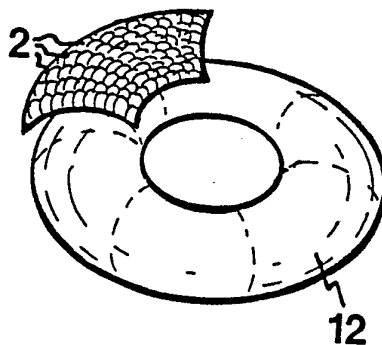




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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE90/00146 (22) International Filing Date: 7 March 1990 (07.03.90) (30) Priority data: 8900974-0 20 March 1989 (20.03.89) SE (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: HULTBERG, Ann-Margret [SE/SE]; Ljungvägen 3, S-263 32 Höganäs (SE). (74) Agent: AWAPATENT AB; Box 5117, S-200 71 Malmö (SE). (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European + patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FI, FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), NO, SE (European patent), US.</p>		<p>Published <i>With international search report. In English translation (filed in Swedish).</i></p>

(54) Title: DECORATION MEANS AND A METHOD OF MAKING IT



(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a decoration and a method of making such decoration comprising a plurality of separate, artificial plant parts (2). The method is characterised by overlappingly connecting separate, juxtaposed first plant parts at a distance from a front edge of the respective plant part (2), and of overlappingly connecting a plurality of separate, mutually overlapping second plant parts to said first plant parts. As a result, an area of each of said first plant parts facing away from the front edge is covered, like the connection, by the overlapping portion of each of the second plant parts. The decoration is intended for use in the making of a wreath (12).

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DECORATION MEANS AND A METHOD OF MAKING IT

The present invention relates to a decoration which
5 can be used especially in the florist trade, and to a
method of making such a decoration.

A common task of florists is to make wreaths for use
in connection with funerals or cremations. Such a wreath
substantially consists of two parts, namely a wreath body
10 and a decoration, such as flowers, ribbons etc, fixed to
the wreath body. Today, ready-made wreath bodies are
available, which may consist of straw held in place by a
plastic sheeting wrapped around the wreath body. Other
types of wreath bodies, such as those disclosed in US-A-
15 3,526,992 or EP-A1-0,241,341, are previously known. Most
often, they consist of a porous foam material which in
some cases is supported by a waterproof backing (cf. GB-A-
1,544,630). Naturally, the technical development in res-
pect of wreath bodies and wreath body materials facili-
20 tates the task of the florist when making wreaths. Thus,
the florist need not waste any time on shaping the wreath
body, provided the customer is content with the wreath
sizes available. This of course has a favourable effect on
the end price of the wreath.

25 The wreath body must be decked with some type of
decoration, such as flowers, leaves, ribbons etc. No
actual development has taken place in this respect, save
that use is now made of leaves of plastic or cloth, or
silk, which are easier to handle and do not wither. That
30 no technical development has in principle occurred largely
depends on the fact that the very decoration of the wreath
body is considered dependent to a large extent on the
craftsmanship of the florist, excluding all technical de-
velopment. Although the craftsmanship of the florist is of
35 decisive importance for the final appearance of the
wreath, there are certain ways of facilitating the
florist's work when making wreaths.

Thus, from DE-B-27,50,670 it is previously known to fix to a wreath body a block of flower foam which is soaked with water and used for fixing and continuously watering flowers on the wreath. However, before the florist gets that far, the wreath body must be provided with a suitable basic decoration, such as natural or artificial plant leaves. These are fixed to the wreath body by means of a steel wire which is wound around the wreath, whereby the leaves will be squeezed between the steel wire and the wreath body. A plurality of plant leaves are fixed to the wreath body for each turn of the winding, so that these leaves will cover the wreath body, and the following leaves must cover the preceding turn of the steel wire and the wreath body. After this operation, flowers, ribbons and the like can be attached to the wreath body for accomplishing the wreath.

Attaching the separate plant parts is a very time-consuming and, thus, costly operation. Apart from this, there is a substantial risk that these separate plant parts attached with steel wire may be displaced or torn loose during transportation of the wreath from the florist to e.g. a church ceremony, which, if things come to the worst, may mean that both the steel wire and the wreath body become visible, thus ruining the aesthetical appearance of the whole wreath.

One object of the present invention therefore is to provide a decoration where there is no risk that the separate plant parts may be displaced or torn loose.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a decoration with which different-sized wreath bodies can be decorated in a cost-effective way.

A third object of the present invention is to provide a method of making such a decoration.

These and other objects are achieved by means of a method of making a decoration comprising a plurality of separate, artificial plant parts, which method is characterised by the steps of overlappingly connecting separate,

juxtaposed first plant parts at a distance from a front edge of the respective plant part, and of overlappingly connecting a plurality of separate, mutually overlapping second plant parts to said first plant parts, such that
5 both an area of each of said first plant parts facing away from said front edge, and said connection are covered by the overlapping portion of each of said second plant parts.

To achieve these objects and to carry out the method
10 of the invention, a decoration is further provided which comprises a plurality of separate, artificial plant parts, which decoration is characterised by first means provided at a distance from a front edge of the respective plant part for overlappingly connecting separate, juxtaposed
15 first plant parts, and second means for overlappingly connecting a plurality of separate, mutually overlapping second plant parts to said first plant parts, such that both an area of each of said first plant parts facing away from said front edge, and said first means are covered by
20 the overlapping portion of each of said second plant parts.

Other preferred embodiments are recited in the sub-claims.

The attached drawing illustrates one embodiment of a
25 decoration according to the invention to be fixed to a wreath body, as will be described in more detail herein-below.

Fig. 1 shows an inventive working operation for joining together separate, artificial plant parts.

30 Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along the line A-A in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 shows a 1/4 of a circular-arc-shaped decoration according to the present invention.

Fig. 4 shows a wreath body immediately before
35 applying the inventive decoration shown in fig. 3.

Fig. 5 shows a lobated strip where the lobes resemble a plant part.

Figs 1 and 2 illustrate a working method according to the invention for joining together separate, artificial
5 plant parts 2, 4 so as to form a decoration which can be used in the making of wreaths. In this illustrative embodiment, separate, juxtaposed first plant parts 2 are
10 sewn together (8a) at a distance from a front edge 6 of the respective plant part, such that adjacent plant parts will overlap each other. This yields a row of interconnected, mutually overlapping first plant parts 2. Similarly, there is provided a row of mutually overlapping
15 second plant parts 4 sewn together (8b).

In the following phase of operation, the row of the
15 second plant parts 4 is applied on the row of the first plant parts 2 at a distance from the front edge 6 of the respective first plant parts 2, such that an overlapping portion 4a of the respective second plant parts 4 will
20 cover the seam 8a and the end of the first plant parts 2 facing away from the front edge 6 thereof. The row of the second plant parts 4 is thereafter sewn (10) to the row of the first plant parts 2. When a plurality of such rows have been fixed to each other in this manner, a "mat" of interconnected plant parts is obtained without any visible
25 joints (in this case, seams 8a, 8b, 10), where each separate plant part is anchored to prevent any displacement and/or extraction thereof, thus obviating the risk that the connection between different separate plant parts or the wreath body becomes visible after this "mat" has been
30 applied to the wreath body.

If, when joining together the different rows, one proceeds along circular arcs corresponding, respectively, to the inner and the outer periphery of the wreath body, an arcuate "mat" is thus obtained, it being preferred to
35 make a 1/4 circular-arc-shaped "mat" (see Fig. 3).

Fig. 4 shows a wreath body 12 immediately before applying a 1/4 circular-arc-shaped "mat" of separate, artificial interconnected plant parts, which mat, depending on the material of the wreath body, is glued, riveted or fixed in any other suitable manner to the wreath body 12.

Thus, the wreath body can be completely covered with a basic decoration which here consists of four separate pieces of decoration. It will be appreciated that 1/3 circular-arc-shaped mats may also be used, like completely circular-arc-shaped mats of separate, artificial plant parts.

Also, it is possible to apply the separate, artificial first and second plant parts to a carrier, for instance a thin woven fabric, which would facilitate the joining together of the separate plant parts and make it easier to follow the above-mentioned circular arc. Also, the mat or mats would become less sensitive to tensile forces and, hence, more resistant.

Although the connection of the different plant parts in the embodiment of the present invention described above consists of sewn seams, a man skilled in the art will realise that there are other suitable means for fastening and joining the separate, artificial first and second plant parts to each other, such as glue, rivets etc.

It has thus been shown that a decoration made in the manner described above will provide a basic decoration, e.g. for a wreath body, which is safely anchored against displacement and/or extraction, and that basic decorating can be done more rapidly and, hence, in a more cost-effective way. Thus, the florist may concentrate on what is essential for the final appearance of the wreath, that is the choice and arrangement of flowers, ribbons etc.

It is of course obvious to a man skilled in the art that the detail implementation of the inventive method and the detail design of the inventive decoration may be varied or modified. Thus, the separate leaves may be re-

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placed by lobated strips which should give the impression
of being composed of individual plant parts and which
should then be overlappingly connected to each other as
described above. Of course, it is also possible to use
5 other artificial plant parts, and the method of joining
them together may be carried out in other suitable ways,
giving the same technical effect. It therefore is under-
stood that the accompanying claims should be considered to
comprise all changes and modifications falling within the
10 scope of the inventive concept.

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CLAIMS

1. A method of making a decoration comprising a plurality of separate, artificial plant parts, characterized by the steps of overlappingly connecting separate, juxtaposed first plant parts (2) at a distance from a front edge of the respective plant part, and of overlappingly connecting a plurality of separate, mutually overlapping second plant parts (4) to said first plant parts (2), such that both an area of each of said first plant parts (2) facing away from said front edge (6), and said connection are covered by the overlapping portion (4) of each of said second plant parts (4).
2. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the separate, juxtaposed first plant parts (2) and the second plant parts (4) overlapping said first plant parts are connected in a single working operation.
3. Decoration comprising a plurality of separate, artificial plant parts, characterized by first means (8) provided at a distance from a front edge (6) of the respective plant part for overlappingly connecting separate, juxtaposed first plant parts (2), and second means (10) for overlappingly connecting a plurality of separate, mutually overlapping second plant parts (4) to said first plant parts (2), such that both an area of each of said first plant parts (2) facing away from said front edge (6), and said first means (8) are covered by the overlapping portion (4a) of each of said second plant parts (4).
4. Decoration as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said first means (8) and said second means (10) consist of sewn seams.
5. Decoration as claimed in claim 3, characterized by lobated strips (14) where the lobes constitute said first plant parts (2) and said second plant

parts (4), respectively.

6. Decoration as claimed in any one of claims 3-5, characterised in that said first plant parts (2) and said second plant parts (4) are connected so as to
5 form a 1/4 of a circular arc.

7. Decoration as claimed in any one of claims 3-6, characterised in that the separate plant parts (2, 4) consist of artificial leaf-shaped members.

8. The use of a decoration as claimed in any one of
10 claims 3-7 as decking means in the making of wreaths.

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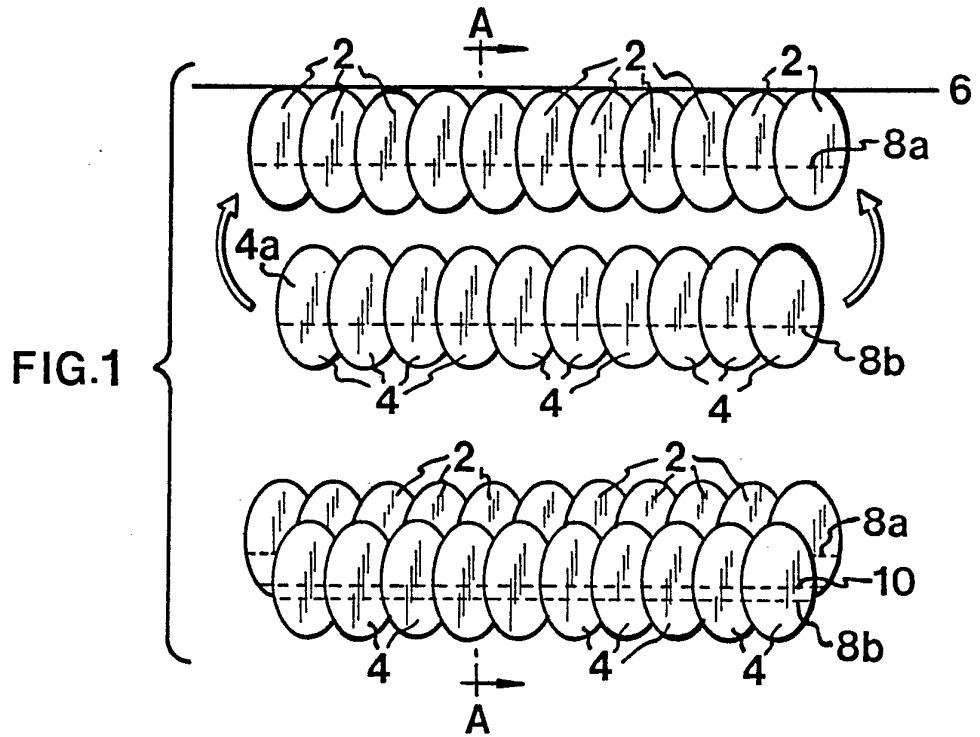


FIG. 2

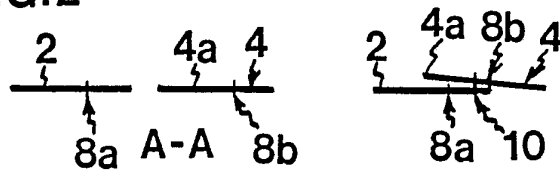


FIG. 3

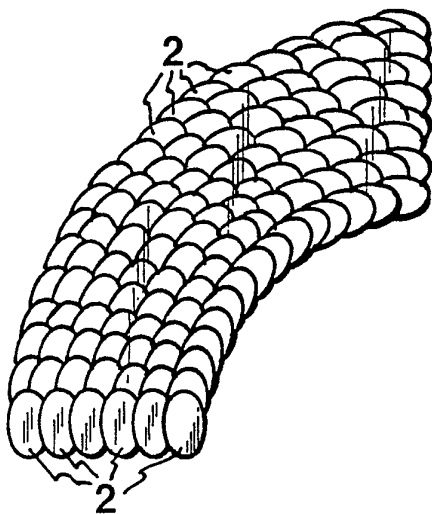


FIG. 4

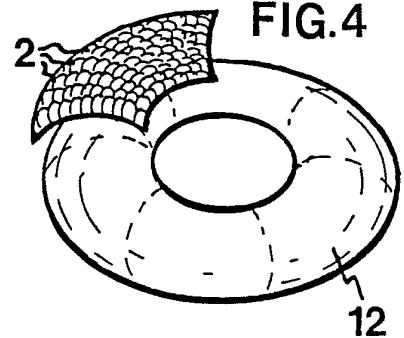
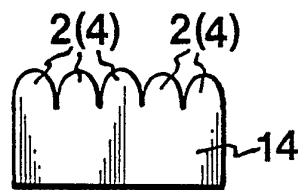


FIG. 5



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/SE 90/00146

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶ According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC IPC5: A 41 G 1/04				
II. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷				
Classification System	Classification Symbols			
IPC5	A 45 F; A 01 G; A 41 G; A 47 G			
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in Fields Searched ⁸				
SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above				
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹				
Category *	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³		
A	DE, C, 921540 (FRITZ PLETZ) 20 December 1954, see the whole document --	1		
A	DE, C, 514283 (THEODOR SELLMANN) 10 December 1930, see the whole document -- -----	1		
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; border: none;"> <p>* Special categories of cited documents:¹⁰</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"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)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; border: none;"> <p>"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</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p>* Special categories of cited documents:¹⁰</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"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)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>"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</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>
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IV. CERTIFICATION				
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report			
3rd July 1990	1990-07-05			
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer			
SWEDISH PATENT OFFICE	Åke T. Larsson			

ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.PCT/SE 90/00146

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The members are as contained in the Swedish Patent Office EDP file on 90-05-24
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE-C- 921540	54-12-20	NONE	
DE-C- 514283	30-12-10	NONE	