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(54) Title: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A SIDE DOOR FOR A WALK-IN TUB

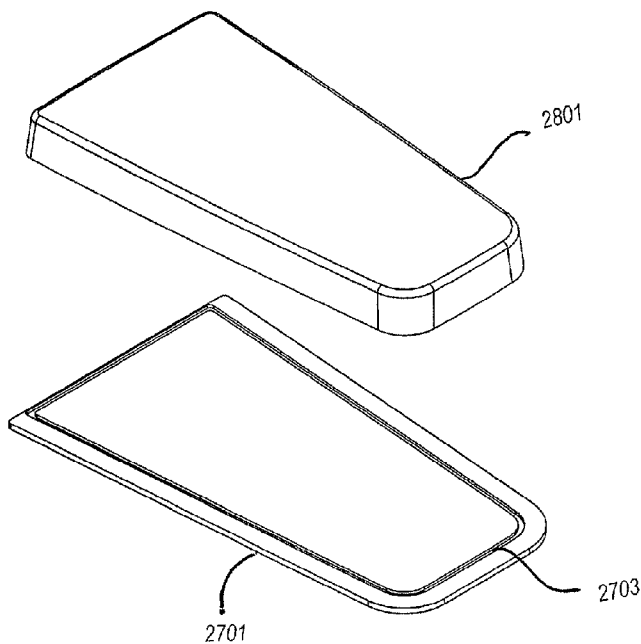


FIG. 29

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method for manufacturing a door for a walk-in bathtub. One method described herein involves forming a tub door cap from an acrylic sheet, wherein the tub door cap has an outer shape defining a door for a walk-in tub. A channel is formed into a surface of the tub door cap along a peripheral area. A threshold portion is then configured to mate with the channel in the tub door cap and extends outwardly from the tub door cap. The tub door cap is then adhered to the threshold portion of the door to form a walk-in tub door. The acrylic sheet that forms the tub door cap may be cast acrylic or it may be reinforced by co-extruding with thermoplastic, adding a reinforcing filler and/or fiberglass. A walk-in bathtub door made by the method described above and a walk-in bathtub assembly having a door made by the method described above are also provided herein.



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<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 004/555; 029/428  Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB  Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) manufacture, method, making		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2010/0156120 A1 (Luo) 24 June 2010 (24 June 2010), see entire document	1, 7-9 ----- 2-6
--- Y	US 2008/0178380 A1 (Rydalch) 31 July 2008 (31.07.2008), see entire document.	----- 1-9
Y	US 6,321,494 B1 (Oberge) 27 November 2001 (27.11.2001), see entire document.	2
Y	US 6,381,769 B1 (Lofquist, Jr.) 7 May 2002 (07.05.2002), see entire document.	3-5
Y	US 4,158,585 (Wright) 19 June 1979 (19.06.1979), see entire document	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  "E" earlier application or patent 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  "&" document member of the same patent family	
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer  Ken Wieder  Telephone No. 571-272-2600