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(71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: **LAW, Ian, Douglas** [GB/GB]; Unit 38/39 Suttons Business Park, Suttons Park Avenue, Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 1AZ (GB).

(74) Agents: **JACKSON, Richard, Eric** et al.; Carpmaels & Ransford, 43 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2RA (GB).

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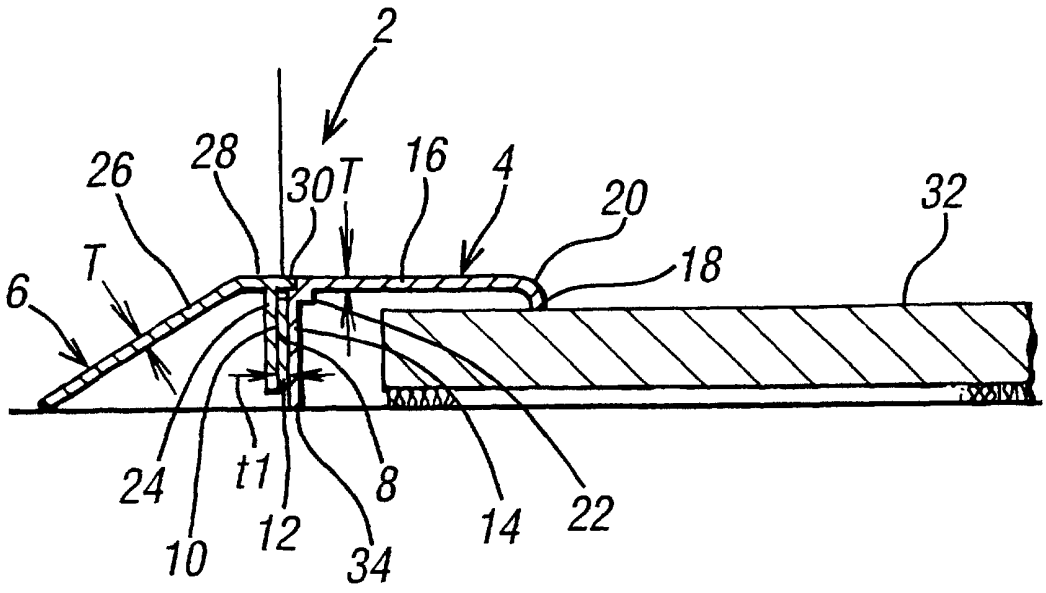
(54) Title: EDGINGS



(57) Abstract: An edging for floor coverings. The present invention provides an edging for a floor covering in the form of a strip which provides an aesthetically pleasing and practical finish to a floor covering when laid up to a doorway. There is also provided a strip for joining adjacent panels of floor covering when laid upon a floor.

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EDGINGS

This invention relates to edging strips for floor coverings, and more specifically to edging strips that will readily provide for the transition of thresholds such as doorways.

Many types of floor covering are used in dwellings and other such buildings. It is a requirement that these floor coverings may be fitted over the floor of the building in which they are to be used and finished at the edges in a practical and aesthetically pleasing way. When fitting soft coverings such as carpet this does not present a problem, because the covering may be easily cut to shape in situ and finished by turning down the edges between previously fitted battens and the edge of the wall, or skirting board. However, problems arise when a hard floor covering, such as a laminate panel, is desired.

Laminated floor coverings are supplied in large panels, approximately 3.66 m^2 for example, which can be of a substantial thickness and rigidity. As such, the fitting of these panels to the periphery of a room proves difficult, because each panel must be cut to size and shape prior to being laid. If a panel is cut to a size smaller than that required, or in an incorrect shape, that panel may not be used to cover the intended section of floor. To make the fitting of such floor coverings more easy, it is known to use edgings. Such edgings are conventionally in the form of strips which fit between the wall and the flooring, abutting the wall and covering the edge of the floor covering. In this way, edgings reduce the difficulty of filling hard floor coverings, by removing the requirement that the covering abuts the wall or skirting board. In addition, such edgings provide a small space between the edge of the hard floor covering and the wall to accommodate any expansion or contraction that the floor covering may be subject to.

Problems arise when using the edging strips mentioned above to finish a hard floor covering. When the floor covering is to be laid up to a doorway, it is particularly difficult to ensure that a good fit is achieved around the door frame.

Further, the stretch of floor covering traversing the threshold must either be left bare across the doorway or a finishing strip or carpet grip must be used. Such finishing strips are generally of solid construction, and have a D-shaped cross-section. Fitting such strips around and across a doorway would necessitate a large amount of cutting and joining to accommodate the conventional doorframe footprint.

It is clear from the above that problems exist in the fitting of hard floor coverings to doorways, and in providing an acceptable finish traversing the doorway. Therefore, there is a need for improved apparatus for and methods of finishing floor coverings, particularly around the footprints of doorframes.

The present invention provides an edging strip for floor coverings which is easily fitted to provide an aesthetically pleasing and practical finish. Further, there is provided an edging strip which will span doorways providing an easily fitted threshold

According to the present invention there is provided an edging strip for floor coverings. The strip is suitable for hard floor coverings such as laminate and tiles, or soft floor coverings such as carpets.

There is further provided in accordance with the preferred embodiments, an edging in the form of a strip, comprising at least one strip of substantially L-shaped cross-section. There may be two separate strips attachable to one another. The strip of L-shaped cross-section may comprise a side, a top surface and a nose extending from the top surface. A shoulder may be provided between, and joining, the top and the side. The first strip may overlap a floor covering edge, and the side and nose may be of a length whereby the top will present a substantially horizontal surface when the side rests upon the floor and the nose upon the floor covering. Separate lengths of the strip may be joined by means of rods insertable in grooves formed in the top or side of the strip. The grooves may break the underneath surface of the top. Adhesion may be by means of a clip fit, adhesive, or otherwise.

The second strip may comprise a riser, an angled surface attached to the riser at one end, and a lip extending away from the angled surface substantially perpendicularly to the riser. When connected, the lip of the second strip may abut the shoulder of the first strip causing a snug joint to be made. Alternatively, the lip may be tapered along its bottom surface and a corresponding taper may be formed in place of the shoulder on the first strip so that, when fitted together, a snug joint is formed. Alternatively, the shoulder and lip may be in the form of an elongate ball and socket joint, as shown in Figure 1d. In this position, an outside surface of the riser of the second strip may be attached to an outside surface of the side of the first strip by means of an adhesive strip inserted therebetween. The adhesive strip may be provided attached to one or other of the surfaces, or may be separate. When attached to the first strip, the second strip stands upon the floor to provide a smooth transition between the floor coverings of rooms accessed through a doorway or other such portal.

In an alternative embodiment, the second strip may comprise a flat top surface and a surface downwardly angled from one end thereof. There may be a support strip with an inverted top hat shaped cross-section, which comprises a bottom section, two side sections, and possibly two brim sections. The bottom section may be located in a position raised with respect to the foot of each side section to accommodate an adhesive strip. The support strip may be attached to the underside of the top surface of the second strip by adhesive strips in a position abutting the outer surface of a first side of the first strip, and may be screwed to the floor through apertures placed generally centrally and along the length of the strip. Alternatively, the support strip may be fixed to the floor by means of an adhesive strip attached thereto in the recess formed between the side sections and the raised bottom sections.

In a further alternative embodiment, the support strip may have a generally U-shaped cross-section. Preferably, the support strip may comprise an inverted substantially T-shaped cross-sectional section. The first or second strip may further include a web protruding from the interior surface of the top section, the

web configured for receipt within the support strip. In this embodiment, the support strip may be fastened to the floor or floor covering by adhesive strip or other such means of adhesion provision.

The strips may be provided in different lengths and may be easily cut to size and shape. They may be moulded from aluminium or any other suitable material, alternatively they may be machined. They may be provided in various colours, and patterned foils may be adhered to them.

The first strip may be attached to the wall or skirting board by an adhesive strip sandwiched between the outside surface of the first side and the wall or skirting board, thereby concealing the edge of the floor covering. A second strip may be attached thereto to finish the floor covering on the other side, thus creating a door sill (or threshold) or an aesthetically pleasing edging bounding an uncovered area of floor.

Another aspect of the present invention consists of a method of finishing a floor covering. A first strip may be attached to a wall in a position so as to conceal the edge of a floor covering laid substantially up to the wall, and to present a top surface thereof in a substantially horizontal plane. A second strip is then attached to the first strip in such a way as to provide a substantially horizontal then angled profile, and showing almost no sign of a join between the first and second strips. The fist strip may be attached directly to a wall in a "new build" room or indirectly, via a skirting board, in a room being renovated or improved

Three specific embodiments of the present invention are now described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1a is a cross-sectional view of an edging strip of the present invention;

Figure 1 b is a cross-sectional view of an alternative to the embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 1a;

Figure 1c is a view depicting a method of positioning the embodiment of Figure 1a for adhesion;

Figure 1d is a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of one aspect of the present invention;

Figure 1e is a cross-sectional view of an alternative to the embodiment shown in Figure 1b;

Figure 1f is a cross-sectional view of an alternative edging strip according to the present invention;

Figure 1g is a cross-sectional view of an alternative to the embodiment of Figure 1f;

Figure 2a is a cross-sectional view of a second embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2b is a cross-sectional view of an alternative to the embodiment of Figure 2a;

Figure 2c is a cross-sectional view of a further alternative to the embodiment of Figure 2a;

Figure 3a is a perspective view of means for joining the strips of the present invention;

Figure 3b is a cross-sectional view along the lines III - III in Figure 3a;

Figure 4a is a view of the present invention fitted in a recess beneath a skirting board;

Figure 4b is a view of the present invention attached to the outwardly facing vertical surface of a skirting board;

Figure 4c is a view of the present invention in use with different height floor coverings;

Figure 5a is a cross-sectional view of an expansion joint in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 5b is a cross-sectional view of an alternative expansion joint in accordance with the present invention.

With reference to Figure 1a of the accompanying drawings, a combination edging strip generally designated as 2 comprises a first strip 4 and a second strip 6. When positioned to finish a floor covering edge, the first and second strips abut

one another along their respective outward facing vertical surfaces 8 and 10 and are fixedly attached one to the other by means of a foam adhesive strip 12 sandwiched between their surfaces 8,10.

The first strip 4 is of a substantially L-shaped cross-section. It comprises a first side 14, a top 16 and a curved nose 18. As may be seen in Figure 1b, the interior surface of the second side 16 may be tapered from the joint 20 to the foot thereof. The curved nose 18 is of a shorter length than the first side 14 and may even be machined away to provide a flat surface level with the underside of the top surface 16, and providing a downwardly curved finish to the end of the top 16 distal to the first side 14. The first side 14 is joined to the top 16 by way of a rebated shoulder 22 provided therebetween and the surface of the joint resident inside the strip 4 is curved. The shoulder has a depth that is substantially identical to the thickness T of the material from which the strip 4 is moulded.

The second strip 6 is formed with the cross-sectional configuration of a wedge. The strip 6 comprises a riser 24, a top 28 and a downwardly angled surface 26, the riser and angled surface being attached to opposite ends thereof. The distal end of the downwardly angled surface 26 is linearly and inwardly tapered on the underside, by the machining away of unwanted material to provide a sharpened wedge shaped end piece. Alternatively, there may be provided a return portion 27a at the distal end, the return providing a substantially horizontal surface for presentation to a floor or floor covering. When this embodiment is utilised, the second strip return 27a may be fixed to the floor or floor covering by adhesive strip or similar means. Therefore, a gap corresponding to the thickness of the adhesive strip or fixing means may be provided between the return exterior surface and the floor or floor covering top surface, when the strip is in a fitted or located position (Figure 1f).

In a further alternative, the return may embody a recess, configured to be presented to the floor or floor covering when in a fitted position, closed at one end by the distal end of the downwardly angled surface and at the other by a lip 27b. The recess being for the purpose of housing an adhesion means, such as an

adhesive strip or an acrylic adhesive. Such an alternative embodiment may be viewed in Figure 1g.

The strip 6 is configured so that the flat top surface 28 is oriented substantially horizontally when attached to the first strip 4 as will be described below. In addition, the top 28 extends to define a lip 30 that overhangs the riser 24 by an amount substantially equal to the combined thickness T of the strip 4,6 and the thickness t of the foam adhesive strip 12.

The first 4 and second 6 strips may be attached to one another as follows. As previously stated, the outside vertical surface 8 of the first strip 4 and the outside vertical surface 10 of the riser 24 of the second strip 6 are positioned so as to abut the foam adhesive strip 12 positioned therebetween. When so positioned, the lip 30 of the second strip is positioned to abut the upright surface of the shoulder 22 and to rest upon the surface perpendicular thereto, thereby forming a snug fit. One method of achieving this positioning is for the lip 30 to be located in the shoulder 22 with the second strip 6 upwardly angled from the top surface of the first strip 4. The second strip is then pivoted, as shown in Figure 1c, around this point of contact between the two strips 4,6 until they are positioned as described above. As may be seen from Figure 1a, when connected in the above described manner the flat top surface 28 of the second strip 6 and the top surface of the top 16 of the first strip 4 form a substantially horizontal surface with little evidence of a joint therebetween. In this position, the riser 24 of the second strip is of a shorter length than the first side 14 of the first strip 4, or vice versa, to ensure that a good fit is not prevented by uneven flooring beneath the riser 24.

The edging strip 2 may be used to finish a floor covering as described below. The first strip 4 is positioned with its first side 14 in a small gap that will exist between the edge of the floor covering 32 and the skirting board or wall up to which it is being laid. The first strip is attached to the wall or skirting board using the foam adhesive strip 12, so that the bottom surface 34 of the first side 14 abuts the floor being covered. Alternatively, the edging strip 4 may be configured as shown in Figure 1e. In such a case, two independent beads of acrylic

adhesive/sealant or other such adhesion means are utilised to fasten the strip 4 to the wall or skirting board. One of the beads may also be used to provide a smooth finish between the strip and the wall/skirting board.

The top 16 of the strip 4 extends outwardly from the wall or skirting board passing over the edge of the floor covering 34. The curved nose 18 extends therefrom to contact and rest upon the outer surface of the floor covering 32. The curved nose 18 is of a length to ensure that, when positioned in this way, the top surface of the top 16 is substantially horizontal. In this way, the edge of a floor covering may be finished around the walls of a room in an aesthetically pleasing and practical manner. To further improve the quality of the finish, a bead of filler, such as an acrylic filler, may be adhered between the top surface of the top 16 of the first strip 4 and the wall or skirting board where they abut one another, to mask any irregularities in the wall or skirting board, and to soften the transition between the two surfaces. This bead may be located in the shoulder 22 or a flexible seal may be applied to the extrusion.

When the floor covering must be finished across a doorway or portal, the first strip 4 extends across the doorway and is attached to the wall as described on either side of the opening. The first strip thus extends across the opening leaving an outward vertical surface 8 exposed. The second strip 6 is cut to fit the footprint of the doorframe, or inserted beneath it as will be described later, and attached to the exposed surface 8 of the first strip 4 as already described, thus providing a finish to the floor covering that gives an acceptable transition between the two rooms accessed through the doorway or portal, that may replace the traditional wooden sill (threshold).

The strip 2 is moulded or extruded from a lightweight material such as aluminium, which may be easily handled and readily cut to the size and shape required. The edging strip 2 is supplied in lengths along with the adhesive strips 12 required for its mounting. Further, to increase its aesthetic appearance, the strip may be provided in various colours, and may be decorated by the application of a patterned foil thereto. Such foils are attached by way of hot adhesives or are

laminated to the strip in the desired location prior to any machining that may be carried out thereon.

In an alternate embodiment, as shown in Figure 1b, the shoulder 22 is replaced by a 30° chamfer. Similarly, the lip 30 of the second strip is tapered in the opposite sense to that described above in order that when the two strips are joined, as has already been described, the two chamfered surfaces abut one another providing a horizontal, seemingly joint free, surface comprised of the top 16 of the first strip 4 and the top surface 28 of the second strip 6.

In a further alternate embodiment, as shown in Figure 1d, the shoulder 22 is in the form of an elongate socket and the lip 30 is in the form of an elongate ball, thus forming, when the two strips 4,6 abut one another, an elongate ball and socket joint. The joint providing a horizontal, seemingly joint free, surface comprised of the top 16 of the first strip 4 and the top surface 28 of the second strip 6.

A second embodiment of the present invention providing an edging strip of greater width is described with reference to Figure 2a of the accompanying drawings. In this embodiment like parts are indicated by the same numerals used in the first embodiment. In the second embodiment, the first strip 4 is identical to that shown in Figure 1a. However, the second strip 6 comprises a flat surface 28 extended in length, and a downwardly angled surface 26. In this embodiment, the edging strip 3 further comprises a support strip 36 with an "inverted top hat" cross-sectional configuration. Such an edging strip 2 provides a broader cross piece for location at the foot of a doorframe.

When fitted, the end 38 of the flat top surface 28 of the second strip 6 is fitted to the shoulder of first strip 4 in the same manner as the lip 30 in the first embodiment. The expanse of the top surface 38 requires that support is provided in order to prevent deformation or damage to the strip when a weight or pressure is applied. Support strip 36 comprises a bottom section 38, two side sections 40a, 40b and two top or brim sections 42a, 42b. Each of the brim sections 42a, 42b is

fixedly attached to the underside of flat top surface 28. Fixing is by means of foam adhesive strips 44a, 44b. The support strip may be positioned at any point beneath the second strip 6 so as to provide support thereto. The support strip is attached to the floor in this position by a plurality of screws or nails inserted through holes in the bottom section 38. The holes are located generally centrally across its width, and spaced along its length. Additionally, the support strip 36 and second strip 6 are configured so that, when assembled with the first strip 4, the top surface 28 of the second strip and the top surface of the first strip 4 provide a substantially horizontal flat surface, with little evidence of the joint therein. The dimensions of the strip are not crucial to ensure that this is so, variation in height to accommodate various floor and floor covering levels may be obtained by varying the thickness of adhesives strip used.

An alternative support strip 36 is shown in Figure 2b. This support strip is adhered to the floor using a foam adhesive strip 48. To accommodate this strip 48, the bottom surface 38 is configured in a raised position with respect to the foot of each of the two side sections 42a, 42b.

A further alternative support strip 37 is shown in Figure 2c. This support strip is in the form of an inverted "T", adhered to the floor utilising an adhesive strip or similar means, located in a recess bound by the feet 39 of the support. The support includes a "U" shaped receptacle that is configured to receive a web protruding from the interior surface of the top 28 of the second strip 6. It will be clear to the skilled reader that any one of the above described support strips may equally be utilised in a third embodiment of the present invention, wherein the first strip 4 comprises a flat surface extended in length, as seen in Figure 2c.

The means for joining successive lengths of the first or second strips of any of the above embodiments are described with reference to Figures 3a and 3b, which depict joints made in lengths of the first strip 4. Each length of strip 4,6 is provided with a tubular groove 50 located in the lower surface 52 of the top section 16. The tubular groove 50 is configured so that it breaks the lower surface 52 of the strip 4,6 in such a way as to give the groove 50 a cross-sectional configuration

of a circle with a small symmetrical section clipped therefrom. Small rods or dowels 54, which outside diameter fit snugly within the inside diameter of the groove 50, are inserted therein, firstly in one section 401 of the strip, and then in a second section 402. The two strip sections 401, 402, are then positioned abutting one another, forming a joint therebetween. In addition, rods manufactured at predetermined angles, such as 90°, are provided for joining strips at those angles when they are appropriately shaped to be so joined.

Alternative methods of fitting are described with reference to Figure 4a to 4c of the accompanying drawings. As may be seen in Figure 4a wherein a new build skirting board is depicted, the first strip 4 of the present invention is fitted against the plastered wall and the new skirting board is applied over the strip 4. This provides for a lesser protrusion of the strip into the room and allows the use of cheaper and more attractive slimline skirting boards. Such a method is ideally for use in the construction of new properties, although it may be readily used in the refurbishment of existing properties. However, the previously described method of adhering strips to the skirting board, as shown in figure 4b, would involve less work. Additionally, such a method may be used to accommodate different floor heights in different rooms, as depicted in Figure 4c. The floor covering 46 of a second room may be raised to be level with the top surface of top 16 of the first strip using conventional stackers laid therebeneath. The first strip to which the floor covering 46 of a second room is raised to be level with, is that finishing the floor covering 32 laid in a first room. In this situation, the first strip 4 is used as described previously, but without the second strip 6 of any of the above embodiments.

A further embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to Figure 5a of the drawings. This embodiment of the present invention provides for a joint to be made between two panels or sections of floor covering. An expansion joint comprises a substantially rectangular channel 102 open at its top. Along the inside of the channel 102 and located along the sides 104a, 104b thereof, are serrations running parallel to the bottom surface of the channel 102. There is also provided a finishing plate 106 comprising a top panel 108 and two downwardly

projecting legs 110a, 110b. Panel 108 is provided with ends that have a downwardly tapered or curved finish, and the legs 110a, 110b project downwardly from its underneath surface. The legs 110a, 110b are provided with serrations on their outwardly facing sides which will grip the serrations provided within channel 102 when placed in contact therewith. The legs are spaced apart so as to provide a firm fit with the sides 104a, 104b of the channel 102 when pushed therein to form the joint.

To assemble the strip, the channel 102 is screwed to the floor in a gap between two sections of floor covering and the plate 106 is pushed into it. The plate 106 extends over the edges of each floor covering panel providing a finish thereto, and allowing for expansion and contraction of the panels.

Alternatively, a support identical to that described and shown in Figure 2c may be utilised. Such a configuration is shown in Figure 5b, wherein the plate 106 comprises a web 106a that is received within the support 37. Assembly is carried out by adhering the strip 37 to the floor, locating the plate 106 such that the web 106a is positioned for entry into the support receptacle 37a, and providing a force such that the web and the receptacle matingly engage.

Although the present invention has been described as consisting of extruded or moulded aluminium strips, many other materials may be used for its manufacture. In addition, other forms of adhesive and fixings than the foam adhesive strips and screws described, may be used.

It will of course be understood that the present invention has been described above purely by way of example, and that modifications of detail can be made within the scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. An edging for floor coverings, wherein the edging comprises at least one strip of substantially L-shaped cross-section.

2. The edging as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip comprises a side, a top and a nose.

3. The edging as claimed in claim 2, wherein the nose is curved and extends from the top.

4. The edging as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a shoulder is provided between the side and the top.

5. The edging as claimed in any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the edging is configured to overlap the edge of a floor covering and the side and nose are of a length to present the top in a horizontal plane when the foot of the side stands upon a floor and the nose rests upon the floor covering.

6. The edging of any of claims 1 to 5, further comprising grooves formed longitudinally through the strip for receiving rods to join lengths of strip.

7. The edging as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, comprising a first strip and a second strip attachable parallel thereto.

8. The edging as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first and second strips are connected

9. The edging as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the second strip comprises an inclined surface and a lip for abutting a first strip.

10. The edging as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second strip includes a riser for supporting the inclined surface and the lip

11. The edging as claimed in claim 10, wherein the side of the first strip is attachable to the riser of the second strip.

12. The edging as claimed in claim 9, claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the lip of the second strip fits within and abuts a shoulder of the first strip.

13. The edging as claimed in any of claims 9 to 12, wherein the lip of the second strip is in the form of a cylinder and the shoulder of the first strip is in the form of an elongate socket, thereby forming an elongate ball and socket joint when the shoulder and lip abut.

14. The edging as claimed in either of claims 2 or 3, wherein the corner between the side and top is chamfered for receiving a correspondingly shaped second strip.

15. The edging strip as claimed in any of claims 7 to 13, wherein the second strip includes a flat top surface configured to be in the horizontal plane.

16. The edging as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a support strip having a U-shaped cross-section.

17. The edging as claimed in claim 16, wherein the support strip comprises a bottom surface, two side surfaces, and two brim surfaces.

18. The edging as claimed in any of claims 15 to 17, wherein the support strip is attached to the underside of the top surface of the second strip by adhesive strips.

19. The edging as claimed in claim 18, wherein the support strip comprises apertures through the bottom section thereof for receiving screws, nails or other fastening means.

20. The edging as claimed in any preceding claim, manufactured as an aluminium extrusion.

21. The edging as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the edging is coloured.

22. The edging as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a patterned foil is affixed thereto.

23. The edging as claimed in claim 16, wherein the support strip further comprises an inverted substantially T-shaped cross-sectional section.

24. The edging as claimed in claim 16 or claim 23, wherein the first or second strip further comprises a web protruding from the interior surface of the top section, the web configured for receipt within the support strip.

25. The edging as claimed in any of claims 16, 23 or 24, wherein the support strip is fastened to the floor by adhesive strip.

26. A method of finishing a floor covering comprising:

fitting a first strip to a wall, the first strip concealing the edge of a floor covering and presenting a substantially horizontal top surface; and

attaching to the first strip a second strip presenting a substantially horizontal then angled profile, and leaving little evidence of a join therebetween.

27. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the second strip forms a door sill (threshold).

28. An expansion joint comprising:

a substantially rectangular elongate channel open at the top, the channel comprising two sides and a bottom,

a finishing panel comprising a top panel and two leg members downwardly protruding from the underneath of the top panel, and spaced apart so as to engage the sides of the elongate channel, and

means for providing a locking fit between the elongate channel and the finishing panel.

29. An edging as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in any one of Figures 1 to 4 of the accompanying drawings.

30. A method of finishing a floor covering as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

31. An expansion joint as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in Figure 5 of the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1a

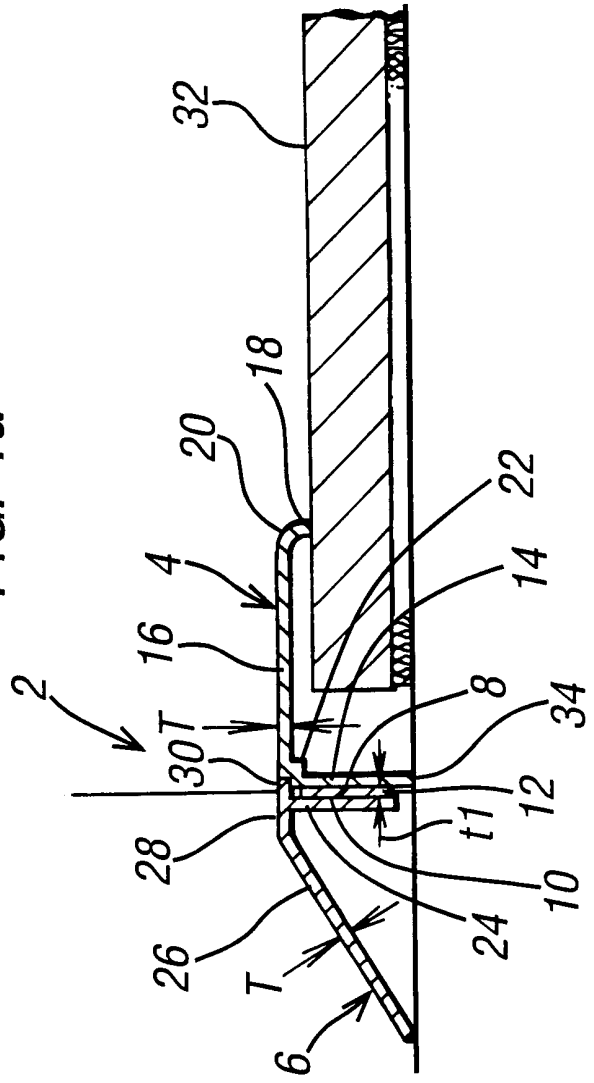


FIG. 1d

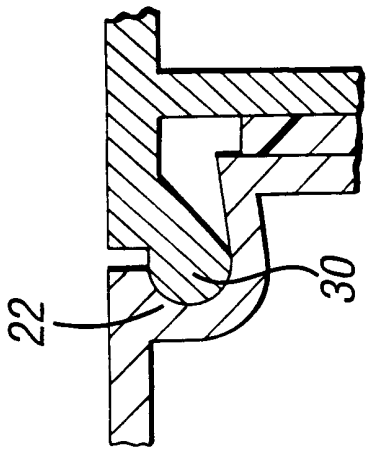


FIG. 1c

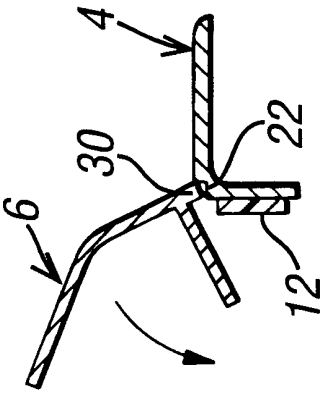


FIG. 1b

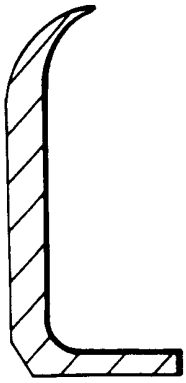


FIG. 1e

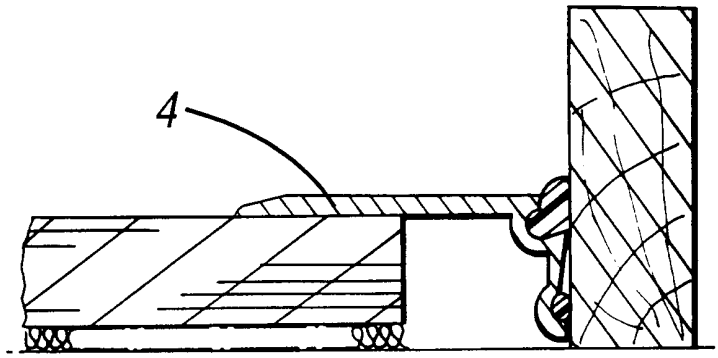


FIG. 1f

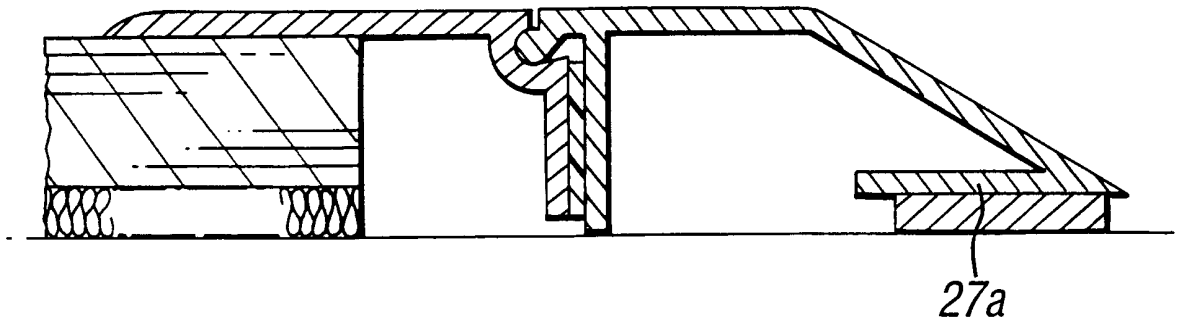


FIG. 1g

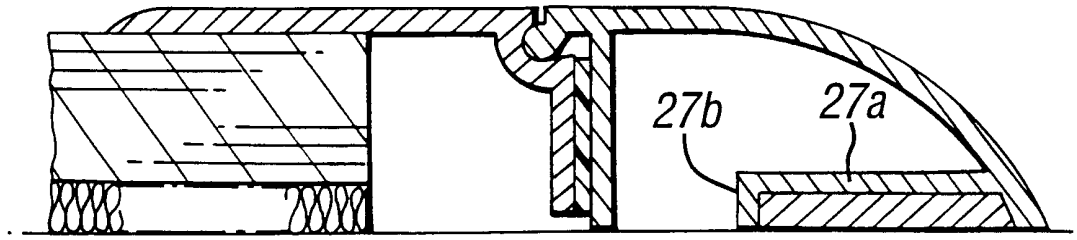


FIG. 2a

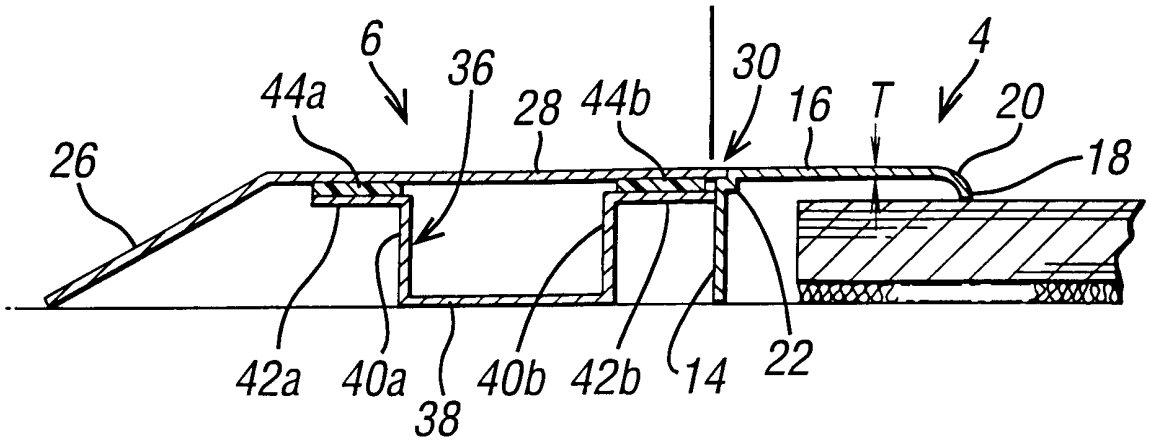


FIG. 2b

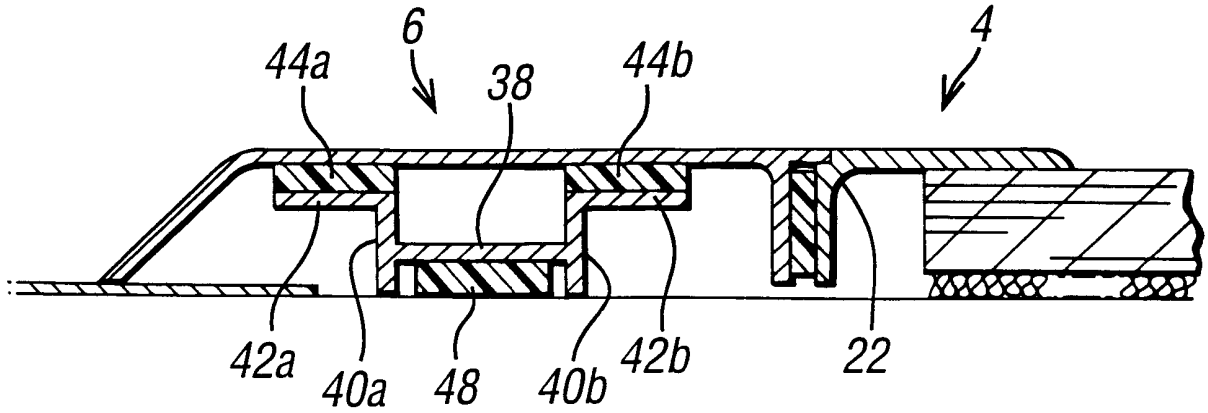
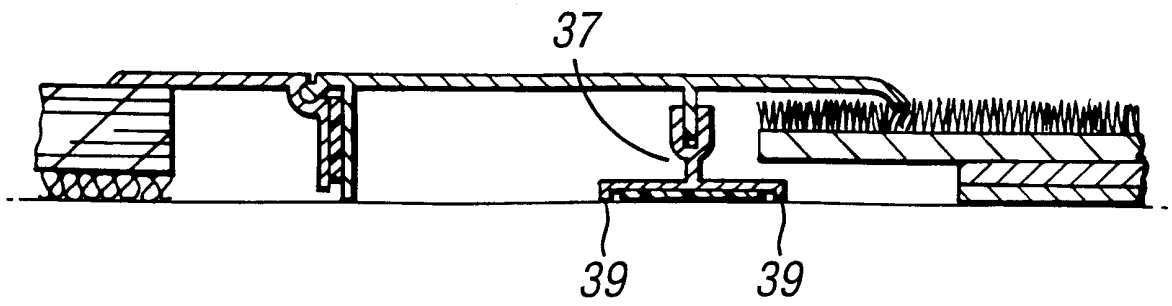


FIG. 2c



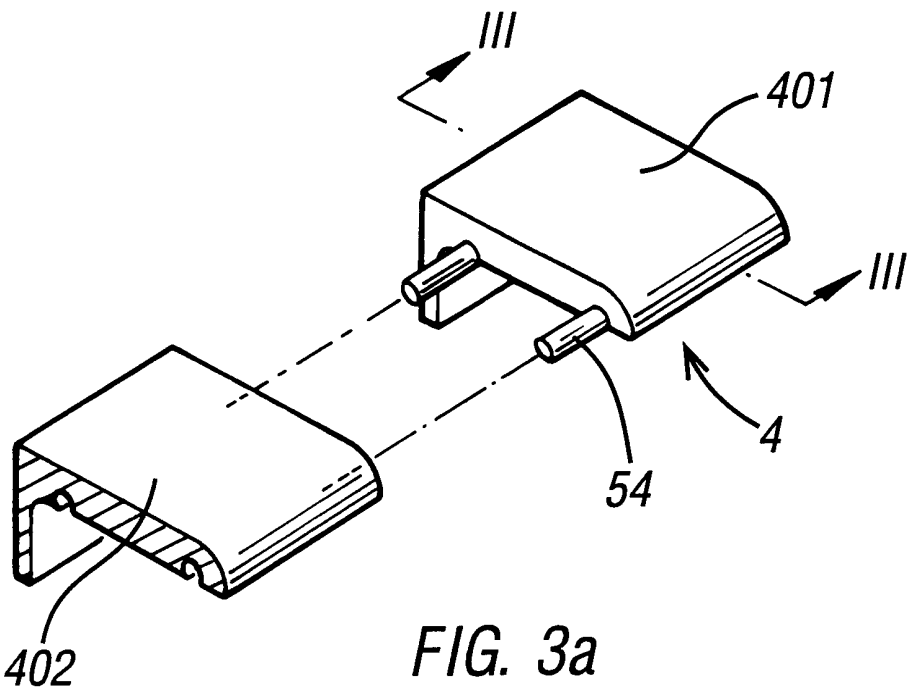


FIG. 3a

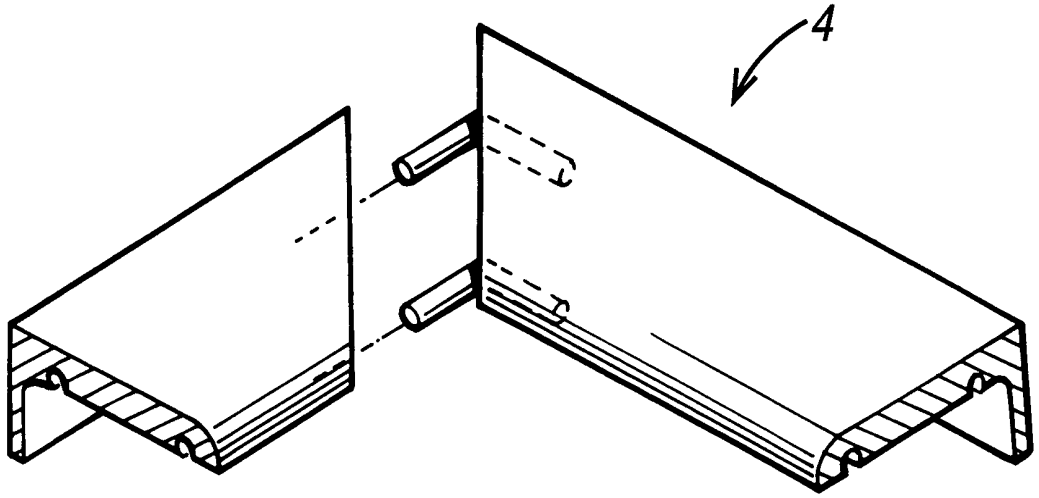


FIG. 3b

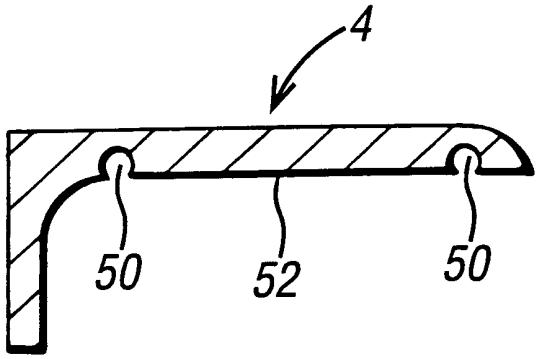


FIG. 4a

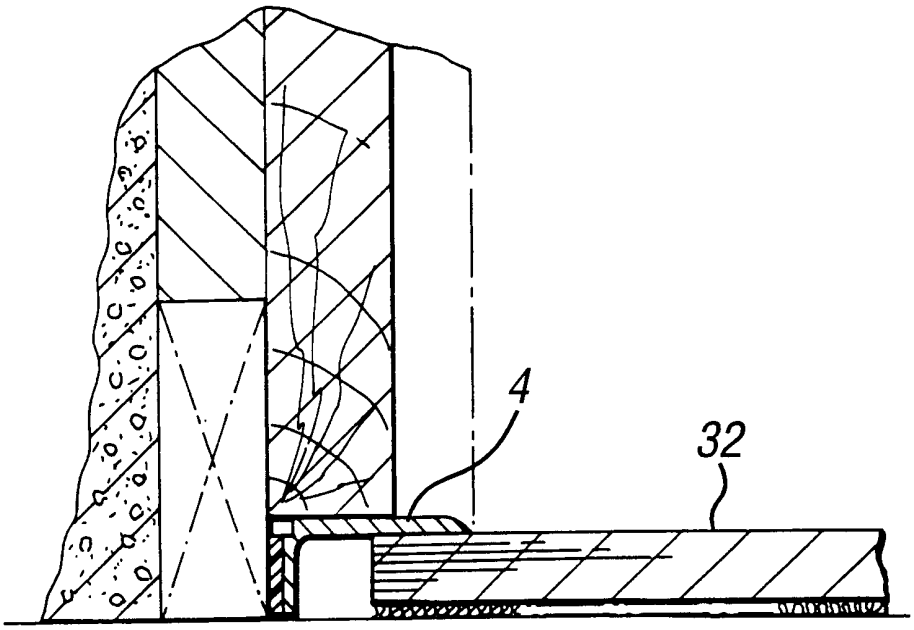
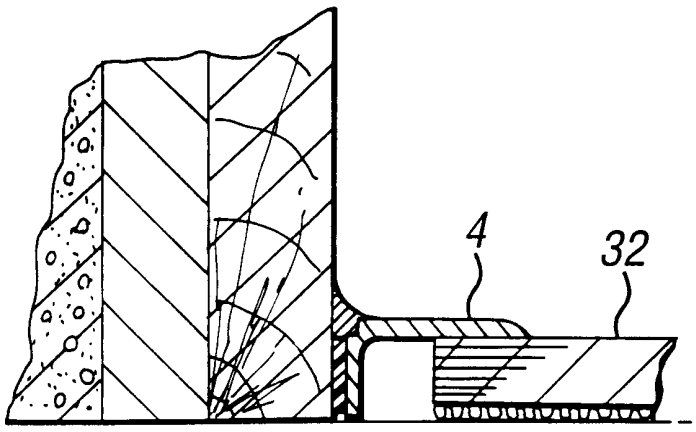


FIG. 4b



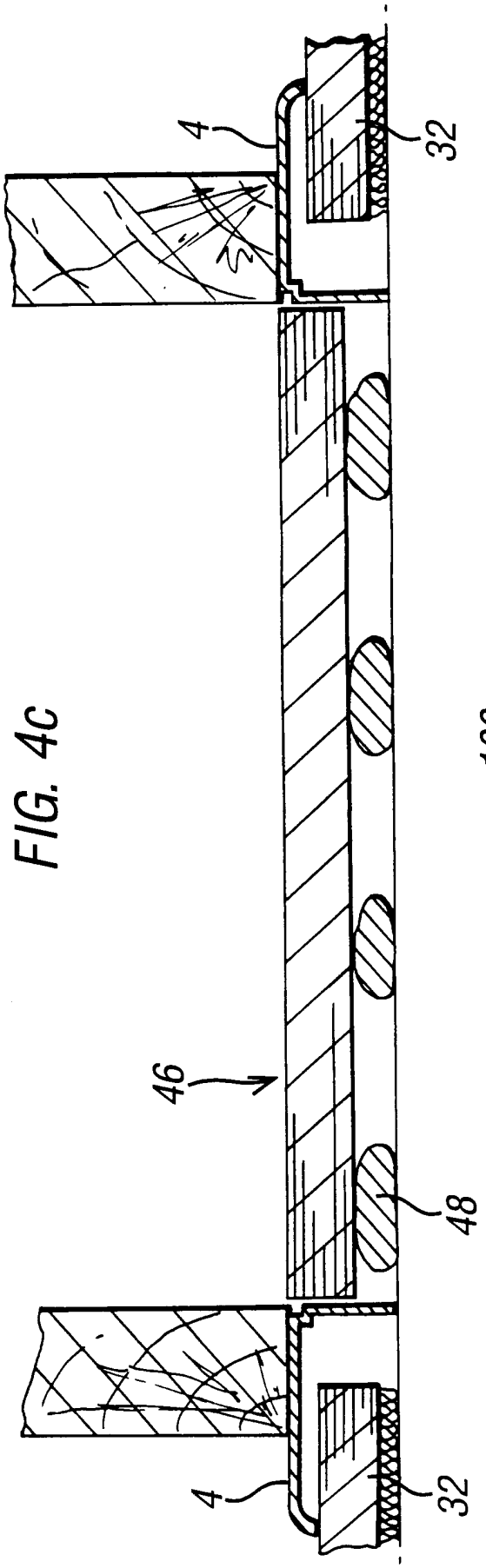


FIG. 4c

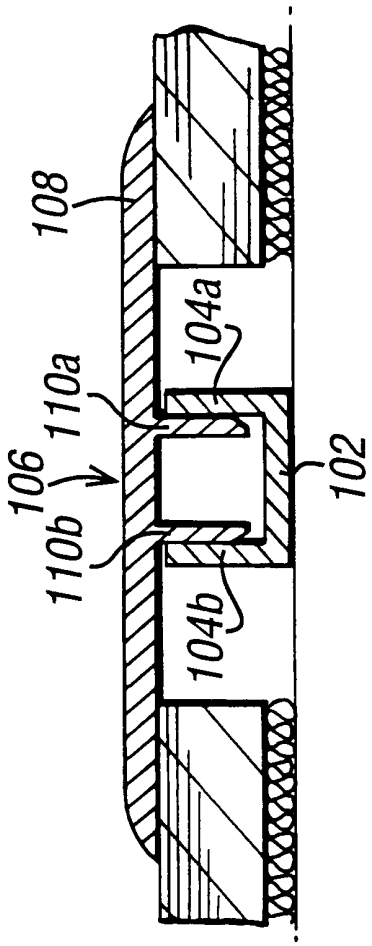


FIG. 5a

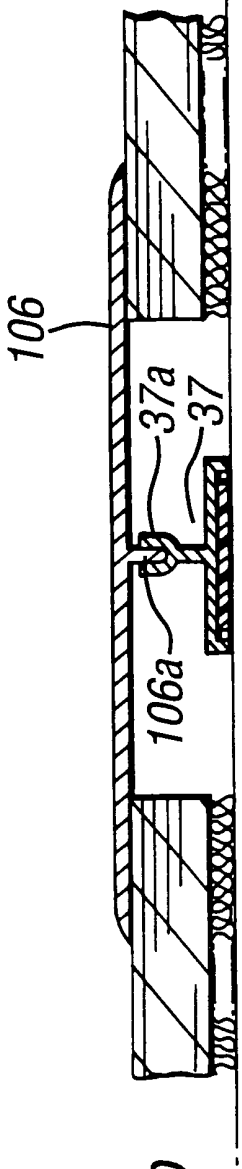


FIG. 5b

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter. ɔnal Application No
PCT/GB 00/03513

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 E04F19/04 E04F19/06 A47G27/04 E06B1/70

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 E04F A47G E06B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 197 44 241 A (WILLRICH) 15 April 1999 (1999-04-15) figures ---	1-5, 7-12,15, 20,21, 26,27, 29-31
X	US 2 449 904 A (LORRAINE) 21 September 1948 (1948-09-21) figures ---	1-5, 7-12,14, 20,21, 28-31
X	US 3 543 326 A (ROHRBERG ET AL) 1 December 1970 (1970-12-01) figure 4B --- -/--	1-6, 29-31

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
6 December 2000	15/12/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Beugeling, G.L.H.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter onal Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 76 13 530 U (BUNGE) 26 August 1976 (1976-08-26) figures -----	26

1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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PCT/GB 00/03513

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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DE 7613530 U	26-08-1976	NONE	