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The invention relates to an item of furniture according to the preamble of claim 1. A corresponding item of furniture is known from US 6,413,007 B1.

5 According to the prior art, such furniture parts are connected by mostly metal elements which are designated as fittings. The connection between the furniture parts can also be achieved by adhesive connections combined with aids such as dowels.

10

EP 1 295 045 discloses a fitting by means of which elements can be connected in the same plane, such as work tops for kitchens in the region of angle joints. A disadvantage with these fittings is that adjustment work
15 must be carried out for the purpose of the precise positioning of the parts to be joined.

Known from DE 295 22 390 U1 are connections between two furniture parts, in which furniture parts to be connected
20 are already connected by an elastic adhesive as hinge which enables a pivoting movement of the connected parts with respect to one another. In the course of assembly the two furniture parts are pivoted into the desired position. In this case, the adhesive is not used for
25 fixing the furniture parts in a fixed position but enables the board parts to be pivoted with respect to one another, thereby simplifying the mounting and transport of the furniture parts.

30 Furniture parts which are intended to enclose an angle with one another in the mounted state, such as body elements are very frequently fixed with clamping pins and eccentric screws. To this end, a clamping pin is screwed

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into a first furniture part and an eccentric screw is let
into a second furniture part at a distance from the
lateral edge. The clamping pin is then introduced into an
additional hole of the narrow surface of the second
5 furniture part, which leads to the eccentric screw, and
fixed in the eccentric screw. For respectively two
furniture parts to be connected, at least two such
clamping pins with eccentric screw are required, which
for their part again require at least three holes of
10 different dimensions. In addition to the large number of
necessary holes and the associated working steps, the
fact that the hole with the eccentric screw always
remains visible on an element surface is also a
disadvantage with such connections.

15

Furniture parts which are connected to one another by
adhesive connections are also known from the prior art.
In order to increase the adhesive areas and for the exact
positioning of the furniture parts to be connected,
20 dowels or other connecting elements are provided, for
which corresponding holes or millings must be introduced
in a preceding working step. In the course of the
subsequent gluing, an undetachable connection is then
made. An inexpensive manufacture is almost eliminated
25 since a clamping must be made during the setting of the
glue. Also the space requirement for elements
manufactured in such a manner is incomparably higher than
for elements which can be assembled at the envisaged
installation site.

30

The present invention is therefore based on the technical
problem of providing an item of furniture with furniture

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parts with a connection which is simpler to manufacture and simpler to assemble.

According to the invention, the previously indicated
5 technical problem is solved by an item of furniture comprising the features of claim 1.

Consequently a purely mechanical connection is made between the furniture parts which considerably simplifies
10 construction and assembly of the furniture. In particular for the area of furniture to be assembled by the customer himself, so-called flat-pack furniture, this type of connection between furniture parts can bring advantages. This is because the two furniture parts can be joined to
15 one another by a simple linear movement, whereby a secure hold of the furniture parts thus joined is achieved.

In contrast to the prior art, there is no need for any screws or holes which require a multiplicity of hand
20 grips during assembly.

A further advantage of the mechanical locking consists in that the locking elements in the locked state bring about a very precise alignment of the furniture parts with
25 respect to one another. As a result, the items of furniture can be assembled not only rapidly but also very precisely.

Preferably the locking elements consist of the material
30 of the furniture part and are preferably carved out from this material. Accordingly, the locking elements have the same mechanical properties as the furniture parts themselves.

Alternatively at least one locking element may consist of a different material than the material of the furniture parts. In this case it is further preferred that the material is plastic. In this way a larger variability of the structure of the furniture part can be obtained.

Furthermore, the locking elements can be formed continuously along the connecting surface. In this case, a maximum stability is achieved since the entire connecting surface is held together with the aid of the locking elements.

It can however also be preferable that the locking elements are formed only in sections along the connecting surface. In this case, the machining expenditure is reduced whereby costs can possibly be saved. In the case where the locking elements are only formed in sections, the locking can be achieved specifically only in the critical regions of the connecting surfaces whilst other sections with lower requirements on the stability can manage without locking elements.

According to the invention, it is provided that the first locking element and the second locking element can be joined to one another by a positive connection and by a non-positive connection. To this end, a mechanical resistance must be overcome during the joining together in order to achieve engagement of sections of the locking elements. As a result of the engagements, it is not possible to release the connection without expenditure of force. This extraction force can be adjusted by means of a specific choice of the profile of the locking elements.

In this case, the extraction force is adjusted so that during normal usage of the furniture and the forces thereby produced, the locking elements of the furniture parts cannot be pulled apart.

5

For the configuration of the locking elements of the type described previously, it is preferred that the first locking element and/or the second locking element have an elastically deformable section. Here elastically

10 deformable means that whilst making the connection between the locking elements, the corresponding section is either elastically bent or deflected or elastically compressed. In the connected state the elastic deformation can then be completely or only partially
15 cancelled again. If the elastic deformation still exists partially, the remaining deformation results in a contractive force which holds the two furniture parts together and increases the withdrawal force.

20 The furniture parts can be fastened in different positions with respect to one another. In a first configuration of the furniture parts not pertaining to the invention, the first connecting surface and the second connecting surface hold the furniture parts in a
25 planar arrangement. The furniture parts thus connected to one another are then arranged in a plane. Examples for such furniture parts are multipart table tops or multi-part processing boards in kitchens.

30 As a result of the previously described furniture parts however, boards which had previously been supplied in one piece can be delivered to the site intended for installation in several parts and assembled there. This

affords considerable advantages during transport. Also it is possible to achieve specific optical effects by combining furniture parts with surfaces having different decorations.

5

The connection between respectively two furniture parts can also be applied between edge strips which have an arbitrarily selectable decoration and/or profile and a plate element, which for example forms a table surface.

10 As a result, different plate decorations can be provided with different edges, thus opening up a plurality of different design possibilities.

According to a second configuration of the invention, the
15 first connecting surface and the second connecting surface hold the furniture parts in an angled arrangement. In this case not only angles of 90° can be realised, but also any other angles between approximately 15 and 180°. Such furniture parts are used when
20 constructing furniture bodies.

The invention is not restricted to specific wood-based materials. All wood-based materials which can be used for furniture building are suitable for the application. It
25 is merely essential that profile shape and strength properties of the material are matched to one another.

The previously described furniture parts are advantageously configured in such a manner that measures
30 are taken to prevent a free view of the ends of the locking elements. This can be accomplished on the one hand by subsequently applied covers on the relevant narrow surfaces or by setting the connecting profiles in

front of the visible edges. In other words, the locking elements do not extend as far as the edge visible from outside but end inside the connecting joint.

- 5 For improved sealing and/or fixing of the connecting elements, these can be additionally glued, where an adhesive can be applied directly before assembly or is already applied at the factory in the course of fabricating the elements, which is then activated when
- 10 joining together the elements. Also before or after joining together the elements, a low-viscosity sealing solution can be applied to the butt joint thereof, which effects a seal there.
- 15 If no such adhesive bonding is made or merely a sealing means is used without particular adhesive properties, there is a further advantage of the previously described connection compared with the adhesively bonded connections described, in terms of the releasability or
- 20 multiple usability of the connection.

Preferably the adhesive is applied in the factory to one or both side edges so that the furniture parts are pre-glued. For this purpose various adhesive systems are

25 known per se. For example, a contact adhesive, a multi-component adhesive or a micro-encapsulated adhesive system can be used.

The furniture parts furthermore form a joint between them

30 in the connected state. Preferably a chamfer is provided in each case on the edge line between outer side and the perpendicularly running section of the connecting

surface. Preferably this chamfer is configured so that the resulting joint is a V-joint.

In a further configuration of the exemplary embodiment,
5 the chamfers are provided with a coating, preferably with a varnish layer. In this way, the sections forming the join can be adapted to the colour or the decoration of the furniture parts.

10 Furthermore in the region of the connecting surfaces, a seal can be provided which in the connected state of the furniture parts, seals the joint between the furniture parts. Such a seal preferably consists of a permanent elastic material such as rubber or foam. In any case the
15 seal is at least partially compressed when joining together the furniture parts so that a sealing abutment of the furniture parts against one another results. In this case, it is preferable that the seal is already connected to the furniture parts during manufacture of
20 said furniture parts. This avoids a complicated attachment of the seal at the location of the assembly.

Finally a particular advantage of the present invention should also be pointed out. In the prior art during the
25 assembly of items of furniture with ready-made furniture parts, it is usual to join these together and fasten them with wood dowels and fittings. The connections thereby formed between the furniture parts are not dimensionally stable so that special assembly aids are required. These
30 consists of frames in the size of the furniture to be assembled. The individual furniture parts are joined together and connected inside the assembly aid. This can be accomplished purely mechanically or with the aid of

glue. In any case a solid body which can be handled by one person without the assembly aid is only present at the end of assembly. This assembly process therefore requires that the furniture is not assembled on site,
5 i.e. at the installation site but must be ready assembled in a production plant. Transport of the furniture is then very expensive since the assembled items of furniture occupy a large volume.

10 With the furniture parts described previously in detail and their particular embodiments, it is no longer necessary to use an assembly aid. The mechanical locking elements and connecting surfaces enable a stable joining together of the furniture parts as a result of their
15 precise shape and due to the precise cooperation. The furniture parts can therefore be assembled on an industrial scale on site. The expenditure on transport is therefore considerably reduced since only a much smaller volume is required.

20

The invention is explained in detail in the following with reference to exemplary embodiments for which reference is made to the appended drawings. In the drawings

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Fig. 1 shows an exemplary embodiment of locking elements which are provided for a positive connection between plates, which is not the subject matter of the invention,

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Fig. 2 shows an outline of a worktop with an angle joint which is not the subject matter of the invention,

Fig. 3 shows a first exemplary embodiment of locking elements which are provided for a non-positive connection between two furniture parts arranged at right angles to one another of an item of furniture according to the invention,

Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of an item of furniture with furniture parts which are connected to one another by locking elements according to Fig. 3,

Fig. 5 shows a second exemplary embodiment of locking elements which are provided for a non-positive connection between two furniture parts arranged at an oblique angle to one another of an item of furniture according to the invention,

Fig. 6 shows a perspective view of an item of furniture with furniture parts according to Fig. 5 and

Fig. 7 shows an exemplary embodiment with locking elements made of different materials.

An example of an item of furniture is shown in Figs. 1 and 2. This example is not the subject matter of the invention but is only used for better understanding.

This example shows the connection used in an angle joint in a kitchen worktop. Figure 1 shows a possible profile shape of the locking elements for such a case of application. The profile of the connection between the two parts of the kitchen worktop can be identified in a schematic diagram in Fig. 2. It would be equally possible

and with a reduced waste to provide a connection between the end of a longitudinal edge of one plate part and the transverse edge of the other plate part.

5 Figure 1 therefore shows a part of an item of furniture in the form of two furniture parts 2 and 4 which are embodied as worktop parts. The entire item of furniture then consists of a substructure, not shown, in the form of one or more furniture bodies on which the worktop made
10 of the two plate parts 2 and 4 is placed and optionally fastened. Figure 2 shows a plan view or a schematic diagram of the worktop.

The first furniture part 2 shown on the left in Fig. 1
15 comprises a first connecting surface 6 which can be connected to a second connecting surface 8 of the further furniture part 4 shown on the right in Fig. 1. In the connected state the connecting surfaces 8 and 10 then abut at least partially against one another. This is the
20 case in the example shown in Fig. 1 in the region of the upper abutment edge.

The first connecting surface 6 has a first locking element 10 and the second locking surface 8 has a second
25 locking element 12 for a mechanical locking with one another. To this end, the two locking elements 10 and 12 intermesh with one another so that a locking in the vertical and horizontal direction is obtained in Fig. 1.

30 The locking elements 10 and 12 are both worked from the material of the furniture part and therefore consist of the same material as the furniture part itself. This embodiment is preferred. However, there is also the

possibility that one of the two locking elements or both locking elements are made of a material different from the plate material and are connected to the respective plate.

5

As Fig. 1 shows, the first locking element 10 and the second locking element 12 are connected to one another by a positive connection. To this end both locking elements have the following exemplary specific shape.

10

The furniture part 2 has a groove 14 on the connecting edge 6 which is delimited by an upper lip 16 and a lower lip 18. The lower lip 18 has a greater extension in the direction of the distal end than the upper lip 16. In other words, the lower lip 18 projects over the distal end of the upper lip 16. The distal end of the upper lip 18 has a perpendicularly running section 20. The upper surface 22 of the lower lip 18 has a partially curved profile so that the upper section 24 of the distal end of the lower lip 18 projects upwards.

20

The furniture part 4 has a tongue 26 on the connecting edge 8 which has a perpendicularly running section 28 arranged on the upper profile thereof. The lower surface 30 of the tongue 26 has a curved profile which is substantially adapted to the curved profile of the upper side 22 of the lower lip 18.

25

The joining together of the two locking elements 10 and 12 is accomplished whereby the second furniture part 4 is held at an angle to the first furniture part 2 whilst the tongue 26 is inserted partially into the groove 14. In an intermediate position a recess 32, which is only

30

optional, arranged in the lower surface 30, can be engaged with the protruding upper section 24. As a result of a rotary movement, the tongue 26 is then introduced into the groove 14 as far as the end position so that the
5 locked position shown in Fig. 1 is achieved. The two furniture parts 2 and 4 are then arranged in a planar arrangement with respect to one another where the two upper sections 20 and 28 abut against one another and form the butt joint.

10

From the previously specified description of the locking elements it follows that the connection between the locking elements 10 and 12 is releasable by pivoting the second furniture part 4 upwards by an angle s that the
15 tongue 26 disengages from the groove 14. This is harmless for the connection of the depicted furniture parts 2 and 4 since these are fastened to the substructure not shown in Fig. 1. As a result, the furniture parts 2 and 4 are not only held in a predefined position but the furniture
20 parts 2 and 4 are also held firmly on the substructure so that any raising of the furniture parts is prevented.

Figure 2 shows the arrangement of the two furniture parts or plates 2 and 4 which form a worktop, for example, of
25 an item of kitchen furniture. The butt joint running at an angle of 45° between the two plates 2 and 4 which is formed by the two perpendicularly running sections 20 and 28 can be seen. The profile of the butt joint can be selected arbitrarily. This is because the butt joint and
30 therefore the connecting surfaces 6 and 8 can, for example, also run along the dashed line.

Figures 3 and 4 show a first exemplary embodiment of an item of furniture according to the invention. This example shows the application of the connection between two plates of a furniture body. Figure 3 shows a possible
5 profile shape for such an application. Figure 4 shows a furniture body which has been produced with the aid of the connection depicted in Fig. 3.

Figure 3 therefore shows a part of an item of furniture
10 in the form of two furniture parts 102 and 104 which are configured as a furniture body. The entire item of furniture then consists of a plurality of interconnected furniture plates. Figure 4 shows a perspective view of the entire body.

15

The furniture part 102 shown on the left in Fig. 3 comprises a first connecting surface 106 which can be connected to a second connecting surface 108 of the further furniture part 104 shown on the right in Fig. 3.
20 In the connected state the connecting surfaces 108 and 110 then abut at least partially against one another. This is the case in the region of the upper and the lower abutment edge in the example depicted in Fig. 1.

25 The first connecting surface 106 has a first locking element 110 and the second locking surface 108 has a second locking element 112 for a mechanical locking with one another. To this end, the two locking elements 110 and 112 intermesh so that in Fig. 3 a locking is obtained
30 in the vertical and horizontal direction.

The locking elements 110 and 112 are both worked from the material of the furniture part and therefore consist of

the same material as the furniture parts themselves. This embodiment is preferred. However, there is also the possibility that one of the two locking elements or both locking elements are made of a material different from
5 the plate material and are connected to the respective plate.

As Fig. 3 shows, the first locking element 110 and the second locking element 112 are connected to one another
10 by a positive and at the same time non-positive connection. To this end, the two locking elements have the following exemplary specific shape.

The furniture part 102 has a groove 114 at the connecting
15 edge 106 which is delimited by an upper lip 116 and a lower boundary 118. The lower boundary 118 has the same extension in the direction of the distal end as the upper lip 116. In other words, the lower lip 118 is the same length as the upper lip 116. The distal end of the upper
20 lip 116 and the distal end of the lower lip 118 each have a perpendicularly running section 120 or 121. The upper surface 112 of the lower lip 118 has a recess 124.

The furniture part 104 has a tongue 126 at the connecting
25 edge 108, where respectively one perpendicularly running section 128 or 129 is arranged above and below the tongue. The lower surface 130 of the tongue 126 has a protruding element 131 which is substantially adapted to the shape of the recess 124 of the upper side 122 of the
30 lower lip 118.

The joining together of the two locking elements 110 and 112 can be accomplished by holding the second furniture

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part 104 at right angles to the first furniture part 102 whilst the tongue 126 is introduced into the groove 114 so that the locked position shown in Fig. 3 is reached. The two furniture parts 102 and 104 are then arranged in
5 a perpendicular arrangement with respect to one another and the sections 120 and 128 as well as 121 and 129 abut against one another in pairs.

During the connection of the two locking elements 110 and
10 112, an engagement occurs so that not only a non-positive connection but also a positive connection is formed. To this end, in the exemplary embodiment shown in Figs. 3 and 4 the groove 114 and/or the tongue 126 have an elastically deformable section which is compressed or
15 deflected during the joining together. Shortly before the two locking elements then reach their end position, the elastic deformation is completely or entirely cancelled as a result of the positive fit. A force is then required for pulling apart the locking elements 110 and 112.

20

Figures 5 and 6 show a second exemplary embodiment of an item of furniture according to the invention where the same reference numbers denote the same elements as in the first exemplary embodiment according to Figs. 3 and 4.

25

The first example shows the application of the connection between two plates of a furniture body. Figure 5 shows a possible profile shape which in the present case is configured to be substantially the same as in the first
30 exemplary embodiment. Figure 6 shows a furniture body which has been produced with the aid of the connection shown in Fig. 5.

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Unlike the first exemplary embodiment, the furniture parts in the present second example are not aligned at right angles to one another but enclose an obtuse angle - on the left in Fig. 5 - or an acute angle - on the right in Fig. 5. As a result, it is necessary to align the connecting surfaces 106 and 108 at a corresponding angle to one another in order to achieve the stable mechanical connection between the respectively two furniture parts 102 and 104.

10

Figure 6 shows in perspective view the ready-assembled furniture body with obliquely positioned side walls 102 whereas the base and the lid 104 are each aligned substantially horizontally.

15

Apart from the angular arrangement of the connecting surfaces 106 and 108, this exemplary embodiment does not differ substantially from the first exemplary embodiment so that reference is made to the descriptions of the individual features given previously by reference to Figs. 3 and 4.

20

The locking elements shown in Figs. 1 to 6 have each been worked in one piece from the material of the furniture part.

25

Figure 7 shows a similar arrangement as in Fig. 3 where the same reference numbers denote the same elements. In contrast to the first exemplary embodiment according to Fig. 3, here a two-part design of the locking elements has been selected. Grooves 210 are formed on both connecting edges 106 and 108 which are connected to one another by a double tongue 226. The double tongue 226 has

30

locking elements 212 in the form of tongues on both sides, where the shape of the tongues is identical to the tongue known from Fig. 3. Thus, a detailed description of the individual surfaces of the double tongue 226 is not
5 given at this point. In addition, plastic has been selected as preferred material from which the double tongue 226 is made.

P a t e n t k r a v

1. Møbel

- 5 - med mindst to pladeformede møbeldeler (102,104), som består af et træmateriale og er forbundet med hinanden, og som er orienteret i forhold til hinanden i en vinkel,
- hvoraf en første møbeldel (102) har mindst en første forbindelsesflade (106),
- 10 - hvoraf en anden møbeldel (104) har en anden forbindelsesflade (108), og
- hvor den første forbindelsesflade (106) og den anden forbindelsesflade (108) i møbeldelenes (102, 104) forbundne tilstand danner en forbindelsesfuge (120),
- hvor den første forbindelsesflade (106) har et første låseelement (110, 212) i form af en not (114, 210), som begrænses af en øvre læbe (116) og en nedre læbe (118) med en distal ende, og den anden forbindelsesflade (108) har
- 15 et andet låseelement (112, 226) i form af en fjeder (126) til en mekanisk låsning vinkelret på afsnittene (120,121) af læbernes (116,118) distale ende, hvilke afsnit vender mod den anden møbeldel (104),
- hvor noten (114,210) og fjederen (126) forløber parallelt med kantlinjen mellem den udvendige side og afsnittet (120) af den øvre læbes (116) distale
- 20 ende og er udformet inden i forbindelsesfugen (120),
- hvor låseelementerne (110,112,212,226) griber ind i hinanden og kommer til at ligge an mod hinanden, og
- hvor det første låseelement (110,212) og det andet låseelement (112,226)
- 25 kan forbindes med hinanden ved en formluttende forbindelse, **kendetegnet ved,**
- **at** låseelementerne (110,112, 212, 226) ender inden i forbindelsesfugen, og
- **at** det første låseelement (110,212) og/eller det andet låseelement (112,226) har et elastisk deformerbart afsnit, som yder en mekanisk mod-
- 30 stand, der skal overvindes under sammenføjningen af møbeldelene (102,104), hvor det første låseelement (110,212) og det andet låseelement (112,226) ved en kraftsluttende forbindelse kan forbindes med hinanden på en sådan måde, at den elastiske deformation i den forbundne tilstand kan
- ophæves fuldstændigt eller kun delvist igen

2. Møbel ifølge krav 1,
kendetegnet ved,
at låseelementerne (110,112,212,226) er udformet gennemgående langs forbindelsesfladen (106,108).
- 5
3. Møbel ifølge krav 1,
kendetegnet ved,
at låseelementerne (110,112,212,226) er udformet afsnitsvis langs forbindelsesfladen (106,108).
- 10
4. Møbel ifølge et af kravene 1 til 3,
kendetegnet ved,
at profilerne af låseelementerne (110,112,212,226) er anbragt foran de synlige kanter af de pladeformede møbeldele (102,104).
- 15
5. Møbel ifølge et af kravene 1 til 4,
kendetegnet ved,
at forbindelsen mellem låseelementerne (110,112,212,226) kan løsnes.
- 20
6. Møbel ifølge et af kravene 1 til 5,
kendetegnet ved,
at låseelementerne (110,112,212,226) i den forbundne tilstand desuden er sammenklæbet med hinanden.
- 25
7. Møbel ifølge krav 6,
kendetegnet ved,
at klæbemidlet er påført fra fabrikkens side.
- 30
8. Møbel ifølge et af kravene 1 til 7,
kendetegnet ved,
at møbeldelene (102,104) ved kantlinjen mellem den udvendige side og afsnittet (120,128), der forløber vinkelret, har en affasning.
- 35
9. Møbel ifølge krav 8,
kendetegnet ved,

at affasningen er forsynet med en coating, fortrinsvis med et laklag.

10. Møbel ifølge et af kravene 1 til 9,

kendetegnet ved,

5 **at** der i området ved forbindelsesfladerne (106,108) er tilvejebragt en tætning, som i møbeldelenes forbundne tilstand tætner skillefugen mellem møbeldelene (102,104).

11. Møbel ifølge et af kravene 1 til 10,

10 **kendetegnet ved**

at låseelementerne (110,112,212,226) er udformet i ét stykke med møbeldelens (102,104) materiale.

12. Møbel ifølge et af kravene 1 til 10,

15 **kendetegnet ved,**

at et af de to låseelementer (110,112,212,226) eller begge låseelementer (110,112,212,226) er fremstillet af et materiale, forskelligt fra pladematerialet, og er forbundet med den pågældende pladeformede møbeldel (102,104).

20

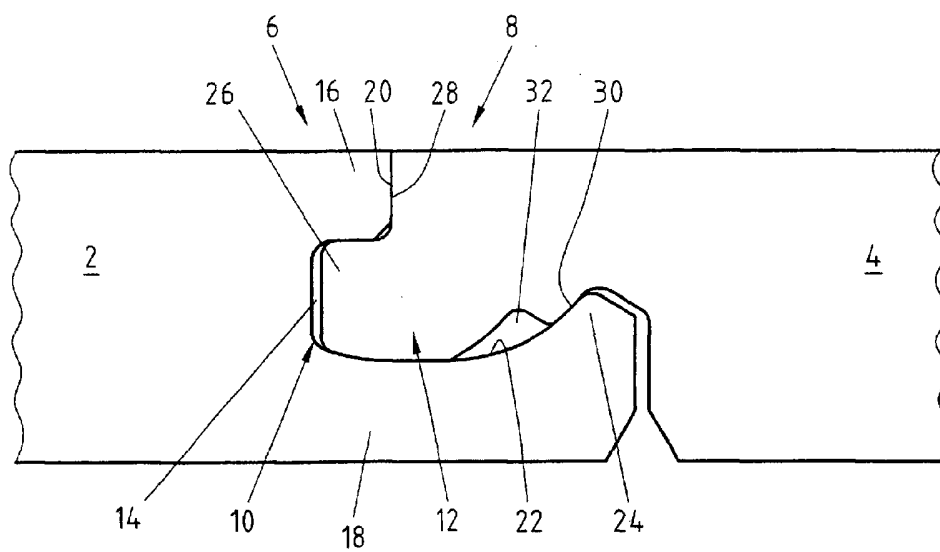


Fig.1

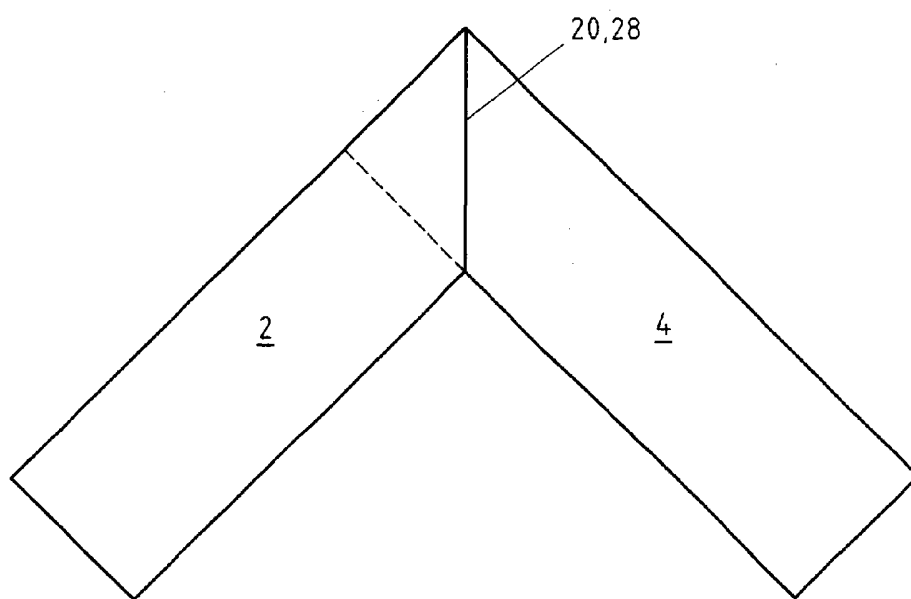
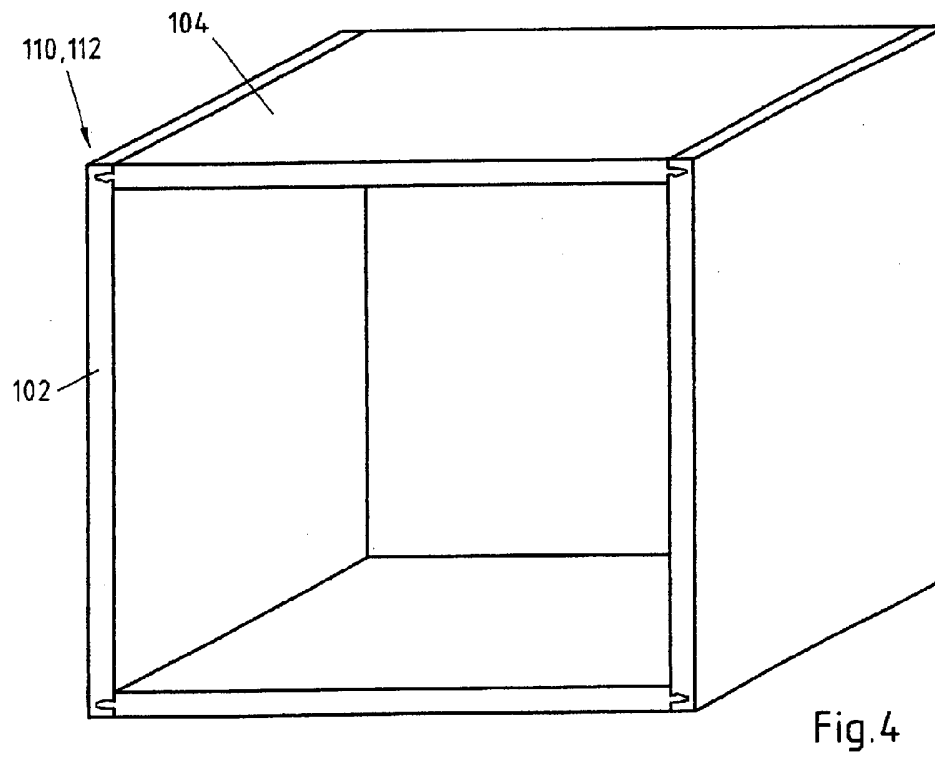
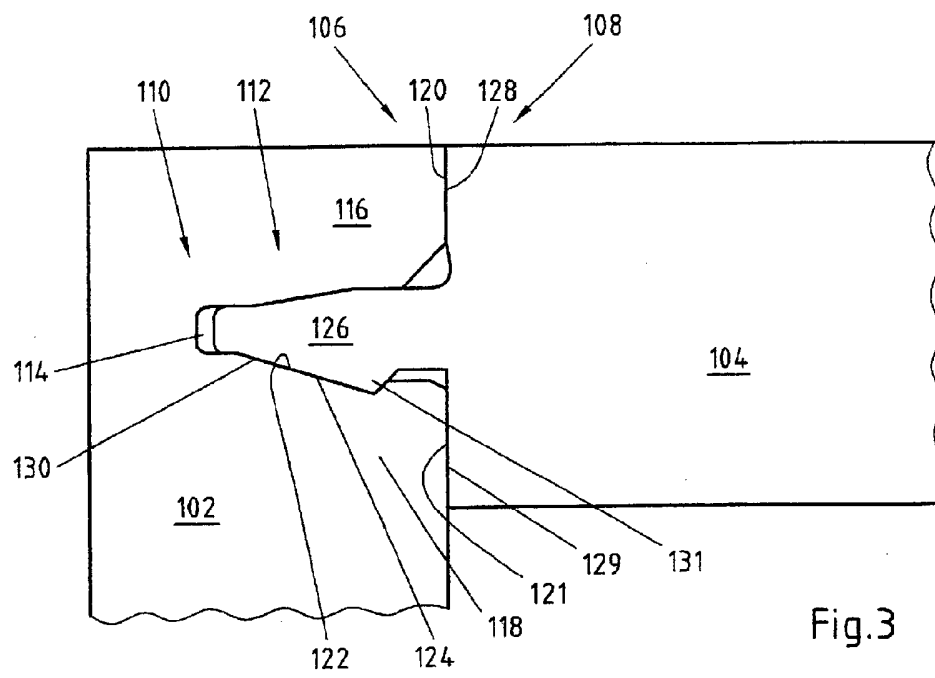


Fig.2



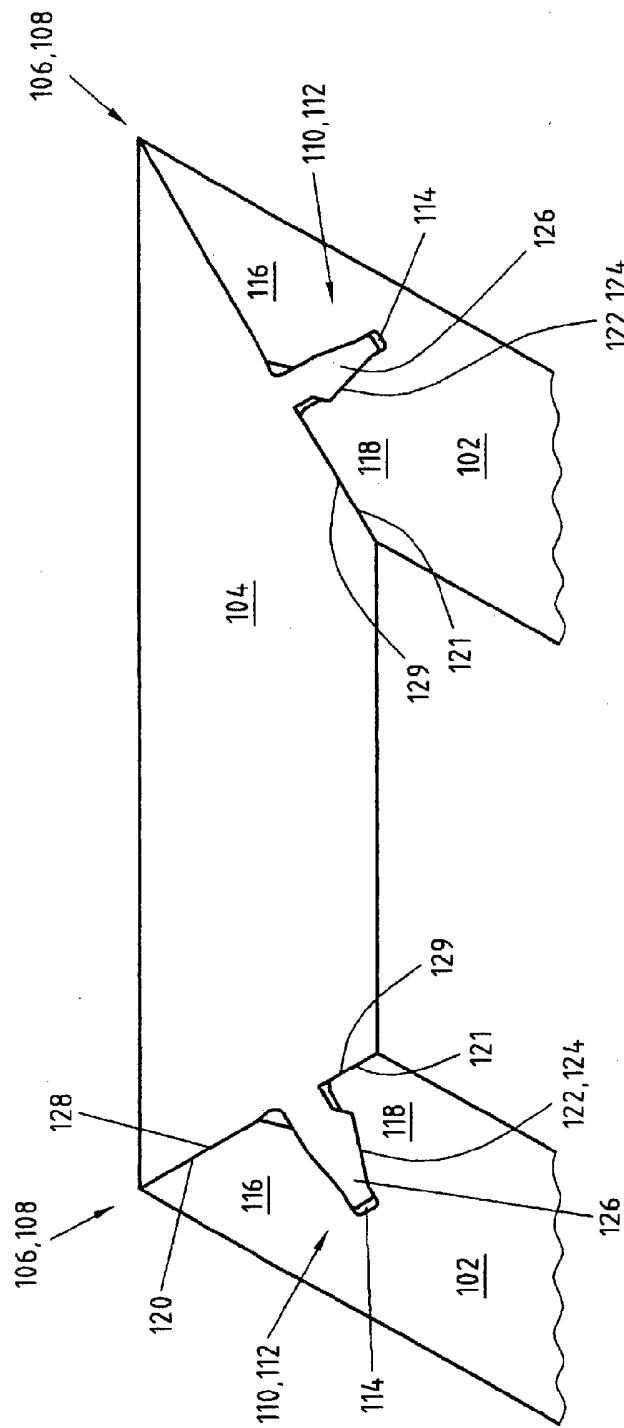


Fig. 5

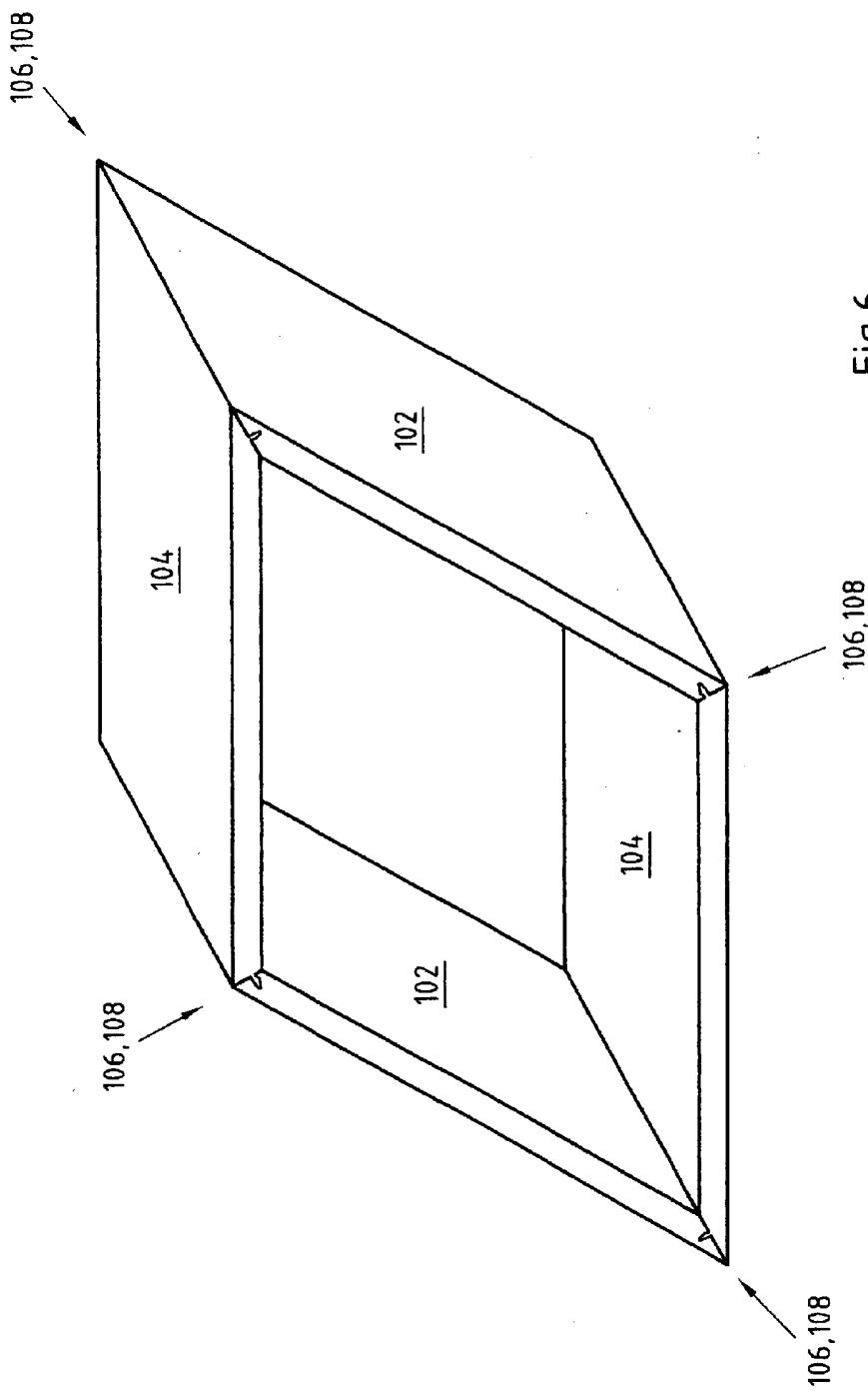


Fig.6

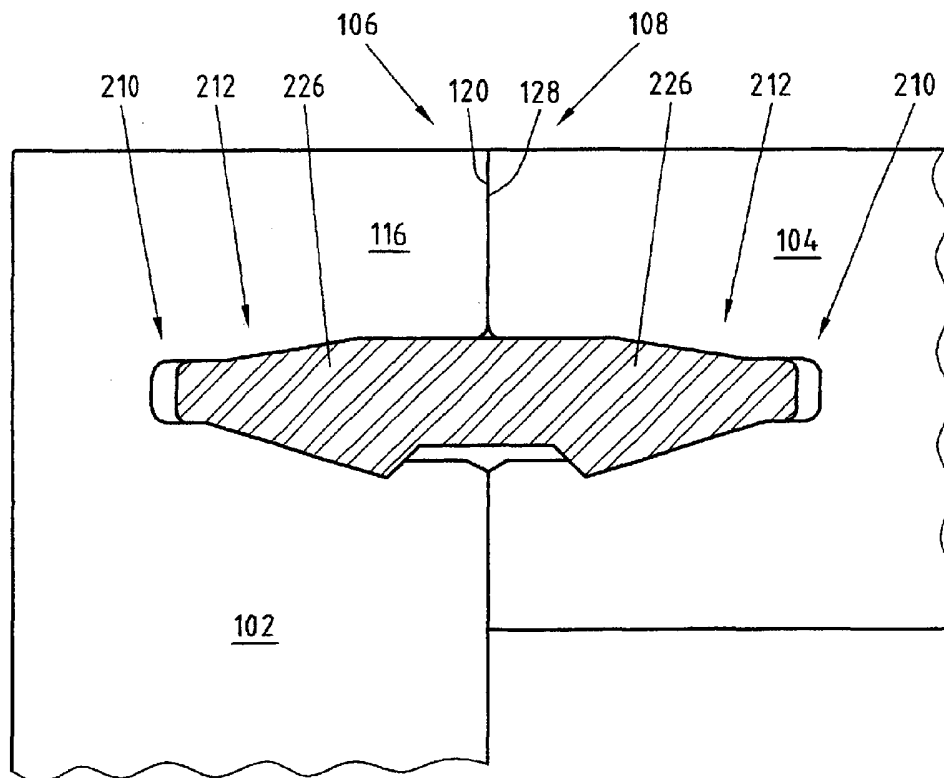


Fig.7