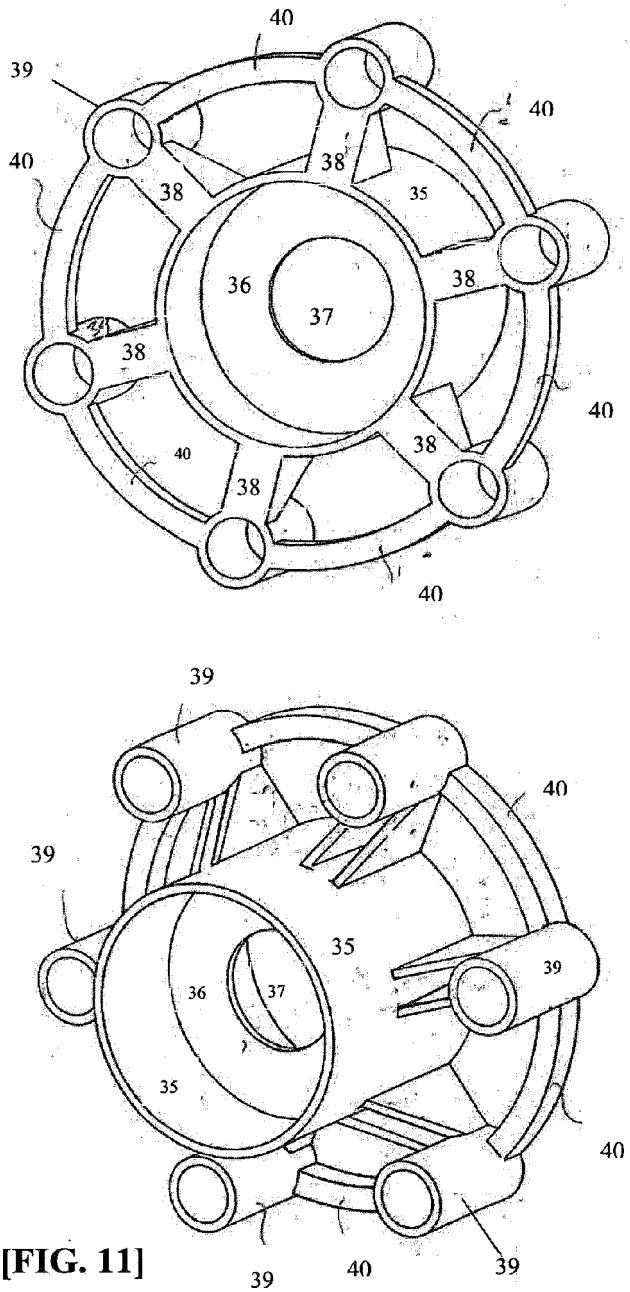
[FIG. 10]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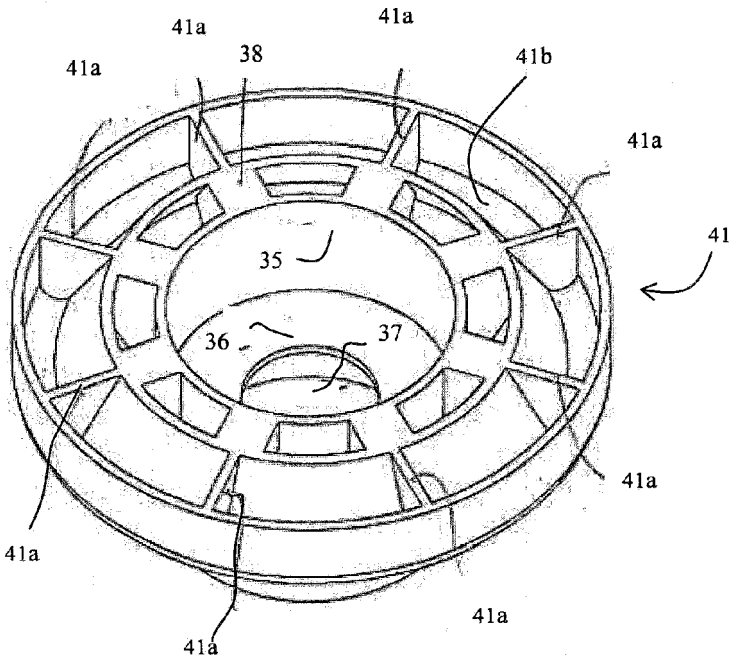
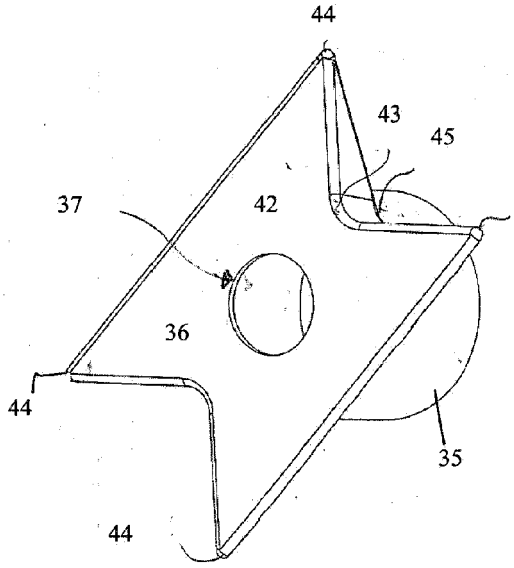
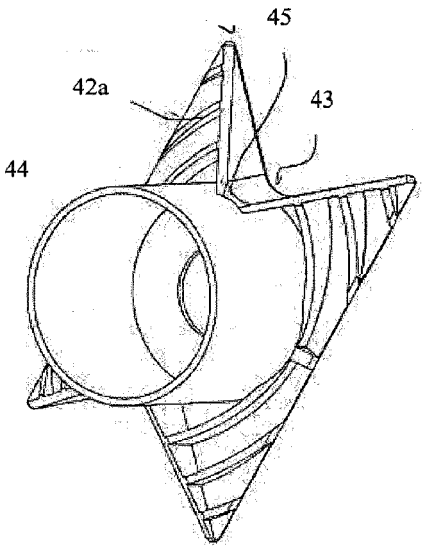
[FIG. 11]



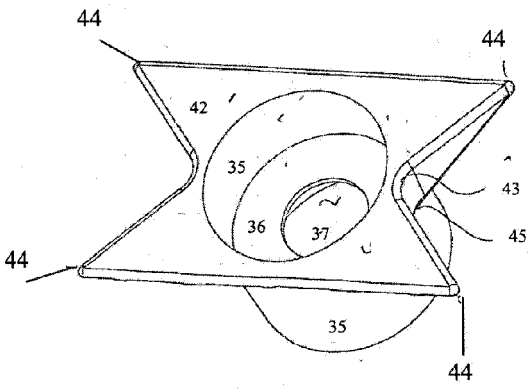
[FIG. 12]



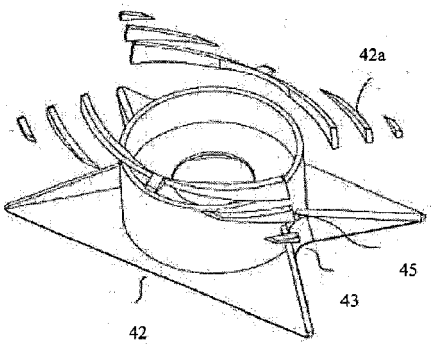
[FIG.13A]



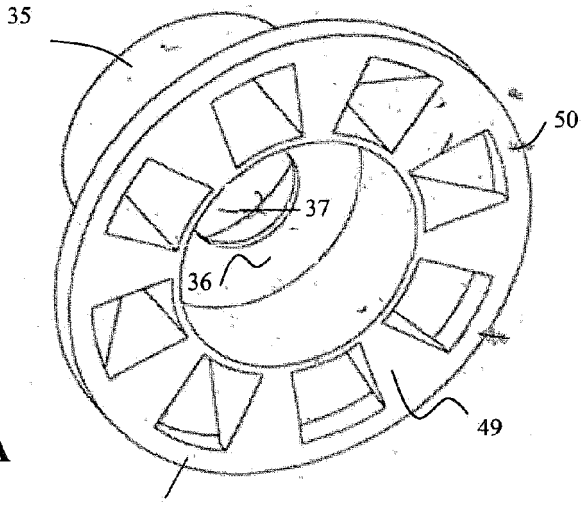
[FIG.13B]



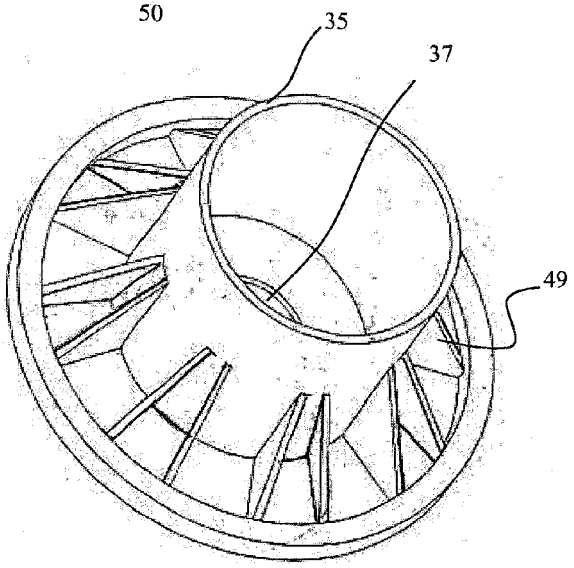
[FIG.14A]



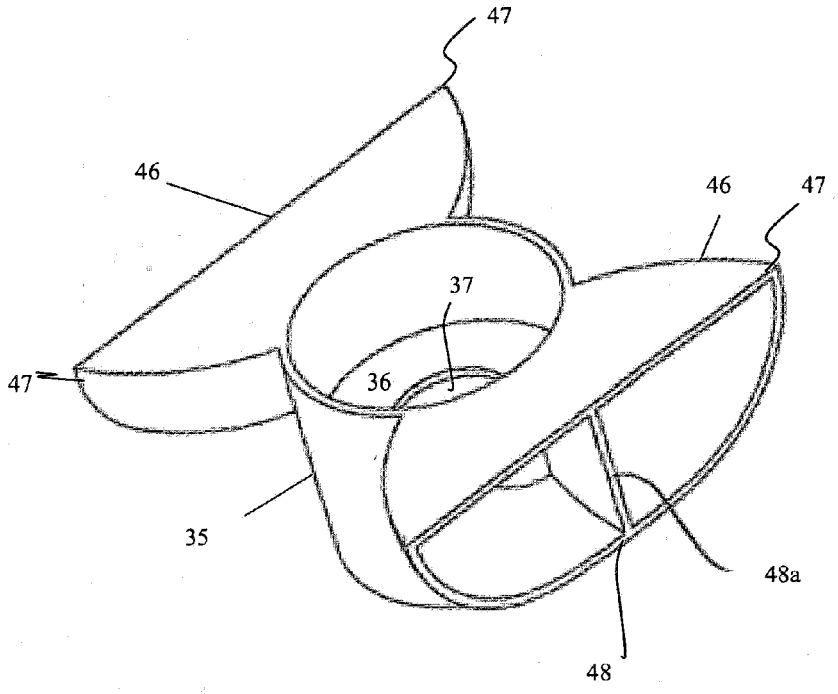
[FIG.14B]



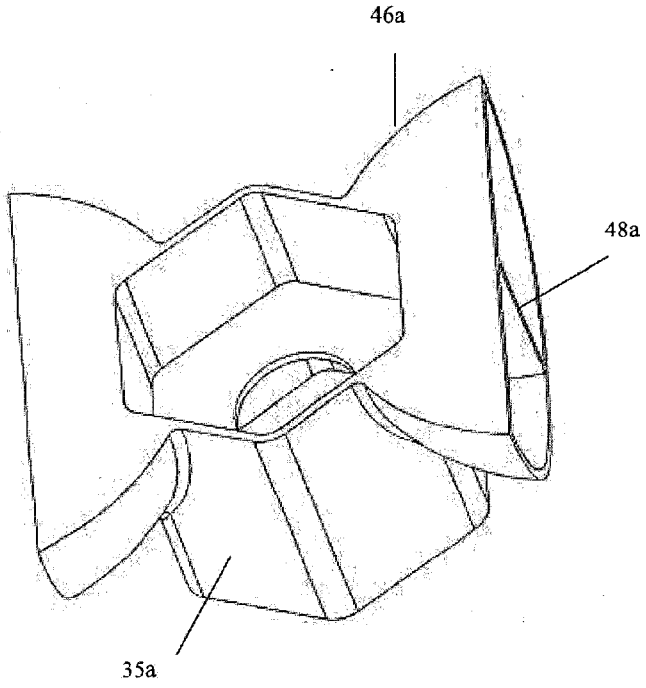
[FIG.15A



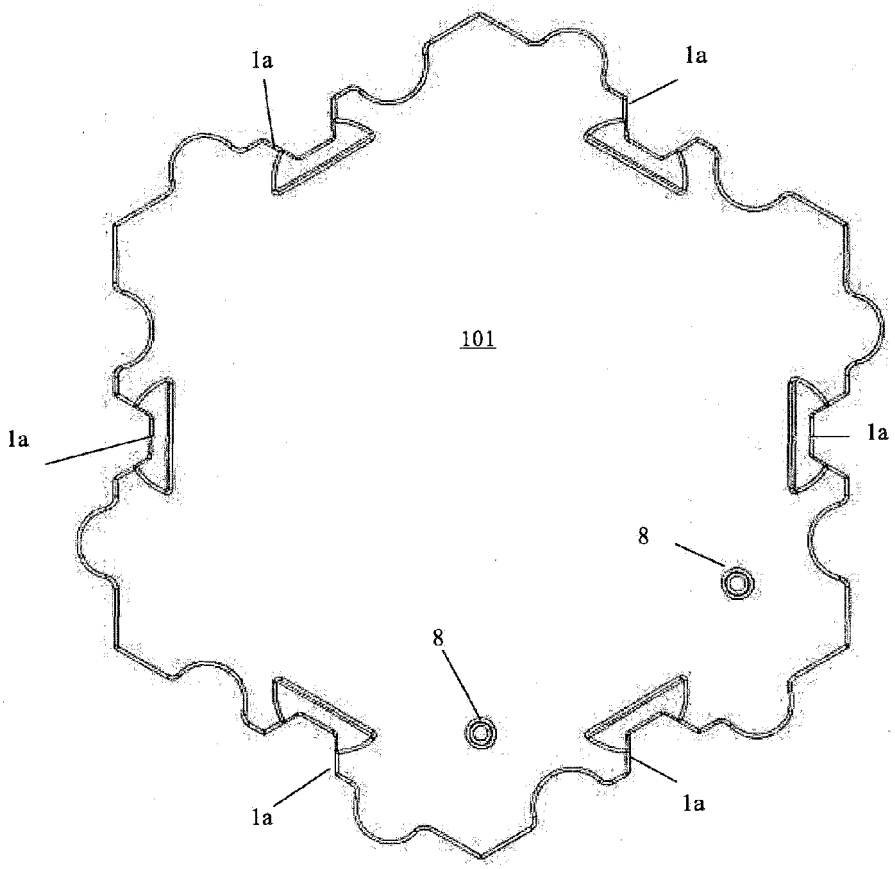
[FIG.15B



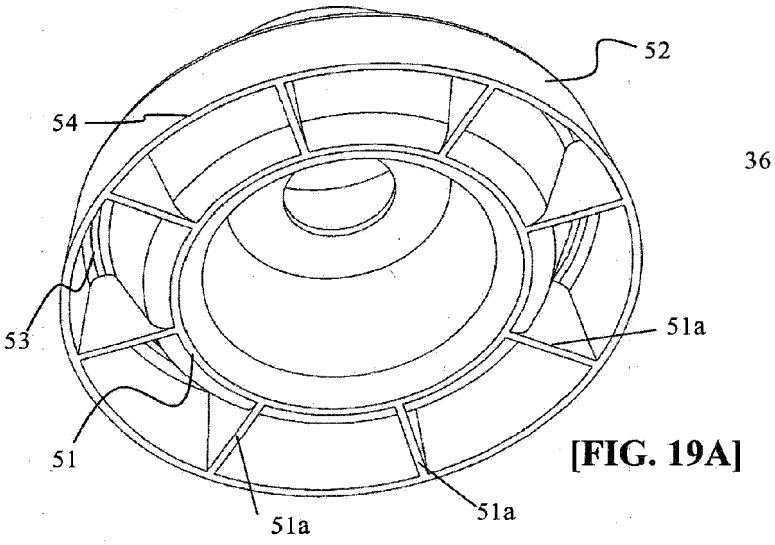
[FIG. 16]



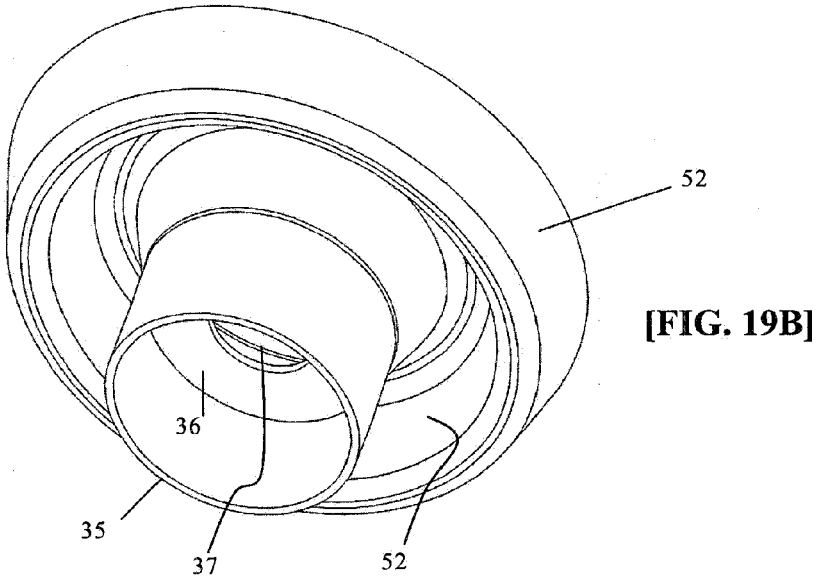
[FIG. 17]



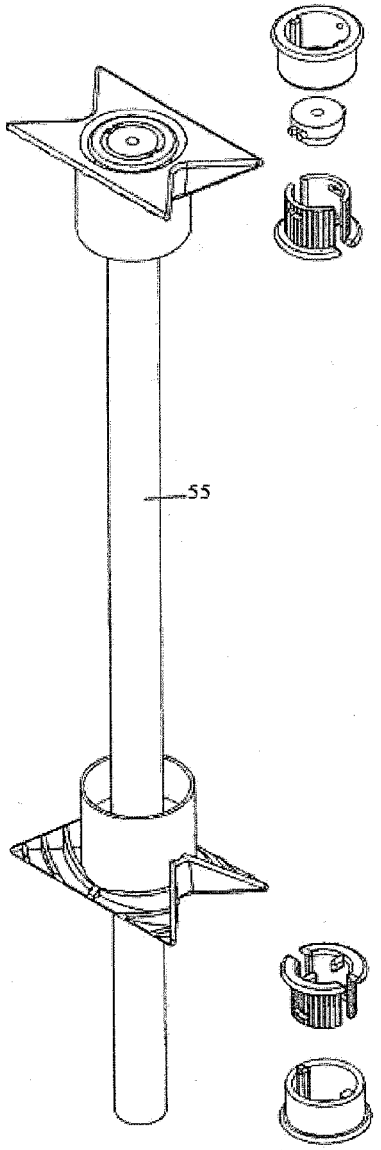
[FIG. 18]



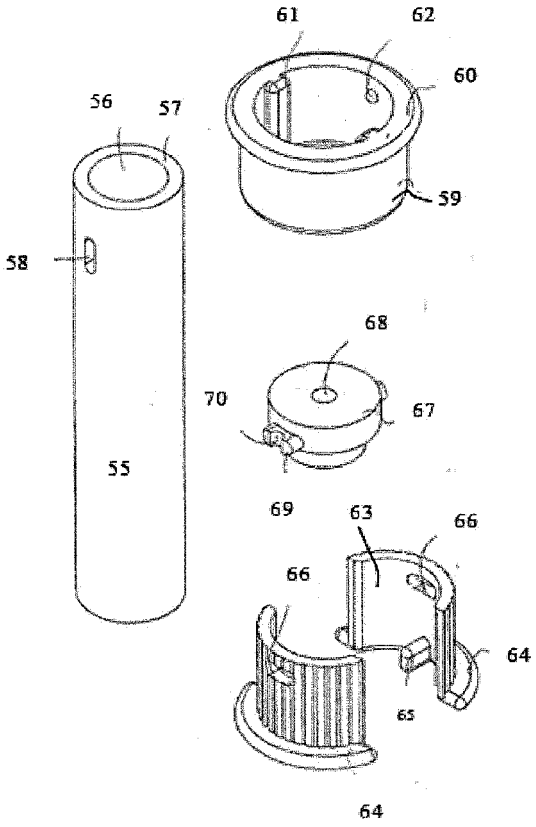
[FIG. 19A]



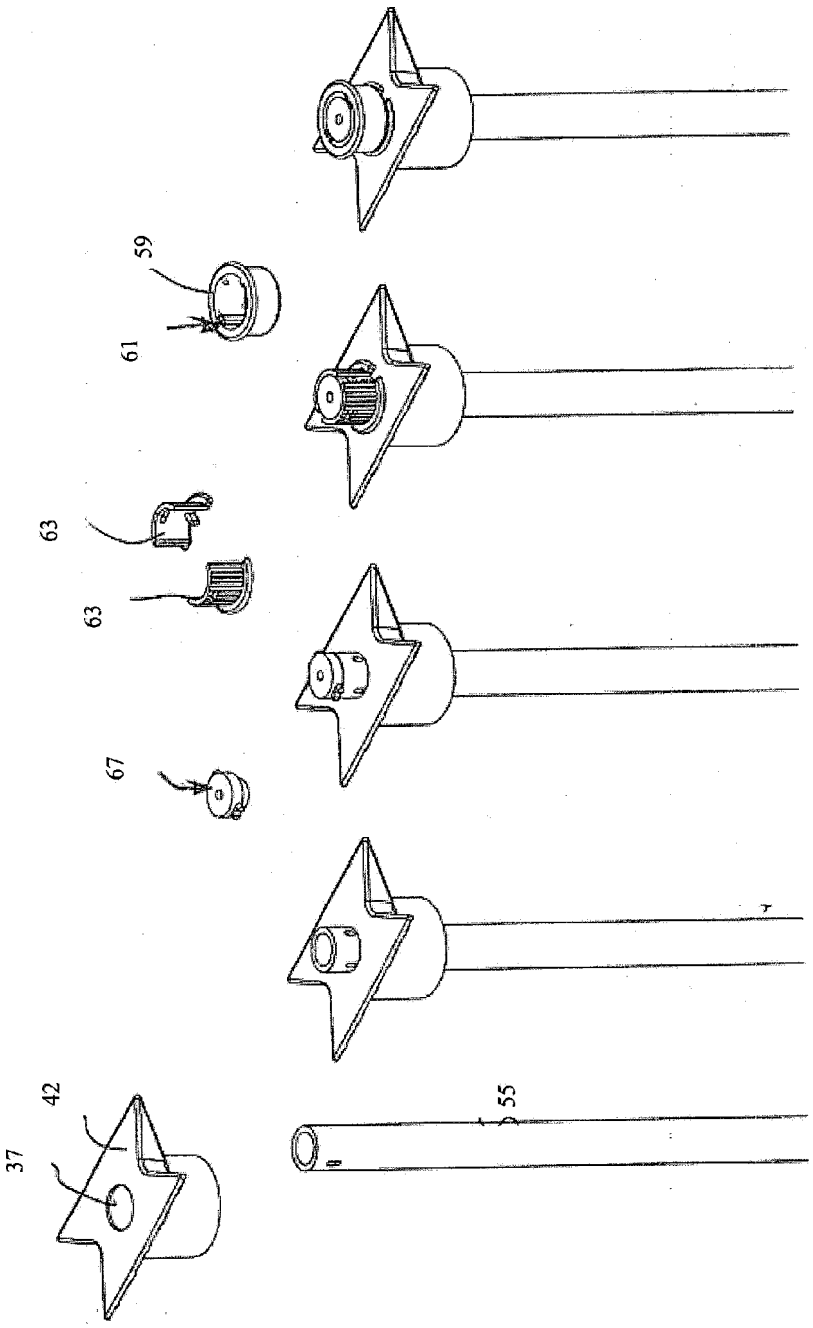
[FIG. 19B]



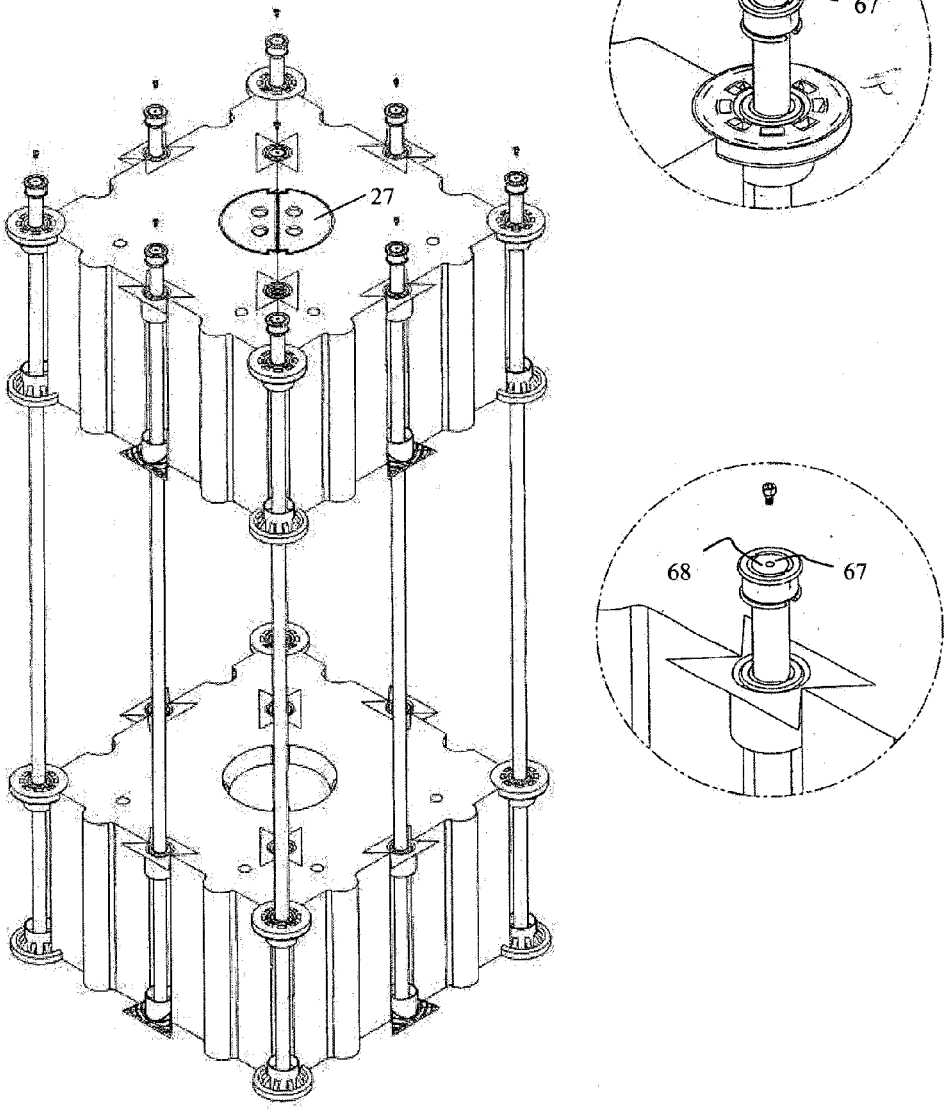
[FIG.20A]



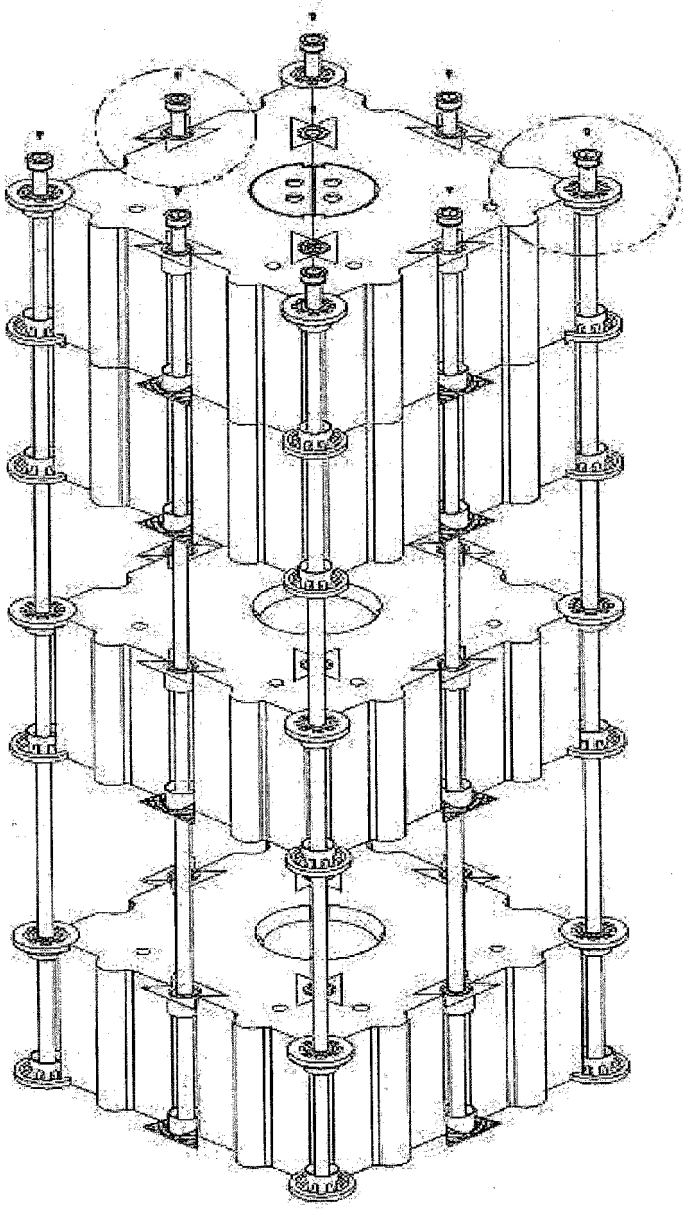
[FIG.20B]



[FIG. 21A] [FIG. 21B] [FIG. 21C] [FIG. 21D] [FIG. 21E]



[FIG. 22]



[FIG. 23]