



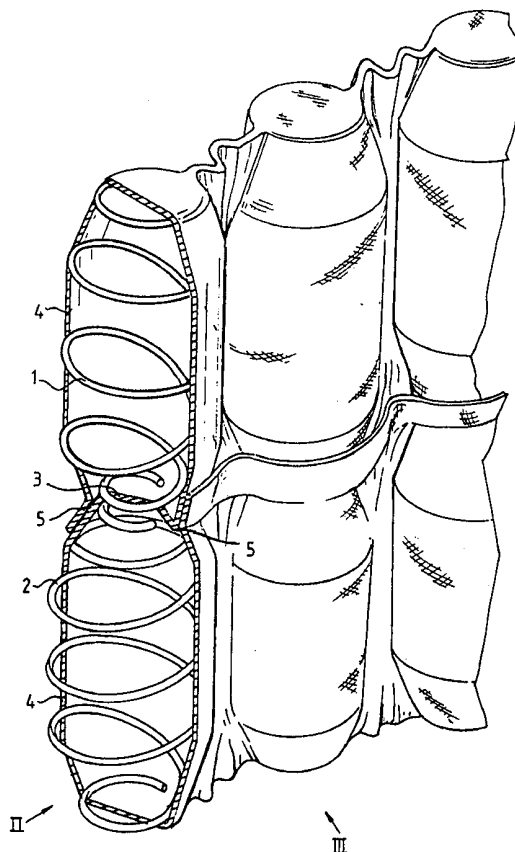
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(54) Title: DOUBLE SPRING MATTRESS AND MANUFACTURING PROCESS

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a spring mattress having two superposed layers of springs, which are enclosed in covers (4), and a method of manufacturing a mattress of this kind. Characterising features of the invention are that the springs of the upper layer are positioned essentially straight above the corresponding springs in the lower layer, and that the covers are joined together in such a manner that the springs in the lower layer are affected at least to some extent by the spring above, in the upper layer, independently of neighbouring springs.



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DOUBLE SPRING MATTRESS AND MANUFACTURING PROCESSTechnical Field

The present invention relates to a spring mattress having two superposed layers of springs, which springs are enclosed in covers, and to a method of manufacturing a mattress of this kind.

Background

One common technique of manufacturing spring mattresses is the one known as the pocket technique. According to this technique, the springs are enclosed in pockets, i.e. they are enclosed individually by a covering material. Owing to this arrangement, the springs become individually resilient, such that each spring may flex separately without affecting neighbouring springs, which increases the user's comfort, since the load will be distributed more evenly across the surface that receives the load.

In order to enhance the comfort further, two superposed layers of pocket springs are used in some cases, i.e. a structure, which in principle consists of two joined-together pocket spring mattresses. In this type of mattress the load exerted on the mattress by the user is distributed further, and the mattress is felt as more comfortable.

One problem found in this type of mattresses is, however, that they are complex and time-consuming to manufacture and that in addition thereto, much material is required, since in principle it is necessary not only to manufacture two pocket spring mattresses of conventional type but in addition thereto, to join the two mattresses together.

A further problem encountered in this type of mattresses is that only the springs in the uppermost layer are individually resilient. Because of the material of

the covers, the force exerted on the lower-layer springs by the lower parts of the loaded upper-layer springs is distributed over the upper layer, and from there it is distributed over several springs in the lower layer. This
5 detracts from the individual resilience of the bottom-layer springs and consequently this layer contributes only marginally to the comfort of the mattress.

Object of the Invention

10 One object of the present invention thus is to provide a spring mattress of the kind defined in the introduction hereto, and to suggest a method of manufacturing said mattress, wherein the disadvantages referred to above are completely or at least partly eliminated.

15 This object is achieved by a spring mattress and a manufacturing method therefor as defined in the appended claims.

Brief Description of the Drawings

20 In the accompanying drawings:

Fig 1 is a partly broken, perspective view of a mattress in accordance with the invention;

Fig 2 is a lateral partly broken view of a first side of the mattress of Fig 1; and

25 Fig 3 is a schematic view of the cover of the mattress of Fig 1 as seen from another side and without springs having been inserted.

Description of Preferred Embodiments

30 As appears from Figs 1 and 2, a spring mattress in accordance with the invention comprises two layers of springs, the springs of both layers being essentially in alignment with one another in such a manner that the
35 springs of the upper layer 1 are positioned essentially straight above the corresponding springs of the lower layer 2.

The springs are enclosed in covers, the facing ends of which preferably consisting of a common partition wall. In this manner the covers form a common external cover 4 around one pair of springs and one partition wall 3, which is joined to the external cover.

Preferably, the cover is made from a textile material and advantageously it is of a type that may be welded, but also other types of material, such as various kinds of plastic materials, may be used.

10 The extension of the partition wall between the junctions 5 to the external cover exceeds that of the springs abutting against said portions. Owing to this arrangement, the part of the partition wall, against which the springs abut, is movable between an upper and a lower end position without affecting the external cover at the areas of junction of the partition wall to the external cover. In this manner, the springs in the two layers may flex individually between these end positions within the area of extension inside the cover.

20 More specifically, in the spring mattress in accordance with this embodiment, the springs in the lower layer are more strongly biased than those in the upper layer. Consequently, the lower springs will urge the partition wall upwards, to the upper position thereof, which is 25 illustrated in Figs 1 and 2, when there is no load on the mattress. Upon increasing load on the mattress only the springs of the upper layer will be compressed initially. At a predetermined threshold value of the force exerted by the upper springs on the lower springs, also the lower 30 springs will eventually be compressed and be individually resilient up to the point, at which the partition wall reaches its lower end position (not shown). In this manner, the mattress is given a soft upper layer, which distributes the load across the entire surface of contact 35 between the user's body and the mattress, and a harder lower layer adapted to take the load exerted for example by the user's buttock and shoulder regions while at the

same time all springs at least to some extent are individually resilient. In this manner, the mattress serves to straighten out the user's spine while at the same time the supporting/carrying force is distributed so as to prevent blockage of the circulation of the blood. As a result, the mattress is imparted excellent qualities of comfort and is felt as very comfortable.

The above mattress preferably is manufactured by applying a piece of material in such a manner that it extends between one pair of springs, whereby the portion of the material that thus extends between the springs will form the partition wall 3. The material ends 6 and 7, respectively, externally of the springs, are then carried round their respective spring of the pair and are attached to the piece of material on the opposite side in overlap areas 8 and 9, respectively, as clearly illustrated in Fig 2. The external cover and the partition wall thus are formed from the same continuous piece of material, which saves material and also makes possible rational manufacture of the mattresses.

The remaining sides, i.e. those in parallel with the plane of the drawing of Fig 2, are thereafter joined together so as to completely enclose the springs inside the cover. This step preferably is effected by welding or gluing.

Preferably, the same piece of material also is used to encase several pairs of springs, as illustrated in Fig 2. The welding between neighbouring springs preferably is carried out in such a manner as to ensure that there will be more material between the lateral interconnecting joints at the middle of the external cover, i.e. in the area where the springs of the pair abut against one another, than at the top and bottom regions of the external cover. This is illustrated schematically in Fig 3, showing the material of the cover at right angles to (the plane of) Fig 2 but without springs. Attachment lines 10a, b and 11a, b are arranged between neighbouring

external covers, the weld seams at the top and bottom splitting into two seam parts that are directed away from one another with a gradually growing spacing between them upwards and downwards. In this manner it is ensured that the distance between two lateral attachment lines 10b, 11a of one and the same external cover along the material of the cover is longer at the middle of the external cover, i.e. in the area of the partition wall 3, than at the top and bottom, respectively. This arrangement contributes to the movability of the partition wall 3 in the lengthwise direction of the springs relative to the external cover.

As already mentioned, the covers inclosing a spring pair preferably are disposed in successive rows, which are then attached to one another, side by side, as indicated in Fig 2. Preferably, the rows are attached in two or three vertically spaced attachment points 12 opposite each spring. A larger or smaller number of attachment points is, of course, possible. It is likewise possible to provide for a longer line of attachment extending essentially in parallel with the longitudinal direction of the springs, instead of using several shorter attachment points.

Interconnection of rows may be effected by welding or gluing, in the same way as the previous attachment within individual rows. However, as an alternative, staples or clips may be used, as also Velcro[®] tape or other fastening means.

The invention has been described herein by way of one embodiment. Several varieties of the invention are, however, possible. For instance, it is not necessary to manufacture the partition wall and the external cover from the same piece of material but the external cover could be manufactured separately, whereupon the partition wall is attached in at least some points to the inner face of the cover. The partition wall need not in this case be a full wall but could be configured as a smaller

bridge extending between diametrically opposite points on the external cover. Another alternative embodiment, which produces a larger longitudinal range of individual resilience but which requires more material, is to arrange a
5 separate cover that encloses one of the springs of the pair of springs and thereafter apply a larger external cover around both springs of the pair. In addition, it is not either necessary first to arrange the external covers in rows and then join together these rows to form mat-
10 tresses, but separate external covers could be joined together directly to form a mattress.

Advantageously, the springs are all of the same type, i.e. they have identical wire thickness and essentially identical resilience properties, the dif-
15 ference in resilience properties in the springs of the two layers being achieved by biasing the springs differently. However, it is of course equally possible to use different types of springs. In addition, the springs are shown having tapering ends. This configuration is
20 not, however, necessary but alternatively the springs could have the same diameter size throughout or even be formed with diameters of increasing size towards the ends, i.e. they could be of the spring type known as double-cone springs.

25 These and other obvious varieties must be regarded to be within the scope of protection of the invention as the latter is defined in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A spring mattress having two superposed layers of springs (1, 2), which springs are enclosed in covers (4),
5 c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the springs (1) of the upper layer are positioned essentially straight above the corresponding springs (2) in the lower layer, and in that the covers (4) are joined together in such a manner that the springs (2) in the lower layer are affected at least
10 to some extent by the spring (1) above in the upper layer independently of neighbouring springs.

2. A spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that corresponding springs in the two layers are enclosed in pairs in an external cover
15 (4), to which external cover is joined a partitioning bridge (3), preferably in the form of a partition wall, which extends between opposite sides, between the springs (1, 2), the dimensions of said bridge (3) between the junctions (5) to the external cover at least somewhat
20 exceeding the dimension of the spring ends abutting against said portions, which arrangement imparts at least some movability to the partition wall (3) in the longitudinal axis of the springs.

3. A spring mattress as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
25 c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the springs (1, 2) of the two layers possess different resilience properties, preferably by having different bias, and preferably in such a manner that the springs (2) of the lower layer are stiffer than the springs (1) of the upper layer.

30 4. A spring mattress as claimed in claim 2 or 3, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the external cover (4) as well as the partition wall (3) are made from one continuous piece of material.

35 5. A spring mattress as claimed in claim 4, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the middle part of the piece of material forms the partition wall (3), and in that

sides of the material piece are attached in the vicinity of said partition wall.

6. A spring mattress as claimed in claim 4 or 5, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that several external
5 covers (4) are joined together in rows, the partition between the covers being effected by joining together the covers by means of gluing or welding

7. A spring mattress as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cover material consists of
10 a preferably weldable textile material, which is joined together by means of gluing or welding.

8. A spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the springs in one of the layers, preferably the lower layer, are enclosed in
15 internal covers, external covers being applied around one inner cover and the spring housed therein, as well as around the corresponding spring in the other layer.

9. A method of manufacturing a mattress having two superposed layers of springs (1, 2), which springs are
20 enclosed in covers (4), c h a r a c t e r i s e d by the steps of placing a piece of material between corresponding springs in the two layers, wrapping the external ends around the respective spring, joining said ends to the piece of material at the opposite side of the respective
25 one of the springs, and attaching the piece of material along the longitudinal sides, i.e. in the longitudinal direction of the springs.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, c h a r a c t e r i s e d by attaching the ends of the piece of
30 material in such a manner that the part (3) of the material being arranged between the springs (1, 2), in its extension between the points of attachment, is larger than the extension of the end portions of the springs.

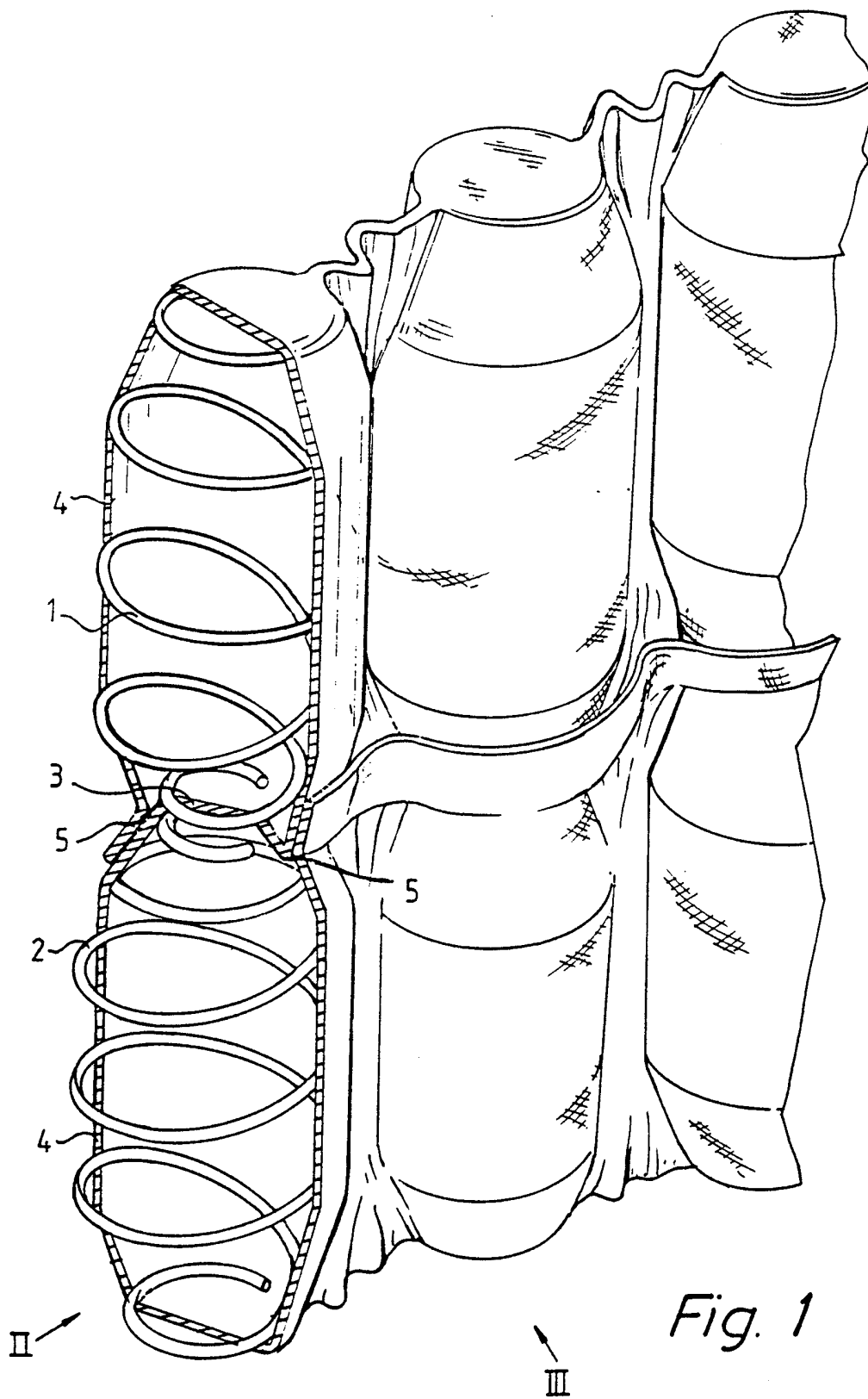
11. A method as claimed in claim 9 or 10, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that several covers positioned in
35 rows are interconnected at their longitudinal sides by

joining together continuous pieces of material between neighbouring springs.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, c h a r a c -
t e r i s e d in that the joining together of the mate-
5 rial between neighbouring springs in said rows is effect-
ed in such a manner that the extension of the covers at
right angles to the longitudinal direction is larger at
the middle than at the top and bottom, respectively.

13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9-12,
10 c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the material that is
used preferably is a weldable textile material, and in
that the joining together of the material is effected by
gluing or welding.

14. A method of manufacturing a mattress having two
15 superposed layers of springs, which springs are enclosed
in covers, c h a r a c t e r i s e d by first enclosing
one spring in one inner cover and then enclosing the
inner cover with the spring positioned therein as well as
a corresponding spring in the second layer in an external
20 cover.



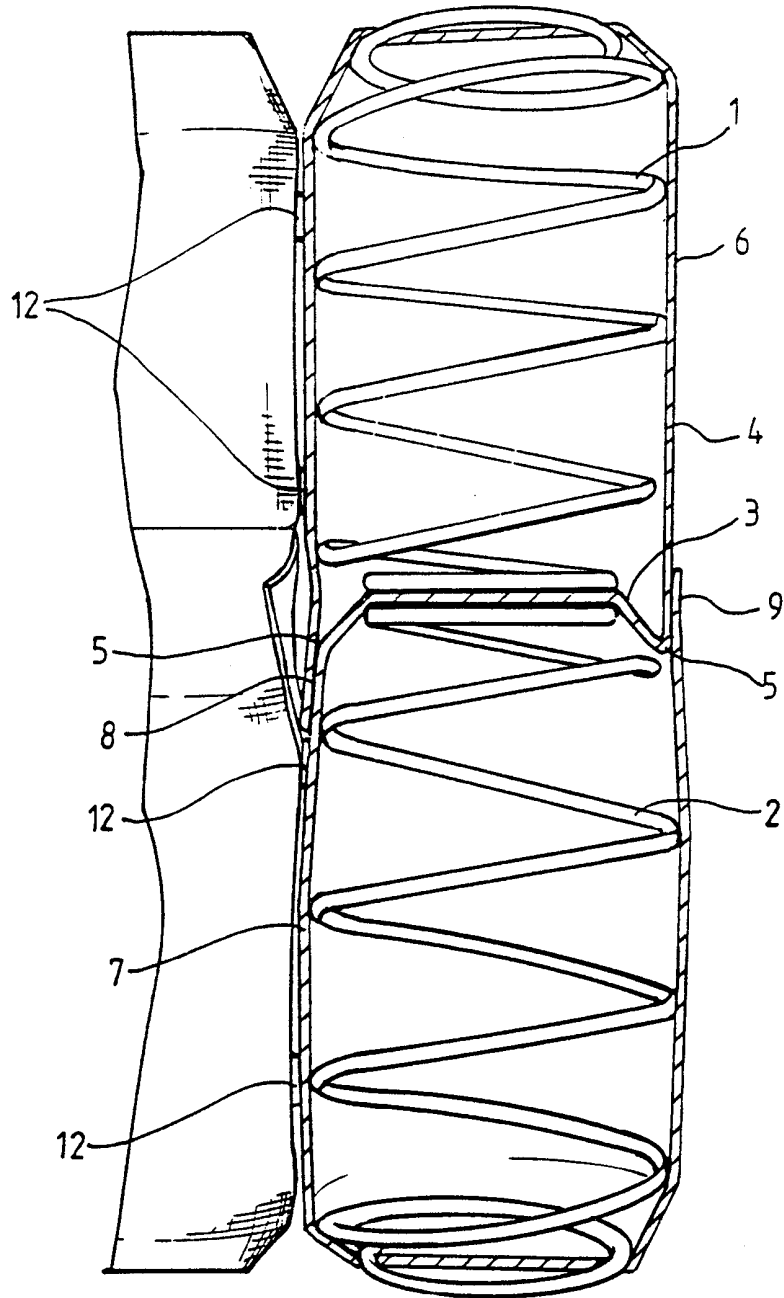


Fig. 2

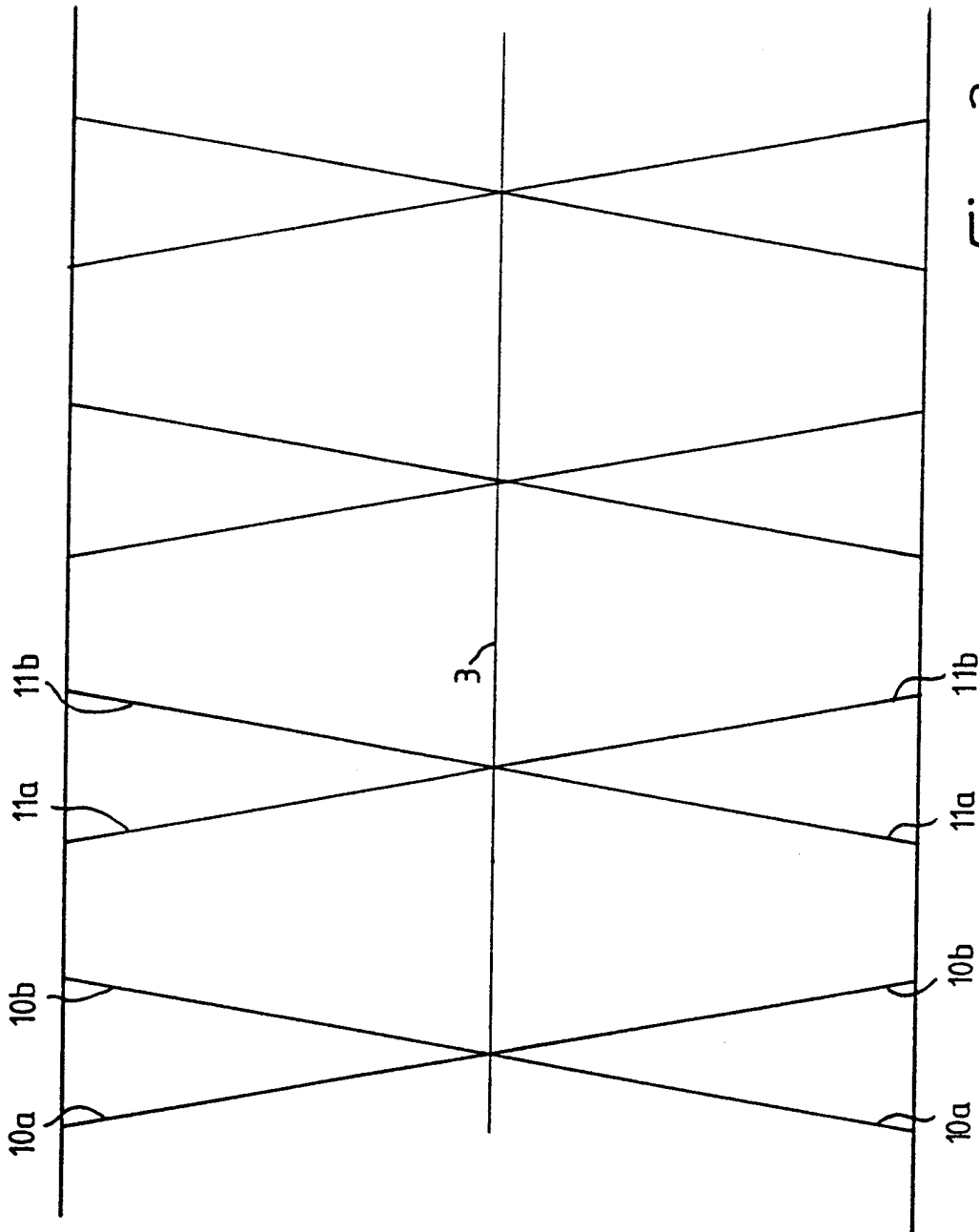


Fig. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 98/02275

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER				
IPC6: B68G 9/00, A47C 23/04, A47C 25/00 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)				
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
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WPI, PAJ				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
A	US 1741847 A (F. KASPAR), 31 December 1929 (31.12.29) --	1-14		
A	US 1703587 A (H. KRAFT), 26 February 1929 (26.02.29) --	1-14		
A	US 871871 A (F.H. HIRSCHMAN), 26 November 1907 (26.11.07) -- -----	1-14		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.				
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Information on patent family members

02/03/99

International application No.

PCT/SE 98/02275

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 1741847 A	31/12/29	NONE	
US 1703587 A	26/02/29	NONE	
US 871871 A	26/11/07	NONE	