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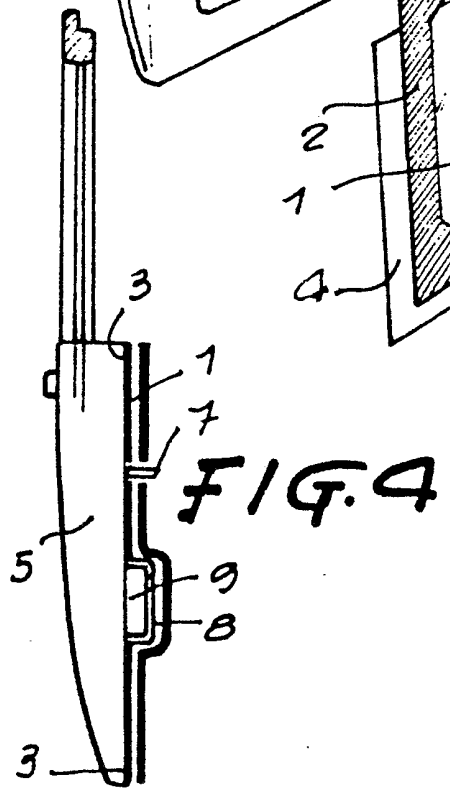
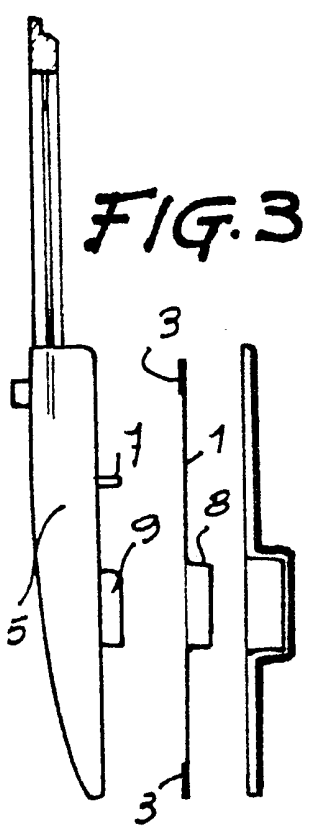
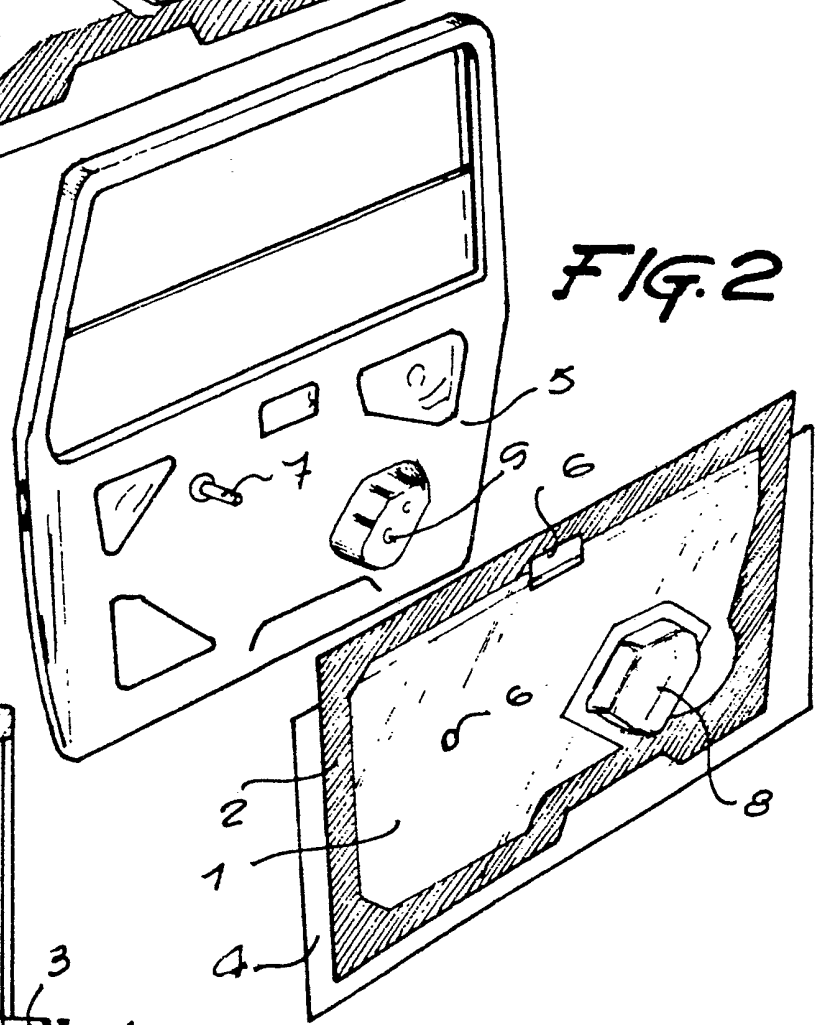
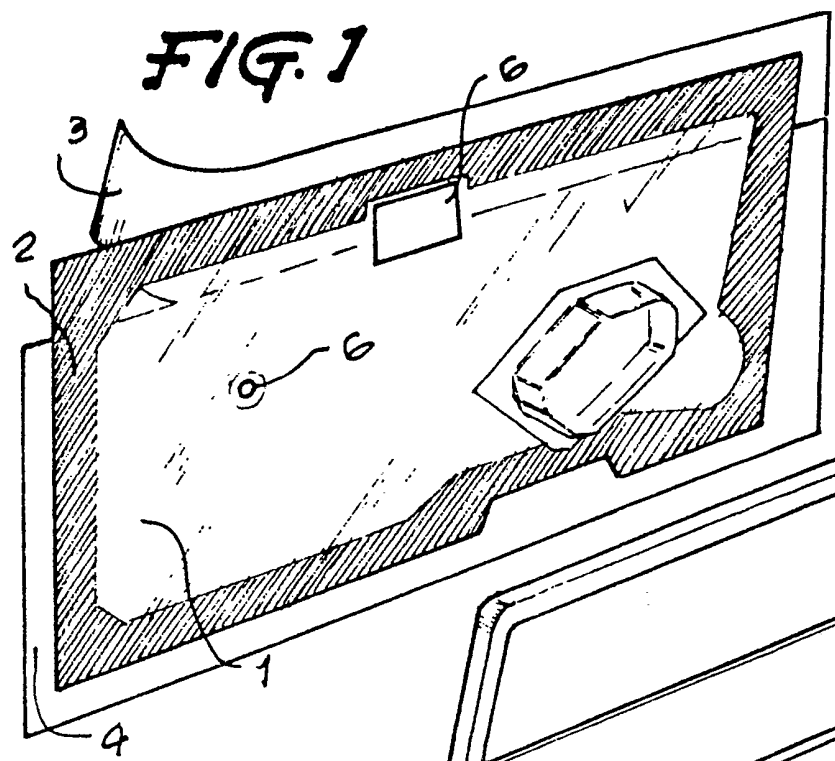
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B2E
B5N
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B05D

(54) **Protector for vehicle doors and the like**

(57) A protective plate for fitting to the inside of a car door has a border of permanent adhesive for securing it to the door and cover strips to protect the adhesive border which are removable to expose the adhesive border in stages, facilitating location of the plate (1) when fitting it to the door. The adhesive may be coloured, so that imperfectly adhering zones show up, as a different shade.

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SPECIFICATION

Protector for vehicle doors and the like

5 The present invention relates to a protective device for vehicle doors and the like, the installation of which device is much simpler than that of the protectors used hitherto.

The internal face of the doors of the vehicles
10 possesses a protector formed by a sheet of plastic or of any other material suitably treated to endow it with impermeability, the said sheet being completely attached to the internal face of the door before the interior trim is fitted, with a view to
15 preventing entry of water into the interior of the vehicle. The said sheet possesses apertures for the passage of handles, window-raising mechanism and other components incorporated into the door of the vehicle.

20 Hitherto, the said sheets have been fixed to the door by means of the use of glues applied to the latter, which entails the possibility of soiling parts of the door or coachwork, and also presents shortcomings, in respect of leak-tightness, since the
25 glue does not dry rapidly and its application may be irregular, creating detached zones or points.

Adhesive tapes or strips are also used to attach the edges of the sheet to the coachwork, but attachment is often faulty owing to inaccuracies in the placing of
30 the tape. If the tape is a double-sided adhesive tape, two operations then have to be carried out, the first being the positioning of the tape attached to the door and the second being the application of the sheet.

Another method of applying these protective
35 sheets consists in using totally self-adhesive sheets. In this case manipulation of the sheet is particularly awkward, and it is very easy for the sheet to adhere in zones where it should not adhere, entailing the risk of off-centre or incorrect positioning.

40 In view of the above, this invention seeks to provide a protective sheet for an automobile door or the like that is very simple to install and can preferably be removed and refitted when it is necessary to carry out a repair or some other
45 operation within the door, which is not possible with the sheet conventionally used hitherto.

The present invention accordingly provides a sheet having a border of permanent adhesive around its edge which border is originally protected
50 by means of strips which can be removed at the time of fitting the sheet.

In general the sheet will not be planar, but will have a contoured shape to correspond with the contour of the door.

55 To make it easier for the sheet to be correctly fitted, it is preferred for the upper part of the adhesive border presented by the sheet to be protected by one removable strip, and the remainder by another strip or other strips which can be removed independently
60 of the first, with the aim of first uncovering the adhesive border of the upper part, which facilitates the fitting of the sheet.

It is also preferred for the coating or borders of adhesive to be such, e.g. coloured in a suitable
65 manner, as to make it possible to detect visually

zones of adhesive which have not been completely stuck to the door.

The protective sheet may also have, in addition to the apertures which allow for the passage of
70 mechanisms or components installed in the door with access to the interior of the vehicle, small impermeable recesses which fit over counterparts incorporated into the door and projecting from the internal surface thereof.

75 For greater ease of comprehension, of which is described in the present specification, a drawing is attached wherein, purely by way of example, a practical embodiment of the protective sheet is shown. In the drawing:-

80 *Figure 1* is a perspective view of the sheet, showing the upper strip which covers the borders of adhesive partly removed;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the protective sheet after the upper protection has been removed,
85 on the point of being applied to the internal face of the door;

Figure 3 is an exploded sectional view through a door, the protective sheet and the trim; and

Figure 4 is a similar view to *Figure 3*, with the
90 protective sheet and trim installed.

The protective sheet 1 is provided in the drawing with a peripheral border 2 of permanent adhesive, suitably coloured. The sheet possesses, applied to its
95 back, two overlapping, removable, mutually independent strips 3 and 4, whereof 3 protects the upper part of the adhesive border 2, and 4 protects the remainder.

The sheet 1 has a contour matched to that of the door 5, together with the necessary apertures 6 for
100 allowing the passage of mechanisms with access from the interior of the vehicle, such as the window-actuating handles 7.

Likewise, the sheet 1 may possess, incorporated or moulded directly onto the sheet itself, one or more
105 small integral recesses 8 for fitting to mechanisms 9 which project from the general plane of the door, such as for example a window-raising mechanism.

As may be inferred from what has been described, in order to fit the impermeable sheet 1 the upper strip
110 3 is first removed, revealing the upper part of the adhesive border 2. In this position it is easy to attach this part of the sheet 1 completely and perfectly, centering it, and with no risk that the remainder of the border 3, which is still protected by the strip 4,
115 sticks where it should not.

The strip 4 is then removed and the remainder of the border 3 is stuck to the door 5.

The coloration of the border 3 makes it possible to recognise, by a change in shade, if any zones have
120 remained unstuck. This makes it possible to stick the perimeter of the sheet 1 and all the adhesive-bearing zones 3 completely and perfectly.

The nature of the permanent adhesive enables the sheet 1 to be removed for any repair operation to the door or to the mechanisms located in the interior
125 thereof, the sheet then being restuck, provided that there is no soiling of the glue 3.

The sheet is fitted in a simpler, more rapid and more complete manner, in a single operation, which
130 reduces costs.

CLAIMS

1. A protective sheet for fitting to a vehicle door
5 or the like, having a border of permanent adhesive protected by backing which is removable to expose the adhesive when fitting the sheet to the door.
2. A protective sheet according to claim 1,
including at least a border of permanent adhesive
10 which extends around the entire perimeter of the sheet and is covered by at least two strips which are separately removable, whereby the adhesive border may be gradually exposed at the time of fitting the protective sheet to the door.
- 15 3. A protective sheet according to claim 1 or claim 2, being of impermeable material.
4. A protective sheet according to any preceding claim, wherein one of said removable strips covers only an upper part of the adhesive border.
- 20 5. A protective sheet according to any preceding claim, wherein the adhesive border is coloured or otherwise arranged so as to reveal zones where it has not been correctly applied to the door, in which zones it takes on a shade or appearance different
25 from that in the remainder.
6. A protective sheet according to any preceding claim, having apertures for access to components of the door from the interior of the vehicle.
7. A protective sheet according to any preceding
30 claim, having integral recesses for accommodating components of the door which project from the general plane thereof.
8. A protective sheet substantially as herein described and illustrated, with reference to the
35 accompanying drawings.
9. A method of applying a sheet of impermeable material to the inside of a vehicle door including providing a protective sheet according to any of the preceding claims, removing the backing therefrom
40 to expose the adhesive border, and applying the sheet to the vehicle door.
10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the sheet is in accordance with claim 4, including removing only said one strip to expose the upper
45 part of the adhesive border before applying the sheet to the door, subsequently removing the other strip or strips to expose the remainder of the adhesive border.