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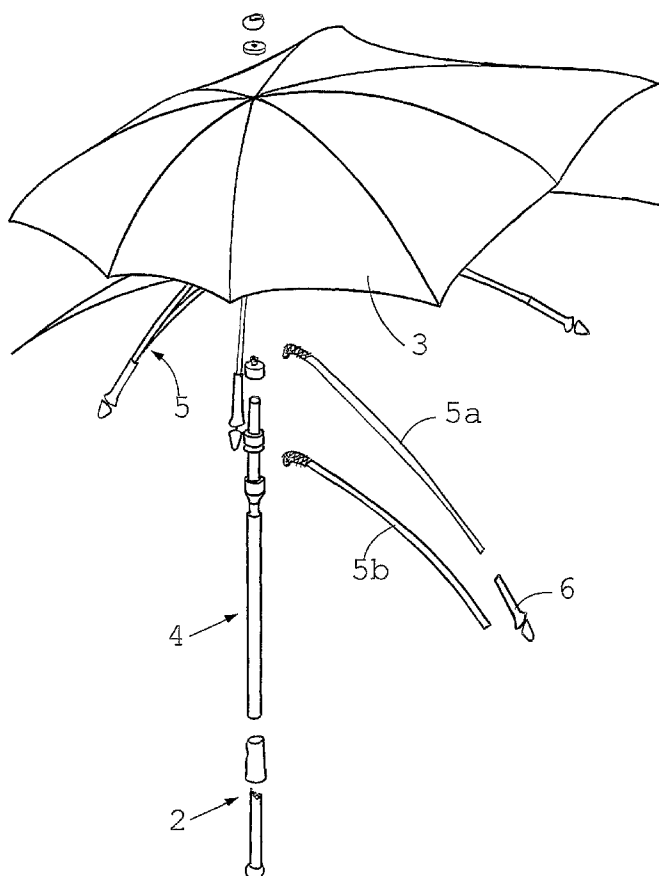
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CANOPY DEVICE



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a canopy device, in particular an umbrella or parasol, comprising: - a rod; - a canopy of flexible material connected to the rod close to an end thereof; - operating means displaceable along the rod for closing or opening the canopy; and - means for tensioning the canopy, which canopy tensioning means comprise a set of first tensioning members and a set of second tensioning members, wherein the first tensioning members are each pivotally connected with one first outer end to the rod and extend therefrom along the canopy to a position close to the periphery thereof, and wherein the second tensioning members are each pivotally connected with a first outer end to the operating means and are connected with a second outer end to a corresponding first tensioning member, wherein the connection between the first and second tensioning members is arranged closer to the periphery of the canopy than to the rod, and is preferably situated substantially close to the periphery of the canopy.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A45B25/02 A45B19/00 A45B25/22 A45B25/06
ADD. A45B11/00

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A45B E04H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2 144 141 A (BRANDON ALFRED E) 17 January 1939 (1939-01-17)	1-7, 11, 12, 18-20
Y	figures page 1, column 1, line 17 - line 25 page 2, column 1, line 70 - page 2, column 2, line 3 page 2, column 2, line 41 - line 68	8-10
X	FR 2 598 895 A (JULIAN YVON) 27 November 1987 (1987-11-27)	8-10
Y	figures page 4, line 3 - line 13 page 2, line 17 - line 29	8-10
A	----- -/--	5, 11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 January 2007

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/02/2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2 111 578 A (WEAVER ELVERTON W) 22 March 1938 (1938-03-22)	13
Y	page 2, line 34 - line 58; figures 8,9	14,15
A		16,17
Y	----- BE 381 251 A (KRÜGER P K H) 31 August 1931 (1931-08-31) page 2, paragraph 3; figure 1	14,15
X	----- US 1 749 363 A (JR. CLARENCE H. VENNER,) 4 March 1930 (1930-03-04)	1,2,4-7, 11,12
Y	figures page 2, line 80 - page 3, line 18	13
Y	----- US 6 298 867 B1 (CHANG JOHN) 9 October 2001 (2001-10-09) figures 4,6 column 1, line 22 - line 31 column 2, line 14 - line 67	13
X	----- FR 1 380 763 A (PLANQUE, JEAN, GEORGES) 12 March 1965 (1965-03-12) page 1, column 1, paragraph 3 page 2, column 1, paragraph 4 figures	1,5,6
A	----- US 5 690 131 A (VOIGT BERNARD [US]) 25 November 1997 (1997-11-25) column 3, line 47; figures 2,7b	3
A	----- US 5 372 155 A (YOU CHING-CHUAN [TW]) 13 December 1994 (1994-12-13) column 1, line 14 - paragraph 53; figure 1	18-20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NL2006/000281

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 21, 22
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

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

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-7 and 8-20, as far as dependent on one of claims 1-7

Canopy device whereby first and second tensioning members are connected to each other closer to the canopy than to the rod

- 1.1. claims: 8-11, if claim 8 is dependent on the preamble of claim 1 and 12-20 as far as dependent on one of claims 8-11

Canopy device whereby the canopy member has an asymmetrical form

2. claims: 13-17, if claim 13 is dependent on the preamble of claim 1 and 18-20 as far as dependent on one of claims 13-17

Canopy device whereby the pivotable connection between operating means and second tensioning members comprises a flexible pivoting element

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 21,22

In contradiction with Rule 6.3 (a) these claims do not comprise any technical features defining an invention. They merely vaguely refer to an evidently intended use in a canopy device defined by preceding claims.

It is therefore impossible to determine the limitations of the matter for which protection is sought and thus a meaningful search can not be carried out. According Article 17(2) no International Search Report is established for these claims.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/NL2006/000281

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2144141	A	17-01-1939	NONE	
FR 2598895	A	27-11-1987	JP 62286405 A	12-12-1987
US 2111578	A	22-03-1938	NONE	
BE 381251	A	31-08-1931	NONE	
US 1749363	A	04-03-1930	NONE	
US 6298867	B1	09-10-2001	NONE	
FR 1380763	A	12-03-1965	FR 84883 E	16-08-1965
US 5690131	A	25-11-1997	NONE	
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