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**Datasheet for the decision
of 10 March 2026**

Case Number: T 1095/24 - 3.2.01

Application Number: 16722476.5

Publication Number: 3288817

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B62D29/00, B29C48/03,
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B29C48/34

Language of the proceedings: EN

Title of invention:
MEMBERS FOR SEALING, BAFFLING, OR REINFORCING

Patent Proprietor:
Zephyros Inc.

Opponents:
Sika Technology AG
Henkel AG & Co. KGaA

Headword:

Relevant legal provisions:
EPC Art. 54, 100(a), 111(1)
RPBA 2020 Art. 11, 12(2)

Keyword:

Main request, auxiliary requests 1 to 3 - novelty (no)
Remittal - special reasons (yes)

Decisions cited:

G 0001/24

Catchword:



Beschwerdekammern

Boards of Appeal

Chambres de recours

Boards of Appeal of the
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Case Number: T 1095/24 - 3.2.01

D E C I S I O N
of Technical Board of Appeal 3.2.01
of 10 March 2026

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Decision under appeal: **Interlocutory decision of the opposition
division of the European Patent Office posted on
9 July 2024 concerning maintenance of the
European Patent No. 3288817 in amended form.**

Composition of the Board:

Chairman	G. Pricolo
Members:	B. Spitzer
	A. Jimenez

Summary of Facts and Submissions

- I. Both opponents 1 and 2 and the patent proprietor filed an appeal against the interlocutory decision of the opposition division finding that the European patent No. 3 288 817 (the patent) as amended according to auxiliary request 3 meets the requirements of the EPC.
- II. The opposition division came to the conclusion
- that the subject-matter of claim 1 of the main request (as granted) was not novel over documents D22 and D25,
 - that the subject-matter of claim 1 of auxiliary request 1 was novel over document D6, but not novel over document D25 and
 - that auxiliary request 3 met the requirements of the EPC, i.e. that the subject-matter of claim 1 of auxiliary request 3 was novel over document D25 and inventive starting from document D25 in view of the common general knowledge.
- III. Oral proceedings took place via videoconference before the Board on 10 March 2026.
- IV. The documents cited in this decision include the following:
- D6: US 2009/0223739 A1
D22: US 2011/0241383 A1
D25: EP 2 236 358 B1
- V. The appellant (patent proprietor) requested that the decision under appeal be set aside and the patent be maintained as granted or alternatively that the patent be maintained on the basis of auxiliary requests 1, 3,

2, 4 to 12 as filed during the opposition proceedings. Furthermore, they requested remittal of the case to the opposition division in case the Board decided that none of the main request or of auxiliary requests 1 and 3 were allowable.

The appellants (opponents 1 and 2) requested that the decision under appeal be set aside and that the patent be revoked.

VI. Independent claim 1 of the **main request** (claim 1 as granted) has the following wording (the feature references used by the opposition division are included in square brackets):

"[F1.1] An article comprising:
[F1.2] a. a carrier (512);
[F1.3] b. an activatable material (514) disposed on the carrier,
[F1.4] c. a plurality of carrier extensions (518) extending from the carrier, each extension having the activatable material extend co-extensively with the carrier extension;
[F1.5] wherein the article is adapted to provide sealing, baffling or reinforcement within a structure's cavity, characterized in that [F1.6] the activatable material includes at least one hinge portion (527) so that the activatable material is flexible."

Compared with claim 1 of the main request, independent claim 1 of **auxiliary request 1** differs in that the reference sign "(518)" is replaced by "(516)" and the following feature is added:

"[F1.7] wherein the plurality of carrier extensions extend outward radially from the carrier (512)."

Compared with claim 1 of auxiliary request 1, claim 1 of **auxiliary request 3** further includes the following feature:

"**[F1.8]** wherein the carrier includes more than one fastener (728); and wherein at least one fastener (728) is located in a differing plane from at least one other fastener."

Compared with claim 1 of auxiliary request 1, claim 1 of **auxiliary request 2** further includes the feature: "wherein the carrier includes one or more fasteners (728)."

Reasons for the Decision

Patent proprietor's appeal

Main request - ground for opposition under Article 100(a) EPC in combination with Article 54 EPC

1. Interpretation of feature F1.6: "*the activatable material includes at least one hinge portion (527) so that the activatable material is flexible*"
 - 1.1 The passages of the patent referring to a hinge portion and to the flexibility of the activatable material, which are relevant for the interpretation of feature F1.6 of claim 1, are found in paragraphs [0015] and [0031], as well as in Figure 10, excerpts of which are reproduced below.

"The hinge portions may be formed by portions of the carrier having a thinner cross section than adjacent portions of the carrier."

"The carrier 512 may be flexible, the activatable material 514 may be flexible, or both the carrier 512 and the activatable material 514 may be flexible. The carrier 512, the activatable material 514 or both may include one or more hinges. For example, the activatable material 514 may include one or more hinges 527 on the activatable material extensions 518 as shown in FIG. 10. The activatable material 514 may have a varying thickness along the length of the member 510."

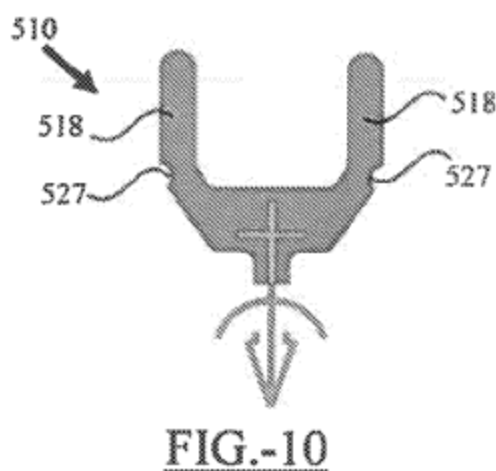


Figure 10 of the patent

1.2 In point 2.3.4 of the Reasons of the decision under appeal, the opposition division interpreted feature F1.6 as follows:

"(...) the term flexible in feature F1 .6 should be interpreted in broad sense and encompasses both the following two cases:

- the activatable material is of substantially rigid nature and it is flexible because it presents at least a (hinge) portion in which it is locally bendable; and

- *the activatable material is of substantially flexible nature and presents a (hinge) portion that increases locally its overall flexibility."*

Point 2.9.4 of the Reasons of the decision under appeal also refers to the interpretation of feature F1.6. It reads as follows:

"With respect to feature F1 .6, the opposition division notes that a hinge portion within the meaning of the invention should be interpreted as a region of the activatable material that not only defines a specific hinge/pivot axis, but it also presents an enhanced flexibility or articulation capability with respect to the other portions of the activatable material."

- 1.3 Referring to paragraph [0057] of the application as filed (corresponding to paragraph [0015] of the patent), opponent 1 stated that the patent discloses a hinge portion for the carrier, but not for the activatable material. In particular, it does not disclose that the hinge portion renders the carrier flexible as it is claimed for the activatable material, namely *"the activatable material includes at least one hinge portion so that the activatable material is flexible"* (feature F1.6). Flexibility is a property of the material, which a hinge could not change. Feature F1.6 does not restrict the flexibility of the activatable material to the hinge region (see opponent 1's statement of grounds of appeal, pages 2 and 3).
- 1.4 The Board concurs with opponent 1 to the extent that a hinge portion does not render a material flexible. However, a hinge portion enables a material to bend or

flex, as in the case of living hinges, which are generally known in the art. Accordingly, the functional aspect of feature F1.6, "*so that the activatable material is flexible,*" is interpreted in this sense.

The Board agrees with the opposition division that a hinge (portion) defines a "specific hinge/pivot axis". Accordingly, the Board concurs with the patent proprietor that not every reduction in cross section is regarded as a hinge portion.

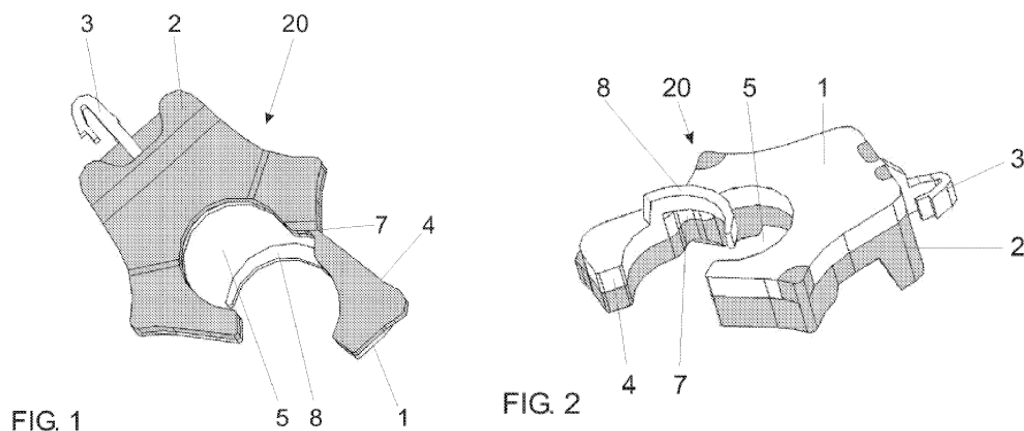
However, although such pivoting is typically "repeatedly reversible", as argued by the patent proprietor in point 1.1 of its statement of grounds of appeal, the Board notes that no such limitation is claimed. Moreover, the hinge is not defined in a way that prevents it from transmitting a moment and flexing back.

2. Interpretation of feature F1.4: "*a plurality of carrier extensions extending from the carrier, each extension having the activatable material extend co-extensively with the carrier extension*"

2.1 The Board shares the opponents' view that, in the absence of any explicit definition or function disclosed in the patent and in light of the numerous examples therein, the term "carrier extension" must be interpreted broadly, namely, in its literal sense, as any part or portion extending from a main body. Accordingly, the Board does not go so far as the opposition division, which considered that "*[a] carrier extension can be distinguished from the main portion of the carrier for a configurational or morphological reason, e.g. a specific shape, or for a functional reason, e.g. a portion of the carrier that, in use,*

performs a specific function which is not performed by the main body of the carrier itself."

3. Novelty of the subject-matter of claim 1 of the main request over document D25
 - 3.1 The opposition division came to the conclusion that the subject-matter of claim 1 as granted was not novel over document D25 (see decision under appeal, Reasons, point 2.4.1 and 2.4.3). The Board arrives at the same conclusion.
 - 3.2 The patent proprietor disputed the disclosure of features F1.4 and F1.6.
 - 3.3 Feature F1.4: *"a plurality of carrier extensions extending from the carrier, each extension having the activatable material extend co-extensively with the carrier extension"*
 - 3.3.1 The Board agrees with the opponents who - as well as the opposition division - identify in document D25 two carrier extensions, namely the curved free end parts of the carrier, one of which carrying the wing 4 (see document D25, Figures 1 and 2). The opposition division based the differentiation between carrier and carrier extension on a minor transverse width with respect to the main body.



Figures 1 and 2 of document D25

- 3.3.2 In view of the above interpretation of the term "carrier extension" (see point 2.), the Board is not convinced by the patent proprietor's argument that the opposition division's differentiation was arbitrary and based on hindsight, and, therefore did not constitute a direct and unambiguous disclosure.
- 3.3.3 The Board is also not persuaded by the proprietor's view that the curved free ends in document D25 constituted fastening means and not carrier extensions. Regardless of their function, these parts extend from the carrier main body and are regarded as carrier extensions in accordance with feature F1.4.
- 3.3.4 Finally, the Board does not follow the patent proprietor's argument that "what was interpreted by the opposition division as an extension" disappeared upon installation, as shown in Figure 5 of document D25. The carrier extensions are still visible in the mounted position shown in Figure 3C of document D25, referred to by the patent proprietor.

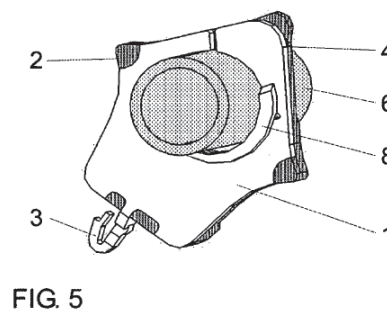
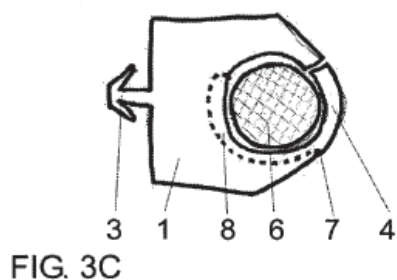


Figure 3C and Figure 5 of document D25

In this context, the Board notes that claim 1 of the main request relates to an article which, according to feature F1.5, is adapted to provide sealing, baffling, or reinforcement within a structure's cavity; the mounted position and method of use are not claimed.

3.4 Feature F1.6: *"the activatable material includes at least one hinge portion (527) so that the activatable material is flexible"*

3.4.1 The Board agrees with the opponents, which - as well as the opposition division - consider the hinge portion 7 in document D25 as a hinge portion not only of the carrier, but also of the foamable material, which corresponds to the activatable material according to feature F1.6.

3.4.2 The Board is not convinced by the patent proprietor's arguments.

3.4.3 As argued by the opponents, Figures 1 and 2 of document D25 show at reference sign 7, directly and unambiguously, a thinner cross-section of both the carrier and the foamable material. Paragraph [0019] of document D25 explicitly discloses a hinge for the

carrier, e.g., a living hinge. Paragraph [0016], in conjunction with Figures 1 and 2 of document D25, discloses that the foamable material can completely cover the carrier. Thus, a hinge exists not only in the carrier but also in the foamable material, which, in at least the illustrated embodiment, covers the entire carrier. This configuration falls within the definition of a hinge portion, as interpreted under point 1. above. Furthermore, claim 1 of the main request does not exclude a hinge in the carrier (see patent, paragraph [0031]).

3.4.4 Contrary to the patent proprietor's view, document D25 does not disclose a stiff activatable material that would break upon bending. In this context, the patent proprietor referred to paragraph [0032] of document D25, which disclosed at room temperature, non-flowable epoxy resin systems for the foamable materials. Opponent 1 argued that this was no proof for a brittle material and exemplarily mentions a "bouncing rubber". The Board further refers to paragraph [0033] of document D25, in which corresponding additives are disclosed.

3.4.5 Although paragraph [0016] of document D25 discloses that the foamable material may be divided in multiple parts, the Board considers that this does not support the patent proprietor's allegation that Figure 1 of document D25 shows two distinct bodies of foamable material adjoining one another. The patent proprietor submitted an enlarged version of Figure 1 of document D25 as purported evidence, but the Board finds it unconvincing.

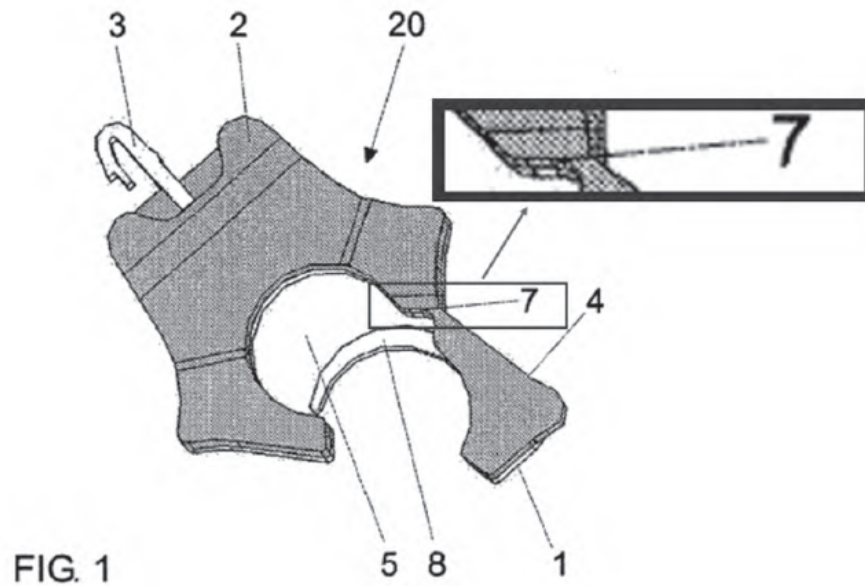


Figure 1 of document D25 with the enlargement of the hinge as filed by the patent proprietor on page 6 with its statement of grounds of appeal

Also the line visible in the foamable material 2 at reference sign 7 in Figure 2 of document D25 does not indicate a separation in the activatable material.

3.4.6 The patent proprietor criticised that the opposition division - in the absence of a *verbatim* disclosure - relied upon the drawings. The Board refers to established case law (see Case Law of the Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office, 11th edition, July 2025, "Case Law", I.C.4.6.) according to which features shown solely in a drawing formed part of the state of the art when a person skilled in the art was able, in the absence of any other description, to derive a technical teaching from them. This is the case for both the carrier extensions and the hinge portion as elaborated above.

- 3.4.7 The patent proprietor argued that document D25 did not directly and unambiguously disclose that the activatable material included a hinge portion. It referred to the novelty test for compliance with Article 123(2) EPC. However, in the present case, the question is whether document D25 directly and unambiguously discloses feature F1.6. In view of the reasoning set out above, it does.
4. Novelty of the subject-matter of claim 1 of the main request over document D22
- 4.1 The opposition division came to the conclusion that the subject-matter of claim 1 was not novel over document D22 (see decision under appeal, Reasons, point 2.5). The Board arrives at the same conclusion.
- 4.2 In particular, the patent proprietor disputed the disclosure of features F1.4 and F1.6.
- 4.3 Feature F1.4: *"a plurality of carrier extensions extending from the carrier, each extension having the activatable material extend co-extensively with the carrier extension"*
- 4.3.1 In view of the broad interpretation of the term "carrier extension" (see point 2. above), the Board considers the lateral branches of the carrier member 36 in document D22 to be carrier extensions within the meaning of feature F1.4. The activatable material shown in Figures 3 and 4 extends co-extensively with the carrier extensions.

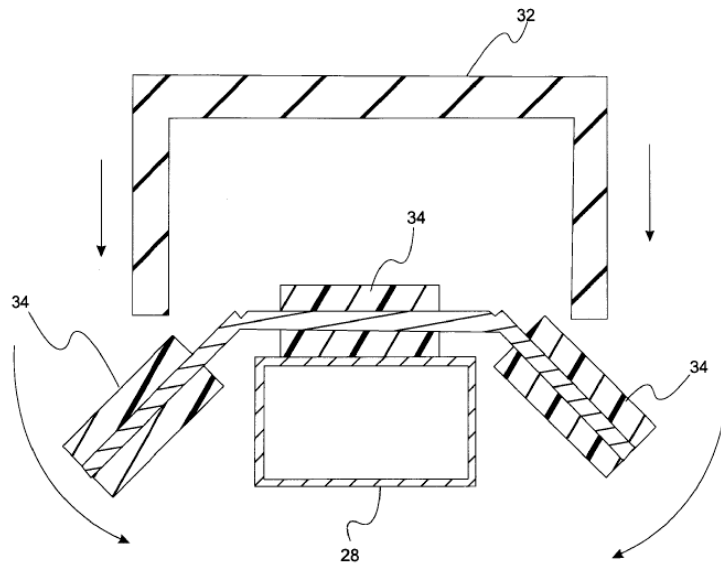


Fig. 4

Figure 4 of document D22

4.4 The patent proprietor's argument, that in document D22 the carrier was made of a single body and no distinction was made between a carrier and carrier extensions cannot be followed by the Board. The Board shares the opposition division's view that in Figure 4 of document D22 a skilled person identifies a central portion and two lateral portions that extend laterally beyond the notches 44.

4.4.1 The patent proprietor further brought forward that the opposition division did not explain "*where the extensions begin or whether the notches were included in the extensions or whether the extensions were outward of the notches*". The Board refers to its interpretation of feature F1.4 (see point 2. above).

4.5 Feature F1.6: "*the activatable material includes at least one hinge portion (527) so that the activatable material is flexible*"

4.5.1 The Board concurs with the patent proprietor that document D22 discloses avoiding damage or separation of the mastic (corresponding to the activatable material) from the carrier by keeping "*the bending location, a weak point, a living hinge or the like*" in the carrier free of mastic material (see document D22, paragraph [0029], Figures 3 and 4) or, at most covered by a very thin layer (see document D22, paragraph [0034]).

4.5.2 However, the Board disagrees with the patent proprietor's allegation that a very thin layer of expandable mass between the mass support sections was intended to break. Document D22's general teaching is still to avoid damage or separation of the mastic.

4.5.3 The Board is also not convinced by the patent proprietor's argument that the thin layer did not constitute a hinge portion in the sense of feature F1.6. Since the carrier includes a hinge portion, and in one embodiment the bending portion is covered by a very thin layer of activatable material, this thin layer also constitutes a hinge portion. Such a configuration falls within the definition of a hinge portion (see point 1. above). As noted above in the context of document D25, claim 1 of the main request does not exclude a hinge portion in the carrier (see patent, paragraph [0031]).

5. Conclusion on the main request

The subject-matter of claim 1 of the main request is not novel over documents D25 and D22.

**Auxiliary request 1 - novelty of the subject-matter of claim 1
(Article 54 EPC)**

6. Novelty of the subject-matter of claim 1 of auxiliary request 1 over document D6
- 6.1 The opposition division came to the conclusion that the subject-matter of claim 1 was novel over document D6 (see decision under appeal, Reasons, point 2.9). The Board arrives at the same conclusion.
- 6.2 The patent proprietor contested the disclosure of features F1.4 and F1.6.
- 6.3 Feature F1.4: *"a plurality of carrier extensions extending from the carrier, each extension having the activatable material extend co-extensively with the carrier extension"*
- 6.3.1 The Board shares the opponents' view that the embodiment shown in Figures 14 to 16 of document D6 discloses feature F1.4. Substrate 122 corresponds to the carrier, elongate arms 126 to the carrier extensions and expandable mass 130 to the activatable material. Even though the expandable material extends beyond tips in some embodiments of document D6, the activatable material extends co-extensively with the carrier extension.
- 6.3.2 The patent proprietor disputed this, referring to paragraph [0013] of the patent, which discloses that *"[a]lternatively, the activatable material may be substantially coextensive with an end of the carrier."* According to the patent proprietor, this meant that an extension beyond the end of the tips did not anticipate feature F1.4. However, as noted by the opponents,

feature F1.4 makes no reference to being coextensive with an end of the carrier. Accordingly, the Board agrees with the opponents that an extension beyond the end of the carrier is not excluded by claim 1 of auxiliary request 1.

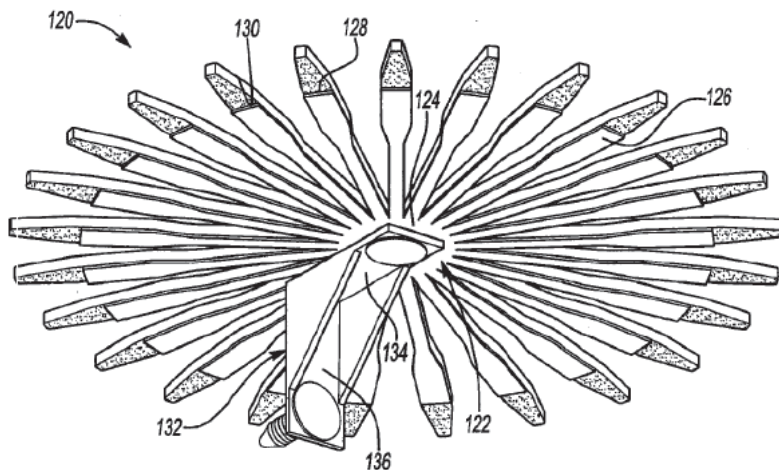


Fig-14

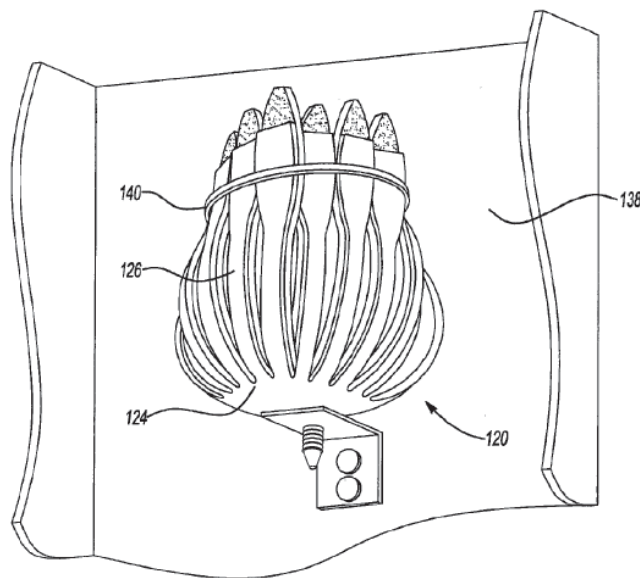


Fig-15

Figures 14 and 15 of document D6

- 6.4 Feature F1.6: *"the activatable material includes at least one hinge portion (527) so that the activatable material is flexible"*
- 6.4.1 The Board agrees with the patent proprietor - as well as with the opposition division - that document D6 does not disclose feature F1.6
- 6.4.2 The Board is not convinced by the opponents' arguments that the thinner parts of the elongated arms between the substrate and the thicker parts of the tips constituted a hinge portion. Although these thinner parts are flexible and bendable (see document D6, Figure 15), they do not define a "specific hinge/pivot axis" that *"presents an enhanced flexibility or articulation capability with respect to the other portions"* (see decision under appeal, Reasons, point 2.9.4). Rather, they are formed of a homogenous material with uniform properties along their length. Consequently, document D6 does not disclose a hinge portion (see point 1. above).
7. Novelty of the subject-matter of claim 1 of auxiliary request 1 over document D25
- 7.1 The opposition division came to the conclusion that the subject-matter of claim 1 was not novel over document D25 (see decision under appeal, Reasons, point 2.11). The Board arrives at the same conclusion.
- 7.2 In addition to features F1.4 and F1.6, already addressed in the assessment of novelty of claim 1 of the main request, the patent proprietor contested that document D25 disclosed feature F1.7.

7.3 Feature F1.7: "*wherein the plurality of carrier extensions extend outward radially from the carrier (512).*"

7.3.1 In the patent proprietor's view, "extending radially outward" meant that all extensions originated from a single central point of the carrier and extended perpendicular to its surface (see patent, Figure 18).

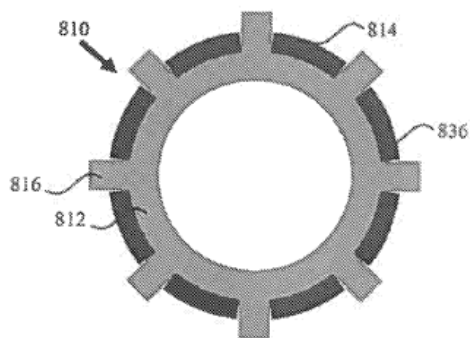


FIG.-18

Figure 18 of the patent

The patent proprietor further argued that, by contrast, the extensions identified by the opposition division in document D25 converged inwardly, as illustrated by the arrows added by the patent proprietor in Figure 1 of document D25.

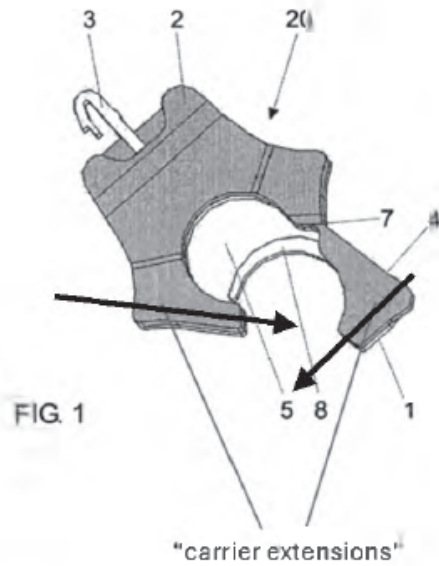


Figure 1 of document D25, as annotated with arrows by the patent proprietor (see patent proprietor's reply to the opponents' statement of grounds of appeal, page 11)

7.3.2 Opponent 1 submitted Figure 1 of document D25, with added grey shading and radial lines, to illustrate that the carrier extensions extend radially outward from the carrier (figure reproduced below).

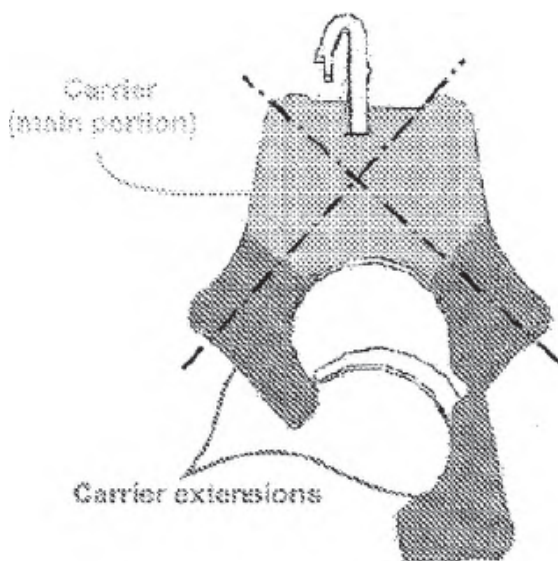


Figure 1 of document D25, with by opponent 1 added grey

colours and radial lines (see opponent 1's statement of grounds of appeal, page 19)

7.3.3 The Board notes that the patent does not define a radial direction or a centre of the carrier. The Board concurs with opponent 1, who argued that, in the absence of a round shape or a defined centre, a radial direction is meaningless. Accordingly, feature F1.7 is to be interpreted broadly. Opponent 1 further argued that "*extending radially outward from the carrier*" does not exclude carrier extensions that extend in the same direction or from different points of the carrier.

8. Conclusion on auxiliary request 1 and the patent proprietor's appeal

The subject-matter of claim 1 of auxiliary request 1 is not novel over document D25.

Since neither the main request nor auxiliary request 1 is allowable, the patent proprietor's appeal is to be dismissed.

Opponent's appeal

Auxiliary requests 3 and 2 - novelty of the subject-matter of claim 1 (Article 54 EPC)

9. Novelty of the subject-matter of claim 1 of auxiliary request 3 over document D25

9.1 The opposition division came to the conclusion that the subject-matter of claim 1 of auxiliary request 3 was novel over document D25 (see decision under appeal, Reasons, point 2.14). The opposition division considered that "the at least one clip 3" in

document D25 was not disclosed as lying in a differing plane, and hook element 8 was not a fastener of the carrier but of the carrier extension (see document D25, Figure 1 and paragraph [0017]).

9.2 The Board reaches a different conclusion. The patent proprietor contested the disclosure of feature F1.8.

9.3 Interpretation of feature F1.8: *"wherein the carrier includes more than one fastener (728); and wherein at least one fastener (728) is located in a differing plane from at least one other fastener"*

9.3.1 The Board shares the opponents' view that neither claim 1 of auxiliary request 3 nor the description assigns a special or consistent meaning or function to the terms "fastener" and "differing plane". Accordingly, these terms are to be interpreted broadly: a "fastener" is simply construed as a member that holds something, and a "differing plane", without any further reference, is a non-limiting feature - any plane may be chosen, as illustrated in opponent 1's sketch on page 20 of its statement of grounds of appeal.

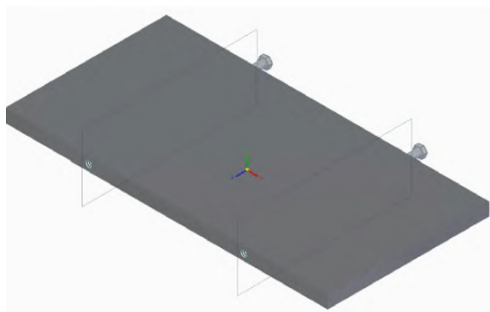


Figure reproduced from opponent 1's statement of grounds of appeal, page 20

9.3.2 The patent proprietor referred to paragraph [0027] of the patent, where the term "differing plane" was

explained:

"The fasteners 128 may be located in differing axis or planes, such that the member 110 may be installed into a cavity (not shown) with receiving holes (not shown) on walls with differing planes, curved walls, non-planar walls, and the like."

Therefore, according to the patent proprietor, the terms "differing plane" and "fasteners" had to be interpreted with respect to the cavity - that is, as fastening the article within the cavity in differing planes. The broad interpretation of the claimed features, the patent proprietor argued, contradicted decision G1/24.

9.3.3 The Board does not agree.

The claim relates to an article *per se*, not to an article fixed in a cavity. As argued by the opponents, paragraph [0027] of the patent, cited by the patent proprietor, refers to Figures 2A to 2C, which are not according to the invention. Even if these figures were according to the invention, they show two fasteners in the same plane (i.e., the plane of the paper). By contrast, Figure 10 of the patent, which is according to the invention, does not disclose feature F1.8.

Furthermore, as the opponents argued, the patent itself discloses different types of fasteners: some for fastening the article in the cavity and others for retaining the fastener in the hinged position (see patent, paragraph [0030]).

9.4 Disclosure of feature F1.8 in document D25

9.4.1 The Board shares the opponents' view that either the at least one hook 3 for fastening the article in the cavity (see document D25, paragraph [0017]) or member 8 ("Mitnehmer") for fastening the tube 6 in the article ("Durchdringungselement") (see document D25, paragraph [0022]) can be regarded as fasteners according to claim 1 of auxiliary request 3. Since the fixing of the expandable material 2 to the carrier 1 is not specified (see document D25, paragraph [0016]), the indentations 20 shown in Figure 2 of document D25 do not constitute fasteners in the sense of feature F1.8.

9.4.2 The second part of feature F1.8 concerning the "differing plane" can be disregarded in view of its interpretation above (see point 9.3.). Even if a "differing plane" were interpreted as differing planes of the carrier in terms of height or angular orientation, hook 8 and clip 3 of document D25 lie in differing planes.

9.4.3 The patent proprietor's arguments related in particular to the interpretation of feature F1.8 (see above). Furthermore, the Board finds unconvincing both the patent proprietor's and the opposition division's view that hook 8 was a fastener located on the carrier extension and not on the carrier. Hook 8 is attached to wing 4, which is considered a carrier extension and thus part of the carrier. Moreover, it is the hook, not the wing, that constitutes the fastener.

10. Conclusion on auxiliary requests 3 and 2

The subject-matter of claim 1 of auxiliary request 3 is not novel over document D25. Since claim 1 of auxiliary request 2 is broader than claim 1 of auxiliary request 3, the same conclusion applies to auxiliary

request 2.

11. Remittal

11.1 The case is remitted to the department of first instance for further prosecution.

11.2 Under Article 111(1), second sentence, EPC, the Board of Appeal may either exercise any power within the competence of the department which was responsible for the decision appealed or remit the case to that department for further prosecution. Furthermore, under Article 11 RPBA, the Board will not remit a case to the department whose decision was appealed for further prosecution, unless special reasons present themselves for doing so.

11.3 The patent proprietor requested that the case be remitted to the department of first instance for further prosecution. The opponents agreed with a remittal.

11.4 The Board follows the patent proprietor's request. Even though established case law does not confer an absolute right to have every issue decided by two instances, the primary function of the appeal proceedings is to review the decision under appeal in a judicial manner (Article 12(2) RPBA). Since auxiliary requests 4 to 12 have not yet been examined by the opposition division, and feature F1.8 is interpreted more broadly than by the opposition division, the Board considers that there are special reasons within the meaning of Article 11 RPBA justifying a remittal of the case to the opposition division.

Order

For these reasons it is decided that:

1. The decision under appeal is set aside.
2. The case is remitted to the opposition division for further prosecution.

The Registrar:

The Chairman:



D. Grundner

G. Pricolo

Decision electronically authenticated