

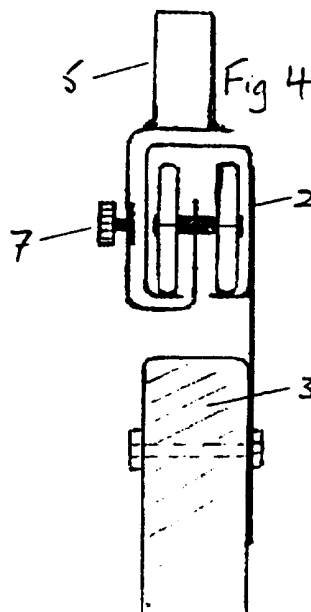
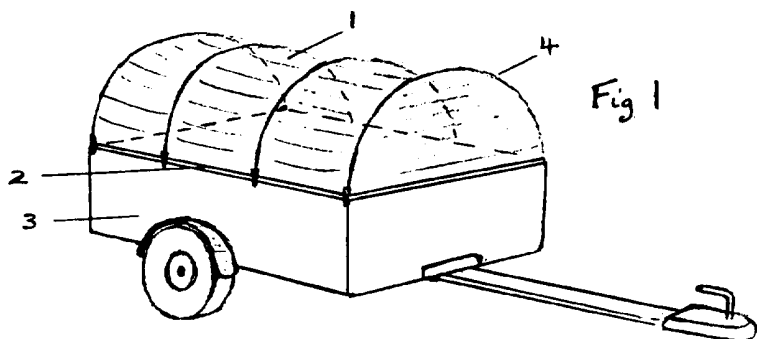
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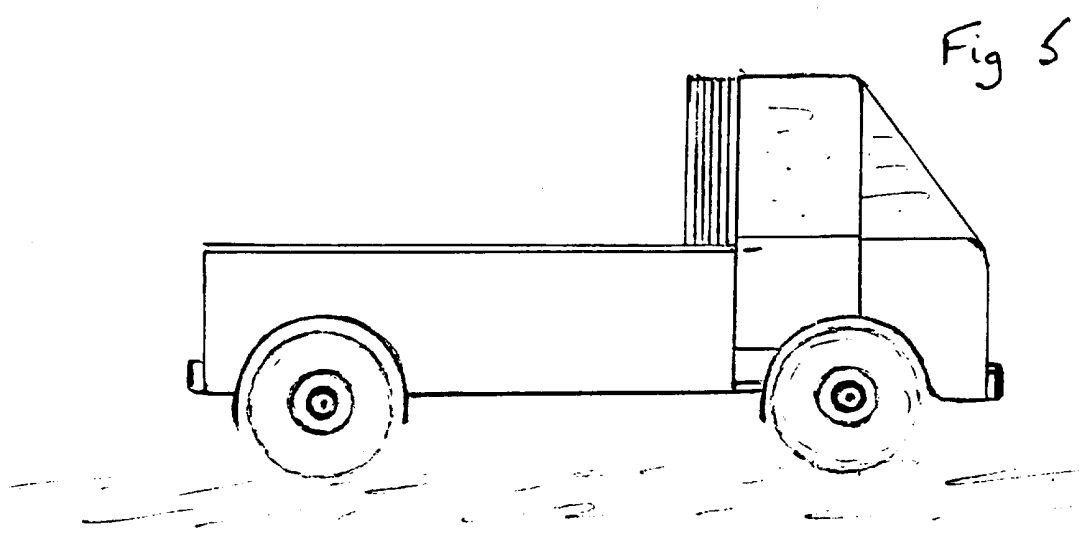
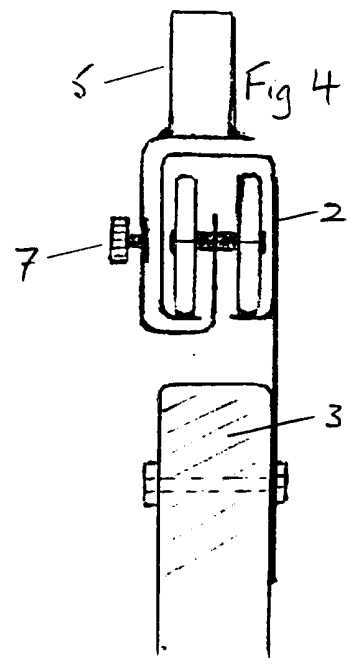
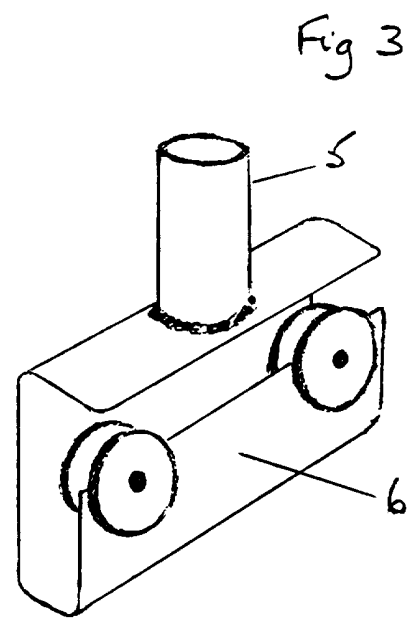
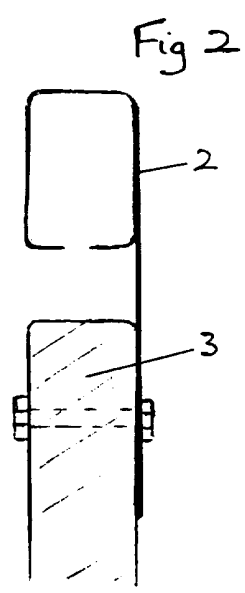
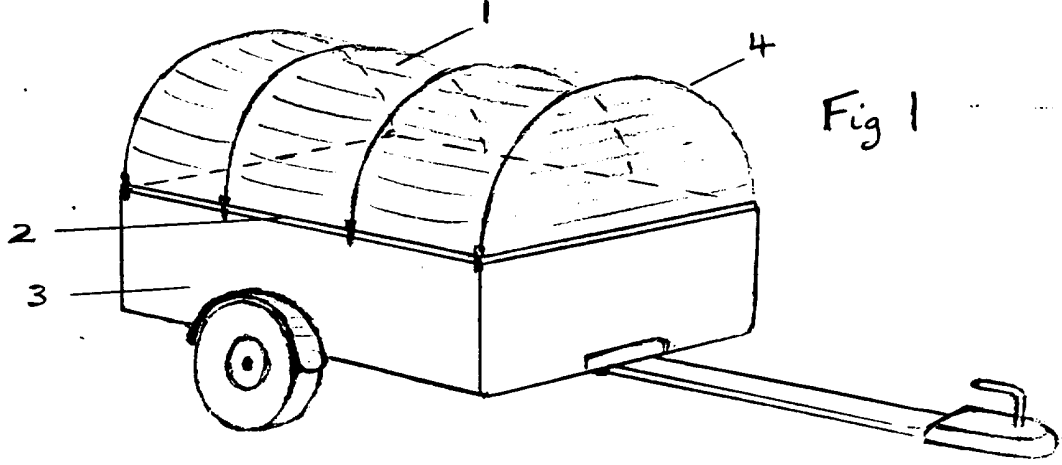
(21) Application No 9616908.1	(51) INT CL ⁶ B60J 7/06 // B60P 7/02
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(71) Applicant(s) Terence Edwin O'Toole 7a Compton Green, Keynsham, BRISTOL, BS18 1AZ, United Kingdom	(56) Documents Cited GB 2248047 A GB 2145681 A GB 2088790 A US 5338084 A US 5005896 A US 4711484 A
(72) Inventor(s) Terence Edwin O'Toole	(58) Field of Search UK CL (Edition O) B7B BAC BAM INT CL ⁶ B60J 7/02 7/06 , B60P 7/00 7/02 7/04 , B62D 33/04
(74) Agent and/or Address for Service G J N Smith 9 Fromeside Park, Frenchay, BRISTOL, BS16 2QL, United Kingdom	

(54) Roller cover system for trucks or trailers

(57) A roller cover system comprises a cover 1, support frames 4 and fixed mounting tracks 2 on the side panels 3 of a vehicle along which the support frames can roll by means of wheel assemblies (6 figure 3) within the tracks. The mounting tracks are designed to avoid the ingress of water and foreign matter, eg by having their apertures facing downwards. Clamps 7 may be provided on the wheel assemblies to secure the cover in position. Means may be provided to secure the end of the cover to the back panel of a truck or trailer in its operative position.



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ROLLER COVER SYSTEM FOR TRUCKS AND TRAILERS

This invention relates to a rapid deployment cover system suitable for fitment to open trucks and trailers.

Standard cover systems for open trucks and trailers require the fixing of material to attachment points by cords, turnbuckles, etc. They often take considerable time to deploy and, of necessity, the cover material must be stored when not in use and can be liable to loss, damage or theft. This invention removes these constraints and enables rapid and simple deployment to be carried out.

The present invention provides a roller cover system for open trucks and trailers comprising a fixed mounting track designed to prevent ingress of water and foreign bodies together with means for attaching the cover plus support frames in a manner which also enables the cover to be rolled along the track and fixed at any position when required.

A specific application of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the following drawings:-

Figure 1 shows an overall view of a typical trailer with the cover assembly in place.

Figure 2 shows a cross-section of the fixed mounting track.

Figure 3 shows a close-up of one wheel assembly.

Figure 4 shows the fixed mounting track enclosing a wheel assembly.

Figure 5 shows the cover rolled forward in the open position.

Referring to the drawing a typical installation on a trailer is shown in Fig 1 with the cover 1 rolled back into the operating position along the mounting track 2. The side panels of the truck or trailer 3 support the mounting track 2 as shown in Fig 2. The mounting track 2 is designed to be fixed with the operating aperture facing downwards to prevent ingress of water or foreign bodies which could interfere with free running of the wheel assemblies. The cover is supported by frames 4 which fit over the tubes 5 on the wheel assemblies 6 shown in Fig 3. The cover can be fastened and locked in the operating position with an attachment from the end cover to the back panel of the truck or trailer. The cover can also be fastened in any intermediate position by screw clamps 7.

Any number of pairs of wheel assemblies can be used as required for the length of the truck or trailer and the weight of the cover. Each wheel assembly is designed to wrap around and roll within the mounting track. A wheel assembly positioned in the mounting track is shown in Fig 4.

The system is illustrated on a truck in Fig 5 with the cover rolled forward into the open position.

CLAIMS

- 1.** A roller cover system for open trucks and trailers comprising a fixed mounting track designed to prevent accumulation of water and foreign bodies together with means for attaching the cover plus support frames in a manner which also enables the cover to be rolled along the track and fixed at any position when required.
- 2.** A roller cover system as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the cover frames are supported by wheel assemblies mounted in the fixed mounting track.
- 3.** A roller cover system as claimed in Claim 2 wherein each wheel assembly is provided with a screw clamp.
- 4.** A roller cover system substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1-5 of the accompanying drawing.



Application No: GB 9616908.1
Claims searched: 1 to 4

Examiner: Karl Whitfield
Date of search: 6 March 1997

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.O): B7B (BAC, BAM)

Int Cl (Ed.6): B60J 7/02, 7/06, B60P 7/00, 7/02, 7/04, B62D 33/04

Other:

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2248047 A (DAVIS) see especially figure 3	1 & 2
X	GB 2145681 A (O'BRIEN) see especially figures 3, 4, 6 & 7	1 & 2
X	GB 2088790 A (WOOD) see especially figure 3	1 & 2
X	US 5338084 (WARDELL) see especially figure 2	1 & 2
X	US 5005896 (LI) see especially figure 1	1-3
X	US 4711484 (TUERK) see especially figure 6	1 & 2

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.