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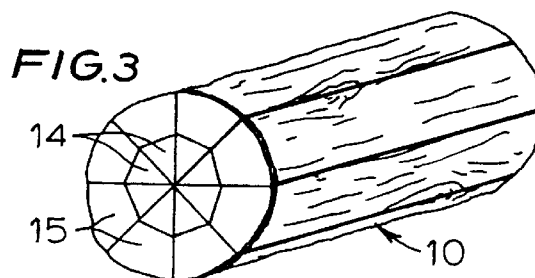
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54 **Timber pole division.**

57 A method of dividing a timber pole 10 to produce a plurality of wooden strips, suitable for use as cladding, fencing or the manufacture of products. The pole is divided by a number of radial cuts 11,12 into a plurality of sector-shaped pieces, and then each sector-shaped piece is divided by a further cut 13 so as to produce a triangular-shaped strip 14 and a truncated-sector-shaped strip 15. The further cut 13 is disposed so that the triangular-shaped strip 14 is of isosceles cross-sectional form and the ratio of the equal sides of that strip 14 to the radial sides of the truncated-sector-shaped strips 15 may be up to about 3:1.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 30 4685

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	CH-A- 308 506 (GIAN FÜMM) * page 1, line 23 - line 32; figure 2 *	1-4,7	B 27 B 1/00 E 04 H 17/14
X	* page 1, line 32 - line 38; figure 3 *	5	
Y	---	6	
Y	FR-A-2 218 172 (WEYERHAUSER COMPANY) * page 7, line 8 - line 18; figure 1 *	6	
X	WO-A-8 904 747 (KNORR) * page 1, line 30 - page 2, line 6; page 10, line 35 - page 11, line 26; figures 13-15 *	1-4,7	
A	US-A-2 344 426 (STAMM) ---		
A	US-A-2 316 111 (STAMM) ---		
A	US-A-4 111 247 (HASENWINKEL) ---		
A	US-A-3 989 078 (HASENWINKEL) -----		
			B 27 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15-09-1993	Examiner HUGGINS J D
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P0401)



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	CLAIMS INCURRING FEES
<p>The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.</p>	
	LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">see sheet -B-</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims: 1-7</p>	



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION A PRIORI

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

Independent claims 1,5 and 7 concern the method (claims 1 and 5) of dividing a timber pole and the product (claim 7) ensuing from said method i.e. a multiplicity of usable wooden strips.

Independent product claim 8 and dependent claims 9 and 10 concern cladding or fencing and therefore concern a use to which wooden strips (produced by any suitable process or method and not exclusively by the method of claims 1 or 5) can be put.

The special technical features of independent claims 1,5 and, for as far as these can be determined, independent product claim 7 would appear to be the same and therefore satisfy the requirements of unity (Rule 30 EPC).

However, claim 8 has no special technical features that are either common or the same or even correspond with any of the features of claims 1,5 and 7.

This is because claim 8 has to be examined for novelty, inventive step and unity of invention purely with regard to the product per se and is not restricted or limited by the process of manufacture (see the Guidelines for Examination in the European Patent Office, Part C, Chapter III, 4.7b). Therefore claim 8 does not fulfil the requirement of Rule 30 EPC and Article 82 EPC.

The search has been completed for the subject-matter first mentioned in the claims (claims 1 to 7) and in view of the state of the art as represented by CH-A- 308 506 (GIAN FUMM), independent method claims 1 and 5 of the present application would appear to lack novelty and inventive step respectively.

The search can also be extended, at the applicant's request, to the second subject-matter (claims 8 to 10) after payment of an additional search fee.