

UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 332 213 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 16.06.1999

(21) Application No 9827208.1

(22) Date of Filing 11.12.1998

(30) Priority Data

(31) 9726214

(32) 12.12.1997

(33) GB

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(51) INT CL⁶

D06F 81/00

(52) UK CL (Edition Q)

D1A A13

(56) Documents Cited

GB 0832228 A

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WO 90/12915 A

US 3967802 A

(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition Q) D1A A13 A15

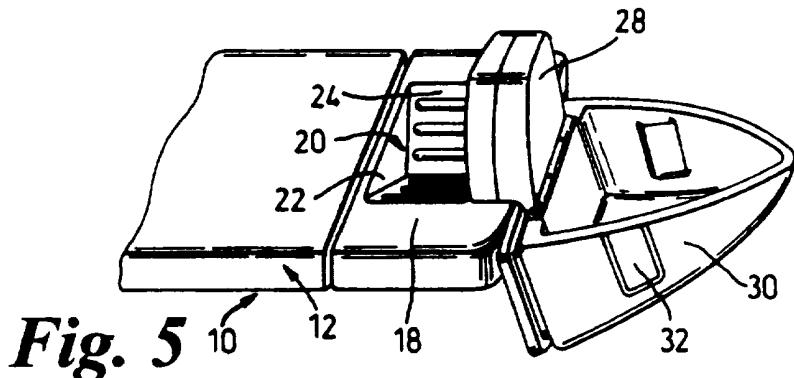
INT CL⁶ D06F 81/00 81/10 85/00

Online: EPODOC

(54) Abstract Title

Ironing board

(57) An ironing board 10 includes an iron shaped cover 30 which releasably retains an iron on the ironing board 12 where the fastening means can be clips 32. The cover 30 may have perforations to aid cooling but small enough in size to prevent the insertion of a child fingers. The cover can be pivotable in relation to the board 12 and can be used as a ground engaging foot to support the board 12 in an upright position. A recess can also be available in the board 12 which allows the iron to stand at an angle. The flex can also be located or guided by means of a retractable spool.



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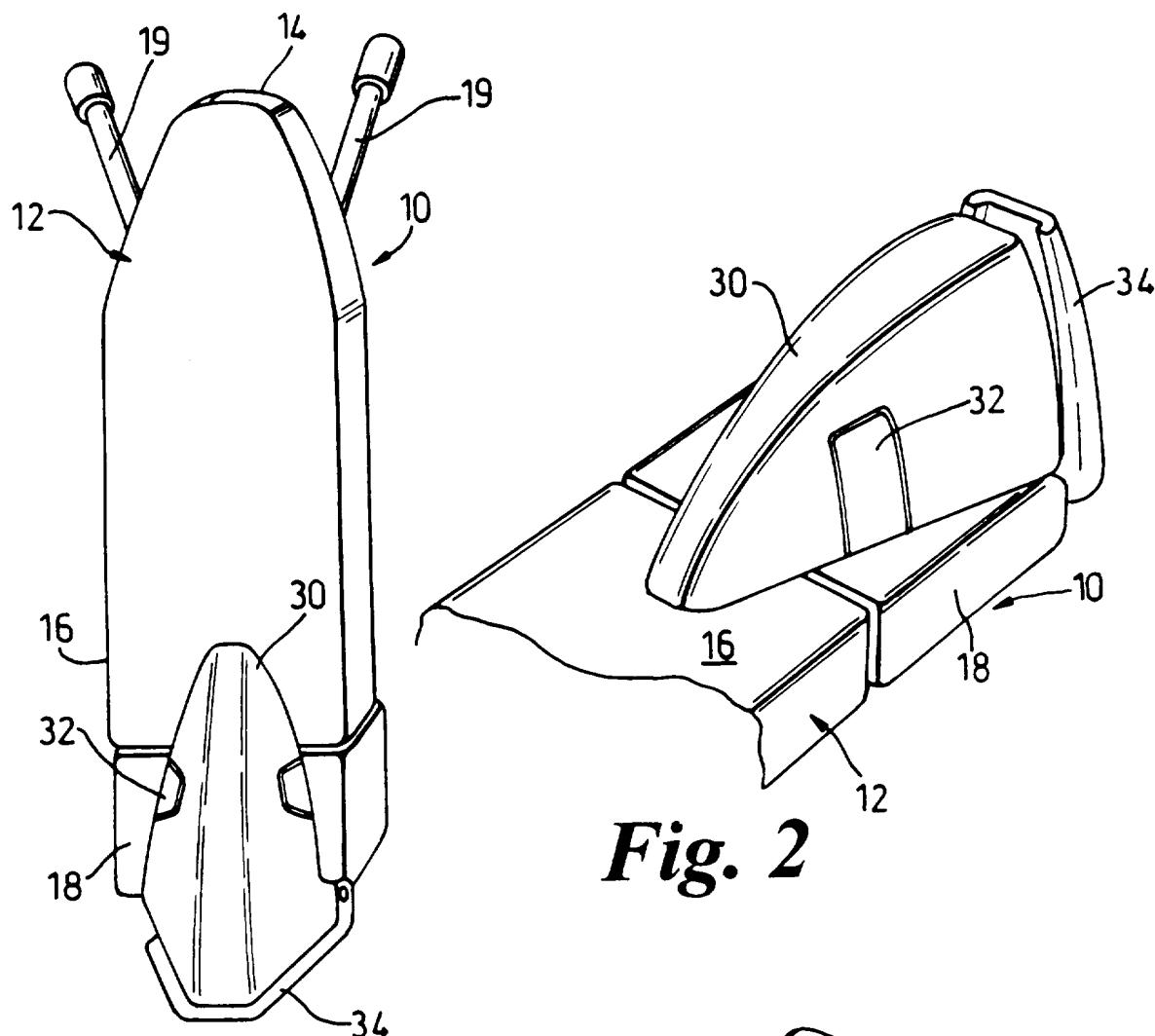


Fig. 1

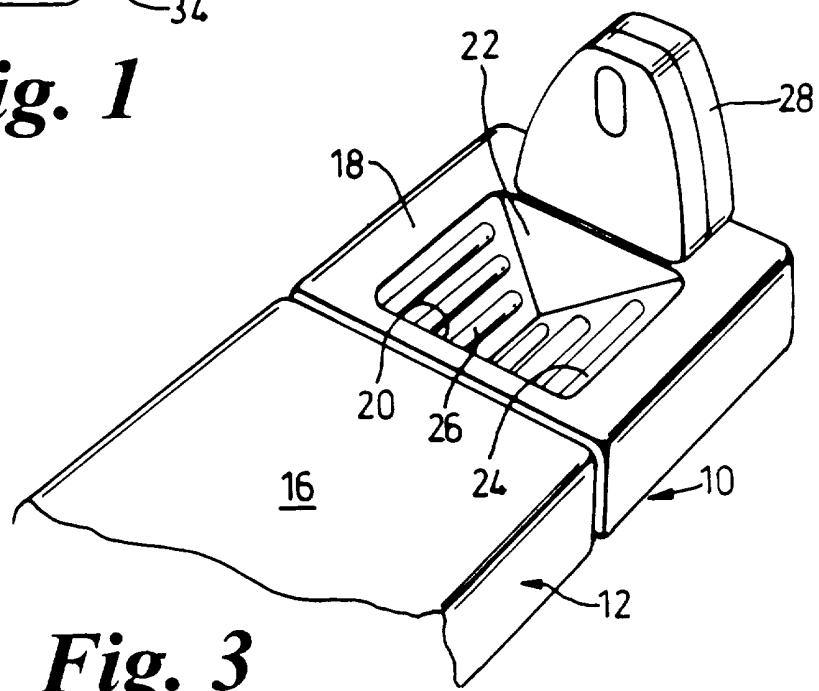


Fig. 3

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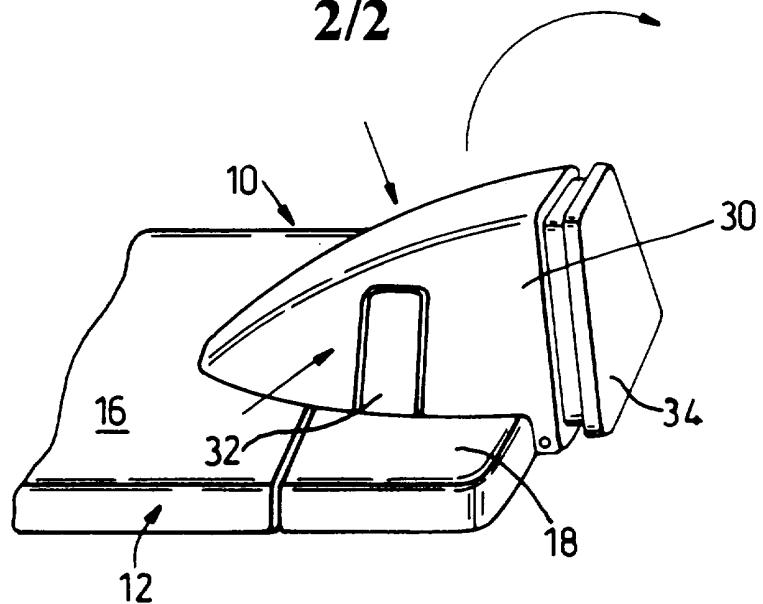


Fig. 4

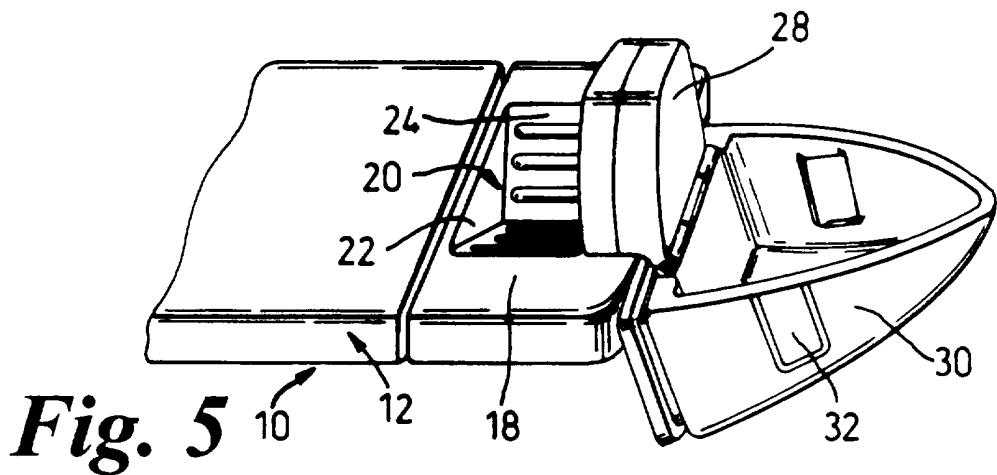


Fig. 5

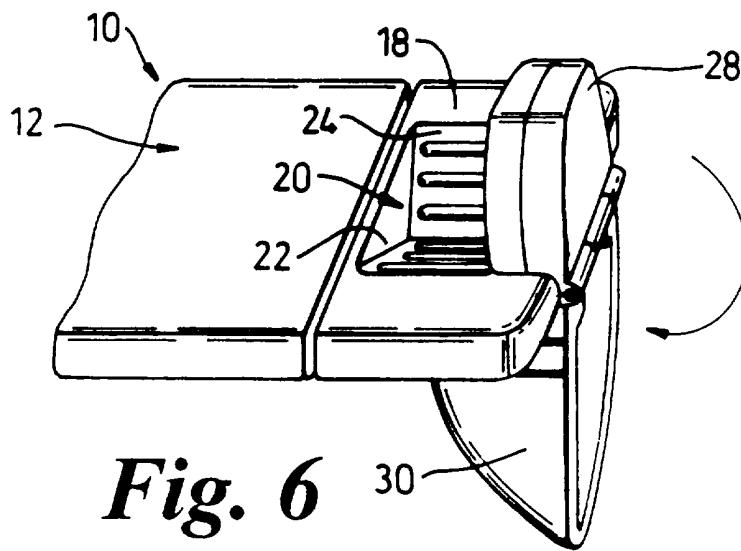


Fig. 6

IRONING BOARD

The invention relates to an ironing board.

5 In order to iron clothes effectively, an iron must be very hot, hot enough to burn someone. There is therefore a danger in leaving an unattended iron on an ironing board, for example, if the telephone rings or someone comes to the door, when there are pets or small children in the area.

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According to one aspect of the invention there is provided an ironing board including **means** to releasably retain an iron on the board.

15 Thus, instead of having to turn off the iron and put it in another room or somewhere **high up** where both the iron and its flex are out of reach, the iron can be **retained on the board**. The invention has the added benefit that the board and iron can be carried together to a desired location for use rather than having to carry both or to carry them one at a time.

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The retaining means may take any suitable form and may comprise one or more clips or other releasable fastening elements, but preferably the

retaining means encloses the iron to retain it. The retaining means may thus comprise a cover which may be imperforate or may include perforations to allow air circulation for cooling or to receive an iron's flex. The perforations may be so small as to prevent the insertion of children's fingers and/or preferably are adjacent the handle of an enclosed iron, in use. In this way, even if a child can reach the iron, or the ironing board does topple over, the iron or at least the hot surface of the iron cannot be touched.

10 The ironing board may include a recess to receive at least part of an iron. In this way, the size of the enclosing retaining means can be reduced. The recess may allow the iron to stand at an angle.

15 The retaining means may comprise at least one part which is pivotable in relation to the board between a retaining position and a non-retaining position, the or each part being releasably retainable in the retaining position. The or each part may be pivotable at the rear of the ironing board or alternatively the or each part may be pivotable at one side of the ironing board. In one embodiment, a single pivotable part is provided which is pivotable to one side of the ironing board or, in another embodiment, to the rear of the ironing board. In a further embodiment,

two pivotable parts are provided, one to each side of the ironing board and
pivotable one to each side of the ironing board.

The retaining means is preferably provided at one end of the
5 ironing board and that end is preferably provided with at least one ground
engaging foot. The ironing board with an iron retained by the retaining
means will be heavier at the iron end of the ironing board which, for
stability, will be oriented downwards for storage. The provision of at least
one ground engaging foot increases the stability of the board when stood
10 on end for storage. Preferably, a foot is provided at each side of the end
of the board.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided an
ironing board comprising at one end thereof at least one ground engagable
15 foot.

The ironing board is preferably of the kind including at least one
ground engagable leg moveable between a use position and a compact
storage position in which it lies adjacent the board.

In a preferred embodiment a foot is provided at each side of the end of the board.

In either aspect of the invention the ironing board may include 5 means to locate or guide the flex of an electric iron and may include integral therewith or attached thereto a retractable spool of electrical cable connected to for connection to an iron for use on the ironing board. The spool may be of the kind disclosed in EP541320A.

10 An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which;

FIG.1 is an elevation of the ironing board of the embodiment of the invention with the cover in the storage position;

15 FIG.2 is a fragmentary detail front perspective view of one end of the ironing board of FIG.1;

FIG.3 is the view of FIG.2 with the releasable cover moved from the storage to the use position;

20 FIG.4 is a perspective view of the end of the ironing board shown in FIG.2 but from the rear and one side with the cover in the storage position;

FIG.5 is the view of FIG.4 which the cover partly open; and

FIG.6 is the view of FIG.4 with the cover fully open and occupying

the use position.

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The ironing board 10 of the invention comprises a board 12 which is tapered to a rounded point 14 at one end. The majority of the board 12 including the rounded end 14 is covered by a suitable flexible covering 16.

At the opposite end of the board from the rounded end 14 is provided the iron stand 18. Two legs 19 depend from the board 12 and are connected in scissors fashion to support the board 12 or when opened or lie compactly against the board 12 as shown in FIG.1, in known manner.

The iron stand 18 defines a central recess 20 having upright front and rear surfaces 22 and angled side surfaces 24 provided with ridges 26. Behind the recess 20 is provided a wall 28 which is generally trapezium shaped but with the sides curving inwardly towards the top.

15

An iron shaped cover 30 encloses the wall 28 and covers the recess 20 with the front of the cover 30 over-lapping the covering 16. The cover 30 extends to the rear of the wall 28 and is hinged to the underside of the wall 28 such that the cover 30 can be pivoted backwards describing an arch in the longitudinal vertical plane of the ironing board 12 to lie

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directly underneath the iron stand 18 in the use position shown in FIG.6.

When in the initial, storage position shown in FIG.4, the cover 30 is held in place by clips 32 which are provided one on each side of the cover 30.

5 The clips 32 engage with formations in the recess 20 to hold the cover 30 in place. As shown in FIG.4 the clips 32 are depressed to release the cover 30 so that it can be moved from the storage position to the use position moving through the position shown in FIG.5.

10 The rear surface 34 of the cover 30 is upright and slanted forwards at a shallow angle. This flat surface 34 acts as a foot when the ironing board 10 is collapsed with the legs 19 folded against the ironing board 12, as shown in FIG.1.

15 In use, the ironing board will be stored as shown in FIG.1 with the cover 30 clipped closed over the iron to be used, the legs 19 folded against the board 12 and the whole apparatus 10 resting upon the foot 34. In this compact arrangement with the iron retained securely the apparatus 10 can be lifted and carried to the position for use and the legs 19 can then be erected so that the board 12 is horizontal. The clips 32 can then 20 be pressed to release the cover 30 which is lifted and pivoted backwards to hang underneath the iron stand 18. The iron can then be plugged into a

suitable electrical socket and used. If the iron has to be left unattended, the cover 30 is simply clipped into place and will safely cover the iron so that there is no risk of children, pets or adults being accidentally burned by the iron. The cover 30 may include a cut out to receive the flex of an iron so that the iron does not have to be unplugged.

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In a further embodiment, the wall 28 comprises a casing enclosing a spool of electric cable terminating in a plug to be plugged into a socket in an iron. The spool preferably includes a recoil mechanism so that any slack in the cable is taken up. The cable for the iron will exit from the front face of the wall, while a cable terminating in a mains plug will exit from the rear face of the wall 28 and again may be on a retractable spool. The rear face of the cover 30 in this embodiment includes a suitable cut out to accept the mains cable but this does not affect the integrity of enclosure of an iron because of the barrier presented by the wall 28.

In an alternative embodiment, the cover 30 may not be pivoted at its rear edge but instead may include an extension to one edge of the iron stand 18 and may be pivoted there to pivot sideways away from the recess

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In a further alternative embodiment the cover may be split along a vertical longitudinal plane so that each half of the cover 30 can pivot sideways as described.

5 The upper surface of the cover 30 may include perforations for cooling and the sides of the cover may be imperforate or alternatively the perforations provided may be so small that childrens' fingers could not be inserted through them.

10 In another embodiment the support foot is provided not on the cover 30 but on the iron stand 18 and may be associated with the wall, or with the flat flange around the wall and recess 20.

15 In a further embodiment the wall 28 is not provided. Where a spool is provided this may be substantially in the plane of the board 12 or may be substantially in a vertical axial plane of the board 12. The slot in the rear of the cover 30 to receive the mains cable is no wider than necessary.

20 It is to be understood that the scope of the present invention is not to be unduly limited by the particular choice of terminology and that a

specific term may be replaced by any equivalent or generic term. For example, the term "cover" could be replaced by "housing" or "clip" or "frame" or the like. Further it is to be understood that individual features, method or functions relating to the ironing board or cover might be 5 individually patentably inventive. The singular may include the plural or vice versa.

Still further according to the present invention there is provided an ironing board housing means to retain an iron in a storage and/or safety 10 position on the ironing board.

Further according to the present invention there is provided an ironing board having a cover movable from an out of the way position to a safety and/or storage position, covering or extending over an iron 15 received on the ironing board, to thereby restrain access to a part of the iron which is hot in use and/or to restrain relative movement of the ironing board and iron.

CLAIMS:-

1. An ironing board including means to releasably retain an iron on the board.

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2. An ironing board as claimed in claim 1 in which the retaining means comprises one or more clips or other releasable fastening elements.

3. An ironing board as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which the retaining means encloses the iron to retain it.

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4. An ironing board as claimed in claim 3 in which the retaining means comprises a cover.

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5. An ironing board as claimed in claim 4 which includes perforations.

6. An ironing board as claimed in claim 5 in which the perforations are sized so as to prevent the insertion of children's fingers.

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7. An ironing board as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 in which the perforations are adjacent to the handle of an enclosed iron, in use.

8. An ironing board as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the ironing board includes a recess to receive at least part of an iron.

5 9. An ironing board as claimed in claim 8 in which the recess allows the iron to stand at an angle.

10 10. An ironing board as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the retaining means comprises at least one part which is pivotable in relation to the board between a retaining position and a non-retaining position, the or each part being releasably retainable in the retaining position.

15 11. An ironing board as claimed in claim 10 in which the or each said part is pivotable at the rear of the ironing board.

12. An ironing board as claimed in claim 10 in which the or each said part is pivotable at one side of the ironing board.

20 13. An ironing board as claimed in claim 12 in which a single pivotable part is provided which is pivotable to one side of the ironing

board.

14. An ironing board as claimed in claim 11 in which a single
pivotable part is provided which is pivotable to the rear of the ironing
5 board.

15. An ironing board as claimed in claim 12 in which two pivotable
parts are provided, one to each side of the ironing board and pivotable one
to each side of the ironing board.

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16. An ironing board as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in
which the retaining means is provided at one end of the ironing board.

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17. An ironing board as claimed in claim 16 in which said one end is
provided with at least one ground engaging foot.

18. An ironing board as claimed in claim 17 in which a foot is
provided at each side of the end of the board.

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19. An ironing board comprising at one end thereof at least one ground
engagable foot.

20. An ironing board as claimed in claim 19 in which the ironing board is of a kind including at least one ground engagable leg moveable between a use position and a compact storage position in which said leg lies adjacent the board.

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21. An ironing board as claimed in claim 19 or 20 in which a foot is provided at each side of the end of the board.

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22. An ironing board as claimed in any one of the preceding claims including means to locate or guide the flex of an electric iron.

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23. An ironing board as claimed in claim 22 including integral with the iron or attached thereto a retractable spool of electrical cable connected to, or for connection to, an iron for use on the ironing board.

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24. An ironing board as claimed in claim 23 in which the spool is of the kind disclosed in European Patent Specification No.541320A.

25. An ironing board substantially as herein described with reference to FIGURES 1 to 6 of the accompanying drawings.

26. The combination of an iron and an ironing board as claimed in one of the preceding claims.

5 27. An ironing board having means to retain an iron in a storage and/or safety position on the ironing board.

28. An ironing board as claimed in claim 27 in which relative movement between the iron and ironing board is substantially restrained when the iron is in the storage and/or safety position.

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29. An ironing board as claimed in claim 27 or claim 28 in which a base of the iron which is hot, in use, is held in contact with the ironing board, and/or is inaccessible, in the safety or storage position.

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30. An ironing board having a cover movable from an out of the way position to a safety and/or storage position, covering or extending over an iron received on the ironing board, to thereby restrain access to a part of the iron which is hot in use and/or to restrain relative movement of the ironing board and iron.

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Application No: GB 9827208.1
Claims searched: 1 - 18, 22 - 30

Examiner: Andrew Jenner
Date of search: 8 March 1999

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.Q): D1A: A13, A15

Int Cl (Ed.6): D06F: 81/00, 81/10, 85/00

Other: Online: Epodoc

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 0832228 A PAVLO - see figures	1 - 2, 8 - 9 16, 22,
X	GB 0738459 A CARLSEN - see figures	1 - 2, 16, 22, 26 - 29
X	GB 0623648 A LEWIS - see figure 5	1 - 2, 8 - 9 16, 22,
X	WO 90/12915 A1 AUSTEN-MEEK - whole document relevant	1, 8 - 9 16, 22,
X	US 3967802 A LOMAGNO - see figures	1 - 4, 16, 22

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
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