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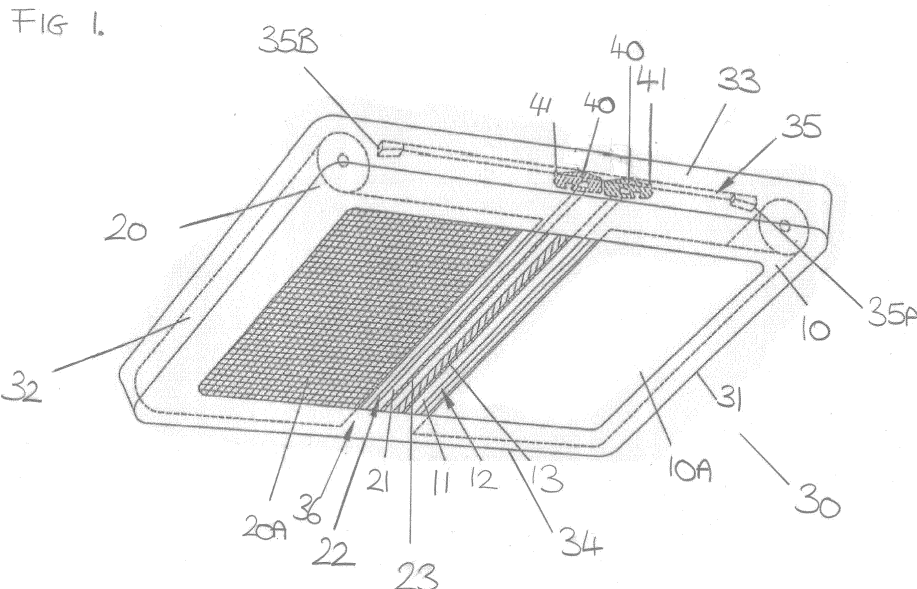
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(54) **Improvements relating to retractable blinds**

(57) A blind assembly comprises a rectangular frame (30), a pair of self retracting blinds (10,20) mounted at opposite ends of the frame, a pair of slide members (11,21) supported in slideways (35,36) extending along either side of the frame to which the respective blinds are connected to enable one or other or both blinds to be deployed along the frame, means being provided to couple the slide members together for tandem movement of the blinds to enable the extent to which the respective

blinds are deployed to be varied and each blind having means to lock the blind fully stowed and thereby to hold the other blind fully deployed along the frame. In a preferred arrangement, each slide member is supported in the slideways for tilting movement in addition to linear movement along the slideways, said tilting movement caused by manual engagement of the slide member being arranged to release said locking means.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2009/236050 A1 (MARZILLI TONY [CA]) 24 September 2009 (2009-09-24)	1-3,7,8, 10	INV. E06B9/40
A	* paragraphs [0028] - [0030], [0032] - [0039], [0042]; figures 1-5 *	4-6,9	E06B9/80
A	US 2005/224190 A1 (HUANG WEN-CHONG [TW]) 13 October 2005 (2005-10-13)	1-10	
	* paragraph [0016] - paragraph [0020]; figures 1, 3, 7 *		
A	EP 2 020 479 A2 (HUNTER DOUGLAS IND BV [NL]) 4 February 2009 (2009-02-04)	1-10	
	* paragraphs [0011] - [0013], [0029]; figures 1-3 *		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			E06B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 28 March 2014	Examiner Weißbach, Mark
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.92 (P04C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
1-10

- The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

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1. claims: 1-10

Blind assembly comprising a frame with a pair of self retracting blinds, wherein the blinds are connectable by coupling means at slide members and with locking means to lock one blind fully stowed and the other blind fully deployed along the frame

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2. claims: 11-17

A roller blind with a first engagement member at one end of each guiding track and a thereto corresponding second engagement member at the crossbar of the blind

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

28-03-2014

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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US 2005224190 A1	13-10-2005	NONE	
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EP 2020479 A2	04-02-2009	NONE	
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82