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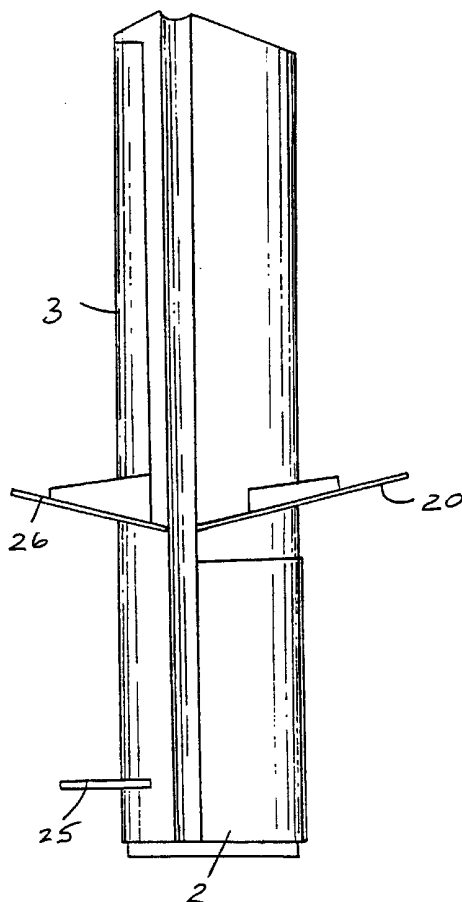
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A KIOSK



(57) Abstract: A kiosk (1), particularly for display and sales of newspapers, magazines and convenience products comprises a pillar which has a storage area (2) on one side and an advertising area (3) on the other side. The storage area (2) is a sales/display area which is closable by doors (4, 5) which are movable, in this case hinged about respective longitudinal hinge axes (6, 7). The inner faces of the doors (4, 5) have shelves or brackets for holding goods so that in the open position the doors (4, 5) also provide display means. The advertising area (3) has an outer profile which is of convex shape in plan view to present a curved advertising means, especially a prismatic advertising means. The sales/display area (2) also has an outer profile which is of convex shape in plan view to provide a maximum display/sales area with a minimum yet highly effective advertising area. The sales/display area (2) is of generally semi-circular shape in plan view whereas the advertising area (3) is of a convex shape with a radius of curvature which is substantially greater than that of the display/sales area (2). This arrangement provides optimum usage of space while occupying a minimum footprint area. The kiosk is especially suitable for use in pedestrian areas.

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“A KIOSK”Introduction

5 The invention relates to a kiosk and especially to a kiosk for the display and selling of magazines, newspapers and the like.

Various street kiosks are widely used. However, known kiosks suffer from a number of disadvantages. One problem is that the footprint or area of the kiosk
10 is generally large for a given display. Thus, such kiosks tend to be either large units, which may be used only in areas where a relatively large area is available, or smaller units which have a very limited capacity and are therefore impractical for most sites. Another problem is that known kiosks are generally intrusive and present an obstruction to pedestrians.

15 Attempts have been made to provide such kiosks with advertising and/or display panels. However, in general, such attempts have not been successful because of the configuration of conventional kiosks which do not present an efficient display.

20 This invention is therefore directed towards providing an improved kiosk which will overcome at least some of these difficulties.

Statements of Invention

25 According to the invention there is provided kiosk comprising a pillar having a storage area and an advertising area, the storage area having an outer profile of convex shape in plan view, and, the advertising area having an outer profile of convex shape in plan view.

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In a preferred embodiment of the invention the curvature of the profile of one of the advertising area and the storage area is greater than the curvature of the profile of the other of the advertising area and the storage area. Preferably the curvature of the profile of the advertising area is greater than the curvature of the profile of the display area. In a particularly preferred embodiment the radius of curvature of the profile of the advertising area is at least 1.5 times the radius of curvature of the profile of the storage area.

In one embodiment of the invention the storage area and the advertising area are disposed on opposite sides of the kiosk. Preferably the centre of curvature of the profile of the advertising area is approximately coincident with the centre of the curvature of the profile of the display area.

In a particularly preferred embodiment the advertising area extends at least partially upwardly of the sales/display area.

It is especially preferred that the kiosk includes a user area, for example, the advertising area may comprise an advertising display area and an associated user area. The user area may include one or more of a seat, an awning, lighting, a telephone station, an information display, an automated cash dispenser, a vending machine. The vending machine preferably includes means for vending tickets. The user area may also include one or more of an internet access terminal or a television monitor.

Preferably the advertising display area and the associated user area are on the same side of the kiosk. Ideally the advertising display area is located above the user area.

In a preferred embodiment the storage area has a door which is operable to provide access to the storage area.

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Ideally the door, in the open position, provides a display area. Preferably the door is of curved shape in plan view. In a particularly preferred embodiment the radius of curvature of the door is substantially the same as that of the profile of the storage area so that when the door is in the closed position it presents a unitary body.

For ease of use preferably the door comprises a pair of half doors. Preferably both half doors are hingedly movable between open and closed positions. In a preferred arrangement the door is hingedly movable about longitudinal hinge axis (axes).

In another embodiment of the invention the storage area defines a sales/display area.

In a further embodiment the display area includes an entry port, typically for receiving recyclable material. The display area may have a plurality of entry ports. In this embodiment the kiosk may comprise bin means in the storage area for receiving material delivered through the entry port. Preferably the bin means are movable for entry to and exit from the storage area.

In a preferred embodiment the storage area includes an awning.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will be more clearly understood from the following description thereof given by way of example only, in which: -

Fig. 1 is a perspective view from one side of a sales kiosk having an advertising means according to the invention;

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Fig. 2 is another perspective view from the other side of the kiosk;

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view of the kiosk with doors closed;

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Fig. 4 is a front elevational view of the kiosk with doors open;

Fig. 5 is a rear elevational view of the kiosk;

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Fig. 6 is a side elevational view of the kiosk;

Fig. 7 is top plan view of the kiosk;

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Fig. 8 is a transverse cross sectional view of the main pillar of the kiosk; and

Fig. 9 is a partial longitudinal cross sectional view of the pillar of the kiosk.

20

Detailed Description

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Referring to the drawings there is illustrated a kiosk 1, particularly for display and sales of newspapers, magazines and convenience products generally. The kiosk 1 comprises a pillar which has a storage area in this case a sales/display area 2 on one side and an advertising area 3 on the other side. The sales/display area 2 is closable by doors 4, 5 which are movable, in this case hinged about respective longitudinal hinge axes 6, 7 from a closed position as illustrated in Fig. 3 to an open display position as illustrated by Fig. 4. The inner faces of the doors 4, 5 have shelves or brackets for holding goods so that in the open position the doors 4, 5 also provide display means.

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- 5 -

The advertising area 3 has an outer profile which is of convex shape in plan view to present a curved advertising means, especially a prismatic advertising means.

5 The sales display area 2 also has an outer profile which is of convex shape in plan view to provide a maximum display/sales area with a minimum yet highly effective advertising area. The sales/display area 2 is of generally semi-circular shape in plan view whereas the advertising area 3 is of a convex shape with a radius of curvature which is substantially greater than that of the display/sales
10 area 2. This arrangement provides optimum usage of space while occupying a minimum footprint area. Thus, the kiosk is especially suitable for use in pedestrian areas.

15 An awning 20 is provided over the doors 4, 5 in the open position to protect both customers and a sales attendant.

The kiosk also has a user area which in this case is below the advertising means. The user area includes a seat 25 which is protected by an awning 26.

20 The user area may include a telephone booth and/or handset(s). The user area may also include an internet access point which may be combined with a "mobile to mobile" telephone system. A vending machine may also be included such as a vending unit for integrated ticketing such as for transportation by bus/train/taxi and the like. Alternatively or additionally the user area
25 include a cashless purse or smart card facility. An automated banking point such as a cash dispenser may also be included.

The kiosk may also be used to support an antenna.

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5 In another embodiment the kiosk may be, at least in part, used as a recycling station. In this case the storage area may house one or more bins which may be wheeled in and out through the door(s). The kiosk may have at least one or several entry ports for depositing material, such as plastic bottles and the like especially for recycling.

The invention is not limited to the embodiments hereinbefore described which may be varied in construction and detail.

Claims.

1. A kiosk comprising a pillar having a storage area and an advertising area, the storage area having an outer profile of convex shape in plan view and the advertising area having an outer profile of convex shape in plan view.
5
2. A kiosk as claimed in claim 1 wherein the curvature of the profile of one of the advertising area and the storage area is greater than the curvature of the profile of the other of the advertising area and the storage area.
10
3. A kiosk as claimed in claim 2 wherein the curvature of the profile of the advertising area is greater than the curvature of the profile of the display area.
15
4. A kiosk as claimed in claim 3 wherein the radius of curvature of the profile of the advertising area is at least 1.5 times the radius of curvature of the profile of the storage area.
- 20 5. A kiosk as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the storage area and the advertising area are disposed on opposite sides of the kiosk.
6. A kiosk as claimed in claim 5 wherein the centre of curvature of the profile of the advertising area is approximately coincident with the centre of the curvature of the profile of the storage area.
25
7. A kiosk as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the advertising area extends at least partially upwardly of the storage area.

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8. A kiosk as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the kiosk includes a user area.
- 5 9. A kiosk as claimed in claim 8 wherein the advertising area comprises an advertising display area and a user area.
- 10 10. A kiosk as claimed in claim 8 or 9 wherein the user area includes a seat.
- 11 11. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 10 wherein the user area includes an awning.
- 12 12. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 11 wherein the user area includes lighting.
- 15 13. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 12 wherein the user area includes a telephone station.
- 20 14. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 13 wherein the user area includes an information display.
- 25 15. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 14 wherein the user area includes an automated cash dispenser.
16. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 15 wherein the user area includes a vending machine.
17. A kiosk as claimed in claim 16 wherein the vending machine includes means for vending tickets.

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18. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 17 including an internet access terminal.
- 5 19. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 18 including a television monitor.
- 10 20. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 19 wherein the advertising display area and the associated user area are on the same side of the kiosk.
21. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 8 to 20 wherein the advertising display area is located above the user area.
- 15 22. A kiosk as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the storage area has a door which is operable to provide access to the storage area.
23. A kiosk as claimed in claim 22 wherein the door, in the open position, provides a display area.
- 20 24. A kiosk as claimed in claim 22 or 23 wherein the door is of curved shape in plan view.
- 25 25. A kiosk as claimed in claim 24 wherein the radius of curvature of the door is substantially the same as that of the profile of the storage area so that when the door is in the closed position it presents an unitary body.
26. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 22 to 25 wherein the door comprises a pair of half doors.

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27. A kiosk as claimed in claim 26 wherein both half doors are hingedly movable between open and closed positions.
- 5 28. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 22 to 27 wherein the door is hingedly movable about longitudinal hinge axis (axes).
29. A kiosk as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the storage area defines a sales/display area.
- 10 30. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 1 to 28 wherein the display area includes an entry port.
31. A kiosk as claimed in claim 30 wherein the entry port is for receiving recyclable material.
- 15 32. A kiosk as claimed in claim 30 or 31 wherein the display area has a plurality of entry ports.
33. A kiosk as claimed in any of claims 30 to 32 comprising bin means in the storage area for receiving material delivered through the entry port.
- 20 34. A kiosk as claimed in claim 33 wherein the bin means are movable for entry to and exit from the storage area.
- 25 35. A kiosk as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the storage area includes an awning.
36. A kiosk substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
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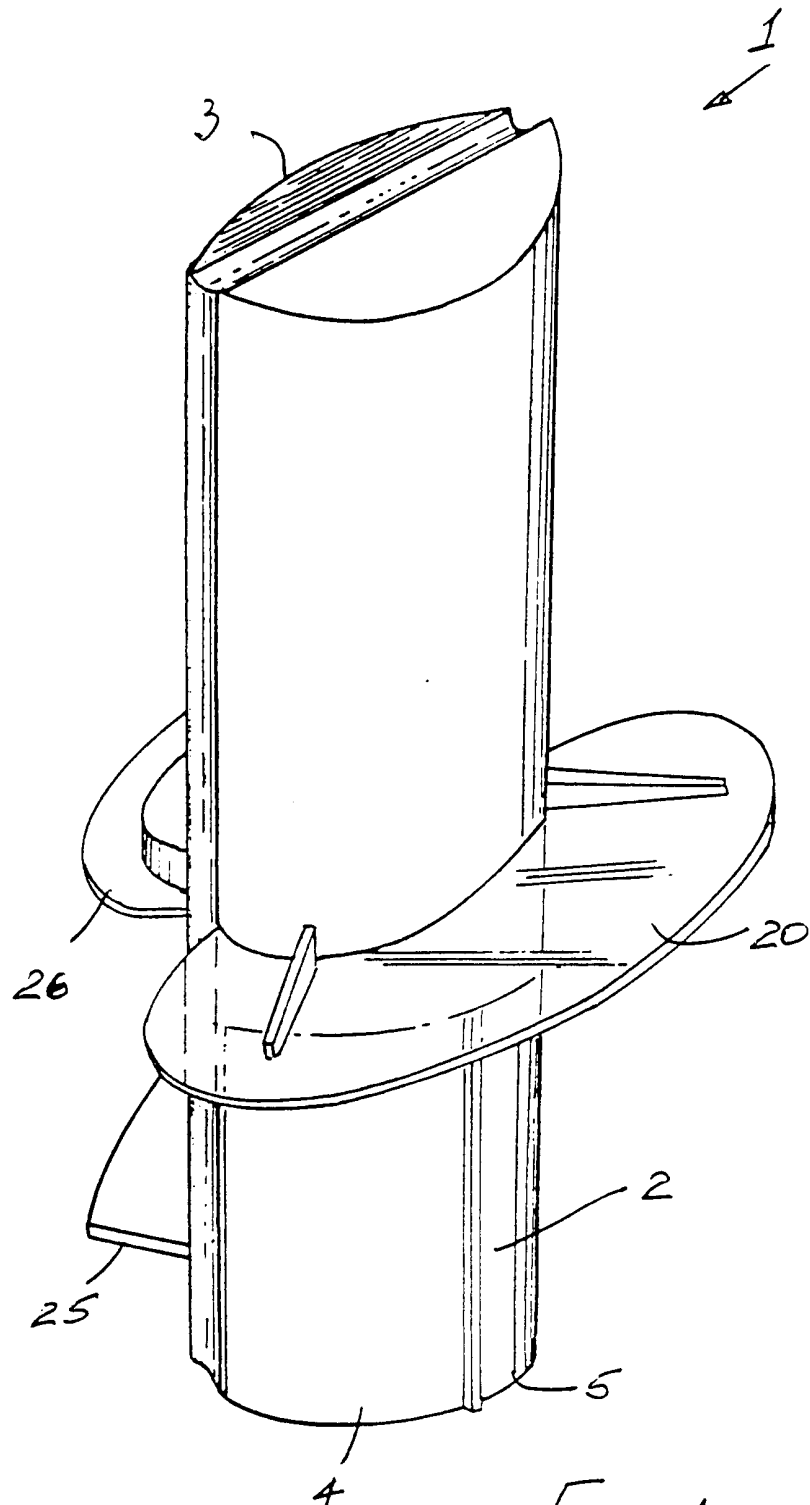


Fig. 1

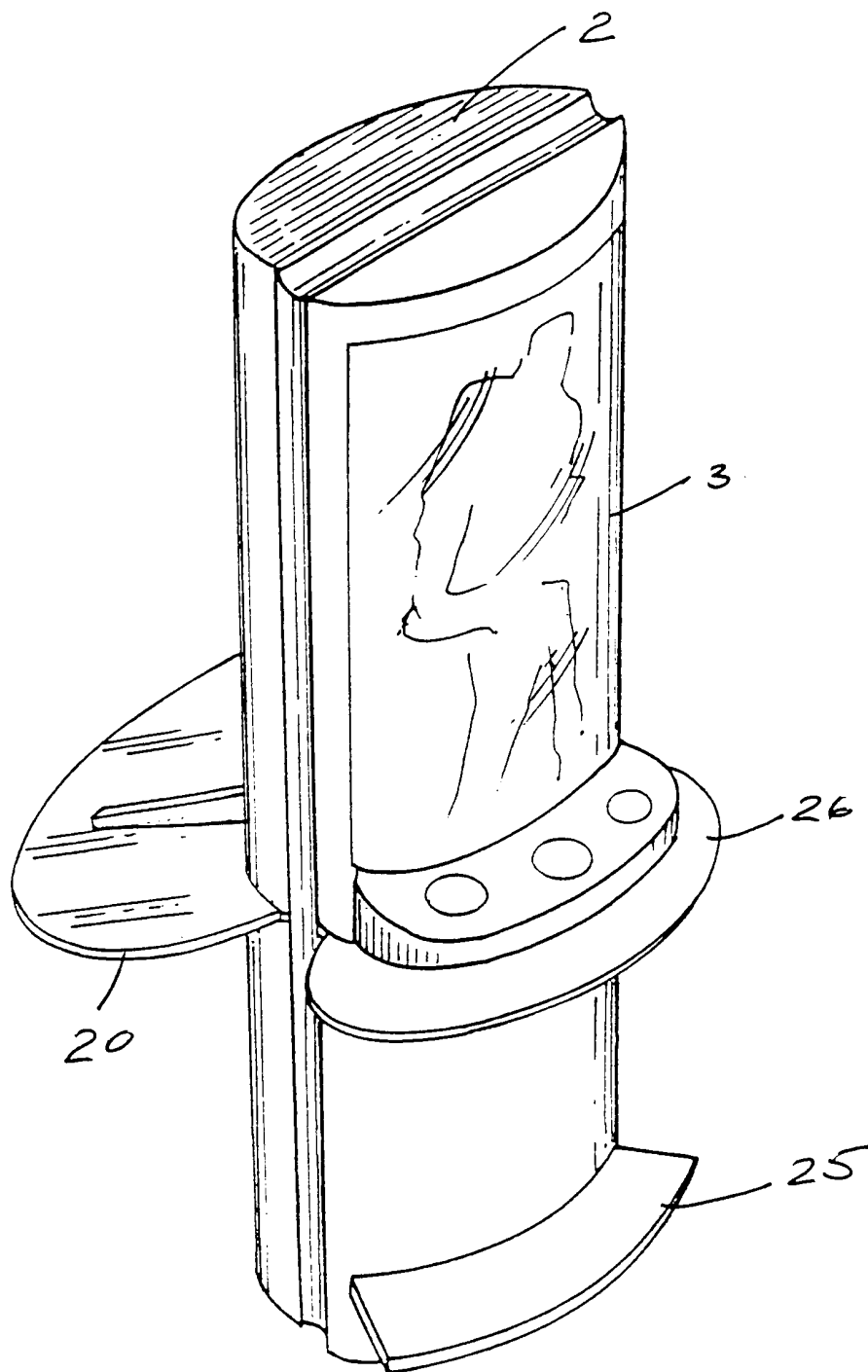
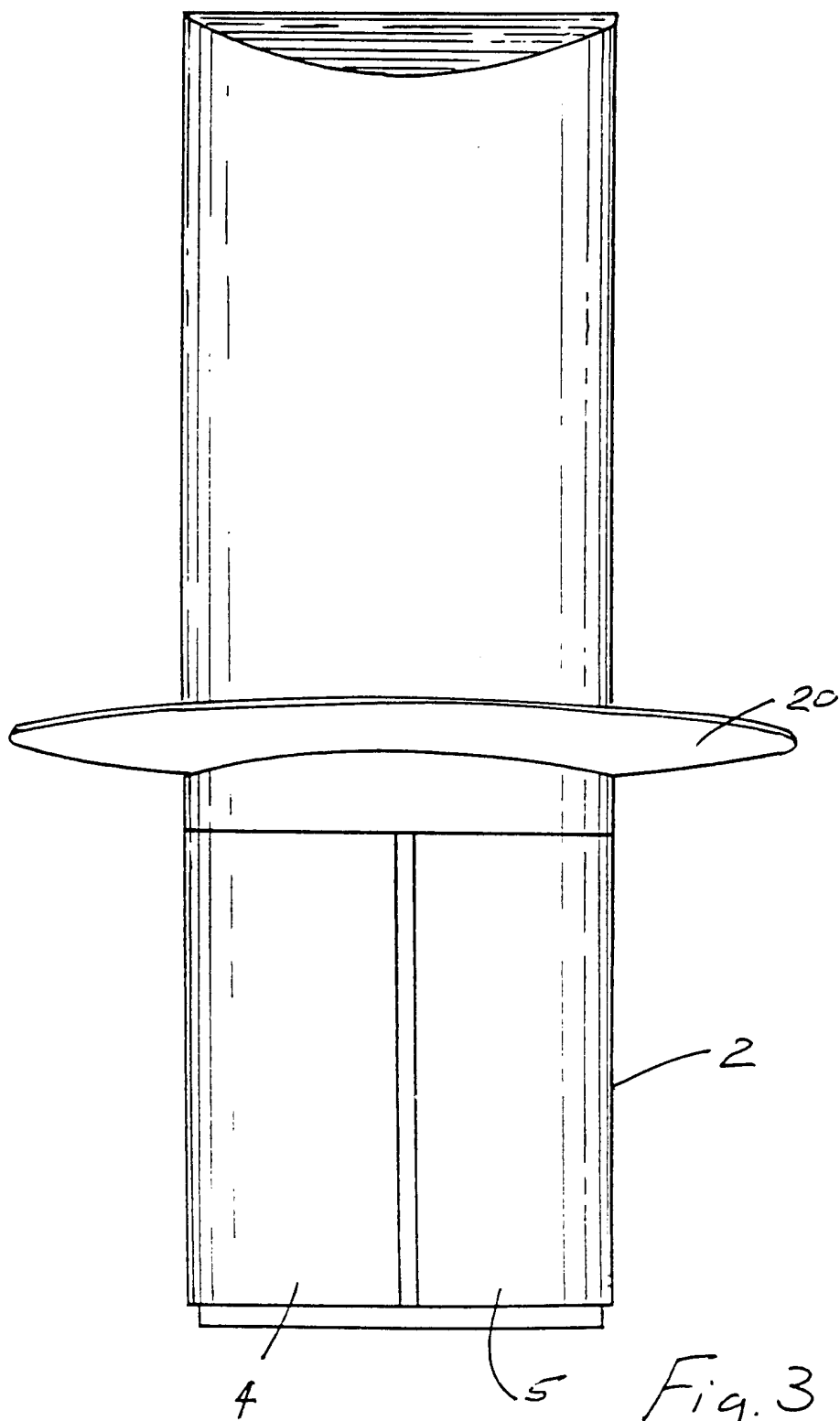


Fig. 2



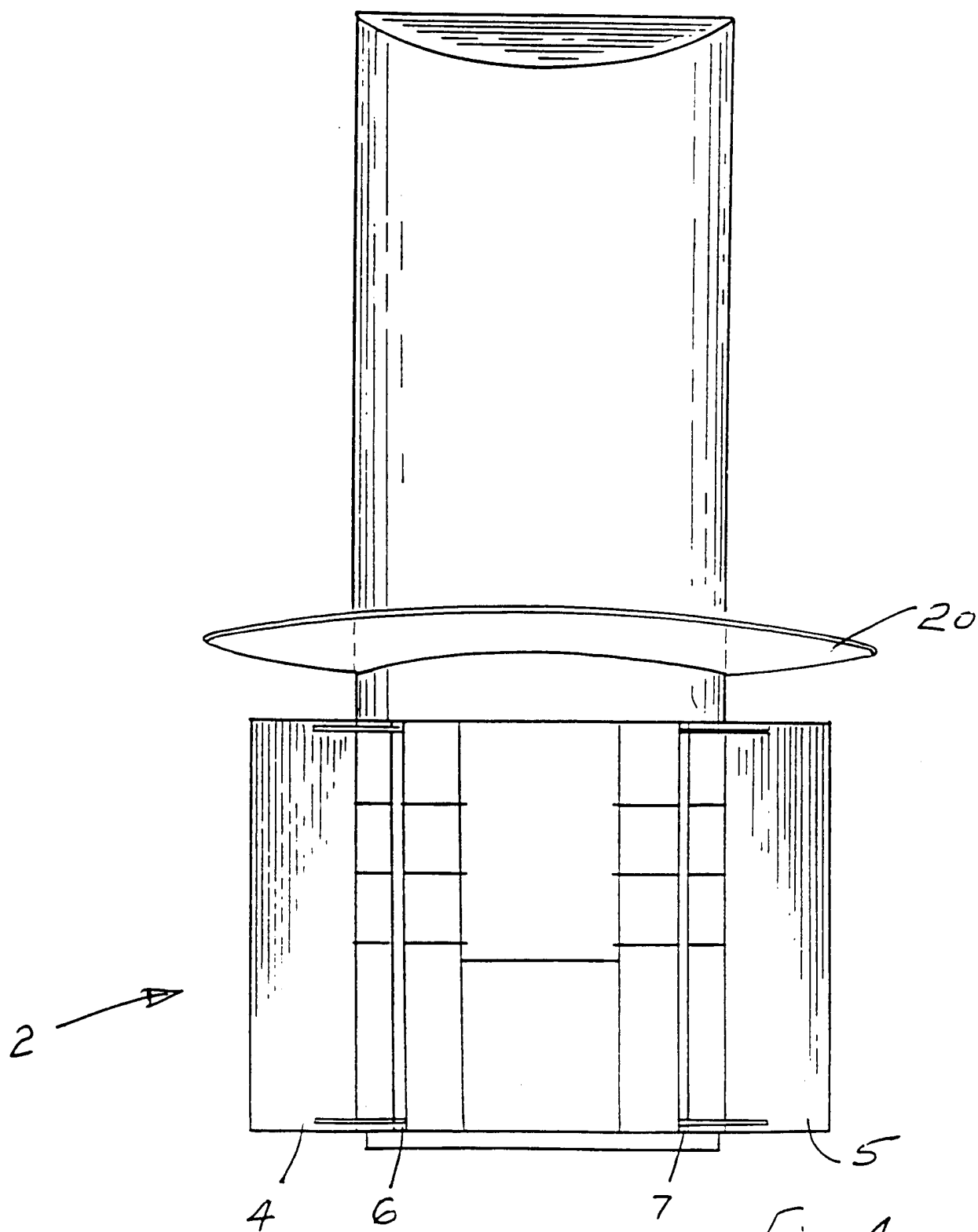


Fig. 4

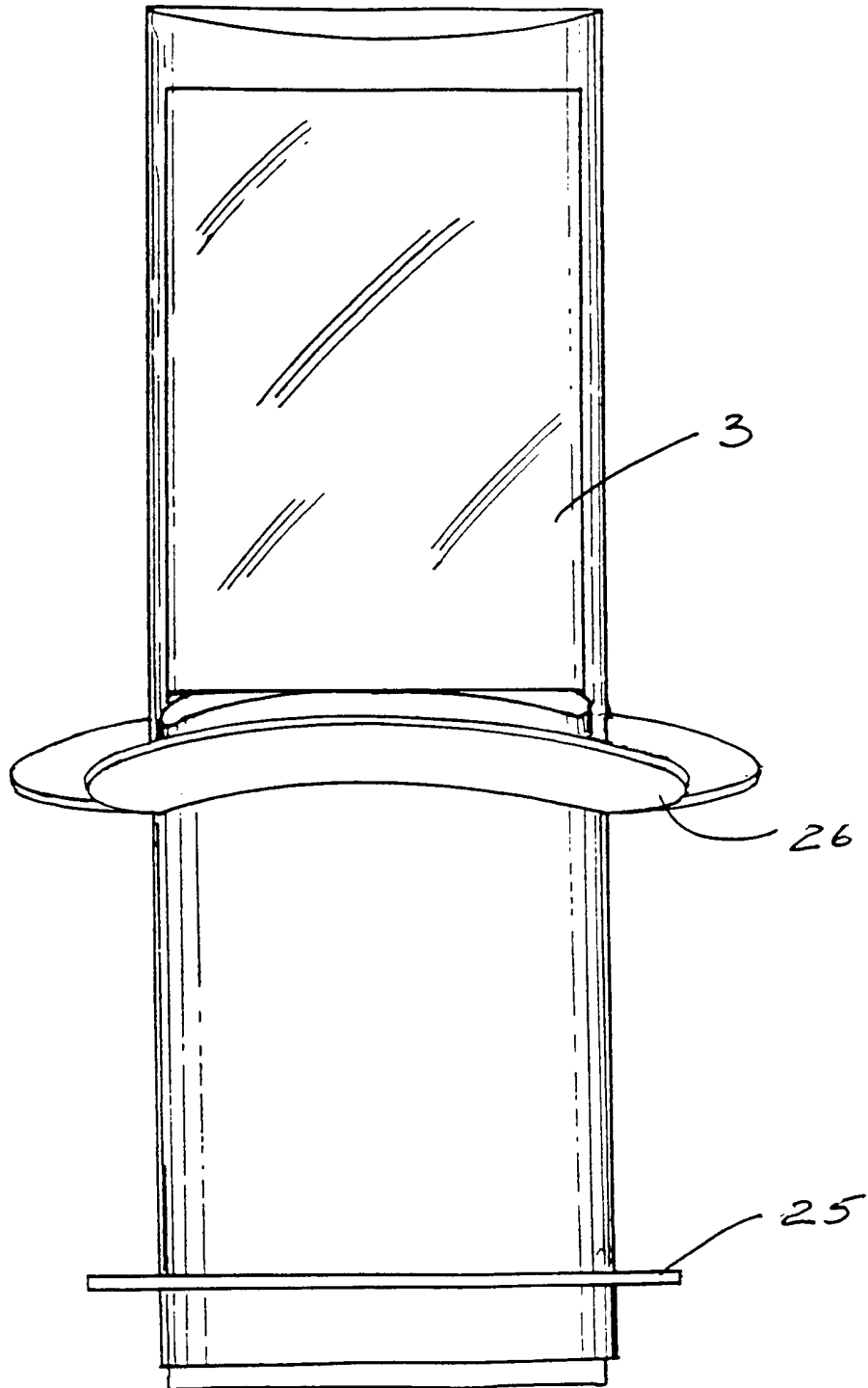


Fig. 5

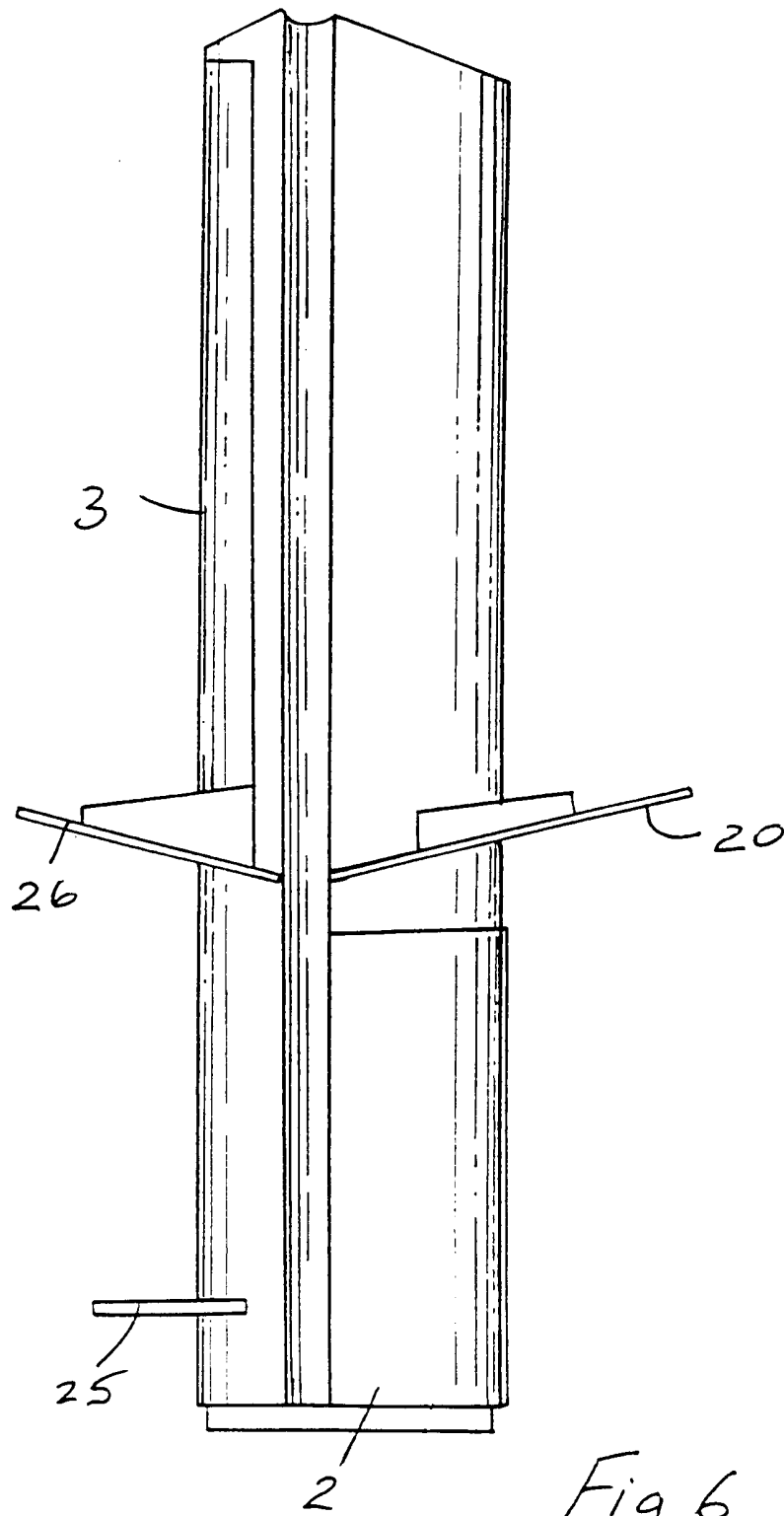


Fig. 6

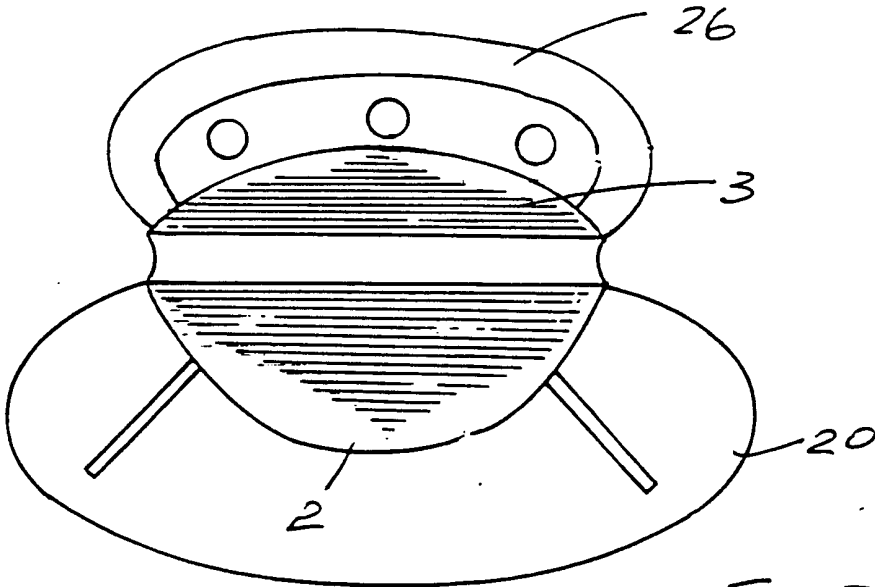


Fig. 7

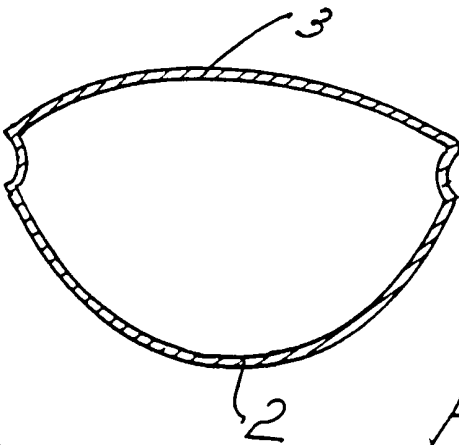


Fig. 8

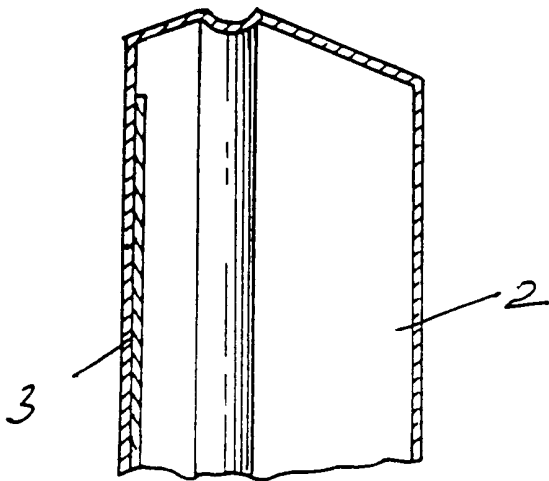


Fig. 9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IE 01/00011

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A47F9/00 G09F15/00 G09F27/00

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)

IPC 7 A47F G09F

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, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 750 239 A (SECEROVSKI GORAN) 26 December 1997 (1997-12-26) the whole document ---	1,5,7,8, 11,14, 19,22, 24,25, 28,36
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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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

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. Application No

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