Title: A Fixture for Joining a Handrail

Abstract: A stairway system including a plurality of treads, a handrail including a fastener, and a handrail support. A fixture for joining a handrail having at least two segments.
Published:

— with international search report
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - B23B 45/14; E04F 11/18 (2008 01)
USPC - 52/187; 408/104
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(8) - B23B 45/14, E04F 11/18 (2008 01)
USPC - 52/187; 408/104

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 practicable, search terms used)
USPTO EAST System (US, USPG-PUB, EPO, DERWENT), MicroPatent

C DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1-19, 21-24, 29-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 673,689 A (REIL) 07 May 1901 (07 05 1901) entire document</td>
<td>1-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 2,798,520 A (MASKULKA et al) 09 July 1957 (09 07 1957) entire document</td>
<td>1-77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

D Date of actual completion of the international search
19 February 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report
31 MAR 2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
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Authorized officer
Blaine R Copenheaver

Form PCT/ISA/2 IO(second sheet) (April 2005)
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.:
   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:

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).

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

see extra 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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

□ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

D No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-54 are drawn to a stairway system.
Group II, claims 55-77 are drawn to a fixture for a handrail.

The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical features of Group I, a plurality of spaced apart treads; a handrail above said treads; a fastener received by the aligned holes joining said segments; and at least one handrail support, are not present in Group II; the special technical features of Group II, an aligner for receiving an end of one segment and subsequently an end of the other segment; a base connected to the distal end of the aligner for receiving a hole forming device, are not present in Group I.

Since none of the special technical features of the Group I-II inventions is found in more than one of the inventions, unity is lacking.