

AO 120 (Rev. 08/10)

TO: Mail Stop 8 Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	REPORT ON THE FILING OR DETERMINATION OF AN ACTION REGARDING A PATENT OR TRADEMARK
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In Compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 290 and/or 15 U.S.C. § 1116 you are hereby advised that a court action has been filed in the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division on the following

☐ Trademarks or ☒ Patents. (☐ the patent action involves 35 U.S.C. § 292.);

DOCKET NO. 4:22-cv-00975	DATE FILED 11/17/2022	U.S. DISTRICT COURT Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division
PLAINTIFF Board & Batten International Inc.		DEFENDANT Skywalker Holdings, LLC DBA Skywalker Trampolines
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK
1 7,854,687	12/21/2010	Board & Batten International Inc.
2		
3		
4		
5		

In the above—entitled case, the following patent(s)/ trademark(s) have been included:

DATE INCLUDED	INCLUDED BY	
	☐ Amendment ☐ Answer ☐ Cross Bill ☐ Other Pleading	
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

In the above—entitled case, the following decision has been rendered or judgement issued:

DECISION/JUDGEMENT		
CLERK	(BY) DEPUTY CLERK	DATE

Copy 1—Upon initiation of action, mail this copy to Director Copy 3—Upon termination of action, mail this copy to Director
 Copy 2—Upon filing document adding patent(s), mail this copy to Director Copy 4—Case file copy

PATENT ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET

Electronic Version v1.1
 Stylesheet Version v1.2

EPAS ID: PAT7673294

SUBMISSION TYPE:	CORRECTIVE ASSIGNMENT	
NATURE OF CONVEYANCE:	Corrective Assignment to correct the RECEIVING PARTY NAME previously recorded on Reel 019456 Frame 0049. Assignor(s) hereby confirms the ASSIGNMENT.	
RESUBMIT DOCUMENT ID:	507515619	
CONVEYING PARTY DATA		
Name		Execution Date
KEITH VIVIAN ALEXANDER		09/28/2022
RECEIVING PARTY DATA		
Name:	BOARD & BATTEN INTERNATIONAL INC.	
Street Address:	NORTH CHURCH STREET	
Internal Address:	C/ INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES LTD, HARBOUR CENTRE 4TH FLOOR	
City:	GEORGETOWN	
State/Country:	CAYMAN ISLANDS	
PROPERTY NUMBERS Total: 1		
Property Type	Number	
Patent Number:	7854687	
CORRESPONDENCE DATA		
Fax Number:	(972)378-9115	
<i>Correspondence will be sent to the e-mail address first; if that is unsuccessful, it will be sent using a fax number, if provided; if that is unsuccessful, it will be sent via US Mail.</i>		
Phone:	972-378-9111	
Email:	patent@fbfk.law	
Correspondent Name:	KELLY KUBASTA	
Address Line 1:	2500 DALLAS PARKWAY SUITE 600	
Address Line 2:	SUITE 600	
Address Line 4:	PLANO, TEXAS 75093	
ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER:	12126.001	
NAME OF SUBMITTER:	KUBASTA, KELLY	
SIGNATURE:	/Kelly Kubasta/	
DATE SIGNED:	12/02/2022	
This document serves as an Oath/Declaration (37 CFR 1.63).		
Total Attachments: 4		

source=2007 06 20 Cover Sheet of Assignment#page1.tif
source=B&B Corrective Patent Assignment Agreement signed 28.9.22#page1.tif
source=B&B Corrective Patent Assignment Agreement signed 28.9.22#page2.tif
source=B&B Corrective Patent Assignment Agreement signed 28.9.22#page3.tif

PATENT ASSIGNMENT

Electronic Version v1.1
 Stylesheet Version v1.1

SUBMISSION TYPE:	NEW ASSIGNMENT
NATURE OF CONVEYANCE:	ASSIGNMENT
CONVEYING PARTY DATA	
Name	Execution Date
Keith Vivian Alexander	04/12/2007
RECEIVING PARTY DATA	
Name:	BOARD & BATTEN INC.
Street Address:	North Church Street
Internal Address:	c/o International Management Services Ltd., 4th Fl., Harbour Centre
City:	Georgetown
State/Country:	CAYMAN ISLANDS
PROPERTY NUMBERS Total: 1	
Property Type	Number
Application Number:	10582551
CORRESPONDENCE DATA	
Fax Number:	(215)563-4044
<i>Correspondence will be sent via US Mail when the fax attempt is unsuccessful.</i>	
Phone:	215-563-4100
Email:	vpace@ddhs.com
Correspondent Name:	Vincent T. Pace
Address Line 1:	1601 Market Street
Address Line 2:	Suite 2400
Address Line 4:	Philadelphia, PENNSYLVANIA 19103-2307
ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER:	0074-543464
NAME OF SUBMITTER:	Vincent T. Pace
Total Attachments: 1 source=10582551Assignment#page1.tif	

CH \$40.00 10582551

500299726

PATENT

REEL: 019456 FRAME: 0049

Board & Batten Int'l - EX2006, Page 4
 Skywalker Holdings v. Board & Batten Int'l
 Case No. IPR2023-00350

CORRECTIVE PATENT ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT

This Corrective Patent Assignment Agreement (the "Corrective Assignment") is made by and between Keith Vivian Alexander, a New Zealand citizen of 65 Middleton Road, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch, New Zealand ("Alexander" or "Assignor") and Board & Batten International Inc., a Cayman Island exempted company with a principal location at c/ International Management Services Ltd, Harbour Centre 4th Floor, North Church Street, Georgetown, Cayman Islands ("BBI" or "Assignee").

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Alexander is a named inventor of U.S. Patent App. Ser. No. 10/582,551 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,854,687) for "Trampoline and Enclosure System" ("the '551 Application"), filed June 20, 2007 and issued December 21, 2010; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2007, at Reel/Frame 019456/0049, an assignment was recorded which assigned the '551 Application from Alexander to a receiving party referred to as Board & Batten Inc. (the "Original Assignment") – more specifically, the Original Assignment assigned International Application No. PCT/NZ2004/000318, which designates the United States of America and is the parent of the '551 Application; and

WHEREAS, the Original Assignment contained an unintentional typo in that the receiving party should have been identified as Board & Batten International Inc. rather than Board & Batten Inc. – i.e., the only error in the assignment was omission of the word "International" from intended receiving party Board & Batten International Inc. – with all other information accurate and complete; and

WHEREAS, this Corrective Assignment is intended to be recorded with the Assignment Branch of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office so that the public record will reflect that Board & Batten International Inc. has in fact been the owner of the '551 Application since execution of the Original Assignment on April 12, 2007 (the "Effective Date"); and

WHEREAS, this Assignment confirms that as of the Effective Date Assignor assigned and Assignee acquired all of Assignor's right, title, and interest in and to U.S. Patent App. Ser. No. 10/582,551 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,854,687) for "Trampoline and Enclosure System," and the right to recover damages and profits for past infringement thereof, and that Assignor and Assignee have acted in accordance therewith since the Effective Date; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of these premises, the ongoing burden of maintaining various registrations and enforcement of the '551 Application, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. Assignor hereby confirms that, as of the Effective Date, Assignor assigned to Assignee its entire right, title, and interest in and to the '551 Application, including the rights to all divisionals, continuations, continuations-in-part, renewals, reissues, or substitute applications, and also including all priority rights for patent applications foreign to the United States of America. Assignor further confirms that, as of the Effective Date, Assignor transferred and conveyed to Assignee the right to recover for any past, present, and future infringement of the '551 Application assigned herein. To the extent necessary, Assignor hereby re-affirms such assignment, transfer, and conveyance of all such rights, title, and interest.

2. Assignor hereby authorizes and requests the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks to transfer the '551 Application to Assignee.

3. Assignor agrees to execute all papers and to perform such other proper acts as Assignee may deem necessary to secure for Assignee or its designee the rights herein assigned, as necessary to perfect such rights, title, and interests in Assignee, its successors, assigns, and legal representatives.

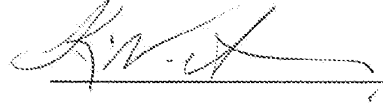
4. The parties may execute multiple counterparts of this Corrective Assignment and each is intended to be considered as an original. The parties may substitute telecopied signature pages for original signatures.

5. This Corrective Assignment shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the United States of America.

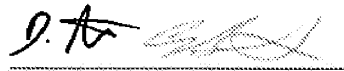
[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on
28/9/22

ASSIGNOR: KEITH VIVIAN ALEXANDER



ASSIGNEE: BOARD & BATTEN INTERNATIONAL INC.



By: N.D. Nominees Ltd

Its: Director

PATENT ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET

Electronic Version v1.1
 Stylesheet Version v1.2

EPAS ID: PAT7562513

SUBMISSION TYPE:	CORRECTIVE ASSIGNMENT	
NATURE OF CONVEYANCE:	Corrective Assignment to correct the ASSIGNEE NAME FROM THE ERRONEOUS BOARD & BATTEN INC. TO THE CORRECT BOARD & BATTEN INTERNATIONAL INC. previously recorded on Reel 019456 Frame 0049. Assignor(s) hereby confirms the ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNORS INTEREST.	
CONVEYING PARTY DATA		
Name		Execution Date
KEITH VIVIAN ALEXANDER		09/28/2022
RECEIVING PARTY DATA		
Name:	BOARD & BATTEN INTERNATIONAL INC.	
Street Address:	NORTH CHURCH STREET	
Internal Address:	C/ INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES LTD, HARBOUR CENTRE 4TH FLOOR	
City:	GEORGETOWN	
State/Country:	CAYMAN ISLANDS	
PROPERTY NUMBERS Total: 1		
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Fax Number:	(972)378-9115	
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Phone:	972-378-9111	
Email:	patent@fbfk.law	
Correspondent Name:	KELLY KUBASTA	
Address Line 1:	2500 DALLAS PARKWAY SUITE 600	
Address Line 2:	SUITE 600	
Address Line 4:	PLANO, TEXAS 75093	
ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER:	12126.001	
NAME OF SUBMITTER:	KUBASTA, KELLY	
SIGNATURE:	/Kelly Kubasta/	
DATE SIGNED:	09/28/2022	
This document serves as an Oath/Declaration (37 CFR 1.63).		
Total Attachments: 3		

source=B&B Corrective Patent Assignment Agreement signed 28.9.22#page1.tif
source=B&B Corrective Patent Assignment Agreement signed 28.9.22#page2.tif
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WHEREAS, Alexander is a named inventor of U.S. Patent App. Ser. No. 10/582,551 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,854,687) for "Trampoline and Enclosure System" ("the '551 Application"), filed June 20, 2007 and issued December 21, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, the Original Assignment contained an unintentional typo in that the receiving party should have been identified as Board & Batten International Inc. rather than Board & Batten Inc. – i.e., the only error in the assignment was omission of the word "International" from intended receiving party Board & Batten International Inc. – with all other information accurate and complete; and

WHEREAS, this Corrective Assignment is intended to be recorded with the Assignment Branch of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office so that the public record will reflect that Board & Batten International Inc. has in fact been the owner of the '551 Application since execution of the Original Assignment on April 12, 2007 (the "Effective Date"); and

WHEREAS, this Assignment confirms that as of the Effective Date Assignor assigned and Assignee acquired all of Assignor's right, title, and interest in and to U.S. Patent App. Ser. No. 10/582,551 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,854,687) for "Trampoline and Enclosure System," and the right to recover damages and profits for past infringement thereof, and that Assignor and Assignee have acted in accordance therewith since the Effective Date; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of these premises, the ongoing burden of maintaining various registrations and enforcement of the '551 Application, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. Assignor hereby confirms that, as of the Effective Date, Assignor assigned to Assignee its entire right, title, and interest in and to the '551 Application, including the rights to all divisionals, continuations, continuations-in-part, renewals, reissues, or substitute applications, and also including all priority rights for patent applications foreign to the United States of America. Assignor further confirms that, as of the Effective Date, Assignor transferred and conveyed to Assignee the right to recover for any past, present, and future infringement of the '551 Application assigned herein. To the extent necessary, Assignor hereby re-affirms such assignment, transfer, and conveyance of all such rights, title, and interest.

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3. Assignor agrees to execute all papers and to perform such other proper acts as Assignee may deem necessary to secure for Assignee or its designee the rights herein assigned, as necessary to perfect such rights, title, and interests in Assignee, its successors, assigns, and legal representatives.

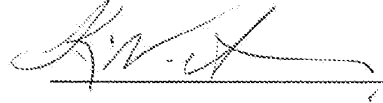
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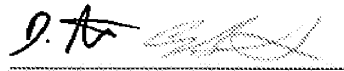
[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on
28/9/22

ASSIGNOR: KEITH VIVIAN ALEXANDER



ASSIGNEE: BOARD & BATTEN INTERNATIONAL INC.



By: N.D. Nominees Ltd

Its: Director



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,551	12/21/2010	7854687	0074-543464	4738

110 7590 12/01/2010
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
1601 MARKET STREET
SUITE 2400
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 605 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site <http://pair.uspto.gov> for additional applicants):

Keith Vivian Alexander, Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND;

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or **Fax** (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

110 7590 10/13/2010

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
1601 MARKET STREET
SUITE 2400
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,551	06/20/2007	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074-543464	4738

TITLE OF INVENTION: TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$300	\$0	\$1055	01/13/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
DONNELLY, JEROME W	3764	482-027000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☒ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

Dann, Dorfman, Herrell
1 and Skillman, P.C.

2

3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

BOARD & BATTEN INC.

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Georgetown, CAYMAN ISLANDS

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

☒ Issue Fee

☒ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

☒ Advance Order - # of Copies 3

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

☐ A check is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 04-1406 (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature

Vincent T. Pace

Date 11 November 2010

Typed or printed name Vincent T. Pace

Registration No. 31,049

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

DANN DORFMAN HERRELL AND SKILLMAN

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

HENRY H. SKILLMAN
ROGER W. HERRELL
PATRICK J. HAGAN
DONALD R. PIPER, JR.
VINCENT T. PACE
STEPHEN H. ELAND
KATHLEEN D. RIGAUT, PH.D.
NIELS HAUN, PH.D.
CLEMENT A. BERARD ‡
ROBERT C. NETTER, JR., PH.D.
LYNN C. F. FOTE
ROBIN S. QUARTIN, PH.D.

OF COUNSEL
JOHN C. DORFMAN

PATENT AGENT
THOMAS H. WALLS, PH.D.

TECHNICAL ADVISOR
CHRISTOPHER NIES

SUITE 2400
1601 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

TELEPHONE (215) 563-4100
FACSIMILE (215) 563-4044

WRITER'S E-MAIL
VPACE@DDHS.COM

November 11, 2010

COUNSELORS AT LAW
ESTABLISHED 1973

PATENT, TRADEMARK
AND COPYRIGHT LAW
AND RELATED CAUSES

PROSECUTION
LICENSING
LITIGATION
DISPUTE RESOLUTION

C. MARSHALL DANN (1977-2002)

‡ NJ & NY BARS ONLY

In re the Application of : **Docket No. 0074-543464**
:
Keith Vivian Alexander : **BOX ISSUE FEE**
:
Application No. 10/582,551 : **Allowed 10/13/2010**
:
Filed: 06/20/2007 : **Confirmation No. 4738**
:
For: **Trampoline and Enclosure System** :

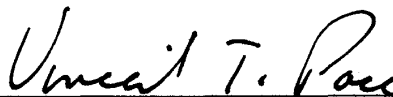
TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

NOTIFICATION OF FEE ADDRESS

Please enter "Payor Number" No. 000110 in the Office records to identify the "Fee Address" to be used in connection with this case for all future maintenance fee payments and related correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation



Vincent T. Pace
PTO Registration No. 31,049

VTP:fw

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

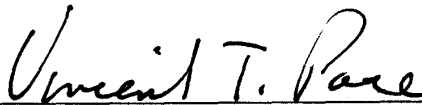
In re the Application of	:	Docket No. 0074-543464
Keith Vivian Alexander	:	BOX ISSUE FEE
Application No. 10/582,551	:	Allowed 10/13/2010
Filed: 06/20/2007	:	Confirmation No. 4738
For: Trampoline and Enclosure System	:	

COMMUNICATION

In the Notice of Allowability mailed on October 13, 2010 (Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20100922) the examiner indicated that the notice is responsive to the "Amendment dated 9-21-2010." The applicant notes for the record that no amendment was submitted on September 21, 2010. The last amendment by the applicant in this case was submitted on June 24, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation



Vincent T. Pace
PTO Registration No. 31,049

VTP:fw

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		10582551		
Filing Date:		20-Jun-2007		
Title of Invention:		TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Keith Vivian Alexander		
Filer:		Vincent T. Pace/Frances Walton		
Attorney Docket Number:		0074-543464		
Filed as Small Entity				
U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371 Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Utility Appl issue fee	2501	1	755	755
Publ. Fee- early, voluntary, or normal	1504	1	300	300

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Printed copy of patent - no color	8001	3	3	9
Total in USD (\$)				1064

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	8818221
Application Number:	10582551
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4738
Title of Invention:	TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Keith Vivian Alexander
Customer Number:	00110
Filer:	Vincent T. Pace/Frances Walton
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent T. Pace
Attorney Docket Number:	0074-543464
Receipt Date:	11-NOV-2010
Filing Date:	20-JUN-2007
Time Stamp:	14:57:32
Application Type:	U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$1064
RAM confirmation Number	11858
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The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.492 (National application filing, search, and examination fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)	

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)					
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Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)					
File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	10582551PTOL85.pdf	104674 84660d86b70e4a242d109eb29bb8e5afd96573bf	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Post Allowance Communication - Incoming	10582551FeeAddress.pdf	33218 ba4c89306b0e24c9cd7011175725184320691540	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Post Allowance Communication - Incoming	10582551Communication.pdf	24094 e4b57761d2be5b2410693035c79d919c934db020	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	33761 ee8b77f5821218ed59f5bd59f65a7d86ea0696ec	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			195747		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					



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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

110 7590 10/13/2010

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
1601 MARKET STREET
SUITE 2400
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

EXAMINER

DONNELLY, JEROME W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3764

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,551	06/20/2007	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074-543464	4738

TITLE OF INVENTION: TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$300	\$0	\$1055	01/13/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

110 7590 10/13/2010

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,551	06/20/2007	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074-543464	4738

TITLE OF INVENTION: TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$300	\$0	\$1055	01/13/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
DONNELLY, JEROME W	3764	482-027000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,551	06/20/2007	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074-543464	4738
110	7590	10/13/2010	EXAMINER	
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN 1601 MARKET STREET SUITE 2400 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307			DONNELLY, JEROME W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3764	
DATE MAILED: 10/13/2010				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 134 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 134 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/582,551	ALEXANDER, KEITH VIVIAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JEROME W. DONNELLY	3764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment dated 9-21-2010

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-12 and 17-20

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

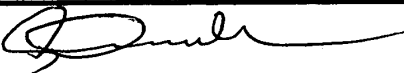
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination	
	10/582,551	ALEXANDER, KEITH VIVIAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JEROME W. DONNELLY	3764	

ISSUE CLASSIFICATION									
ORIGINAL		CLASS	CROSS REFERENCE(S)						
CLASS	SUBCLASS		SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)						
482	27	482	28						
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION									
A	63 B	21100							
		/							
		/							
		/							
		/							
(Assistant Examiner) (Date)		 JEROME DONNELLY 9-21-2010 PRIMARY EXAMINER 2010 (Priamry Examiner) (Date)			Total Claims Allowed: 8				
(Legal Instruments Examiner) (Date)					O.G. Print Claim(s) 1		O.G. Print Fig. 8		

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant				☐ CPA				☐ T.D.				☐ R.1.47			
Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original		
	1		31		61		91		121		151		181		
	2		32		62		92		122		152		182		
	3		33		63		93		123		153		183		
	4		34		64		94		124		154		184		
	5		35		65		95		125		155		185		
	6		36		66		96		126		156		186		
	7		37		67		97		127		157		187		
	8		38		68		98		128		158		188		
3	9		39		69		99		129		159		189		
4	10		40		70		100		130		160		190		
1	11		41		71		101		131		161		191		
2	12		42		72		102		132		162		192		
	13		43		73		103		133		163		193		
	14		44		74		104		134		164		194		
	15		45		75		105		135		165		195		
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5	17		47		77		107		137		167		197		
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	28		58		88		118		148		178		208		
	29		59		89		119		149		179		209		
	30		60		90		120		150		180		210		

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Part of Paper No. 20100922

Jerome W. Donnelly

3764

INTERFERENCE SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
482	27	9-21-2010	h
	28		

[illegible]



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BIB DATA SHEET

CONFIRMATION NO. 4738

SERIAL NUMBER 10/582,551	FILING or 371(c) DATE 06/20/2007 RULE	CLASS 482	GROUP ART UNIT 3764	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0074-543464		
APPLICANTS Keith Vivian Alexander, Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND; ** CONTINUING DATA ***** This application is a 371 of PCT/NZ04/00318 12/09/2004 ** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ***** NEW ZEALAND 530271 12/19/2003 ** IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** ** SMALL ENTITY ** 07/21/2008						
Foreign Priority claimed ☒ Yes ☐ No 35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met ☒ Yes ☐ No Verified and /JEROME W DONNELLY/ Acknowledged Examiner's Signature		☐ Met after Allowance Initials	STATE OR COUNTRY NEW ZEALAND	SHEETS DRAWINGS 5	TOTAL CLAIMS 12	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3
ADDRESS DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN 1601 MARKET STREET SUITE 2400 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307 UNITED STATES						
TITLE Trampoline and Enclosure System						
FILING FEE RECEIVED 949	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:		☐ All Fees ☐ 1.16 Fees (Filing) ☐ 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) ☐ 1.18 Fees (Issue) ☐ Other _____ ☐ Credit			

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	37	Trampoline and enclosure and upper and mat	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	AND	ON	2010/09/22 09:25

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of	:	Docket 0074-543464
	:	
Keith Vivian Alexander	:	Confirmation No. 4738
	:	
Application No. 10/582,551	:	
	:	
Filed: 06/20/2007	:	
	:	
For: Trampoline and Enclosure System	:	

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL ACTION

In response to the Official Action mailed on December 28, 2009, the Applicant submits the following.

Amendments to the **Claims** begin at **page 2**.

Responsive **Remarks** begin at **page 5**.

Application of Keith Vivian Alexander
Application No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

Amendments to the Claims

1.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and

an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline so that in their natural rest state ~~(when connected only at the lower ends to the frame of the trampoline)~~ the enclosure support members extend away from the mat, and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support member to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state ~~(when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline)~~ and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

10. (Currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 10 ~~9~~,

Application of Keith Vivian Alexander
Application No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

11. (Currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and

an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state ~~(when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline)~~ and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support members on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

12. (Original) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 11, wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

Application of Keith Vivian Alexander
Application No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

13.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim ~~13~~ 11 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

18. (Currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim ~~13~~ 11 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by a flexible connecting element

19. (Previously presented) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 18 wherein said flexible connecting element is fixed to or integral with the barrier at or towards an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

20. (Currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim ~~13~~ 11 wherein the enclosure support members are connected to the frame of the trampoline below the surface of the mat.

21.-24. (Cancelled)

Application of Keith Vivian Alexander
Application No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

REMARKS

No new matter has been introduced into this application by reason of the amendments presented hereinabove. It is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments to the Claims be entered prior to the next examination of this application.

35 USC 102(b): Claims 1-3, 5-8, 13-15, 17-21, and 23

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-8, 13-15, 17-21, and 23 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,053,845 (Publicover). Claims 1-3, 5-8, 13-15, 21, and 23 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection is moot as to those claims. Claims 17-20 now depend from Claim 11 which was indicated to be allowable. As dependent claims, Claims 17-20 include all of the features of Claim 11, therefore those claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 11.

35 USC 112, First Paragraph: Claims 1-12, 23, and 24

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-12, 23, and 24 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. In making the rejection the Examiner asserted that the expressions in parentheses in Claims 1, 9, 11, and 23 do not have written support in the specification. Claims 9 and 11 have been amended to delete the expressions in parentheses. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 9 and 11 are in condition for allowance. The rejection is moot as to Claims 1 and 23 in view of the cancellation of those claims.

Formal Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objected to the form of Claim 10 because the claim recites an improper

Application of Keith Vivian Alexander
Application No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

dependency. Claim 10 has been amended to refer to Claim 9. Thus, it is believed that Claim 10 is now in proper form.

35 USC 103(a): Claims 4, 10, 16, and 22

The Examiner rejected Claims 4, 10, 16, and 22 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Publicover in combination with US Patent No. 6,319,174 (Alexander). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 4, 16, and 22.

In so far as the rejection is applied to Claim 10, it is not understood. Claim 10 depends from Claim 9. Even though Claim 10 as previously presented referred to Claim 10, the Examiner stated that Claim 10 was examined as if it depends from Claim 9. However, Claim 9 was indicated as being allowable over the references of record in this application. Since Claim 10 depends from Claim 9, Claim 10 necessarily includes all of the features of Claim 9. Therefore, Claim 10 is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 9.

Additional Remarks

In the Official Action the Examiner indicated that Claim 9 was objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim. For the record, the Applicant notes that Claim 9 is and has been an independent claim in this application. A true and correct copy of the USPTO Claims Worksheet (Form PTO-2022) for this application is attached. The worksheet confirms that Claim 9 was filed as an independent claim. None of the amendments filed in this application changed Claim 9 to a dependent claim. Accordingly, the Applicant interprets the Examiner's statement as an indication that Claim 9 is allowable over the prior art of record subject to resolution of the rejection under Section 112.

Application of Keith Vivian Alexander
Application No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of the application in the light of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation
Attorneys for Applicant

By Vincent T. Pace
VINCENT T. PACE
PTO Registration No. 31,049

Tel.: 215-563-4100
Fax: 215-563-4044
e-mail: vp@ddhs.com

Attachment: Claims worksheet (PTO-2022)

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM FEE CALCULATION SHEET (FOR USE WITH FORM PTO-875)						SERIAL NO. 10/582551		FILING DATE					
						APPLICANT(S)							
CLAIMS													
	AS FILED		AFTER 1 st AMENDMENT		AFTER 2 nd AMENDMENT			AS FILED		AFTER 1 st AMENDMENT		AFTER 2 nd AMENDMENT	
	IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.		IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.
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TOTAL DEP.	10	←	9	←		←				←		←	
TOTAL CLAIMS	13		12										

PTO-1360 (REV. 11/80)

U.S. DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		10582551		
Filing Date:		20-Jun-2007		
Title of Invention:		Trampoline and Enclosure System		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Keith Vivian Alexander		
Filer:		Vincent T. Pace/Frances Walton		
Attorney Docket Number:		0074-543464		
Filed as Small Entity				
U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371 Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with \$0 paid	2253	1	555	555

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				555

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	7886293
Application Number:	10582551
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4738
Title of Invention:	Trampoline and Enclosure System
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Keith Vivian Alexander
Customer Number:	00110
Filer:	Vincent T. Pace/Frances Walton
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent T. Pace
Attorney Docket Number:	0074-543464
Receipt Date:	24-JUN-2010
Filing Date:	20-JUN-2007
Time Stamp:	15:34:00
Application Type:	U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$555
RAM confirmation Number	2854
Deposit Account	041406
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.492 (National application filing, search, and examination fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)	

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)					
Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)					
Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)					
File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		10582551Response.pdf	309929 75f2605e473065ce11709660ccc1c46a1146 bcd8	yes	8
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject		1	1	
	Claims		2	4	
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		5	8	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	29641 d6ab47c0cc8cc3049098197b3f311a1d190 ca081	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			339570		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875					Application or Docket Number 10/582,551		Filing Date 06/20/2007		☐ To be Mailed					
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I														
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY ☒		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY				
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)				
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A					
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (j), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A					
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A					
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X \$	=	X \$	=	X \$	=	X \$	=				
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X \$	=	X \$	=	X \$	=	X \$	=				
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).													
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))														
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.														
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II										TOTAL	TOTAL			
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			(Column 3)			SMALL ENTITY		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT	06/24/2010	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)				
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 8	Minus	** 24	= 0	X \$26 =	0	OR	X \$ =	=				
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 2	Minus	***6	= 0	X \$110 =	0	OR	X \$ =	=				
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))													
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))													
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0	OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE						
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			(Column 3)			SMALL ENTITY		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)					
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X \$ =	=	OR	X \$ =	=				
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X \$ =	=	OR	X \$ =	=				
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))													
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))													
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE	=	OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE						
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.										Legal Instrument Examiner: /VENESSA JONES/				

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,551	06/20/2007	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074-543464	4738
110 7590 12/28/2009 DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN 1601 MARKET STREET SUITE 2400 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307			EXAMINER DONNELLY, JEROME W	
			ART UNIT 3764	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/28/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/582,551	ALEXANDER, KEITH VIVIAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JEROME W. DONNELLY	3764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application. 1-23

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected. 1-23

7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


JEROME DONNELLY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: ____

In view of applicants remarks dated 6-10-09, the prior art of Culling will not be re-applied in this office action. This office action is non-final. The examiners reply is as follows:

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 11 and 12 are** allowed.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 13-15, 17-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Publicover.

Publicover discloses a trampoline comprising: a flexible mat (40), springs (39), a frame (34) an enclosure (100) having a lower part connected indirectly to the mat, a plurality of support members (84). The support member connected at their lower ends to the frame and at their upper ends to the barrier. The upper ends of the support members connected together by element (108).

Claims 1-12, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application

Art Unit: 3764

was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In the claims "(when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) is considered as indefinite. When exactly is the lower end connected and when is it not?

Currently claim 10, depends from claim 10, claim 10 has been examined as if it depends from claim 9.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 10, 16 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Publicover in view of Alexander.

Cullings discloses his device having rods, Cullings does not disclose his rods as being pultruded.

Alexander discloses his devices including pultruded rods.

Given the above teaching the examiner notes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide pultruded rods as part of the device of Publicover for the purpose of removably positioning the poles of publicover away from a user when exercising and providing an extra degree of resiliency to the poles of Publicover.

Application/Control Number: 10/582,551

Page 4

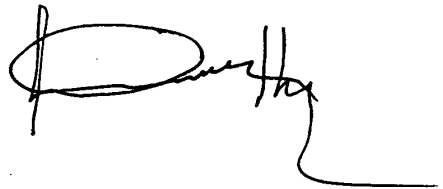
Art Unit: 3764

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jerome Donnelly at telephone number (571)272-4975.

em/ Jerome Donnelly

November 29, 2009

JEROME DONNELLY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerome Donnelly', is written over the printed name and title.

Index of Claims 		Application/Control No. 10/582,551 Examiner JEROME W. DONNELLY		Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination ALEXANDER, KEITH VIVIAN Art Unit 3764	
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✓ Rejected = Allowed	– (Through numeral) Cancelled + Restricted	N Non-Elected I Interference	A Appeal O Objected
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of : **Docket 0074-543464**
:
Keith Vivian Alexander : **Confirmation No. 4738**
:
U.S. Appln. No. 10/582,551 :
:
Intl. Filing Date: 12/09/2004 :
:
For: **A Trampoline and Enclosure System** :

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL ACTION

In response to the Official Action mailed on February 10, 2009, the Applicant submits the following.

Amendments to the **Claims** begin at **page 2**.

Responsive **Remarks** begin at **page 9**.

U.S. Appln. No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

Amendments to the Claims

1. (original) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and at or towards their upper ends to the barrier at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to support the barrier above the mat, and which are free to resiliently deform away from the mat when impacted by a user against the barrier or an enclosure support member, and which are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw and pre-tension the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat.
2. (original) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 1, wherein said barrier comprises a flexible net material.
3. (previously presented) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members hold the barrier in tension.
4. (previously presented) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

U.S. Appl. No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

5. (previously presented) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

6. (previously presented) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by a flexible connecting element.

7. (original) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 6 wherein said flexible connecting element is fixed to or integral with the barrier at or towards an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

8. (previously presented) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members are connected to the frame of the trampoline below the surface of the mat.

9. (original) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of

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Confirmation No. 4738
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the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline so that in their natural rest state (when connected only at the lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) the enclosure support members extend away from the mat, and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support member to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

10. (original) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 10, wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

11. (original) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

 a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and

 an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above

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Confirmation No. 4738
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the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support members on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

12. (original) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 11, wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

13. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

- a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat;

- a barrier of a flexible material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to the mat; and

- a plurality of generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat which are resiliently flexible over at least the major part of the lengths thereof and which are retained at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members and which support the barrier above the mat, which are free to deform away from the mat when impacted by a user against an enclosure support member and/or against said barrier of flexible material, the barrier connecting together the enclosure support members at or towards an upper peripheral edge part of the barrier and at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure members so that at least

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said upper peripheral part of the net is in tension and so that such resilient deformation of one of the enclosure support members away from the mat causes resilient deformation of opposite enclosure support members towards the mat.

14. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 13, wherein said barrier comprises a flexible net material.

15. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 13 wherein the enclosure support members hold the barrier in tension.

16. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 13 wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

17. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 13 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

18. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 13 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by a flexible connecting element

19. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 18 wherein said flexible connecting element is fixed to or integral with the barrier at or towards an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

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20. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 13 wherein the enclosure support members are connected to the frame of the trampoline below the surface of the mat.

21. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat;

a barrier of a flexible material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to the mat; and

a plurality of enclosure support members coupled to the trampoline only by a lower end of each enclosure support member being retained by the base frame of the trampoline, and which extend above the mat to support the barrier above the mat, and which are each resiliently flexible over substantially the entire length thereof and the barrier connecting together the enclosure support members at or towards an upper peripheral edge part of the barrier and at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members so that at least said upper peripheral part of the barrier is in tension and so that such resilient deformation of one of the enclosure support members away from the mat causes resilient deformation of opposite enclosure support members towards the mat.

22. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 21, wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

23. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in

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tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat;

a barrier of a flexible material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to the mat; and

a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are retained at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members by the frame of the trampoline and which support the barrier above the mat, which enclosure support members are connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline), and towards the centre of the mat to tension the barrier.

24. (new) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 23, wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

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Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

REMARKS

No new matter has been introduced into this application by reason of the amendments presented hereinabove. It is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments to the Claims be entered prior to the next examination of this application.

35 USC 102(e): Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, and 11

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, and 11 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0270525 (Colling). This rejection is clearly erroneous because Colling is not properly citable against the present application under 35 USC 102(e).

Colling claims the benefit of US Provisional Application No. 61/684,106, filed May 24, 2005. Therefore, the earliest effective U.S. filing date to which Colling may be entitled is May 24, 2005. The present application is the US national stage of International Application No. PCT/NZ2004/000318, which has an international filing date of December 9, 2004. Colling was not filed in the U.S. before the Applicant's international filing date. Consequently, Colling is not available as a reference in a rejection of the claims of the present application under 35 USC 102(e). Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

35 USC 103(a): Claim 8

The Examiner rejected Claim 8 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colling in combination with US Patent No. 6,053,845 (Publicover et al.). This rejection is also clearly erroneous to the extent that it relies on Colling, because Colling is not available as a reference in a rejection of the claims of the present application for the same reasons set forth above. Therefore, the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 USC 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

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Confirmation No. 4738
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35 USC 103(a): Claims 4, 10, and 12

The Examiner rejected Claims 4, 10, and 12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colling in combination with US Patent No. 6,319,174 (Alexander). This rejection is also clearly erroneous to the extent that it relies on Colling, because Colling is not available as a reference in a rejection of the claims of the present application for the same reasons set forth above. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 4, 10, and 12 under 35 USC 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that claims of this application are in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection in the light of the foregoing remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO Registration No. 31,049

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Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		10582551		
Filing Date:		20-Jun-2007		
Title of Invention:		Trampoline and Enclosure System		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Keith Vivian Alexander		
Filer:		Vincent T. Pace/Frances Walton		
Attorney Docket Number:		0074-543464		
Filed as Small Entity				
U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371 Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Claims in excess of 20	2615	4	26	104
Independent claims in excess of 3	2614	3	110	330
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 1 month with \$0 paid	2251	1	65	65
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				499

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	5491253
Application Number:	10582551
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4738
Title of Invention:	Trampoline and Enclosure System
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Keith Vivian Alexander
Customer Number:	00110
Filer:	Vincent T. Pace/Frances Walton
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent T. Pace
Attorney Docket Number:	0074-543464
Receipt Date:	10-JUN-2009
Filing Date:	20-JUN-2007
Time Stamp:	15:45:20
Application Type:	U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$499
RAM confirmation Number	10818
Deposit Account	041406
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.492 (National application filing, search, and examination fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)	

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)					
Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)					
File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		10582551Response.pdf	352599 d9456ff6162fd61e97a719c7492a426032b06119	yes	10
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject		1	1	
	Claims		2	8	
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		9	10	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	33061 e94f979b8ea52110eeabd14aadceca5427db26a0	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			385660		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875					Application or Docket Number 10/582,551		Filing Date 06/20/2007		☐ To be Mailed					
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I														
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY ☒		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY				
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)				
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A					
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (j), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A					
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A					
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X \$	=	OR	X \$	=	X \$	=	X \$				
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X \$	=	OR	X \$	=	X \$	=	X \$				
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).													
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))														
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.														
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II										TOTAL	TOTAL			
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			(Column 3)			SMALL ENTITY		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT	06/10/2009	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)				
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 24	Minus	** 20	= 4	X \$26 =	104	OR	X \$	=				
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 6	Minus	***3	= 3	X \$110 =	330	OR	X \$	=				
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))							OR						
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR						
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE	434	OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE						
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			(Column 3)			SMALL ENTITY		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)					
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X \$	=	OR	X \$	=				
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X \$	=	OR	X \$	=				
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))							OR						
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR						
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE						
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.														

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/DIANA BATES/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,551	06/20/2007	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074-543464	4738
110 7590 02/10/2009 DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN 1601 MARKET STREET SUITE 2400 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307			EXAMINER DONNELLY, JEROME W	
			ART UNIT 3764	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 02/10/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/582,551	ALEXANDER, KEITH VIVIAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jerome W. Donnelly	3764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

JEROME DONNELLY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

JEROME DONNELLY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/30/08 / 6/20/07</u> | 6) ☐ Other: ____ |

Art Unit: 3764

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Colling.

Colling discloses a trampoline and net enclosure, having springs, and a mat supported by the springs, and a frame.

Colling discloses a bottom end of the net connected to the mat and support members as claimed.

Note that the support members, (at least two are connected together at their upper ends by at least one horizontal member).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colling in view of Public over et al.

Colling does not disclose his support members connected to his frame below the surface of his mat, Publicover et al does.

Given the above teaching the examiners not that to fasten pole members of an enclosure system to the frame of a trampoline below a mat surface is known and obvious for the purpose of providing stability to the pole members of Colling.

Art Unit: 3764

Claims 4, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colling in view of Alexander.

Colling discloses his device having rods, Colling does not disclose his rods as being pultruded.

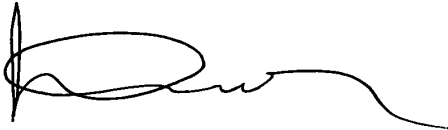
Alexander discloses his device including pultruded rods.

Given the above teaching the examiner notes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide pultruded rods as part of the device of Collings for the purpose of removably positioning the poles of Collings away from a user when exercising and providing an extra degree of resiliency to the poles of Collings.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jerome Donnelly at telephone number (571)272-4975.

Jerome Donnelly

JEROME DONNELLY
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/582,551	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination ALEXANDER, KEITH VIVIAN	
	Examiner Jerome W. Donnelly	Art Unit 3764	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-2006/0270525	11-2006	Colling, Michael J.	482/027
*	B	US-6,319,174	11-2001	Alexander, Keith Vivian	482/27
*	C	US-6,053,845	04-2000	Publicover et al.	482/35
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Doc code :IDS

Doc description: Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

PTO/SB/08a (03-08)

Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0851-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		10582551
	Filing Date		2007-06-20
	First Named Inventor	Keith V. Alexander	
	Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
	Attorney Docket Number		0074-543464

U.S.PATENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code ¹	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
K	1	5941798		1999-08-24	Coan et al	—
K	2	6634978		2003-10-21	Banno et al	—
K	3	6319174		2001-11-20	Alexander	—
K	4	6135922		2000-10-24	Nissen	—
K	5	6053845		2000-04-25	Publicover et al	—
K	6	6261207		2001-07-17	Publicover et al	—
K	7	5399132		1995-03-21	Bailey	—
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		10582551
	Filing Date		2007-06-20
	First Named Inventor	Keith V. Alexander	
	Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
Attorney Docket Number		0074-543484	

Examiner Initial*	Cite No.	Publication Number	Kind Code ¹	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
<i>K</i>	1	20030064861		2003-04-03	Chen	
<i>K</i>	2	20050079954		2005-04-14	Wang et al	

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<i>K</i>	1	03/043704	WO		2003-05-30	Canterprise Limited		☐

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Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	0074-543464

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/582,551
Filing Date	Int'l FD 12/09/2004
First Named Inventor	Keith Vivian Alexander
Art Unit	n/a
Examiner Name	n/a
Attorney Docket Number	0074-543464

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Index of Claims 		Application/Control No. 10/582,551 Examiner Jerome W. Donnelly		Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination ALEXANDER, KEITH VIVIAN Art Unit 3764	
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Claim	Date
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Jerome W. Donnelly

3764

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number	10582551
	Filing Date	2007-06-20
	First Named Inventor	Keith V. Alexander
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	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	0074-543484

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K	1	20030084881		2003-04-03	Chen	
K	2	20050079954		2005-04-14	Wang et al	

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K	1	03/043704	WO		2003-05-30	Canterprise Limited		☐

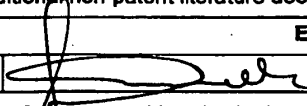
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10/582,551	06/20/2007	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074-543464

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DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
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OC000000032868022

Title:Trampoline and Enclosure System

Publication No.US-2008-0269020-A1

Publication Date:10/30/2008

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In re the Application of : Atty Docket No. 0074-543464
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Keith V. Alexander :
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Application No. 10/582,551 :
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Filing Date: June 20, 2007 :
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For: TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM :

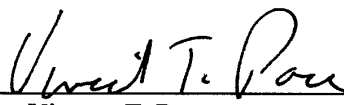
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant hereby submits copies of the documents, other than issued U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications, as identified in the attached Form PTO/SB/08A.

Applicant respectfully requests full and proper consideration of the listed information during examination of the application, and that the listed information be printed on any patent which issues therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation

By 
Vincent T. Pace
PTO Registration No. 31,049

Telephone: (215) 563-4100
Facsimile: (215) 563-4044
Enclosures - Form PTO/SB/08A

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	7	5399132		1995-03-21	Bailey	

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	1	03/043704	WO		2003-05-30	Canterprise Limited		☐

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(74) Agents: **WEST-WALKER, Gregory, J.** et al.; A J Park, 6th Floor Huddart Parker Building, Post Office Square, PO Box 949, 6015 Wellington (NZ).

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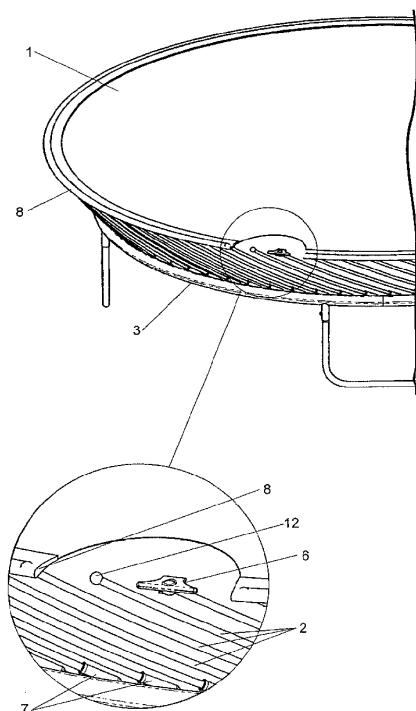
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **ALEXANDER,**

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: EDGE FITTINGS FOR SOFT-EDGED TRAMPOLINES



(57) Abstract: A soft-edged trampoline includes a flexible mat (1) supported from a base frame (3) by a plurality of resiliently flexible rods (2). Each rod (2) has an enlarged upper end (12). A plurality of fittings (6) coupled to the mat (1) about the periphery of the mat each include a socket cavity (10) which receives the enlarged upper end (12) of a flexible rod, so that the upper ends of the flexible rods are pivotally connected to the periphery of the mat.

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ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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EDGE FITTINGS FOR SOFT-EDGED TRAMPOLINES**FIELD OF INVENTION**

- 5 The invention relates to a trampoline for sporting and/or recreational use which is soft-edged relative to conventional trampolines which support the mat of the trampoline via a solid peripheral frame and exposed springs between the frame and the mat.

BACKGROUND

- 10 US patent 6,319,174 discloses a form of soft-edged trampoline in which the mat of the trampoline is supported by a plurality of resiliently flexible rods received in a frame of the trampoline at the lower ends of the rods and coupled to the periphery of the bouncing mat of the trampoline at their upper ends, and which avoids the need for a
- 15 solid frame about the exterior of the bouncing mat and exposed springs between the frame and periphery of the mat.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- 20 The invention provides an improved or at least alternative form of such a soft-edged trampoline.

- In broad terms in one aspect the invention comprises a trampoline including a flexible mat, a plurality of resiliently flexible rods each having a lower end retained in a frame of
- 25 the trampoline and an enlarged upper end, and a plurality of fittings having a greater dimension approximately in the plane of the mat than in a direction through the mat, coupled to the mat about a periphery of the mat and including on or in an underside of each fitting a socket cavity which receives the enlarged upper end of a flexible rod, so that the upper ends of the flexible rods are pivotally connected to the periphery of the
- 30 mat.

Preferably the fittings have an outer edge adjacent an outer edge of the mat, which outer edge of the fittings is wider approximately in the plane of the mat than an inner edge of the fittings. Typically the widest dimension of the fittings approximately in the plane of the mat is at an outer edge of the fittings closest to an outer edge of the mat. In one
5 form the fittings have an approximate truncated triangular shape in plan view.

Preferably the fittings are positioned within a pocket or pockets in or adjacent to the peripheral edge of the mat. A part of the mat defining the pocket or pockets wraps around the outer edge of the fittings.

10

In broad terms in another aspect the invention comprises a trampoline including a flexible mat, a plurality of resiliently flexible rods each having a lower end retained in a frame of the trampoline and an enlarged upper end, and a plurality of fittings coupled to the mat about a periphery of the mat and including on or in an underside of each fitting a
15 socket cavity which receives the enlarged upper end of a flexible rod so that the upper ends of the flexible rods are pivotally connected to the periphery of the mat, and wherein the fittings have a wide outer edge adjacent an outer edge of the mat which engages a pocket or pockets about or in the periphery of the mat.

20 In broad terms in a further aspect the invention comprises a trampoline including a flexible mat, a plurality of fittings coupled to the mat about a periphery of the mat, a plurality of resiliently flexible rods each having a lower end retained in a frame of the trampoline and an upper end connected to a said fitting, and or in an underside of each fitting a socket cavity which receives an enlarged upper end of the flexible rod
25 connected to the fitting or a ball shaped portion which is received by a socket cavity on the end of the rod connected to the fitting, so that the upper ends of the flexible rods are pivotally connected to the periphery of the mat.

In the trampoline of the invention the coupling of the upper ends of the rods to the
30 periphery of the mat via fittings having a cavity on the underside of the fittings and enlarged upper ends of the rods (or vice versa) provides a number of advantages. The

end of the rod is enclosed so that it is much less likely to cause harm to a user falling On
the edge of the trampoline. A more secure coupling between the ends of the rods and
the mat, so that the rods remain more securely attached while the trampoline is in use, is
achieved. And the connection allows easy assembly and disassembly of the rod-spring
5 from the mat edge. Trampolines are generally freighted to the purchaser in dis-
assembled form and it is essential that the purchaser can assemble the trampoline from
the separate components without difficulty.

In this specification (including claims) the term “trampoline” is intended to extend to
10 smaller trampolines commonly referred to as rebounders also, as well as larger
trampolines of all sizes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 Preferred forms of trampoline are described with reference to the accompanying
drawings by way of example and without intending to be limiting, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred form trampoline,

Figure 2 is a side view of the trampoline of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is similar to Figure 1 but of one side of the trampoline only and
20 showing a portion of the edge of the mat of the trampoline cut away, and

Figure 3a is an enlarged view of the cut away edge portion of the trampoline,

Figure 4 shows an individual fitting and rod end separate from the other
components of the trampoline,

Figure 5 shows the fitting and rod end connected together, from below,

25 Figure 6 shows the fitting alone from below,

Figure 7 is an enlarged part cross-sectional view of the end part of a rod and a
rod end,

Figure 8 shows a portion of the periphery of the mat of the trampoline, showing
a single fitting in position within a pocket in the periphery of the mat, and

Figure 9 shows an alternative arrangement where the fittings around the periphery of the trampoline are coupled together by a flexible tongue and recess connection between adjacent fittings.

5 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED FORMS

Referring to Figures 1 to 3, the preferred form trampoline comprises a flexible mat 1 on which users may bounce, a plurality of resiliently flexible rods 2, and a base frame 3. The preferred form trampoline shown is circular in shape but the trampoline could be of
10 any other desired shape such as oval, square, rectangular or similar.

The base frame of the preferred form trampoline comprises a circular beam 4 typically formed of steel or aluminium for example, which may be supported from the ground by
15 legs 5.

The rods 2 are typically fibre glass rods but may alternatively be formed of spring steel for example. The lower ends of the rods are retained by the base frame 3 and the upper ends of the rods connect to fittings 6 as will be further described, which are coupled to the mat 1 about the periphery of the mat. In the preferred form the lower ends of the
20 rods 2 enter into tubular holders 7 fixed to the circular beam as shown, but the lower ends of the rods may be coupled to the circular beam, or a base frame of the trampoline of any other form, in any suitable way.

In the preferred form the mat, which is typically heavy canvas or a woven synthetic
25 material, is doubled back upon itself and fixed by stitching for example about the periphery of the mat to form a continuous pocket 8 extending about the periphery of the mat. A number of the fittings 6 are positioned within this pocket in the peripheral edge of the mat as shown in Figure 3 in particular and also Figure 8. The fittings may be loosely captured within the pocket or alternatively may be stitched to the mat within the
30 edge pocket, or mechanically fastened to the mat via rivets for example.

The rods have enlarged upper ends which connect to the fittings 6. Figures 4 to 8 show a fitting and the connection of a rod end to the fitting in more detail. Preferably the fittings have a generally planar body portion 9, and a socket cavity 10 is defined on or in an underside of the body portion 9 of the fitting. The body 9 of the fitting of the fitting
5 has a greater dimension approximately in the plane of the mat than in a direction through the mat. Typically the fittings will be formed from a plastics material, by injection moulding for example. In the preferred form portion 11 extends downwardly from the underside of the fitting to define the socket cavity 10. The enlarged rod end fits 12 into the socket cavity 10, as shown into Figure 6 in particular. The fitting may
10 optionally include a slight dome 18 on body of the fitting over the socket cavity 10.

Also in the preferred form the fittings have an outer edge 13 which in use is closest to the outer peripheral edge of the mat, which edge 13 is wider in the plane of the mat than an inner edge of the fittings. The particular fitting 6 shown has an approximate
15 truncated triangular shape in plan view, with concave sides, but this is non-limiting and in other forms the fitting could be alternatively shaped.

In the preferred form the part of the mat which is doubled back to define the pocket 8 in the peripheral edge of the mat wraps around the outer edges 13 of the fittings 6, as
20 shown in Figures 3 and 3A so that in use the outer edges of the fittings contact the inside surface of the pocket at its outer edge as shown, which assists in transferring forces between the fitting and the mat or vice versa. This may not be essential however, and in an alternative form individual pockets may be formed adjacent but spaced from the outer most peripheral edge of the mat, and defined by stitching through the mat to form
25 the pockets which each receive and retain a fitting. Alternatively again the fittings may instead of being received in a pocket or pockets in the outer edge of the mat, be stitched directly to the mat adjacent its outer edge, or mechanically fastened to the mat.

In use as the trampoline is bounced on by a user, this will cause pivotal movement between the upper ends 12 of the rods 2 and the fittings 6 coupled to the mat, to a
30 greater or lesser extent depending upon the size and energy of the user. If the user bounces close to a part of the edge of the mat, significant movement of the ball ends 12

of the few rods closest to the point where the user bounces will pivot significantly within the socket cavities 10 in the fittings. A relatively secure and safe coupling of the upper ends of the rods to the mat is provided, without adversely affecting the performance of the trampoline is use. In addition the ends of the flexible rods are enclosed to increase protection to a user falling on the edge of the trampoline. At the same time assembly and disassembly of the trampoline and in particular connection between the individual rods and the mat can be carried out with relative ease. Typically the trampoline will be delivered to a purchaser in disassembled form. The purchaser need only insert the lower ends of the rods into the trampoline base, loosely place the mat over the trampoline base, and then bend each resilient rod as required to engage the ball ends 12 of the rod into the socket cavities of the fittings 6. The rod ends can enter the fittings from the side.

In the preferred form the portion 10 of the fitting on the underside of the body 9 of the fitting which defines the socket cavity includes a part 14 which extends inwardly towards the centre of the trampoline to ensure the fitting slides over the rod below in the event of a heavy bounce on the adjacent trampoline edge. This inward extension prevents the fitting from catching on the rod below and forcing the lower rod loose from its fitting.

Figure 8 shows a preferred connection between a fibreglass rod 2 and a separately formed ball shaped upper end part 12, which is typically injection moulded from a plastics material. An annular groove 15 is formed around the rod end as shown. A cavity is formed in the ball end part 12 which enables the end part 12 to be fitted to the rod end. The ball end part 12 includes an annular protrusion 16, which when the ball part is fitted to the rod end will snap fit into the annular groove 15. Alternatively the plastic ball part 12 may snap fit over an annular protrusion or protrusions around the rod end. Any suitable mechanical arrangement may be employed. Alternatively separately formed ball parts 12 may be bonded to the rod ends. The plastic ball parts 12 may optionally have a flattened end surface 19 which assists in stabilising the ball parts if

they are placed upside down on a surface during insertion of the rods 2 during assembly of a trampoline.

Figure 9 shows an alternative form where the fittings 6 are coupled together. The fittings 6 are generally similar to those described previously but each include an integrally moulded flexible plastic tongue 20 on one side and corresponding recess on the other side, so that the flexible tongue 20 of one fitting engages into the recess 21 in the adjacent fitting in the assembled trampoline. The depth of the recess 21 is sufficient to allow movement of the tongue into and from the recess as a user bounces on the trampoline and during use the tongue 20 will flex, particularly when a user bounces near the edge of the trampoline. In a yet further alternative form, the adjacent fittings 6 may slidably overlap with one another.

In the preferred forms described above a ball shaped end part on the rods 2 is received in a socket cavity of the fittings 6. In an alternative form the upper end of each rod may provide a socket cavity in which is received a ball shaped portion moulded on the underside of the fittings 6. The socket cavity on the upper end of the rod may be defined by an injection moulded plastic part fitted to the end of the rod.

The foregoing describes the invention including preferred forms thereof. Alterations and modifications as will be obvious to those skilled in the art are intended to be incorporated within the scope hereof as defined in the accompanying claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A trampoline including
a flexible mat
5 a plurality of resiliently flexible rods each having a lower end retained in a frame of the trampoline and an enlarged upper end, and
plurality of fittings having a greater dimension approximately in the plane of the mat than in a direction through the mat, coupled to the mat about a periphery of the mat and including on or in an underside of each fitting a socket cavity which receives
10 the enlarged upper end of a flexible rod, so that the upper ends of the flexible rods are pivotally connected to the periphery of the mat.
2. A trampoline according to claim 1 wherein the fittings have an outer edge adjacent an outer edge of the mat, which outer edge of the fittings is wider
15 approximately in the plane of the mat than an inner edge of the fittings.
3. A trampoline according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the widest dimension of the fittings approximately in the plane of the mat is at an outer edge of the fittings closest to an outer edge of the mat.
20
4. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the fittings have an approximate truncated triangular shape in plan view.
5. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the fittings are
25 positioned within a pocket or pockets in or adjacent the peripheral edge of the mat.
6. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein a part of the mat defining the pocket or pockets wraps around the outer edge of the fittings.
- 30 7. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the fittings are stitched to the mat or otherwise mechanically fastened to the mat.

8. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein a part of the each fitting which defines the socket cavity in or on the underside of the fitting, which receives the enlarged upper end of a flexible rod, depends downwardly from the underside of the fitting.

5

9. A trampoline according to claim 8 wherein the part of the fitting which depends downwardly from the underside of the fitting to define the socket cavity includes a portion which extends towards the centre of the trampoline and shaped to further assist in preventing the enlarged end of a rod from dislodging from the fitting during use of the trampoline.

10

10. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the fittings are one piece fittings formed from a plastics material.

15

11. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the fittings slidingly overlap with adjacent fittings or are slidingly or flexibly coupled to adjacent fittings.

12. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the enlarged upper ends of the rods are approximately ball shaped.

20

13. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the enlarged upper ends of the rods are separately formed from the rods and are fitted to the upper ends of the rods.

25

14. A trampoline according to claim 13 wherein the rods include an annular groove around the rod ends spaced from the ends of the rods and the separately formed enlarged upper end parts include one or more protrusions arranged to snap fit into the annular grooves about the ends of the rods to fix the enlarged end parts to the rods.

30

15. A trampoline according to claim 13 wherein the rods include an annular protrusion or protrusions spaced annularly around the rods adjacent the ends of the rods

and the separately formed enlarged upper end parts snap fit over said protrusion or protrusions to fix the end parts to the rods.

16. A trampoline according to either one of claims 14 and 15 wherein the end parts
5 have a flattened end surface.

17. A trampoline according to any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein the plurality of fittings are each loosely coupled to adjacent fittings.

10 18. A trampoline according to claim 17 wherein adjacent fittings are coupled by an extending tongue portion of one fitting engaging into a recess in an adjacent fitting.

19. A trampoline including
a flexible mat
15 a plurality of resiliently flexible rods each having a lower end retained in a frame of the trampoline and an enlarged upper end, and
plurality of fittings coupled to the mat about a periphery of the mat and
including on or in an underside of each fitting a socket cavity which receives the
enlarged upper end of a flexible rod so that the upper ends of the flexible rods are
20 pivotally connected to the periphery of the mat, and wherein the fittings have a wide outer edge adjacent an outer edge of the mat which engages a pocket or pockets about or
in the periphery of the mat.

20. A trampoline including a flexible mat, plurality of fittings coupled to the mat
25 about a periphery of the mat, a plurality of resiliently flexible rods each having a lower end retained in a frame of the trampoline and an upper end connected to a said fitting, and or in an underside of each fitting a socket cavity which receives an enlarged upper end of the flexible rod connected to the fitting or a ball shaped portion which is received by a socket cavity on the end of the rod connected to the fitting, so that the upper ends
30 of the flexible rods are pivotally connected to the periphery of the mat.

21. A trampoline according to claim 20 wherein the widest dimension of the fittings is approximately in the plane of the mat and at an outer edge of the fittings closest to an outer peripheral edge to the mat.
- 5 22. A trampoline according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the fittings are positioned within a pocket or pockets in the peripheral edge of the mat.

1/6

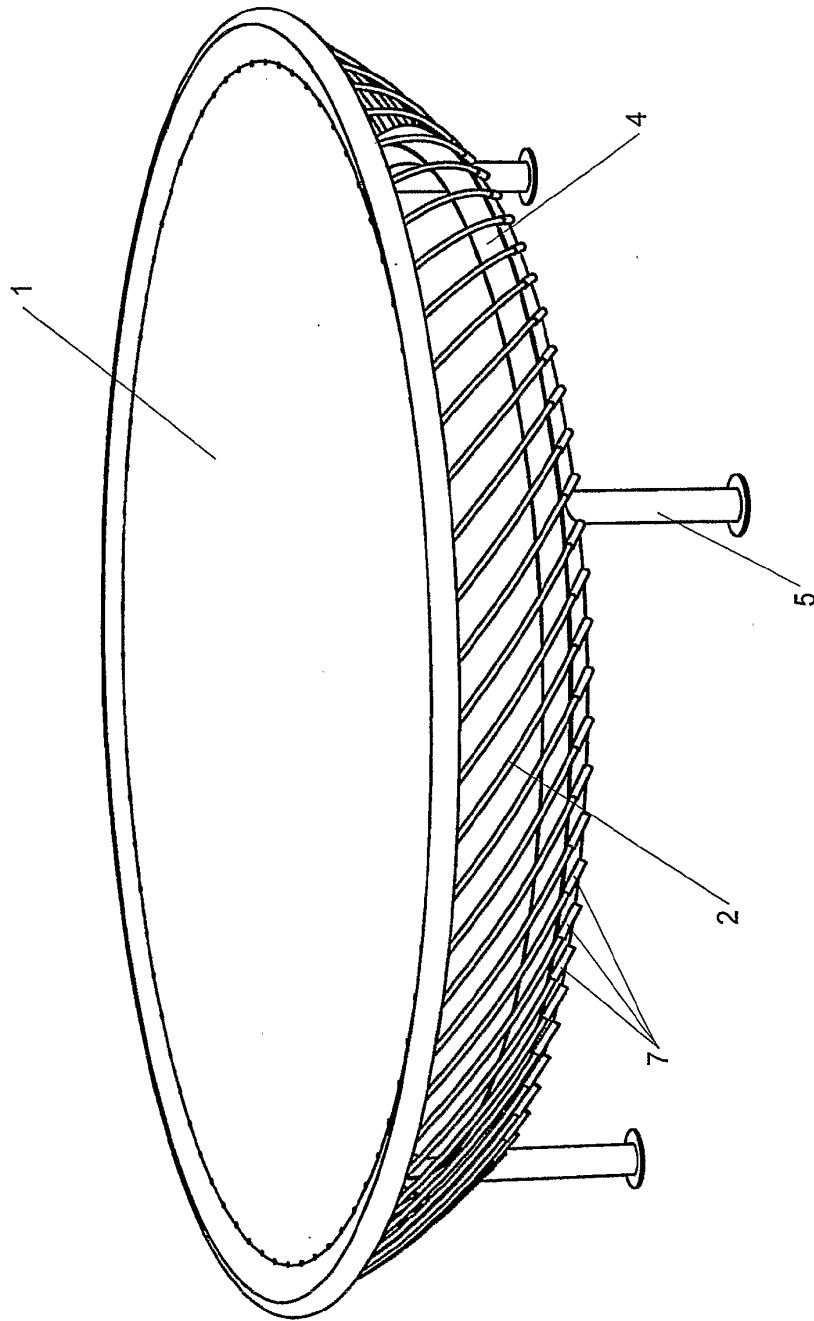


FIGURE 1

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

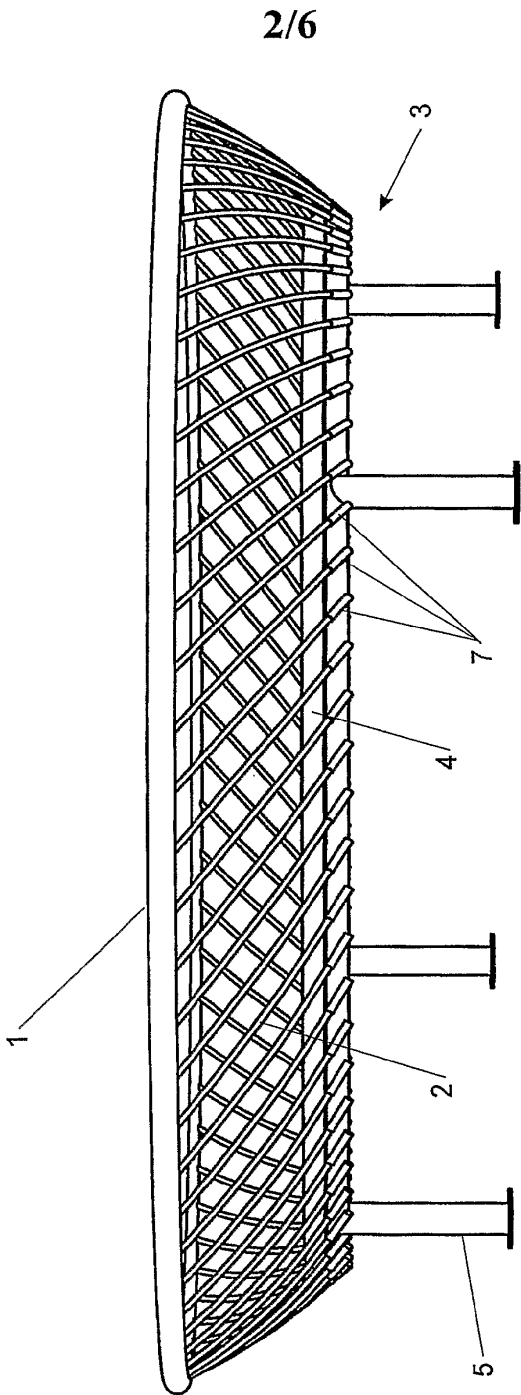


FIGURE 2

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

3/6

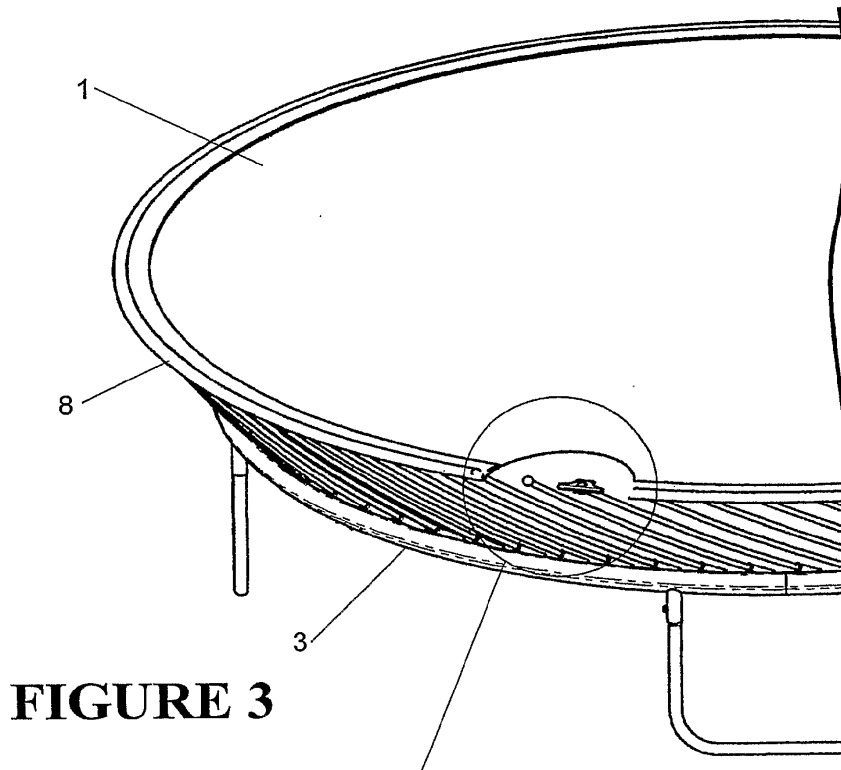


FIGURE 3

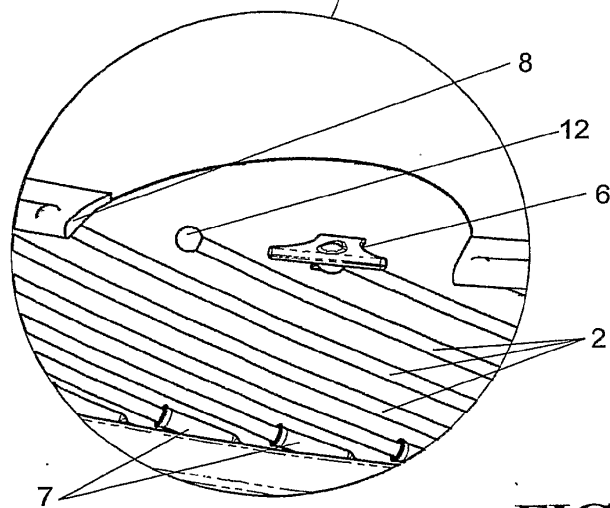


FIGURE 3a

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4/6

FIGURE 4

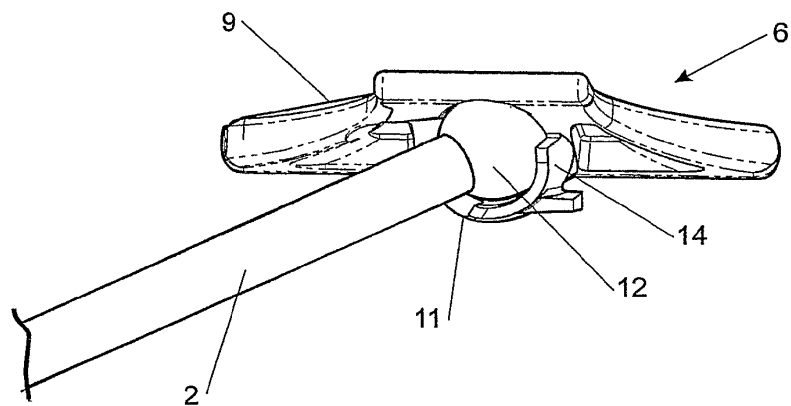
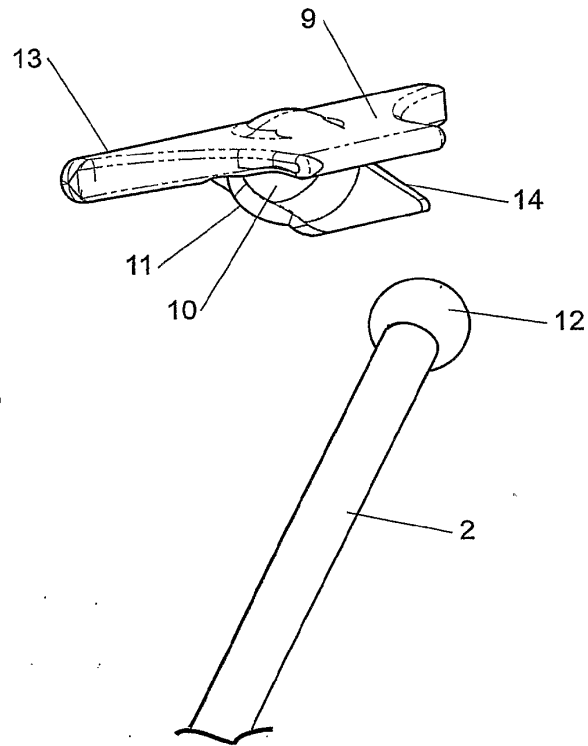


FIGURE 5

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

FIGURE 6

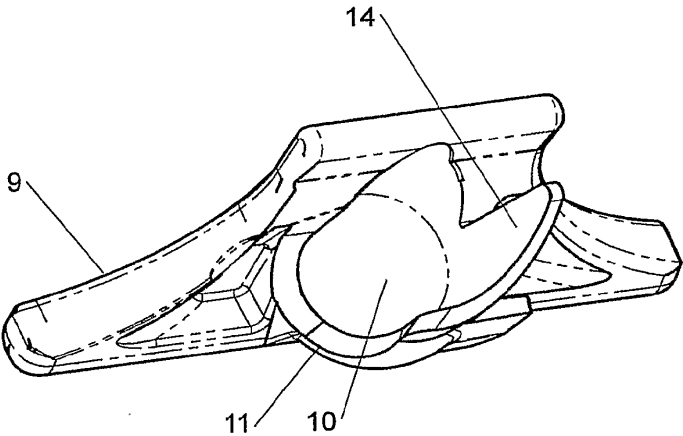


FIGURE 7

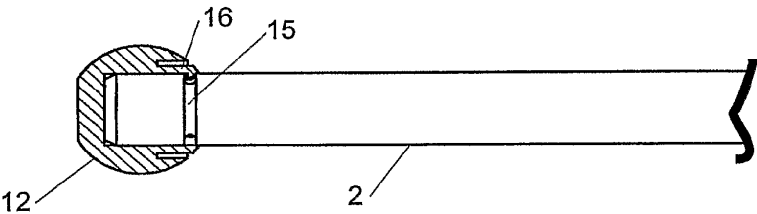
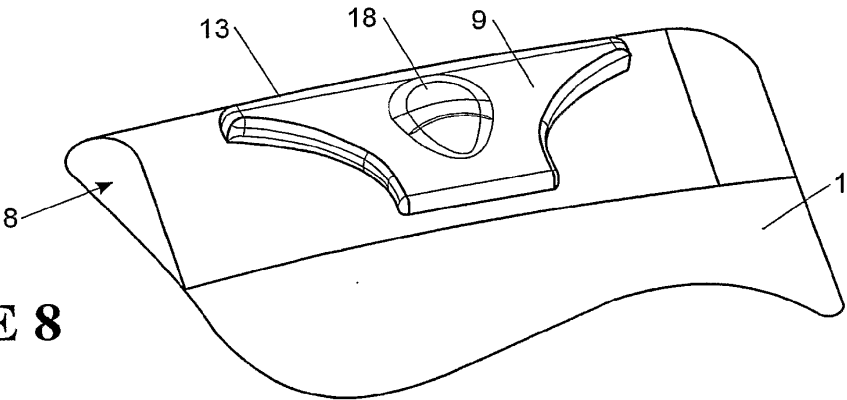


FIGURE 8



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

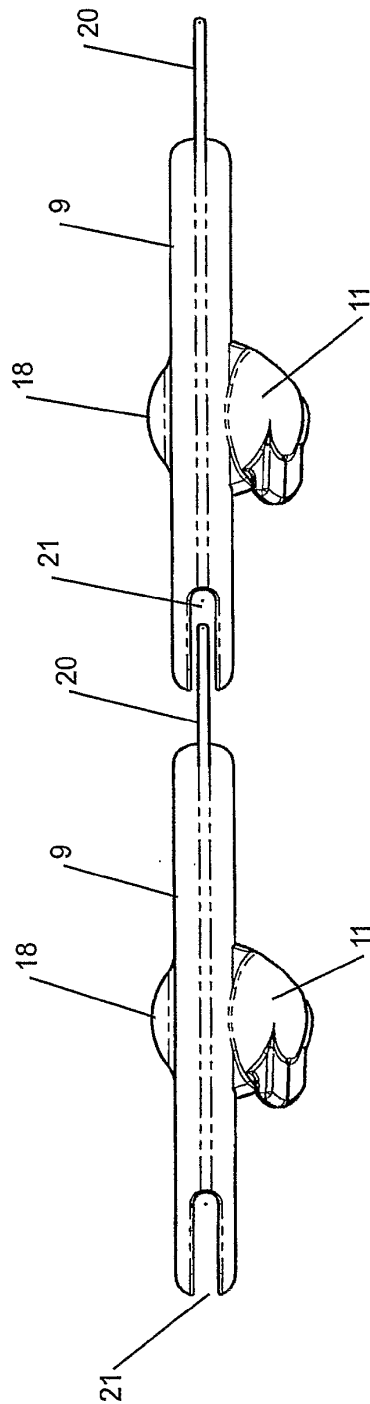


FIGURE 9

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NZ02/00255

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. ⁷ : A63B 5/11		
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)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI and keywords: trampoline and flexible and rod and similar terms		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6319174 B1 (ALEXANDER) 20 November 2001 Whole document	1,19,20
A	US 4836530 A (STANLEY, Jr.) 6 June 1989 Whole document	1,19,20
☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C ☒ See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 12 February 2003		Date of mailing of the international search report 19 FEB 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  DAVID MELHUIH Telephone No : (02) 6283 2426

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/NZ02/00255

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member
US	6319174	NONE
US	4836530	NONE
END OF ANNEX		

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	4034724
Application Number:	10582551
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4738
Title of Invention:	Trampoline and Enclosure System
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Keith Vivian Alexander
Customer Number:	00110
Filer:	Stephen Henry Eland/Christine Gersbach
Filer Authorized By:	Stephen Henry Eland
Attorney Docket Number:	0074-543464
Receipt Date:	30-SEP-2008
Filing Date:	20-JUN-2007
Time Stamp:	16:21:41
Application Type:	U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed (SB/08)	IDS.pdf	124496 78961c99dbe365f727d5a803ee49dfe5622b5095	no	4

Warnings:

Information:

This is not an USPTO supplied IDS fillable form					
2	Foreign Reference	WO03043704.pdf	760812	no	21
			9a600f6223bbd6bdf90cdd5f454eac2e6821311		
Warnings:					
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Total Files Size (in bytes):				885308	
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					



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U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/582,551	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074-543464
110 DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN 1601 MARKET STREET SUITE 2400 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307		
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/NZ04/00318		
I.A. FILING DATE		PRIORITY DATE
12/09/2004		12/19/2003

CONFIRMATION NO. 4738
371 ACCEPTANCE LETTER



Date Mailed: 07/22/2008

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C 371 AND 37 CFR 1.495

The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as a Designated / Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is ACCEPTED for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

<u>06/20/2007</u>	<u>06/20/2007</u>
DATE OF RECEIPT OF 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS	DATE OF COMPLETION OF ALL 35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. **THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE " FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE.** The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363). Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

The following items have been received:

- Indication of Small Entity Status
- Copy of the International Application filed on 06/09/2006
- Copy of the International Search Report filed on 06/09/2006
- Preliminary Amendments filed on 06/20/2007
- Information Disclosure Statements filed on 06/20/2007
- Oath or Declaration filed on 06/20/2007
- U.S. Basic National Fees filed on 06/09/2006
- Priority Documents filed on 06/09/2006
- Power of Attorney filed on 06/20/2007

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

INDIA L EVANS

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page 2 of 2

FORM PCT/DO/EO/903 (371 Acceptance Notice)



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO.	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
10/582,551	06/20/2007	3764	515	0074-543464	12	3

CONFIRMATION NO. 4738

FILING RECEIPT

110
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
1601 MARKET STREET
SUITE 2400
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307



Date Mailed: 07/22/2008

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a Filing Receipt Correction. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections**

Applicant(s)

Keith Vivian Alexander, Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 000110

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a 371 of PCT/NZ04/00318 12/09/2004

Foreign Applications

NEW ZEALAND 530271 12/19/2003

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 07/21/2008

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 10/582,551**

Projected Publication Date: 10/30/2008

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**** SMALL ENTITY ****

Title

Trampoline and Enclosure System

Preliminary Class

482

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Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

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Title 35, United States Code, Section 184

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

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page 2 of 3

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**☐ Declaration
Submitted
With Initial
Filing

OR

☒ Declaration
Submitted after Initial
Filing (surcharge
(37 CFR 1.16 (e))
required)

Attorney Docket Number	0074-543464
First Named Inventor	KEITH VIVIAN ALEXANDER

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number	PCT/NZ2004/000318
Filing Date	Int'l FD 12/09/2004
Art Unit	n/a
Examiner Name	n/a

I hereby declare that:

Each inventor's residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to their name.

I believe the inventor(s) named below to be the original and first inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto

OR

☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 12/09/2004 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number PCT/NZ2004/000318 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
530271	NZ	12/19/2003	☐	☐	☒
			☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

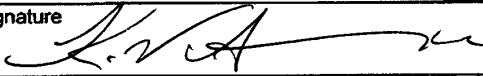
[Page 1 of 2]

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 115 and 37 CFR 1.63. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

Direct all correspondence to: ☒ The address associated with Customer Number: 000110		OR ☐ Correspondence address below	
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WARNING:			
Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.			
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.			
NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR:		☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any]) KEITH VIVIAN		Family Name or Surname ALEXANDER	
Inventor's Signature 		Date 12 APRIL 07	
Residence: City Christchurch	State	Country NZ	Citizenship NZ
Mailing Address 65 Middleton Road Upper Riccarton			
City Christchurch	State	Zip	Country NZ
☐ Additional inventors or a legal representative are being named on the _____ supplemental sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A or 02LR attached hereto.			

[Page 2 of 2]

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**POWER OF ATTORNEY
and
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS
INDICATION FORM**

Application Number	PCT/NZ2004/000318
Filing Date	Intl FD 12/09/2004
First Named Inventor	KEITH VIVIAN ALEXANDER
Title	A Trampoline and Enclosure Sytem
Art Unit	N/A
Examiner Name	N/A
Attorney Docket Number	0074-543464

I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney given in the above-identified application.

I hereby appoint:

☒ Practitioners associated with the Customer Number:

000110

OR

☐ Practitioner(s) named below:

Name	Registration Number

as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please recognize or change the correspondence address for the above-identified application to:

☒ The address associated with the above-mentioned Customer Number:

OR

☐ The address associated with Customer Number:

OR

☐ Firm or Individual Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Country			
Telephone	Email	vpac@ddhs.com	

I am the:

☒ Applicant/Inventor.☐ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.

Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Signature		Date	12 APRIL 2007
Name	KEITH VIVIAN ALEXANDER	Telephone	
Title and Company			

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☐ *Total of _____ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31, 1.32 and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of : **Docket 0074-543464**
:
Keith Vivian Alexander : **Confirmation No. 4738**
:
U.S. Appln. No. 10/582,551 :
:
Intl. Filing Date: 12/09/2004 :
:
For: **A Trampoline and Enclosure System** :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

As a preliminary matter, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the **Claims** begin at **page 2**.

The **Remarks** concerning the Preliminary Amendment begin at **page 6**.

U.S. Appln. No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

1.(original) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and at or towards their upper ends to the barrier at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to support the barrier above the mat, and which are free to resiliently deform away from the mat when impacted by a user against the barrier or an enclosure support member, and which are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw and pre-tension the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat.

2.(original) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 1, wherein said barrier comprises a flexible net material.

3.(currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system according to ~~either of claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members hold the barrier in tension.

4.(currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

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Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

5.(currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

6.(currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by a flexible connecting element.

7.(original) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 6 wherein said flexible connecting element is fixed to or integral with the barrier at or towards an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

8.(currently amended) A trampoline and enclosure system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, claim 1 wherein the enclosure support members are connected to the frame of the trampoline below the surface of the mat.

9.(original) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline so that in their natural rest state

U.S. Appln. No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

(when connected only at the lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) the enclosure support members extend away from the mat, and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support member to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

10.(original) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 10, wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

11.(original) A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and

an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the

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Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

uppers ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support members on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

12.(original) A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 11, wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

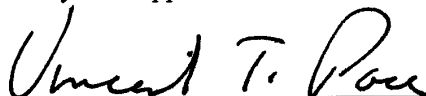
U.S. Appln. No. 10/582,551
Confirmation No. 4738
Docket No. 0074-543464

REMARKS

No new matter has been introduced into this application by reason of the amendments presented hereinabove. The amendments to the claims are to conform the claims to the requirements of 37 CFR 1.75(c) and to accepted claim formats. There is no intention to limit the scope of the amended claims either expressed or implied by the amendments.

It is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments to the Claims be entered prior to the first official action on this application.

Respectfully submitted,
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
VINCENT T. PACE
PTO Registration No. 31,049

Tel.: 215-563-4100
Fax: 215-563-4044
e-mail: vp@ddhs.com

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of	:	Docket No. 0074-543464
Keith Vivian Alexander	:	Confirmation No. 4738
U.S. Appln. No. 10/582,551	:	
Intl. Filing Date: 12/09/2004	:	
For: A Trampoline and Enclosure System	:	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the Duty of Disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant is submitting herewith Form PTO/SB/08A with this statement.

Please note that this application is the U.S. national phase of International Patent Application No. PCT/NZ2004/000318, filed December 9, 2004. An International Search Report was established for this international application and a copy of the International Search Report was transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by the International Bureau. The International Search Report was received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as indicated on Form PTO/DO/EO/905 mailed on February 20, 2007.

This submission is being made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and is believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

Applicants respectfully request full and proper consideration of the listed information during examination of the application, and that the listed information be printed on any patent which issues therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation

By Vincent T. Pace
Vincent T. Pace
PTO Registration No. 31,049

Tel.: 215-563-4100
Fax: 215-563-4044
e-mail: vp@ddhs.com

Enclosure: Form PTO/SB/08A

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/582,551
Filing Date	Intl FD 12/09/2004
First Named Inventor	Keith Vivian Alexander
Art Unit	n/a
Examiner Name	n/a
Attorney Docket Number	0074-543464

Sheet	1	of	1
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		10582551		
Filing Date:				
Title of Invention:		A trampoline and enclosure system		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Keith Vivian Alexander		
Filer:		Vincent T. Pace/Frances Walton		
Attorney Docket Number:		0074543464		
Filed as Small Entity				
U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371 Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Late filing fee for oath or declaration	2051	1	65	65
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension - 2 months with \$0 paid	2252	1	225	225
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				290

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	1891027
Application Number:	10582551
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4738
Title of Invention:	A trampoline and enclosure system
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Keith Vivian Alexander
Customer Number:	110
Filer:	Vincent T. Pace/Frances Walton
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent T. Pace
Attorney Docket Number:	0074543464
Receipt Date:	20-JUN-2007
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	13:59:22
Application Type:	U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$290
RAM confirmation Number	8392
Deposit Account	041406
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 and 1.17	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Applicant Response to Pre-Exam Formalities Notice	10582551Declaration.pdf	136394	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Applicant Response to Pre-Exam Formalities Notice	10582551POA.pdf	62364	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
3		10582551PreAmdt.pdf	194568	yes	6
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Preliminary Amendment		1	1	
	Claims		2	5	
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		6	6	
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed	10582551IDS.pdf	113264	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
This is not an USPTO supplied IDS fillable form					
5	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	8326	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			514916		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Document code: WFEE

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Sales Receipt for Accounting Date: 07/22/2008

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
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IEVANS	ADJ #00000001	Mailroom Dt: 06/20/2007		
	Seq No: 8392	Sales Acctg Dt: 06/20/2007	041406	10582551
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MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM FEE CALCULATION SHEET (FOR USE WITH FORM PTO-875)						SERIAL NO. 10/582551		FILING DATE					
						APPLICANT(S)							
CLAIMS													
	AS FILED		AFTER 1 st AMENDMENT		AFTER 2 nd AMENDMENT			AS FILED		AFTER 1 st AMENDMENT		AFTER 2 nd AMENDMENT	
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TOTAL DEP.	10	←	9	←		←	TOTAL DEP.		←		←		←
TOTAL CLAIMS	13		12				TOTAL CLAIMS						

PTO - 1569 (REV. 11/04)

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Patent Application Specialist/ National Stage Division

U.S. Appl. No. 10/582551

International Appl. No. PCT/NZ04/000318

WIPO PUBLICATION INFORMATION :

Publication No.: WO2005 058428 Publication Language : ☐ English (IA used as specification) ☐ German ☐ Japanese
☐ Chinese ☐ Korean ☐ French ☐ Spanish ☐ Russian ☐ Other : _____
Publication Date : _____ 200 Not Published : ☐ U.S. only ☐ Early Pub. Request Published : ☐ Early Pub.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PAPERS IN THE APPLICATION FILE :

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ International Application (RECORD COPY) | ☐ PCT/IB/306 |
| ☐ Article 19 Amendments | ☐ Request form PCT/RO/101 |
| ☐ PCT/IPEA/409 - IPER (check Examination Authority) :
☐ EP ☐ JP ☐ SE ☐ AU ☐ US ☐ FR ☐ CN ☐ ES
☐ RU ☐ AT ☐ CA ☐ KR ☐ _____ | ☐ PCT/ISA/210 - Search Report (check Searching Authority) :
☐ EP ☐ JP ☐ SE ☐ AU ☐ US ☐ FR ☐ CN ☐ ES
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| ☐ Annexes to 409 | ☐ Search Report References |
| ☐ PCT/ISA/237 (check Searching Authority) :
☐ EP ☐ JP ☐ SE ☐ AU ☐ US ☐ FR ☐ CN ☐ ES
☐ RU ☐ AT ☐ CA ☐ KR ☐ _____ | ☐ Priority Document (s) No. _____
☐ N/A
☐ Priority Document was NOT AVAILABLE at the time of paralegal review |
| ☐ Other : _____ | ☐ Other : _____ |

RECEIPTS FROM THE APPLICANT (filed with the application unless noted otherwise) :

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Basic National Fee (or authorization to charge) | ☐ Express Request to Begin Nat'l Examination Procedures |
| ☐ Description ☐ Claims ☐ Abstract | ☒ Preliminary Amendment(s) Filed on :
1. ☐ same as 371 request date 2. <u>6-20-07</u> 3. _____ |
| ☐ Number of Drawing Sheets : _____ | ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) Filed on :
1. ☐ same as 371 request date 2. <u>6-20-07</u> 3. _____ |
| ☐ Translation of Article 19 Amendments
☐ entered ☐ not entered :
☐ not a page for page substitution
☐ replaced by Article 34 Amendment | ☐ Assignee Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b) |
| ☐ Annexes to 409
☐ entered ☐ not entered :
☐ not a page for page substitution
☐ no translation ☐ other : _____ | ☐ Assignee PG Publication Notice |
| ☒ Application Data Sheet | ☐ Substitute Specification Filed on :
1. ☐ same as 371 request date 2. _____ 3. _____ |
| ☒ Power of Attorney <u>6-20-07</u> | ☐ Verified Small Status Statement |
| ☐ Change of Address | ☒ Oath/ Declaration (executed) <u>6-20-07</u> |
| ☐ PG Pub Early Publication Request | ☐ Defective Oath/ Declaration ☐ unsigned ☐ no citizenship ☐ other |
| | ☐ DNA Diskette ☐ Sequence Listing |
| | ☐ Other : _____ |
| | ☐ Other : _____ |

NOTES :

35 U.S.C. 371 - Receipt of Request (PTO-1390)

Date Acceptable Oath/ Declaration Received

Date of Completion of requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 903 - Notification of Acceptance

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 905 - Notification of Missing Requirements

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 909 - Notification of Abandonment

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 916 - Notification of Defective Response

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 922 - Notification to Comply w/ Requirements for Patent Applications
Containing Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 923 - Insufficient Fees

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PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875					Application or Docket Number 10/582,551		Filing Date 06/20/2007		☐ To be Mailed			
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I							OTHER THAN					
(Column 1)			(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY ☒		OR		SMALL ENTITY			
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)			RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)				
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A				N/A					
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A				N/A					
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A				N/A					
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X \$	=			OR	X \$	=			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X \$	=			OR	X \$	=			
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).											
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))												
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.												
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II							OTHER THAN					
(Column 1)			(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY		OR		SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT	06/20/2007	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)			RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)		
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 12	Minus	** 20	=	X \$	=	OR		X \$	=	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 3	Minus	***3	=	X \$	=	OR		X \$	=	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))							OR				
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR				
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR		TOTAL ADD'L FEE			
(Column 1)			(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY		OR		SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)			RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)			
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X \$	=	OR		X \$	=	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X \$	=	OR		X \$	=	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))							OR				
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR				
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR		TOTAL ADD'L FEE			
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.												

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/PEGGY s. YARBOROUGH/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/582,551	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074543464

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/NZ04/00318

I.A. FILING DATE

12/09/2004

PRIORITY DATE

12/19/2003

110

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
 1601 MARKET STREET
 SUITE 2400
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

CONFIRMATION NO. 4738

371 FORMALITIES LETTER



OC000000022555546

Date Mailed: 02/20/2007

NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

The following items have been submitted by the applicant or the IB to the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a Designated / Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495).

- Indication of Small Entity Status
- Copy of the International Application filed on 06/09/2006
- Copy of the International Search Report filed on 06/09/2006
- U.S. Basic National Fees filed on 06/09/2006
- Priority Documents filed on 06/09/2006

The applicant needs to satisfy supplemental fees problems indicated below.

The following items **MUST** be furnished within the period set forth below in order to complete the requirements for acceptance under 35 U.S.C. 371:

- Additional claim fees of \$180 as a small entity, including any required multiple dependent claim fee, are required. Applicant must submit the additional claim fees or cancel the additional claims for which fees are due.
- Oath or declaration of the inventors, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a) and (b), identifying the application by the International application number and international filing date.
- To avoid abandonment, a surcharge (for late submission of filing fee, search fee, examination fee or oath or declaration) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.492(h) of \$65 for a small entity in compliance with 37 CFR 1.27, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

Total additional fees required for this application is \$245 for a Small Entity:

- \$65 Surcharge.
- Total additional claim fee(s) for this application is \$ 180
 - \$180 for multiple dependent claim surcharge.

ALL OF THE ITEMS SET FORTH ABOVE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN TWO (2) MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR BY 32 MONTHS FROM THE PRIORITY DATE FOR THE APPLICATION, WHICHEVER IS LATER. FAILURE TO PROPERLY RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT.

The time period set above may be extended by filing a petition and fee for extension of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

Registered users of EFS-Web may alternatively submit their reply to this notice via EFS-Web.
<https://portal.uspto.gov/authenticate/AuthenticateUserLocalEPF.html>

For more information about EFS-Web please call the USPTO Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197 or visit our website at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc>.

If you are not using EFS-Web to submit your reply, you must include a copy of this notice.

INDIA L EVANS

Telephone: (703) 308-9140 EXT 212

PART 2 - OFFICE COPY

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/582,551	PCT/NZ04/00318	0074543464

FORM PCT/DO/EO/905 (371 Formalities Notice)

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 0074-543464 U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 107582551
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/NZ2004/000318	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 9 December 2004	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 19 December 2003
TITLE OF INVENTION A TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US KEITH VIVIAN ALEXANDER		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
1. ☒ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. 4. ☒ The US has been elected (Article 31). 5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. ☐ is attached hereto. b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made. 8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included: 11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. ☐ A preliminary amendment. 14. ☐ An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76. 15. ☐ A substitute specification. 16. ☐ A power of attorney and/or change of address letter. 17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821- 1.825. 18. ☐ A second copy of the published International Application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.414 and 1.491-1.492. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public, which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 15 minutes to complete, including gathering information, preparing, and submitting the completed form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER	
10/582551		PCT/NZ2004/000318		0074-543464	
20. Other items or information: - Transmittal of Letter to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) - Postcard receipt					
The following fees have been submitted				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
21. ☒ Basic national fee (37 CFR 1.492(a))..... \$300				\$ 300.00	
22. ☒ Examination fee (37 CFR 1.492(c))				\$ 200.00	
If the written opinion prepared by ISA/US or the international preliminary examination report prepared by IPEA/US indicates all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$0 All other situations..... \$200					
23. ☒ Search fee (37 CFR 1.492(b))				\$ 400.00	
If the written opinion of the ISA/US or the International preliminary examination report prepared by IPEA/US indicates all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$0 Search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) has been paid on the international application to the USPTO as an International Searching Authority..... \$100 International Search Report prepared by an ISA other than the US and provided to the Office or previously communicated to the US by the IB..... \$400 All other situations..... \$500					
TOTAL OF 21, 22 and 23 =				900.00	
☐ Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing in compliance with 37 CFR 1.821(c) or (e) or computer program listing in an electronic medium) (37 CFR 1.492(j)). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.					
Total Sheets	Extra Sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)	RATE		
- 100 =	/50 =		x \$250	\$	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing any of the search fee, examination fee, or the oath or declaration after the date of commencement of the national stage (37 CFR 1.492(h)).				\$	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	- 20 =		x \$ 50	\$	
Independent claims	- 3 =		x \$200	\$	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$360	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 900.00	
☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Fees above are reduced by 1/2.				450.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 450.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(i)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 450.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 450.00	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				Amount to be charged	\$

10/582551

IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 JUN 2006

Approved for use through 3/31/2007, OMB 0551-0021
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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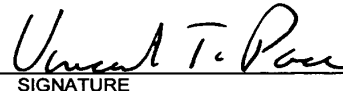
- a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 450.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Customer Number 000110
 Dann, Dorfman, Herrell and Skillman, P.C.
 1601 Market Street, Suite 2400
 Philadelphia, PA 19103-2307
 US

Tel: 215-563-4100
 Fax: 215-563-4044
 Email: vpace@ddhs.com


 SIGNATURE

Vincent T. Pace
 NAME

31,049
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of basic national fee, examination fee, or the search fee, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1406. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

10/582551

IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 JUN 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Date of Mailing
June 9, 2006

Express Mail Label No.
EL997341279US

Applicant's or Agent's File Reference
0074-543464

BOX PCT

IDENTIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION

Int'l Appln. No.
PCT/NZ2004/000318

Int'l. Filing Date
9 December 2004

Applicant (name)
KEITH VIVIAN ALEXANDER

**TRANSMITTAL OF LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)**

Attention: PCT International Division

We are enclosing the following for the above-identified international application:

- 1) Transmittal Letter to United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) Concerning a Filing Under 35 U.S.C. 371 (**FIRST** submission): Form PTO-1390;
- 2) Check in the amount of \$450.00: (small entity): basic national fee (\$150); examination fee (\$100); and search fee (\$200).

A TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM

IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 JUN 2006

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 5 The present invention relates to an improved trampoline and enclosure system.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

- 10 US patent 6,053,845 describes an enclosure for a trampoline consisting of a net fence or barrier which surrounds the trampoline and is supported by upright poles spaced around the periphery of the trampoline and fixed to the trampoline frame.

- 15 US patent 6,319,174 discloses a form of soft-edged trampoline in which the mat of the trampoline is supported by a plurality of resiliently flexible rods received in a frame of the trampoline at the lower ends of the rods and coupled to the periphery of the bouncing mat of the trampoline at their upper ends, and which avoids the need for a solid frame about the exterior of the bouncing mat and exposed springs between the frame and periphery of the mat.

20 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

It is an object of the invention to provide an improved or at least alternative trampoline enclosure, for a spring-based trampoline.

- 25 In one aspect the invention may be said to comprise a trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

- 30 a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support

members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and at or towards their upper ends to the barrier at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to support the barrier above the mat, and which are free to resiliently deform away from the mat when impacted by a user against the barrier or an enclosure support member, and which are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw and pre-tension the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat.

Typically the barrier comprises a flexible net material and the enclosure support members are resiliently flexible pultruded fibreglass rods.

In broad terms in another aspect the invention may be said to comprise a trampoline and enclosure system including:

a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and

an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline so that in their natural rest state (when connected only at the lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) the enclosure support members extend away from the mat, and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against

the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

5

1. In broad terms in a further aspect the invention comprises a trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat;
10 and

an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are
15 connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support
20 members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure
25 will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

In this specification (including claims) the term "trampoline" is intended to extend to smaller trampolines commonly referred to as rebounders also, as well as larger trampolines of all sizes. Trampolines of the invention may be circular, square,
30 rectangular, or of other shapes such as octagonally shaped in plan view for example.

The term 'comprising' as used in this specification and claims means 'consisting at least in part of', that is to say when interpreting independent claims including that term, the features prefaced by that term in each claim all need to be present but other features can also be present

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

10

Figure 1 is a side view of a trampoline and enclosure system of the invention,

Figure 2 is a view of part of the trampoline frame and of a tubular socket fitting attached thereto mounting the lower end of an enclosure support member,

15

Figure 3 is a closer view of the tubular socket fitting shown in Figure 2,

Figure 4 illustrates the trampoline and enclosure system in use,

20

Figures 5 and 6 show a portion of the upper peripheral edge of the barrier net of the preferred form trampoline and the upper end of an enclosure support rod which engages into a pocket fixed to the upper edge of the barrier net,

25

Figure 7 shows one side of a preferred form trampoline and long pockets fixed to the upper edge of the barrier net and into which the enclosure support rods engage to mount the barrier net to the support rods.

Figure 8 schematically shows a further pocket system for mounting the upper peripheral edge of the barrier net to the upper ends of the enclosure support rods.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to Figures 1 to 3 the trampoline shown comprises a peripheral frame 1 supported by legs 2. The frame in the form shown is circular and is typically formed of steel or aluminium for example. A flexible mat 3 on which users may bounce is held in tension within the frame 1 by springs 4 which are connected between the edge of the mat and the peripheral frame to hold the mat in tension. Typically the springs are coil springs the wire ends of which are formed into hooks so that one end of each spring hook-engages the edge of the trampoline mat while the other end of each spring hooks into a hole in the circular trampoline frame. The trampoline shown is circular in shape but the trampoline could be of any other desired shape such as oval, square, rectangular or similar.

The trampoline also comprises an enclosure system as shown. The enclosure system consists of a plurality of resiliently deformable generally upright enclosure support members 5 which in the preferred form are deformable or flexible fibreglass rods and may in particular be pultruded fibreglass rods, but may alternatively be spring steel elements for example. Hereinafter the enclosure support members 5 will be referred to as enclosure rods for convenience, but it is to be understood that this term is non-limiting in relation to the size and cross-sectional shape of the enclosure support elements and the material from which they are formed, provided that they provide the required degree of flexibility in accordance with the invention.

The enclosure system also comprises a barrier net 6. The enclosure rods 5 support the net 6 above the mat 3, and the lower edge of the barrier net 6 is coupled directly or indirectly to the peripheral edge of the mat.

The enclosure rods 5 are positioned on the outside of the barrier 6 as shown. The enclosure rods 5 are coupled to the trampoline frame at the lower ends of the enclosure rods, and to the upper peripheral part of the net 6 at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure rods.

The barrier 6 is preferably formed of a lightweight but strong net material but may alternatively be a flexible fabric material which is for example opaque or which is perforated so as to be semi-opaque. In the preferred form, as shown in Figure 2 a band
5 7 of a stronger material such as a webbing material for example, is fixed to the lower peripheral edge of the barrier net, and comprises holes through which the hooks on the ends of the springs 4 pass before the hooks also hook into holes about the edge of the mat 3 as referred to previously, so that the lower edge of the barrier net 6 and the edge of the mat 3 are held together. Alternative arrangements are possible for example the
10 lower edge of the barrier net may be stitched or otherwise affixed directly to the periphery of the mat. The net is held in tension between the top of the enclosure rods and the edge of the trampoline mat.

Figures 2 and 3 show how the lower ends of the enclosure rods 5 may be connected to
15 the trampoline frame. A tubular socket 8 is carried by a bracket 9 which includes a U-shaped clamp part 10 which encircles an upright leg part of the trampoline frame and clamps the socket 8 to the frame. The U-shaped bracket may be closed by a bolt and nut 12 for example. A hook part 11 of the bracket extends upwardly and over the trampoline frame 1 as shown to assist in locating the bracket 9 vertically. Any other
20 mechanical equivalent arrangement for holding the lower ends of the enclosure rods at an angle may be utilised. Also it is not necessary that a bracket 9 or equivalent is provided only at each trampoline leg 2. Alternatively a bracket could clamp to the frame 1 between legs 2 or tubular holders 8 or equivalent could be fixed by welding for example to the lower external part of the frame member 1.

25 The sockets 8 or equivalent are oriented so that the enclosure rods are preferably retained by the trampoline frame at their lower ends so that in the natural rest state of the enclosure rods, when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline and before fitting of the barrier net, the enclosure rods will extend at an
30 angle away from the mat of the trampoline as shown. Thus, when the net is fitted to connect the upper ends of the enclosure rods, or some other flexible connecting element which connects the upper ends of the enclosure rods is fitted, this will draw the upper

ends of the enclosure rods away from their natural state of rest and towards the centre of the mat, to the position generally as shown in Figure 1, to pre-tension the enclosure rods. The enclosure support rods act like fishing rods, and are set to hold up and tension the enclosure net adequately for the play or safety function. The higher is such pre-tension in the support rods the stronger rebound capability the enclosure net has. In addition it may not be essential that the enclosure rods are mounted so that they extend in a vertical plane. Alternatively the enclosure rods may extend to one side or the other, in a plane at an angle to the vertical and/or horizontal.

10 In a most simple form the upper ends of all of the enclosure rods 5 may be connected by a line. In the preferred form shown a band 15 such as a webbing strap fixed for example by sewing to the upper peripheral edge of the barrier net 6 couples the upper ends of all of the enclosure rods 5. The rods are coupled so that they are bowed or drawn away from their natural state of rest (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat. In an alternative form a line or band may couple the enclosure rods at or towards their upper ends, which is a separate component from the net itself. Such a separate band or line may incorporate a buckle or adjustable connector which allows for adjustment of the length of the band or line to enable the degree of pre-tension applied to the enclosure rods 5 to be varied, thus varying the strength of rebound that will be provided. Because the enclosure rods are coupled to the trampoline and mat only at or towards their lower ends they are free to move relative to the mat as shown in Figure 4. The enclosure rods are highly flexible or deformable. The degree of resilience may be such that an average size or weight user (for example a 80 kg user) deforming the enclosure to the extent shown in Figure 4 or to a greater extent will be rebounded back onto the mat.

Typically the trampoline will be delivered to a purchaser in disassembled form. The enclosure may be supplied together with the trampoline or separately, and may be factory fitted, or retrospectively self-fitted by a user. It may come in component form as a kit, or preassembled for attachment to the trampoline. This provides an enclosure that is specifically designed to function as a play and safety addition to a trampoline.

The resulting enclosure system has a high degree of flexibility or deformability. This is illustrated in Figure 4, which shows a user impacting against the barrier net 6 and one enclosure rod 5, and it can be seen that the enclosure rod freely deforms away from the trampoline. At the same time the lower edge of the net remains coupled to the trampoline mat. Typically when an average sized or weight user hits the enclosure so that the enclosure deforms to this extent or more, the impact energy absorbed by the enclosure will gently rebound the user back onto the trampoline mat. The upper ends of all of the enclosure rods are connected together so that all of the enclosure rods and net form a dynamic rebound surface. That is, a user impacting any side of the enclosure will cause all of the rods to deform to some extent. The enclosure is such that when the enclosure is impacted by a user on one side causing the barrier on that side of the enclosure to deform away from the mat as shown in Figure 4 for example or more, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be deformed inwardly towards the centre of the mat. Also, the enclosure rods 5 are outside and thus removed from the direct area of play, are deformable and mounted by their lower ends only so as to not cause injury when they are hit from the side and, unlikely to cause injury if landed on from above, but provide enough tension to the net to give the required rebounding response to a jumper hitting it.

Referring to Figures 5 and 6, the enclosure net may be supported at its upper periphery by pockets 17 provided at or near an upper periphery of the enclosure net, which will fit over the upper ends of the enclosure rods 15 as shown. The pockets 17 may be stitched or otherwise fixed to the enclosure net and/or band 15 around the top of the enclosure. As shown in Figure 7 the pocket 17 may be coupled to the barrier net 6 only at or adjacent the upper peripheral edge of the net. Optionally the pockets 17 may be lined with or formed of a compressible material such as synthetic foam or foam rubber material to further reduce the risk of any injury on impact with the enclosure rod by a jumper. Longer pockets the full length of the rods and preferably attaching at the bottom to the sockets 8 (as shown in Figure 7) reduce any risk of the pockets separating from the enclosure rods during active bouncing on the trampoline and against the barrier net. The risk of a bystander such as a child pulling an enclosure rod from the pocket is also reduced.

Figure 8 shows an alternative arrangement in which again a pocket 17 is provided at the upper periphery of the enclosure net for each enclosure rod 5. In this embodiment the pocket 17 is a shorter length pocket as shown. Safety loops 18 typically formed of a webbing material are provided through which the upper end of the enclosure rod 5 passes, which take the approximately lateral load between the upper end of the enclosure rod and the barrier net, one safety loop 18 within the pocket and the other below the pocket as shown. Thus the contact point between the top of the pocket 17 and the upper end of the rod enclosure 5 carries only approximately vertical force. Preferably the upper end of the enclosure rod 5 in this and other embodiments is enlarged as shown for example by fitting of a ball shaped end 19 to the rod end. The webbing loops 18 act to prevent the rod 5 with its attached ball 19 from being pulled downwards when the net 6 is tight, so preventing the rods 5 from being pulled inadvertently from the pocket 17 once the net 6 is assembled.

Preferably as also shown in Figure 7, the barrier net incorporates an integral door 20 as a flap sewn into the net. A hook and loop fastening material such as VELCRO is used between the edges of the door and the aperture through the barrier net as at 21. Alternatively, zippers may be used, or a combination of a hook and loop material and one or more zippers. The door aperture flap may be in any suitable form such as a square door flap and aperture as shown, or alternatively an inverted T-form with flaps on either side and a centre fastener or similar.

The foregoing describes the invention including preferred forms thereof. Alterations and modifications as will be obvious to those skilled in the art are intended to be incorporated and within the scope thereof as defined in the accompanying claims.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of springs holding the
5 mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible material surrounding the
mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to
the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support
members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards
10 the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and at
or towards their upper ends to the barrier at or near an upper peripheral part of the
barrier to support the barrier above the mat, and which are free to resiliently deform
away from the mat when impacted by a user against the barrier or an enclosure support
member, and which are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the
15 enclosure support members to draw and pre-tension the upper ends of the enclosure
support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower
ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat.
2. A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 1, wherein said barrier
20 comprises a flexible net material.
3. A trampoline and enclosure system according to either of claims 1 or 2 wherein
the enclosure support members hold the barrier in tension.
- 25 4. A trampoline and enclosure system according to any one of claims 1 to 3,
wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.
5. A trampoline and enclosure system according to any one of claims 1 to 4
wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper
30 ends by an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

6. A trampoline and enclosure system according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by a flexible connecting element

5 7. A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 6 wherein said flexible connecting element is fixed to or integral with the barrier at or towards an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

8. A trampoline and enclosure system according to any one of claims 1 to 7,
10 wherein the enclosure support members are connected to the frame of the trampoline below the surface of the mat.

9. A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding
15 the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and

an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright
20 enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline so that in their natural rest state (when connected only at the lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) the enclosure support members extend away from the mat, and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral
25 part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against
30 the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the

enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

10. A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 10, wherein the
5 enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

11. A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding
the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat;
10 and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding
the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly
to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright
enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are
15 connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame
of the trampoline and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper
peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which
enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of
the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support
20 members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to
the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted
by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and
enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from
the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure
25 will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

12. A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 11, wherein the
enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

30

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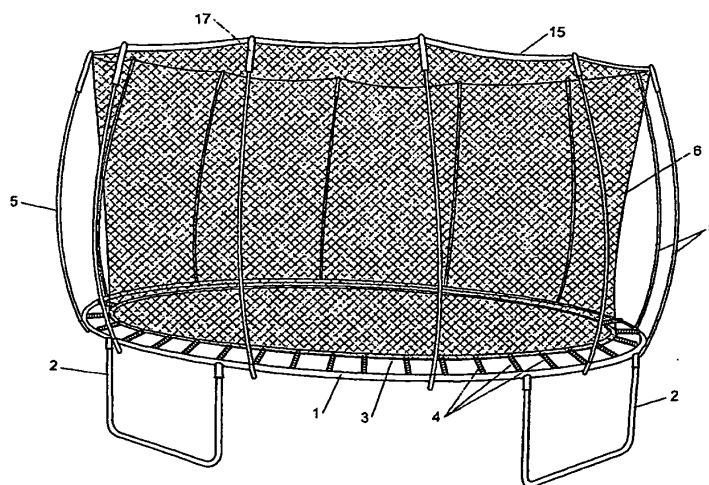
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- (71) Applicant and
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(54) Title: A TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A trampoline comprising a flexible mat (3) and a plurality of springs (4) holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame (1) of the trampoline which surrounds the mat has an enclosure system surrounding the mat. The enclosure has a lower peripheral part coupled to the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible upright enclosure members (5) to support the barrier above the mat. The enclosure support members are free to resiliently deform away from the mat when impacted by a user against the barrier. They are also connected together at the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state and towards the centre of the mat. When impacted by a user against the barrier on the side of the enclosure causing the barrier to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members are resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

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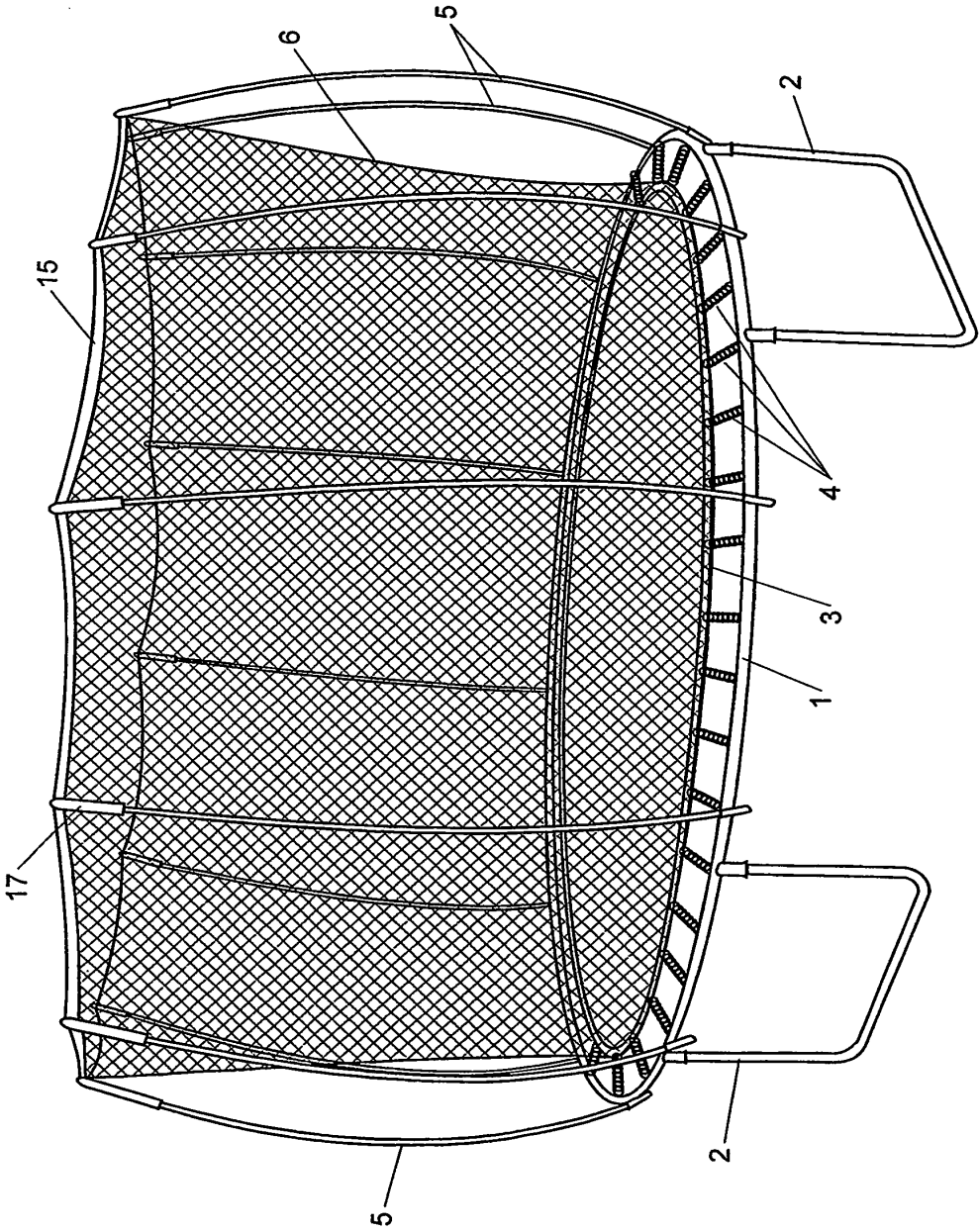
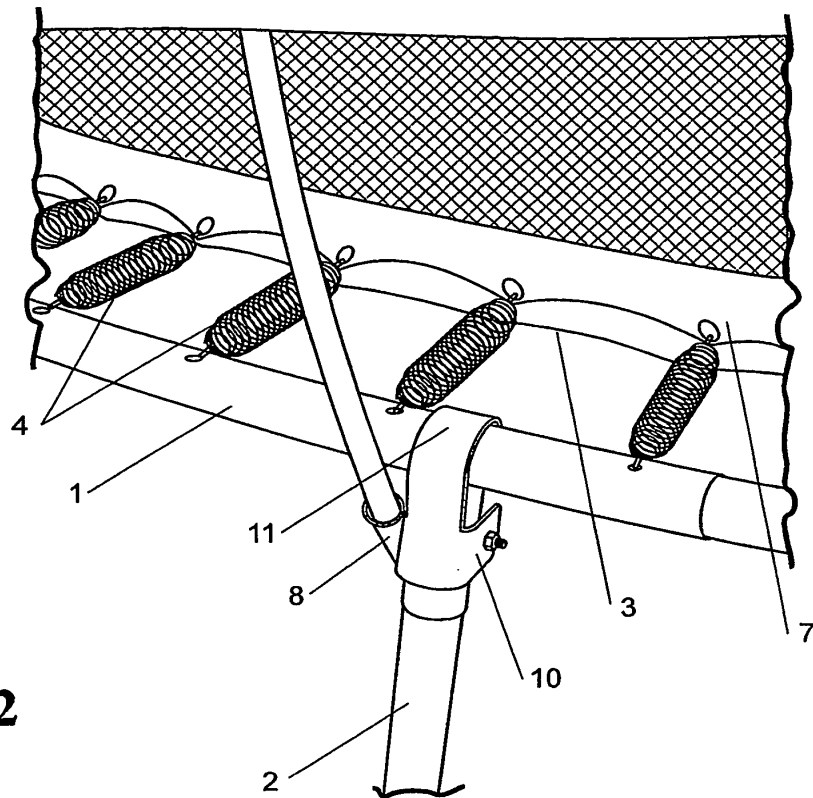
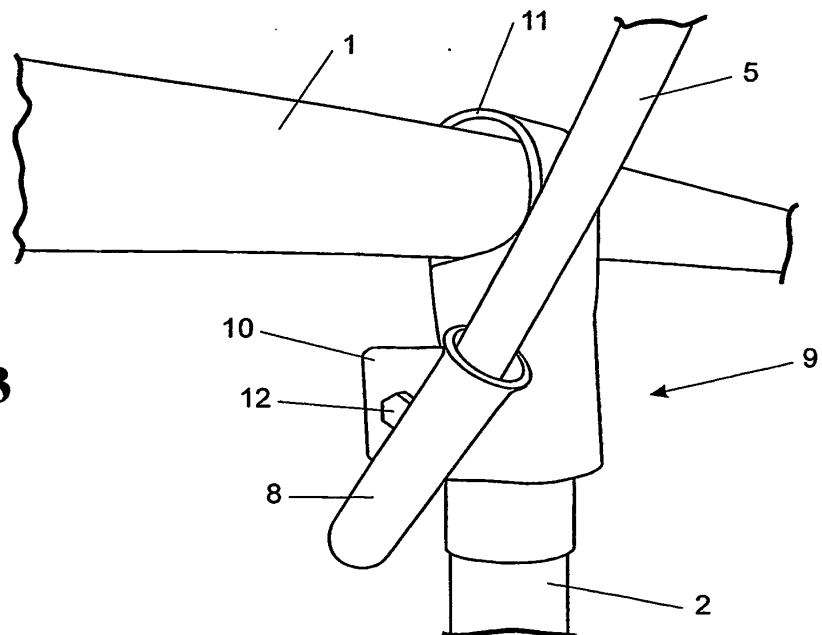
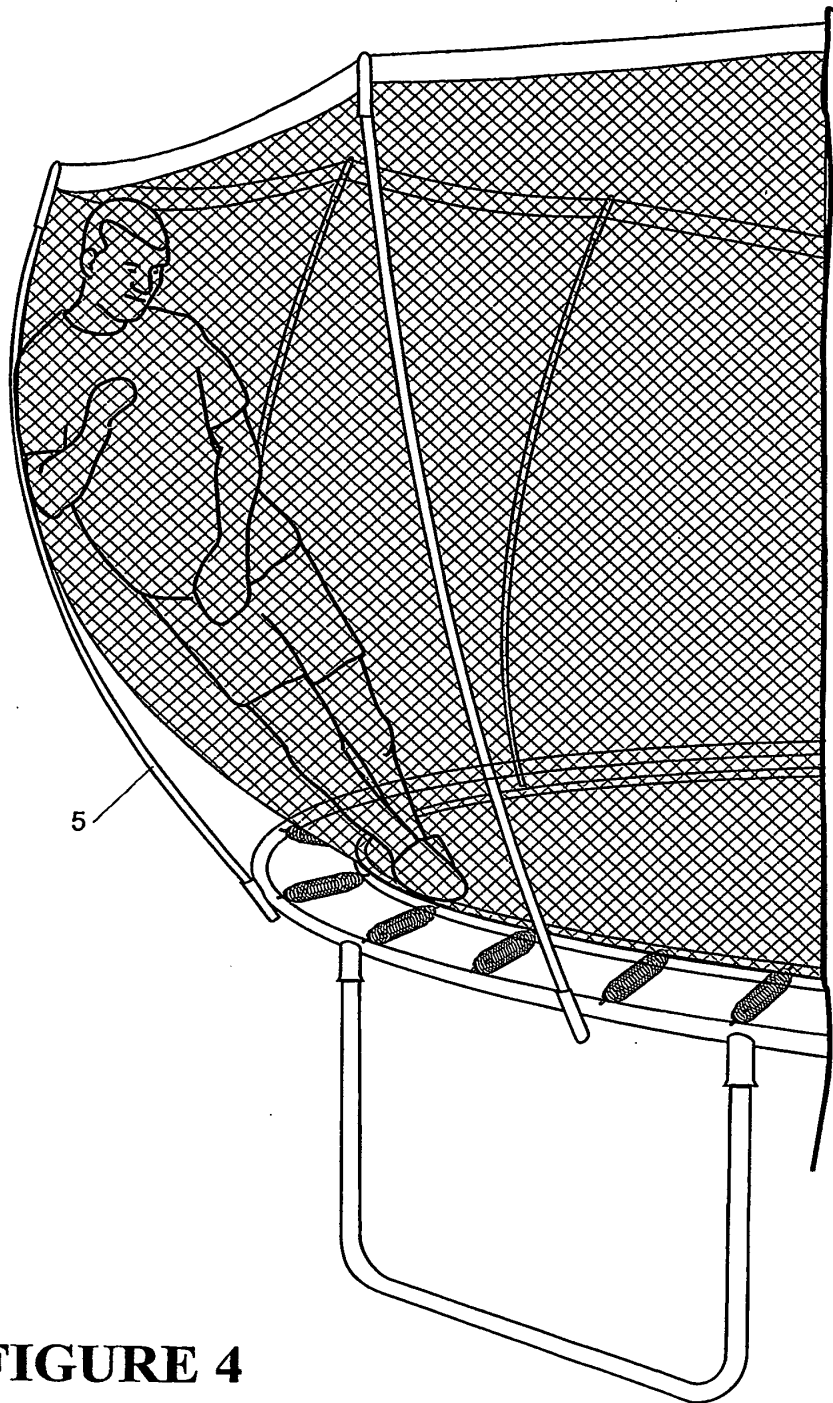


FIGURE 1

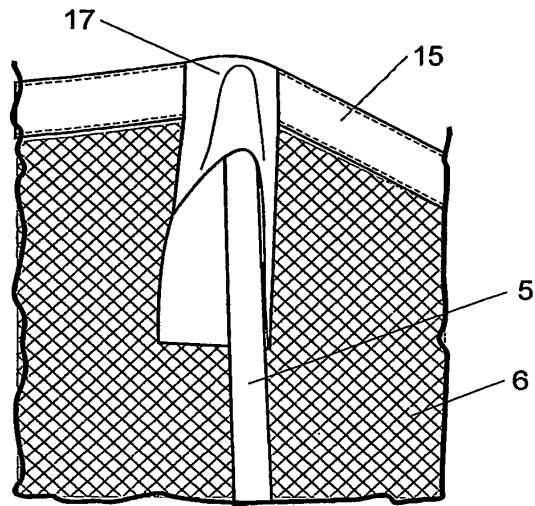
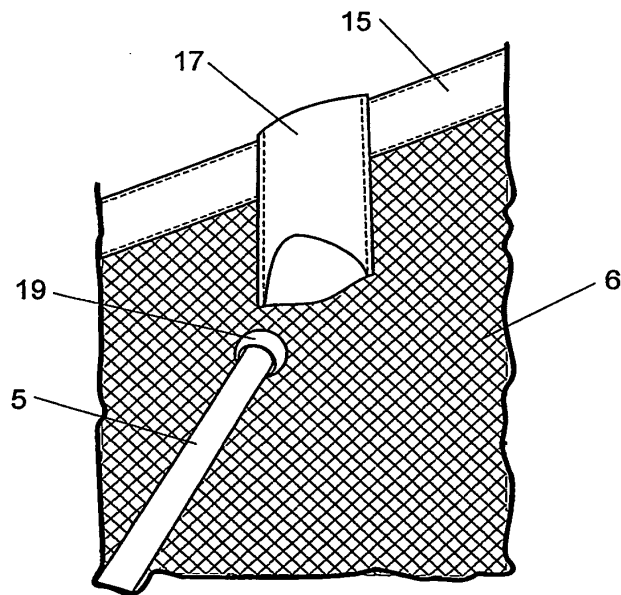
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**FIGURE 2****FIGURE 3**

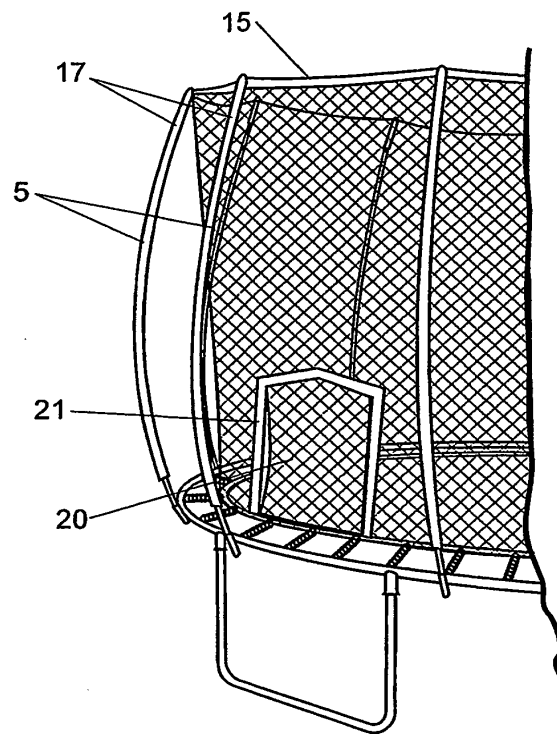
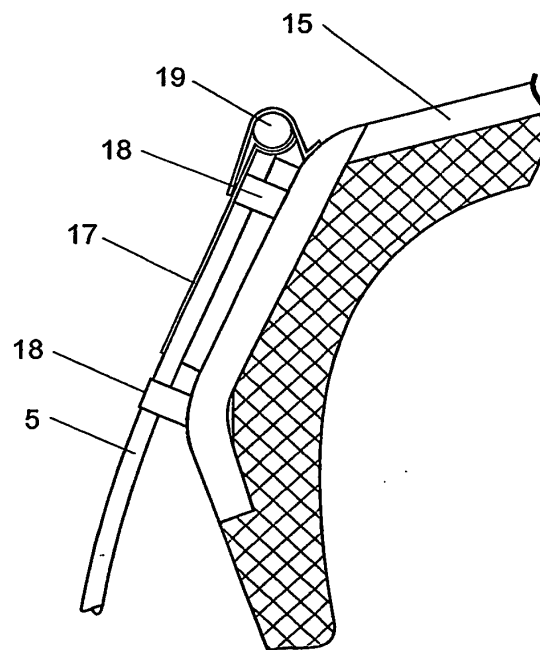
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**FIGURE 4**

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**FIGURE 5****FIGURE 6**

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FIGURE 7**FIGURE 8**

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FEE RECORD SHEET

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International application No.
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int. Cl. 7: A63B 5/11 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) Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI (KEYWORD: trampoline)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6053845 A (PUBLICOVER et al.) 25 April 2000 See figure 1, column 7 lines 20 to 34, column 9 lines 7 to 13 and lines 30 to 64.	1 to 12
X	US 5941798 A (COAN et al.) 24 August 1999 See figures 1 and 2	1 to 12
A	US 6135922 A (NISSEN) 24 October 2000 See whole document.	
A	US 6336893 B1 (CHEN) 8 January 2002 See whole document	
A	US 2003/0064861 A1 (CHEN) 3 April 2003 See whole document.	
☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C ☒ See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 2 March 2005		Date of mailing of the international search report 17 MAR 2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer PETER T. WEST Telephone No : (02) 6283 2108

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000318

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
US	5941798				
US	6053845	AU	83741/98	CA	2294635
		US	2002137598	WO	9858706
US	6135922				
US	6336893				
US	20030064861				
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.					
END OF ANNEX					

A TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

- 5 The present invention relates to an improved trampoline and enclosure system.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

- 10 US patent 6,053,845 describes an enclosure for a trampoline consisting of a net fence or barrier which surrounds the trampoline and is supported by upright poles spaced around the periphery of the trampoline and fixed to the trampoline frame.

- 15 US patent 6,319,174 discloses a form of soft-edged trampoline in which the mat of the trampoline is supported by a plurality of resiliently flexible rods received in a frame of the trampoline at the lower ends of the rods and coupled to the periphery of the bouncing mat of the trampoline at their upper ends, and which avoids the need for a solid frame about the exterior of the bouncing mat and exposed springs between the frame and periphery of the mat.

20 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

It is an object of the invention to provide an improved or at least alternative trampoline enclosure, for a spring-based trampoline.

- 25 In one aspect the invention may be said to comprise a trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

- 30 a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support

members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and at or towards their upper ends to the barrier at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to support the barrier above the mat, and which are free to resiliently deform away from the mat when impacted by a user against the barrier or an enclosure support member, and which are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw and pre-tension the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat.

10

Typically the barrier comprises a flexible net material and the enclosure support members are resiliently flexible pultruded fibreglass rods.

In broad terms in another aspect the invention may be said to comprise a trampoline and enclosure system including:

15

a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and

20

an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline so that in their natural rest state (when connected only at the lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) the enclosure support members extend away from the mat, and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against

25

30

the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

5

1. In broad terms in a further aspect the invention comprises a trampoline and enclosure system comprising:

a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat;

10 and

an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

25

In this specification (including claims) the term "trampoline" is intended to extend to smaller trampolines commonly referred to as rebounders also, as well as larger trampolines of all sizes. Trampolines of the invention may be circular, square, rectangular, or of other shapes such as octagonally shaped in plan view for example.

30

The term 'comprising' as used in this specification and claims means 'consisting at least in part of', that is to say when interpreting independent claims including that term, the features prefaced by that term in each claim all need to be present but other features can also be present

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

10

Figure 1 is a side view of a trampoline and enclosure system of the invention,

Figure 2 is a view of part of the trampoline frame and of a tubular socket fitting attached thereto mounting the lower end of an enclosure support member,

15

Figure 3 is a closer view of the tubular socket fitting shown in Figure 2,

Figure 4 illustrates the trampoline and enclosure system in use,

20

Figures 5 and 6 show a portion of the upper peripheral edge of the barrier net of the preferred form trampoline and the upper end of an enclosure support rod which engages into a pocket fixed to the upper edge of the barrier net,

25

Figure 7 shows one side of a preferred form trampoline and long pockets fixed to the upper edge of the barrier net and into which the enclosure support rods engage to mount the barrier net to the support rods.

Figure 8 schematically shows a further pocket system for mounting the upper peripheral edge of the barrier net to the upper ends of the enclosure support rods.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

- Referring to Figures 1 to 3 the trampoline shown comprises a peripheral frame 1 supported by legs 2. The frame in the form shown is circular and is typically formed of steel or aluminium for example. A flexible mat 3 on which users may bounce is held in tension within the frame 1 by springs 4 which are connected between the edge of the mat and the peripheral frame to hold the mat in tension. Typically the springs are coil springs the wire ends of which are formed into hooks so that one end of each spring hook-engages the edge of the trampoline mat while the other end of each spring hooks into a hole in the circular trampoline frame. The trampoline shown is circular in shape but the trampoline could be of any other desired shape such as oval, square, rectangular or similar.
- The trampoline also comprises an enclosure system as shown. The enclosure system consists of a plurality of resiliently deformable generally upright enclosure support members 5 which in the preferred form are deformable or flexible fibreglass rods and may in particular be pultruded fibreglass rods, but may alternatively be spring steel elements for example. Hereinafter the enclosure support members 5 will be referred to as enclosure rods for convenience, but it is to be understood that this term is non-limiting in relation to the size and cross-sectional shape of the enclosure support elements and the material from which they are formed, provided that they provide the required degree of flexibility in accordance with the invention.
- The enclosure system also comprises a barrier net 6. The enclosure rods 5 support the net 6 above the mat 3, and the lower edge of the barrier net 6 is coupled directly or indirectly to the peripheral edge of the mat.
- The enclosure rods 5 are positioned on the outside of the barrier 6 as shown. The enclosure rods 5 are coupled to the trampoline frame at the lower ends of the enclosure rods, and to the upper peripheral part of the net 6 at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure rods.

The barrier 6 is preferably formed of a lightweight but strong net material but may alternatively be a flexible fabric material which is for example opaque or which is perforated so as to be semi-opaque. In the preferred form, as shown in Figure 2 a band
5 7 of a stronger material such as a webbing material for example, is fixed to the lower peripheral edge of the barrier net, and comprises holes through which the hooks on the ends of the springs 4 pass before the hooks also hook into holes about the edge of the mat 3 as referred to previously, so that the lower edge of the barrier net 6 and the edge of the mat 3 are held together. Alternative arrangements are possible for example the
10 lower edge of the barrier net may be stitched or otherwise affixed directly to the periphery of the mat. The net is held in tension between the top of the enclosure rods and the edge of the trampoline mat.

Figures 2 and 3 show how the lower ends of the enclosure rods 5 may be connected to
15 the trampoline frame. A tubular socket 8 is carried by a bracket 9 which includes a U-shaped clamp part 10 which encircles an upright leg part of the trampoline frame and clamps the socket 8 to the frame. The U-shaped bracket may be closed by a bolt and nut 12 for example. A hook part 11 of the bracket extends upwardly and over the trampoline frame 1 as shown to assist in locating the bracket 9 vertically. Any other
20 mechanical equivalent arrangement for holding the lower ends of the closure rods at an angle may be utilised. Also it is not necessary that a bracket 9 or equivalent is provided only at each trampoline leg 2. Alternatively a bracket could clamp to the frame 1 between legs 2 or tubular holders 8 or equivalent could be fixed by welding for example to the lower external part of the frame member 1.

25 The sockets 8 or equivalent are oriented so that the enclosure rods are preferably retained by the trampoline frame at their lower ends so that in the natural rest state of the enclosure rods, when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline and before fitting of the barrier net, the enclosure rods will extend at an
30 angle away from the mat of the trampoline as shown. Thus, when the net is fitted to connect the upper ends of the enclosure rods, or some other flexible connecting element which connects the upper ends of the enclosure rods is fitted, this will draw the upper

- ends of the enclosure rods away from their natural state of rest and towards the centre of the mat, to the position generally as shown in Figure 1, to pre-tension the enclosure rods. The enclosure support rods act like fishing rods, and are set to hold up and tension the enclosure net adequately for the play or safety function. The higher is such pre-tension in the support rods the stronger rebound capability the enclosure net has. In addition it may not be essential that the enclosure rods are mounted so that they extend in a vertical plane. Alternatively the enclosure rods may extend to one side or the other, in a plane at an angle to the vertical and/or horizontal.
- 10 In a most simple form the upper ends of all of the enclosure rods 5 may be connected by a line. In the preferred form shown a band 15 such as a webbing strap fixed for example by sewing to the upper peripheral edge of the barrier net 6 couples the upper ends of all of the enclosure rods 5. The rods are coupled so that they are bowed or drawn away from their natural state of rest (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat. In an alternative form a line or band may couple the enclosure rods at or towards their upper ends, which is a separate component from the net itself. Such a separate band or line may incorporate a buckle or adjustable connector which allows for adjustment of the length of the band or line to enable the degree of pre-tension applied to the enclosure rods 5 to be varied, thus varying the strength of rebound that will be provided. Because the enclosure rods are coupled to the trampoline and mat only at or towards their lower ends they are free to move relative to the mat as shown in Figure 4. The enclosure rods are highly flexible or deformable. The degree of resilience may be such that an average size or weight user (for example a 80 kg user) deforming the enclosure to the extent shown in Figure 4 or to a greater extent will be rebounded back onto the mat.

- Typically the trampoline will be delivered to a purchaser in disassembled form. The enclosure may be supplied together with the trampoline or separately, and may be factory fitted, or retrospectively self-fitted by a user. It may come in component form as a kit, or preassembled for attachment to the trampoline. This provides an enclosure that is specifically designed to function as a play and safety addition to a trampoline.

The resulting enclosure system has a high degree of flexibility or deformability. This is illustrated in Figure 4, which shows a user impacting against the barrier net 6 and one enclosure rod 5, and it can be seen that the enclosure rod freely deforms away from the trampoline. At the same time the lower edge of the net remains coupled to the trampoline mat. Typically when an average sized or weight user hits the enclosure so that the enclosure deforms to this extent or more, the impact energy absorbed by the enclosure will gently rebound the user back onto the trampoline mat. The upper ends of all of the enclosure rods are connected together so that all of the enclosure rods and net form a dynamic rebound surface. That is, a user impacting any side of the enclosure will cause all of the rods to deform to some extent. The enclosure is such that when the enclosure is impacted by a user on one side causing the barrier on that side of the enclosure to deform away from the mat as shown in Figure 4 for example or more, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be deformed inwardly towards the centre of the mat. Also, the enclosure rods 5 are outside and thus removed from the direct area of play, are deformable and mounted by their lower ends only so as to not cause injury when they are hit from the side and unlikely to cause injury if landed on from above, but provide enough tension to the net to give the required rebounding response to a jumper hitting it.

Referring to Figures 5 and 6, the enclosure net may be supported at its upper periphery by pockets 17 provided at or near an upper periphery of the enclosure net, which will fit over the upper ends of the enclosure rods 15 as shown. The pockets 17 may be stitched or otherwise fixed to the enclosure net and/or band 15 around the top of the enclosure. As shown in Figure 7 the pocket 17 may be coupled to the barrier net 6 only at or adjacent the upper peripheral edge of the net. Optionally the pockets 17 may be lined with or formed of a compressible material such as synthetic foam or foam rubber material to further reduce the risk of any injury on impact with the enclosure rod by a jumper. Longer pockets the full length of the rods and preferably attaching at the bottom to the sockets 8 (as shown in Figure 7) reduce any risk of the pockets separating from the enclosure rods during active bouncing on the trampoline and against the barrier net. The risk of a bystander such as a child pulling an enclosure rod from the pocket is also reduced.

Figure 8 shows an alternative arrangement in which again a pocket 17 is provided at the upper periphery of the enclosure net for each enclosure rod 5. In this embodiment the pocket 17 is a shorter length pocket as shown. Safety loops 18 typically formed of a webbing material are provided through which the upper end of the enclosure rod 5 passes, which take the approximately lateral load between the upper end of the enclosure rod and the barrier net, one safety loop 18 within the pocket and the other below the pocket as shown. Thus the contact point between the top of the pocket 17 and the upper end of the rod enclosure 5 carries only approximately vertical force. Preferably the upper end of the enclosure rod 5 in this and other embodiments is enlarged as shown for example by fitting of a ball shaped end 19 to the rod end. The webbing loops 18 act to prevent the rod 5 with its attached ball 19 from being pulled downwards when the net 6 is tight, so preventing the rods 5 from being pulled inadvertently from the pocket 17 once the net 6 is assembled.

Preferably as also shown in Figure 7, the barrier net incorporates an integral door 20 as a flap sewn into the net. A hook and loop fastening material such as VELCRO is used between the edges of the door and the aperture through the barrier net as at 21. Alternatively, zippers may be used, or a combination of a hook and loop material and one or more zippers. The door aperture flap may be in any suitable form such as a square door flap and aperture as shown, or alternatively an inverted T-form with flaps on either side and a centre fastener or similar.

The foregoing describes the invention including preferred forms thereof. Alterations and modifications as will be obvious to those skilled in the art are intended to be incorporated and within the scope thereof as defined in the accompanying claims.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of springs holding the
5 mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible material surrounding the
mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to
the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright enclosure support
10 members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards
the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline and at
or towards their upper ends to the barrier at or near an upper peripheral part of the
barrier to support the barrier above the mat, and which are free to resiliently deform
away from the mat when impacted by a user against the barrier or an enclosure support
15 member, and which are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the
enclosure support members to draw and pre-tension the upper ends of the enclosure
support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower
ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat.
2. A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 1, wherein said barrier
20 comprises a flexible net material.
3. A trampoline and enclosure system according to either of claims 1 or 2 wherein
the enclosure support members hold the barrier in tension.
- 25 4. A trampoline and enclosure system according to any one of claims 1 to 3,
wherein the enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.
5. A trampoline and enclosure system according to any one of claims 1 to 4
wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper
30 ends by an upper peripheral part of the barrier.

6. A trampoline and enclosure system according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the enclosure support members are connected together at or towards their upper ends by a flexible connecting element
- 5 7. A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 6 wherein said flexible connecting element is fixed to or integral with the barrier at or towards an upper peripheral part of the barrier.
8. A trampoline and enclosure system according to any one of claims 1 to 7,
10 wherein the enclosure support members are connected to the frame of the trampoline below the surface of the mat.
9. A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding
15 the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat; and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright
20 enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame of the trampoline so that in their natural rest state (when connected only at the lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) the enclosure support members extend away from the mat, and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper peripheral
25 part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted by a user against
30 the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from the mat, the

enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

10. A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 10, wherein the
5 enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

11. A trampoline and enclosure system comprising:
a trampoline comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of coil springs holding
the mat in tension within a peripheral frame of the trampoline which surrounds the mat;
10 and
an enclosure system comprising a barrier of a flexible net material surrounding
the mat above the mat and having a lower peripheral part coupled directly or indirectly
to a periphery of the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible generally upright
enclosure support members outside of the barrier relative to the mat and which are
15 connected at or towards the lower ends of the enclosure support members to the frame
of the trampoline and which are connected to the barrier net only at or near an upper
peripheral part of the barrier to hold the net in tension above the mat, and which
enclosure support members are also connected together at or towards the upper ends of
the enclosure support members to draw the upper ends of the enclosure support
20 members away from their natural rest state (when connected only at their lower ends to
the frame of the trampoline) and towards the centre of the mat, so that when impacted
by a user against the barrier on one side of the enclosure causing the barrier and
enclosure support member on that side of the enclosure to resiliently deform away from
the mat, the enclosure support members and barrier on the opposite side of the enclosure
25 will be resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

12. A trampoline and enclosure system according to claim 11, wherein the
enclosure support members are pultruded fibreglass rods.

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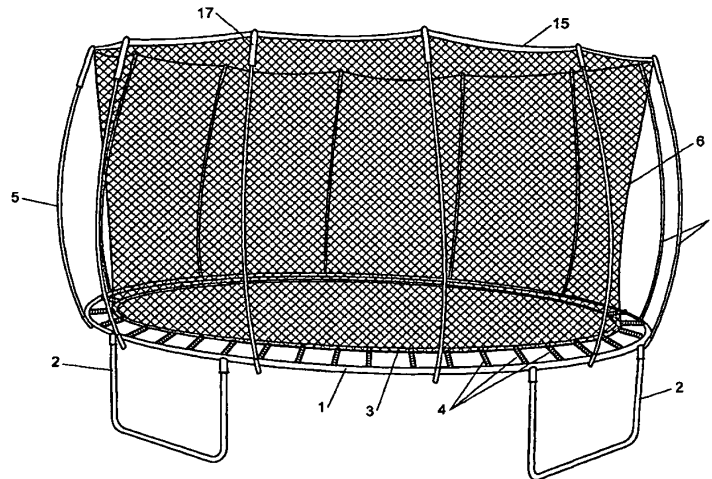
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(54) Title: A TRAMPOLINE AND ENCLOSURE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A trampoline comprising a flexible mat (3) and a plurality of springs (4) holding the mat in tension within a peripheral frame (1) of the trampoline which surrounds the mat has an enclosure system surrounding the mat. The enclosure has a lower peripheral part coupled to the mat and a plurality of resiliently flexible upright enclosure members (5) to support the barrier above the mat. The enclosure support members are free to resiliently deform away from the mat when impacted by a user against the barrier. They are also connected together at the upper ends of the enclosure support members away from their natural rest state and towards the centre of the mat. When impacted by a user against the barrier on the side of the enclosure causing the barrier to resiliently deform away from the mat, the enclosure support members are resiliently deformed towards the centre of the mat.

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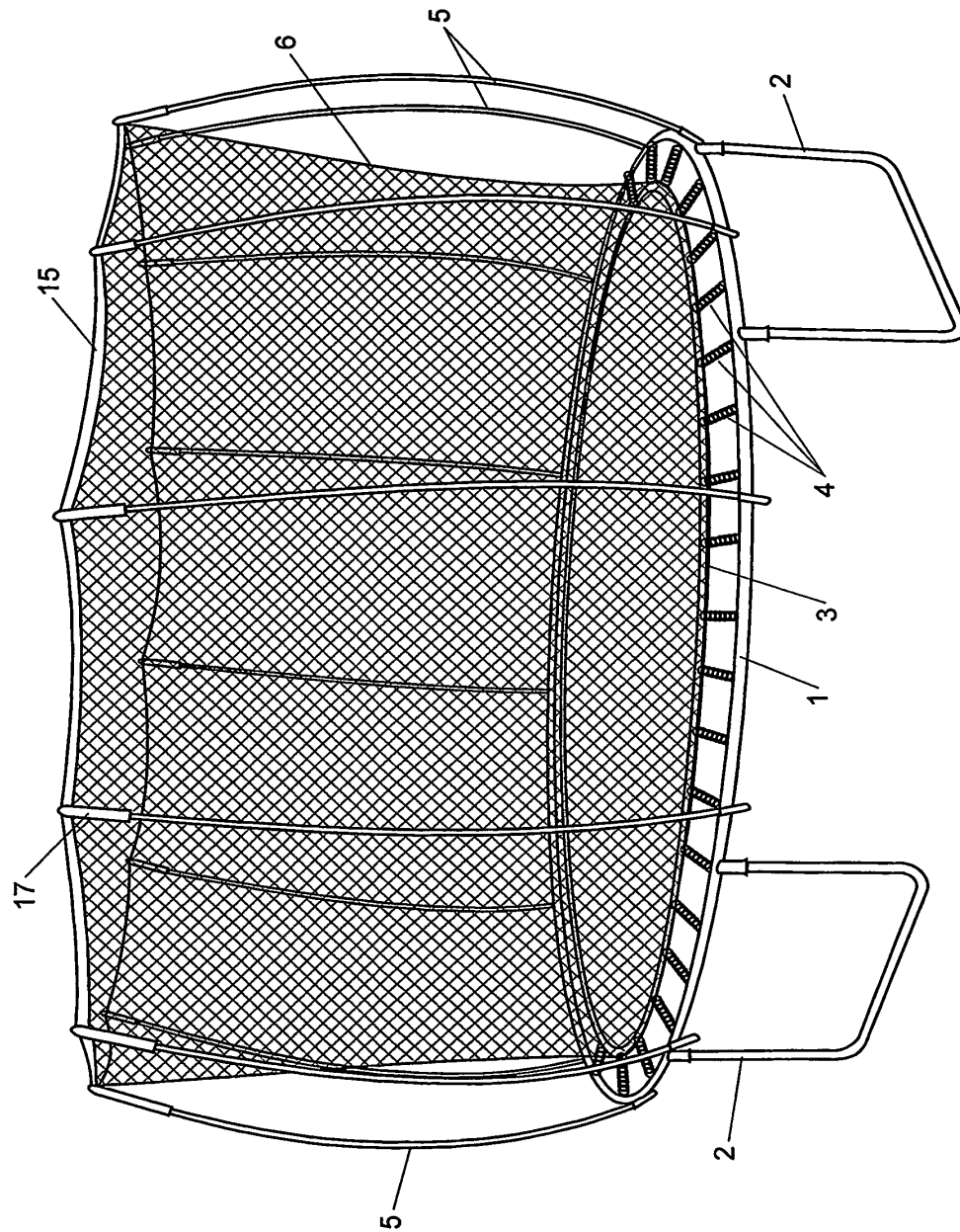


FIGURE 1

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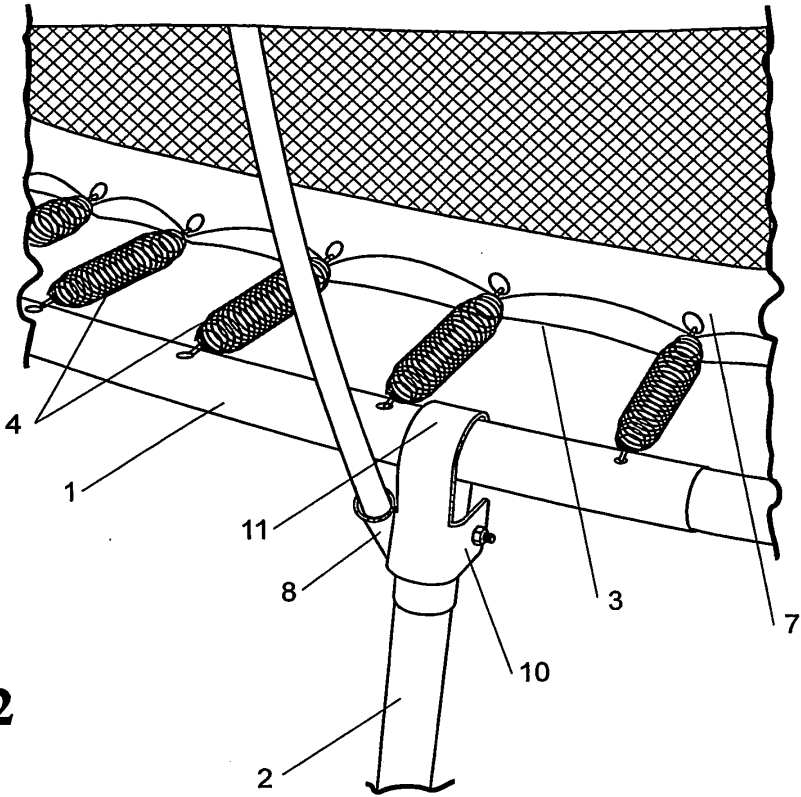


FIGURE 2

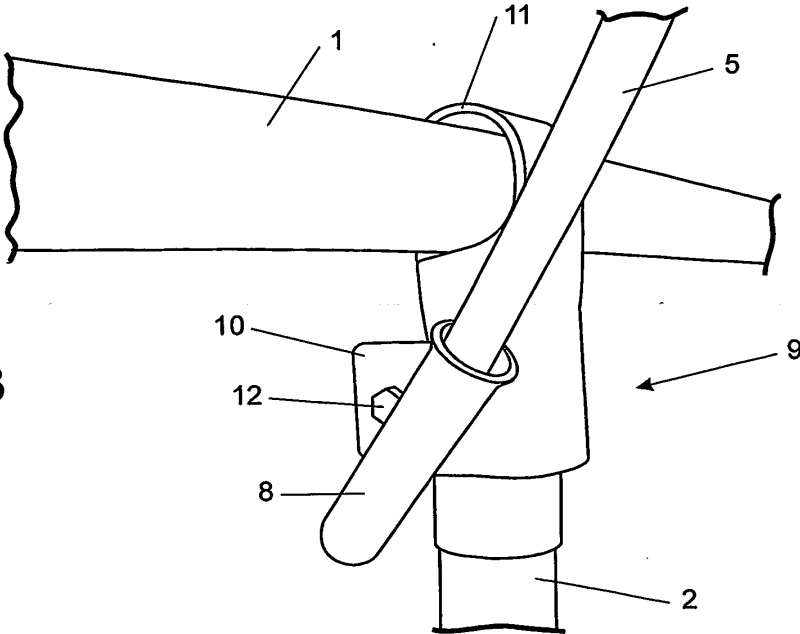


FIGURE 3

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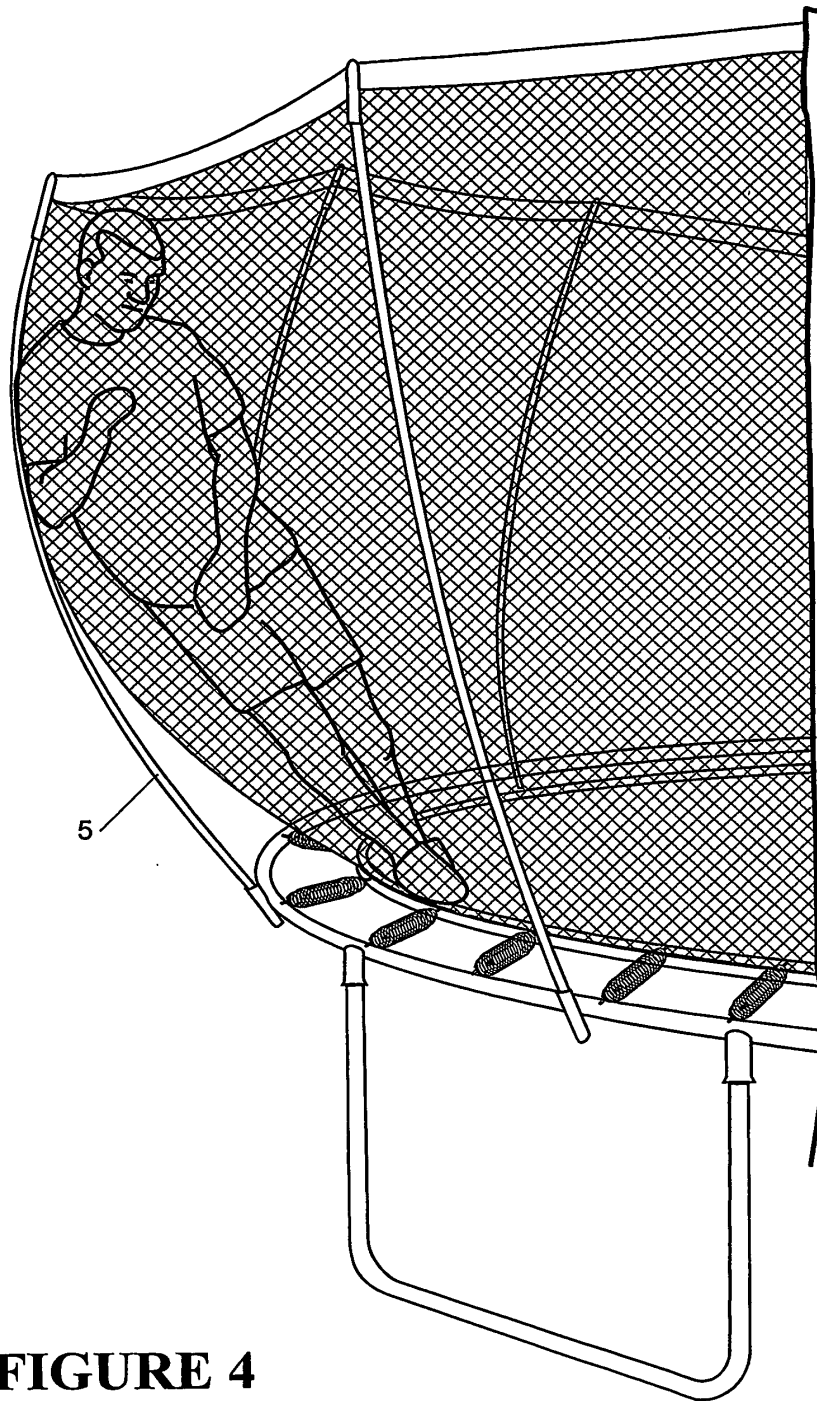


FIGURE 4

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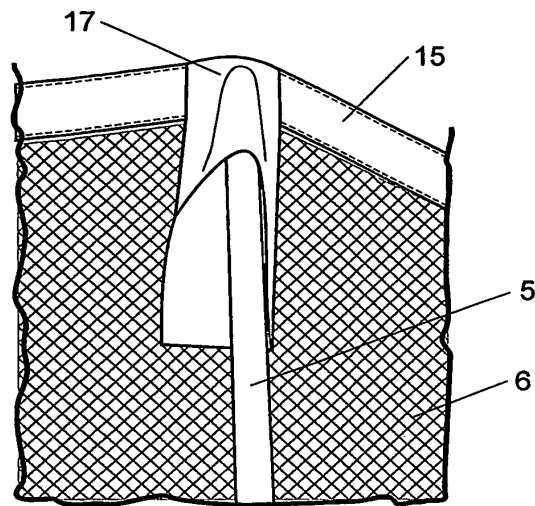


FIGURE 5

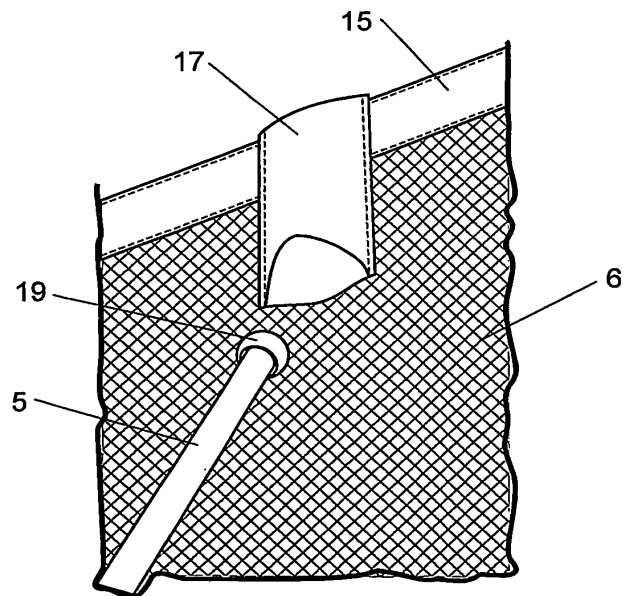


FIGURE 6

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FIGURE 7

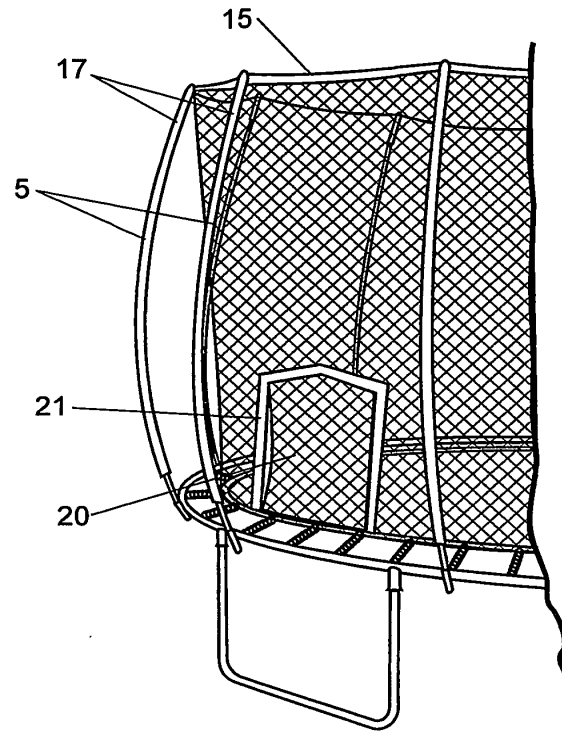
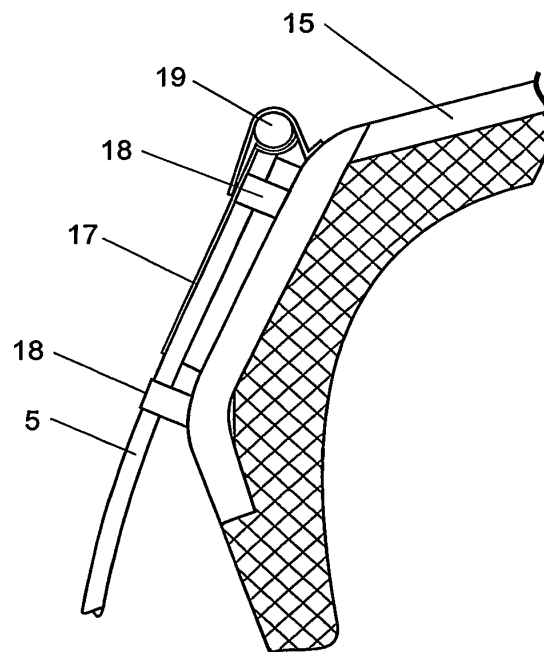


FIGURE 8



PCT/NZ2004/000318

CERTIFICATE

This certificate is issued in support of an application for Patent registration in a country outside New Zealand pursuant to the Patents Act 1953 and the Regulations thereunder.

I hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional Specification as filed on 19 December 2003 with an application for Letters Patent number 530271 made by BOARD & BATTEN INTERNATIONAL INC.

Dated 11 January 2005.



Neville Harris
Commissioner of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs



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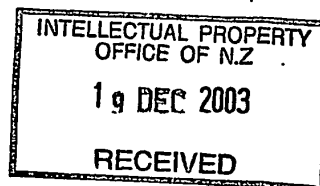
530271

NEW ZEALAND PATENTS ACT 1953

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

TRAMPOLINE ENCLOSURE

We, BOARD & BATTEN INTERNATIONAL INC., c/- International Management Services Ltd., Harbour Centre 4th Floor, North Church Street, Georgetown, Cayman Islands, do hereby declare this invention to be described in the following statement:



- 1 -

TRAMPOLINE ENCLOSURE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an enclosure for a trampoline that provides a rebounding surface in addition to the trampoline surface.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

Enclosures have been developed and sold to contribute to the safety of conventional trampolines. Such enclosures for trampolines are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. These enclosures are primarily designed as a safety device to prevent users falling from the trampoline. They are not suitable for users to deliberately bounce against them for play purposes. The enclosures are generally fairly rigid in nature, and especially the upright poles 1. Should a user deliberately jump into the enclosure, they could hit a rigid pole 1 and/or the outer horizontal frame that supports the trampoline mat. Both types of contact could result in injury to the user.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide a trampoline enclosure that provides a rebounding surface.

In one aspect the present invention may be said to consist in a trampoline enclosure adapted to be installed on a trampoline including: a plurality of resilient rods for attaching to the trampoline, and an enclosure wall for attaching to the rods and to, or in proximity to, the perimeter of the trampoline mat.

Preferably, in one form, the rod is made from pultruded fibreglass.

Preferably, in another form, the curtain is netting.

Preferably, in a further form, the top of the curtain includes pockets for attaching the curtain to the top of the rods. Preferably the rods have ball endings. Preferably, the pockets extend substantially the length of the rods.

In another form, the top of the curtain preferably includes fittings to capture the ball end of the rods. Preferably, the fittings are sewn into the top of the curtain.

In another form, a fitting is provided that preferably can attach or clamp to any point on the top of the curtain to capture the top end of the rods. Preferably, the rods are locked in to the fitting to prevent accidental removal.

In another form, the rods are preferably attached to the trampoline at a location on the frame or the legs of the trampoline. Preferably, the attachment is a socket connection. Preferably the bottom of the curtain has a band with holes or other means for connection of the curtain to the trampoline springs or to the spring attachment fittings on the mat. The enclosure may be supplied in component form as a kit, or preassembled, for attachment to the trampoline.

In another embodiment the present invention may be said to consist in a trampoline with an enclosure, the enclosure including: a plurality of resilient rods attached to the trampoline, and an enclosure wall attached to the rods and to, or in proximity to, the perimeter of the trampoline mat.

Preferably, in one form, the rod is made from pultruded fibreglass.

Preferably, in another form, the curtain is netting.

Preferably, in a further form, the top of the curtain includes pockets for attaching the curtain to the top of the rods. Preferably the rods have ball endings. Preferably, the pockets extend substantially the length of the rods.

In another form, the top of the curtain preferably includes fittings to capture the ball end of the rods. Preferably, the fittings are sewn into the top of the curtain.

In another form, a fitting is provided that preferably can attach or clamp to any point on the top of the curtain to capture the top end of the rods. Preferably, the rods are locked in to the fitting to prevent accidental removal.

In a further form, the rods are preferably attached to the trampoline at a location on the frame or the legs of the trampoline. Preferably, the attachment is a socket connection. Preferably the bottom of the curtain has a band with holes or other means for connection of the curtain to the trampoline springs or to the spring attachment fittings on the mat.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figures 1 and 2 show conventional enclosures on rectangular and round trampolines,

Figure 3 shows a trampoline without enclosure but with pads covering the frame and springs

Figure 4 shows an enclosure according to one embodiment of the invention installed on a trampoline,

Figures 5, 6 and 7 show attachment brackets for the rod sockets,

Figures 8 and 9 show the attachment of the support rods to the pockets on the curtain,

Figures 10 and 11 show the attachment of the support rods to a cleat in the curtain,

Figure 12 shows a the assembly of long curtain pockets for the support rods (in this case on a soft edged trampoline),

Figure 13 shows the attachment of the curtain at the bottom,

Figure 14 shows a zipped opening in the enclosure wall.

Figure 15 shows the trampoline in use,

Figure 16 shows an example construction of a support rod joiner,

Figure 17 shows a higher placement of the support rod joiner,

Figures 18A and 18B show the affect of using a central joiner, and

Figures 19A and 19B show the affect of placing the support rod joiner higher.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention relates to an enclosure for a trampoline. An example a trampoline without an enclosure is shown in Figure 3. It has a steel frame outer edge 4, with multiple springs connected to it tensioning the mat. It has safety pads 2 covering the frame and springs.

The enclosure according an embodiment of the invention is adapted for use with the trampoline in Figure 3 is shown installed on the trampoline in Figure 4. It comprises flexible/resilient poles or rods 3 attached at one end to the trampoline frame 4 that extend vertically. A net curtain 5 or similar is attached to the poles 3 near the top 6 and also near the trampoline mat in a manner to be described with reference to Figures 13 and 14. The enclosure may come supplied with the trampoline, or separately, and may be factory fitted, or retrospectively self fitted. It may come in component form as a kit,

or preassembled for attachment to the trampoline. This provides an enclosure that is specifically designed to function as a play addition to a trampoline, such as that of Figure 3. The particular combination of

- (a) the trampoline with safety pads
- (b) enclosure, and
- (c) supported by flexible/resilient rods is

uniquely suited to the use of the enclosure in trampoline play because a jumper hitting the enclosure wall and falling on the trampoline safety pads is in little danger of injury as the trampoline pads are soft and designed for such an event. Also the flexible rods are both difficult for the jumper to hit and readily move on impact so as not to cause injury.

This is in contrast to conventional trampoline enclosures such as in Figure 1 and 2, which are designed purely for safety. With such a conventional trampoline enclosure, if a jumper impacts a support pole 1 it is relatively rigid. They are therefore not suited to using the enclosure for play, and are designed as safety features.

A possible embodiment of the enclosure also provides an enclosure net 5 with a substantially vertical, robust and resilient impact surface of sufficient strength to bounce a person back on to the trampoline. It also provides flexible support rods 3 (as shown in Figure 4) that

- (a) Are preferably removed from the curtain surface 5 as to be difficult to hit,
- (b) That are so flexible as to not cause injury when they are hit from the side,
- (c) That are so flexible as to not cause injury if landed on from above and
- (d) Provide enough tension to the net to give the required rebounding response to the jumper hitting it.

Mounting methods for the support rods can include socket connections, where the sockets receive the end(s) of the enclosure rod. The position and orientation of the

socket may be, in one embodiment, clamped on to the trampoline frame and leg as shown in Figures 5 & 6. The socket 7 includes a bracket portion for attachment around the leg. The bracket can be attached to the frame 4 using for example a bolt.

Further, in another form, the sockets 7 for the enclosure rods 3 could be made integral with the trampoline frame 4. As shown in Figure 7, the socket 7 is welded directly to the frame. It could alternatively be embedded within the frame. This form allows a simpler production since there is no need for attachment brackets. Also, since the socket 7 is within the frame, the stability and strength of the socket 7 may be improved from the designs in Figures 5 and 6.

To allow the rods 3 to bend under impact, the socket could be set at an angle from vertical. The sockets 7 shown in Figure 5 to 7 show such an angle.

The enclosure also provides the safety function achieved by conventional trampoline enclosures and it may be assembled on a trampoline for that purpose alone.

Further features may be provided for the trampoline enclosure as described above. For example, support rods 3, acting like fishing rods, are set to hold up and tension the upper edge 6 of the enclosure net adequately for the play function. The higher the tension in the support rods 3, the more rebound capability the enclosure net 5 has. In other words, where there is a need to provide a netting 5 with a high rebound capability, highly loaded rods 3, thicker rods 3 or more rods 3 could be employed.

Another optional feature could be providing enough support rods 3 to produce an enclosure that does not intrude over the jumping surface. In Figure 4, eight rods are used to achieve this.

The enclosure net 5 could include inverted pockets 8 in the top edge 6 to engage and retain the tops of the support rods 3, as shown in Figures 8 and 9. The inverted pockets 8 may be sewn onto the top edge of the enclosure net 5, or they may be attached by other means such as ties or Velcro straps. Additionally, support rods 3 could be fitted

with a ball-shaped end 9 to both engage the inverted pocket 8 and prevent the rod 3 from penetrating the net inverted pocket 8, especially on impact, as shown in Figures 8 and 9.

In a further form, the inverted pockets 8 may be replaced with fittings 10 that engage the ball-shape end 9 of the rod 3. An example of the fitting is shown in Figure 10. The fitting 10 could be a cleat that includes a socket cavity to receive the ball-shape end 9 of the rod 3 to form a pivotable connection. To ensure the fitting 10 itself is secured to the net top edge 6, the fitting 10 could be sewn into the net top edge 6. A hole is provided in the net top edge 6 to allow the ball-end 9 of the rod 3 to connect with the fitting 10.

In an optional arrangement, a clip cleat 10 is provided. A cut-away view of the clip cleat 10 is shown in Figure 11. The clip cleat 10 provides a latch-like clip 11 to retain the ball-end 9 in the socket cavity. With this arrangement, the rod 3 will not dislocate out of the cleat even if the trampoline user was to pull on the rod 3. To release the ball-end 9, the user will have to move the clip 11 downward before pulling the rod 3 out. This arrangement thus provides a greater safety feature of preventing accidental dislocation of the support rods 3.

In another optional arrangement, the inverted pocket 8 could be a long pocket 8 hanging from the top edge 6, covering the support rod 3. An example is shown in Figure 12. The advantages of this include additional safety against the rod 3 springing loose from the top edge 6 during an impact, and injuring a bystander: the rod 3 is fully contained in the long pocket 8. If the long pocket 8 is lined with a soft material such as foam, this can reduce any impact injury. Also, the long pocket 8 prevents a bystander from pulling the rod 3 down and out of the top socket, because the pocket has to be pulled at the same time.

Furthermore, the enclosure net 5 may have sewn into the bottom edge a band 12 of plain material with holes for hooking over on the trampoline springs as shown in Figure 13.

The enclosure net may also incorporate a door 14 which may be a flap sewn into the net, hung from its top edge and which seals around its edges with Velcro, or a door made with a zip 15 at the joint in the net as shown in Figure 14.

As previously described in the above preferred embodiments, flexible support rods 3 are used to support the enclosure net 5 to provide both safety and play functions. As shown in Figure 15, the flexible support rods 3 must be long enough to support, with tension, the height of the enclosure net 5. At the same time, the flexible support rods 3 must possess the strength to withstand the forces involved when the enclosure is used. For various reasons, the flexible support rods 3 are not manufactured as a single extruded rod, but are preferably a combination of multiple interjoined flexible support rods.

In one form, two flexible rods combine at substantially the centre point of the enclosure net 5. To ensure the secure coupling of the two flexible rods, a central joiner is provided. Referring to Figure 15, the central joiner is shown as 16.

Figure 16 shows one simple form of the central joiner 16. For a seamless connection, the central joiner 16 is shown to have substantially the same cross-sectional dimension as the flexible rods. On each end of the central joiner 16, a hollow passage 17 is provided. The passage 17 will receive an equivalently dimensioned protrusion 18 on the flexible rods. The protrusion 18 of the flexible rod could be attained by machining (e.g. using a lathe) the flexible rod end. Alternatively, the protrusion 18 could be formed during the extrusion of the flexible rods.

In an alternative form of the flexible support rod 3, the joiner for the individual flexible rods could be set higher along the length of the flexible support rod 3. An illustration of this form is shown in Figure 17. Shown as joiners 19, the relative difference in position when compared to the central joiners 16 is apparent.

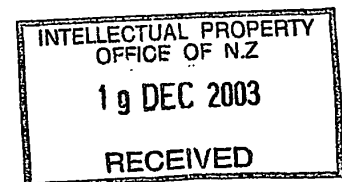
The reasons for this alternative arrangement of the joiners 19 are to:

- (a) move the joiner away from a point where a jumper could hit it.
- (b) reduce the stress on the joiner.

(c) use more convenient lengths of rod.

In a highly preferred embodiment, a long pocket 8, illustrated in Figure 12, receives the assembled support rods 3, such that the central joiner 16 or the joiner 19 is substantially covered by the long pocket 8. This prevents the support rods 3 from escaping from the central joiner 16 or joiner 19 and prevents the joiner becoming a projectile if the support rods 3 are pulled apart.

Board & Batten International Inc
By the authorised agents
AJ PARK
Per 



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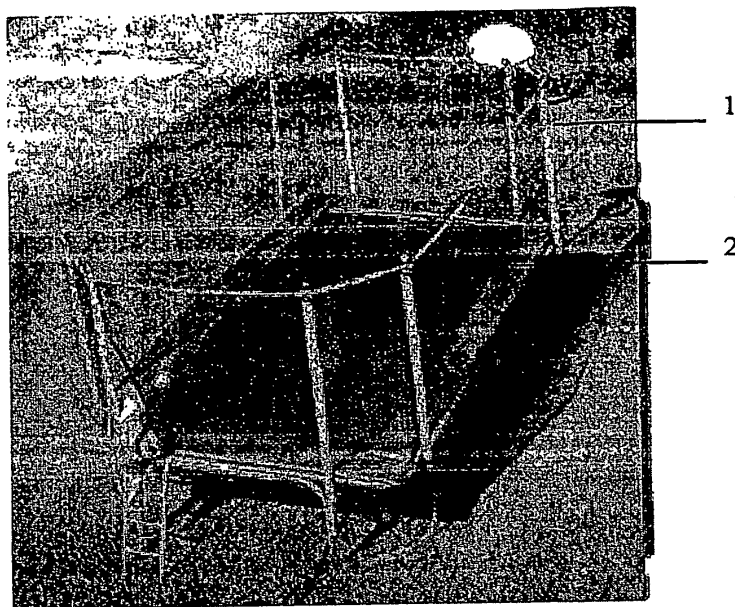


Figure 1

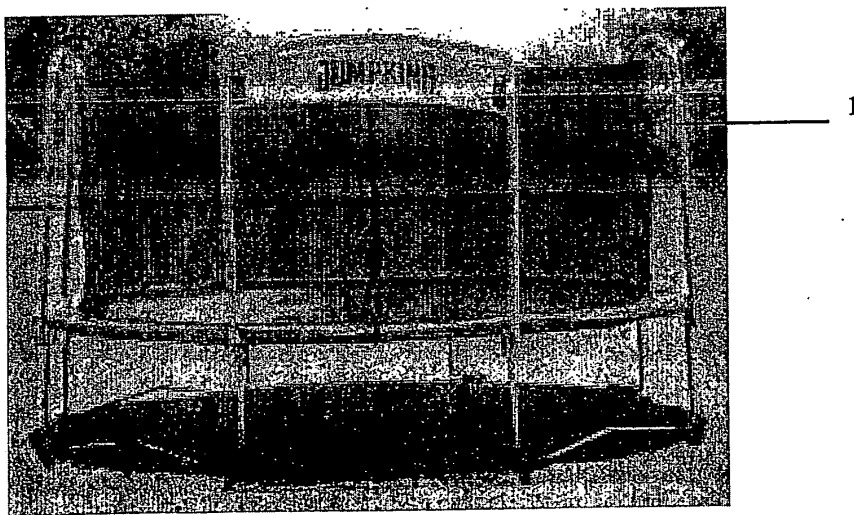


Figure 2

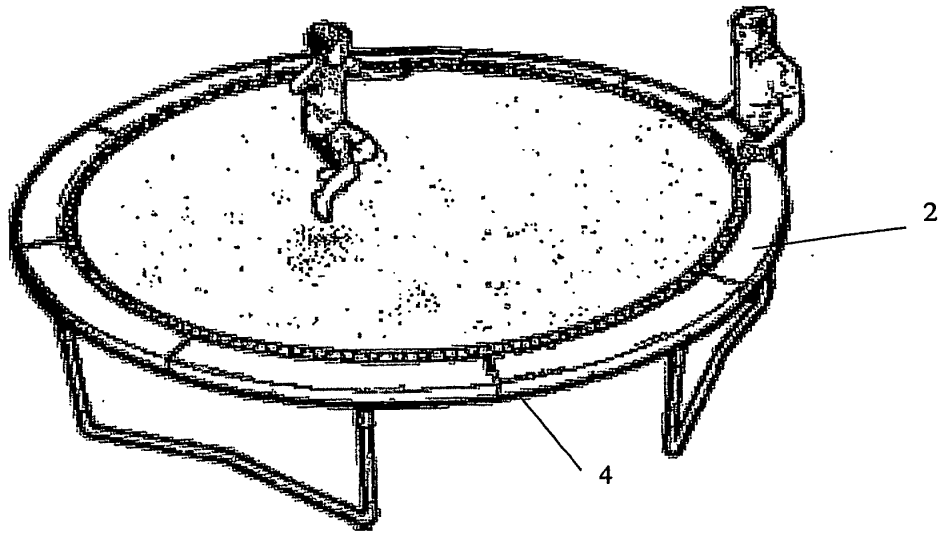


Figure 3

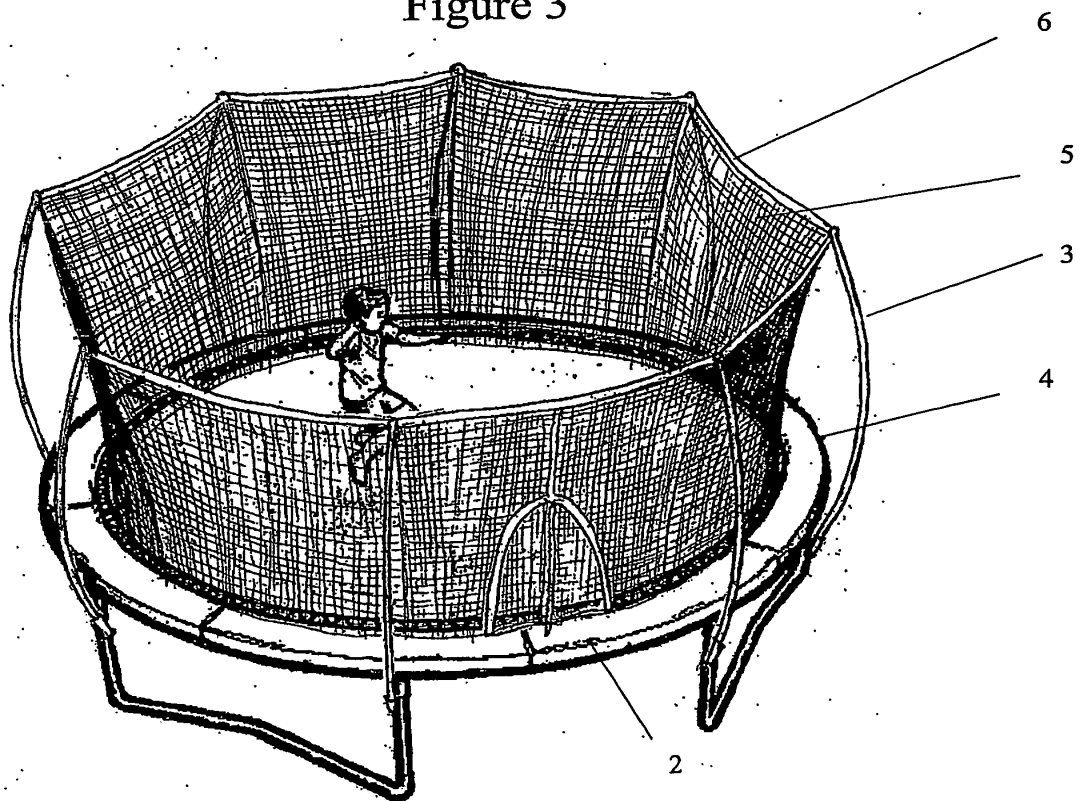


Figure 4

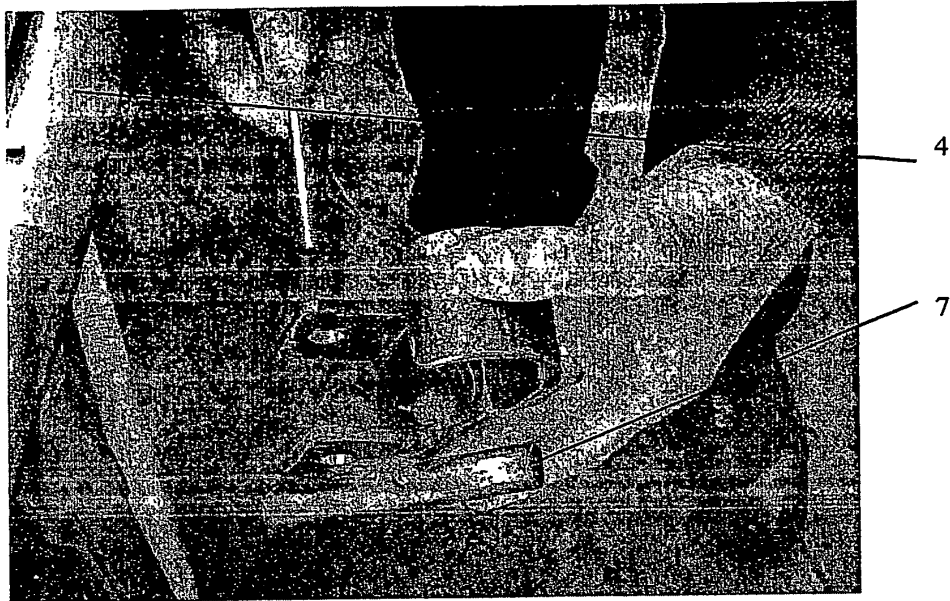


Figure 5

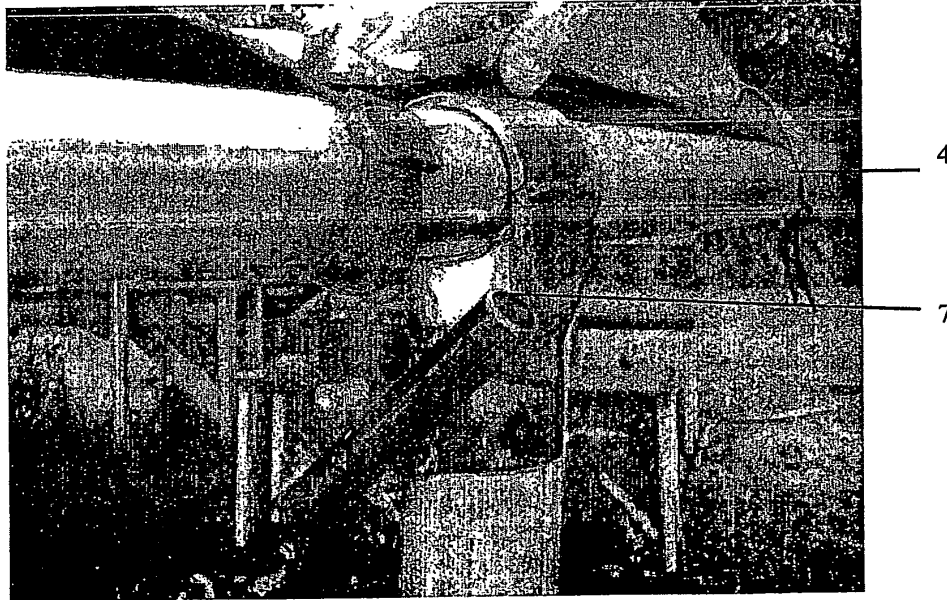


Figure 6

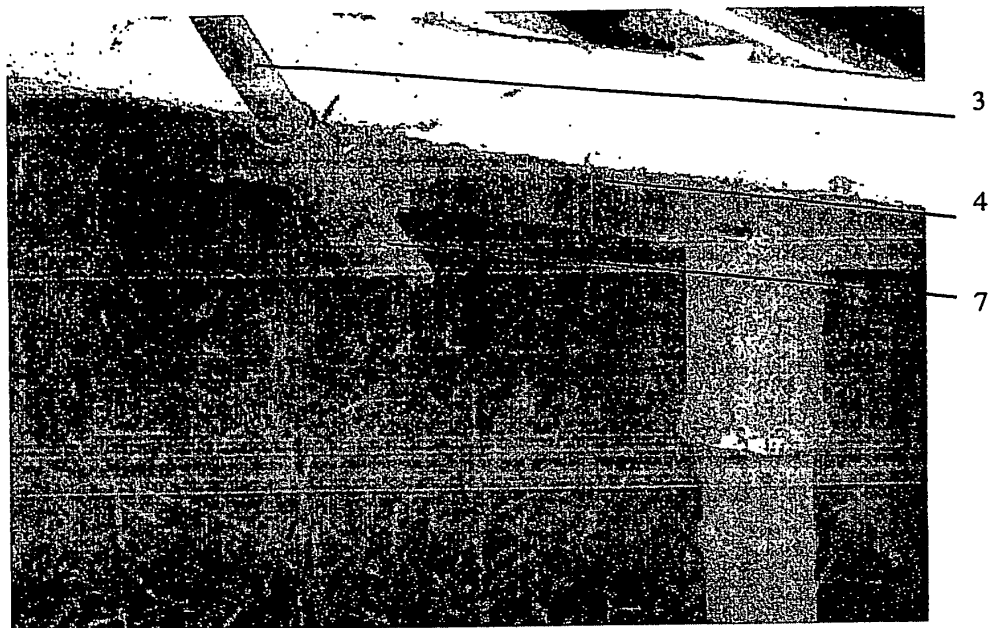


Figure 7

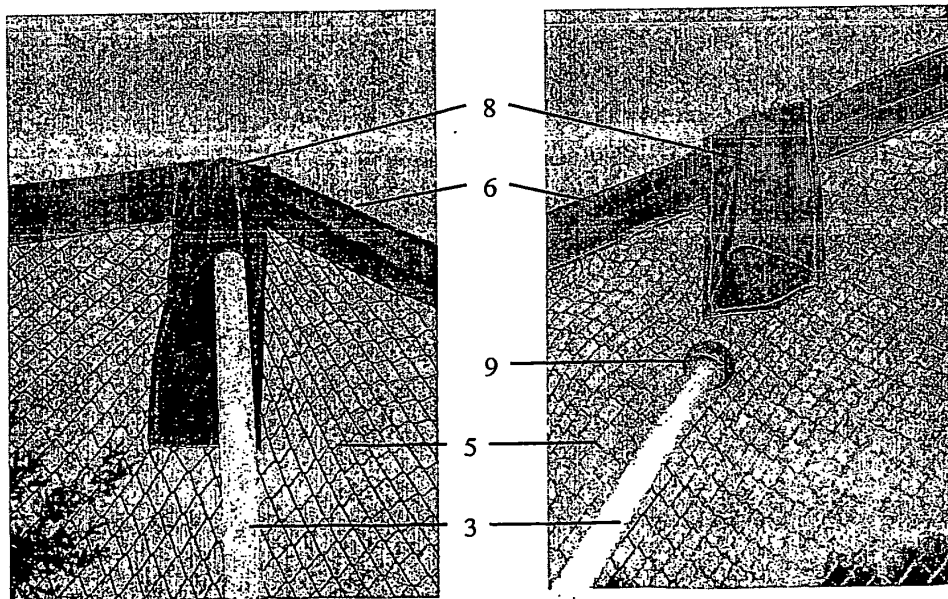


Figure 8

Figure 9

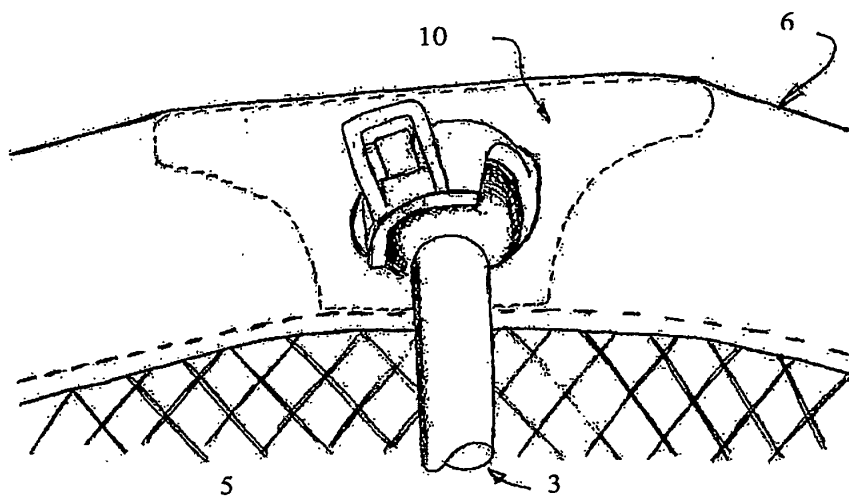


Figure 10

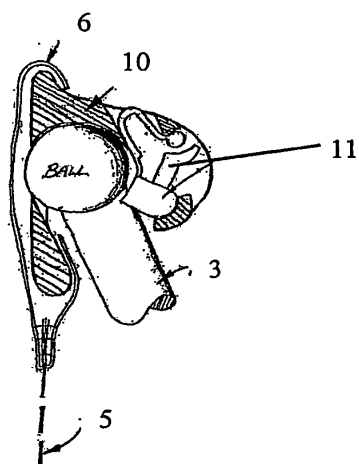


Figure 11

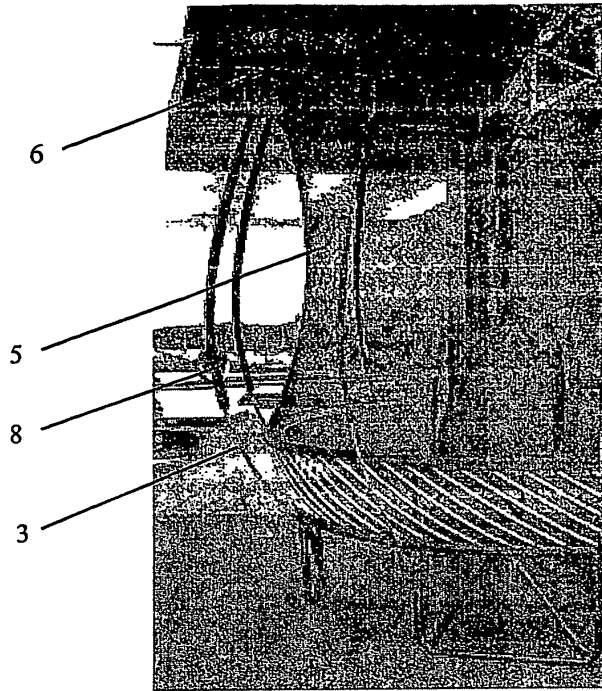


Figure 12

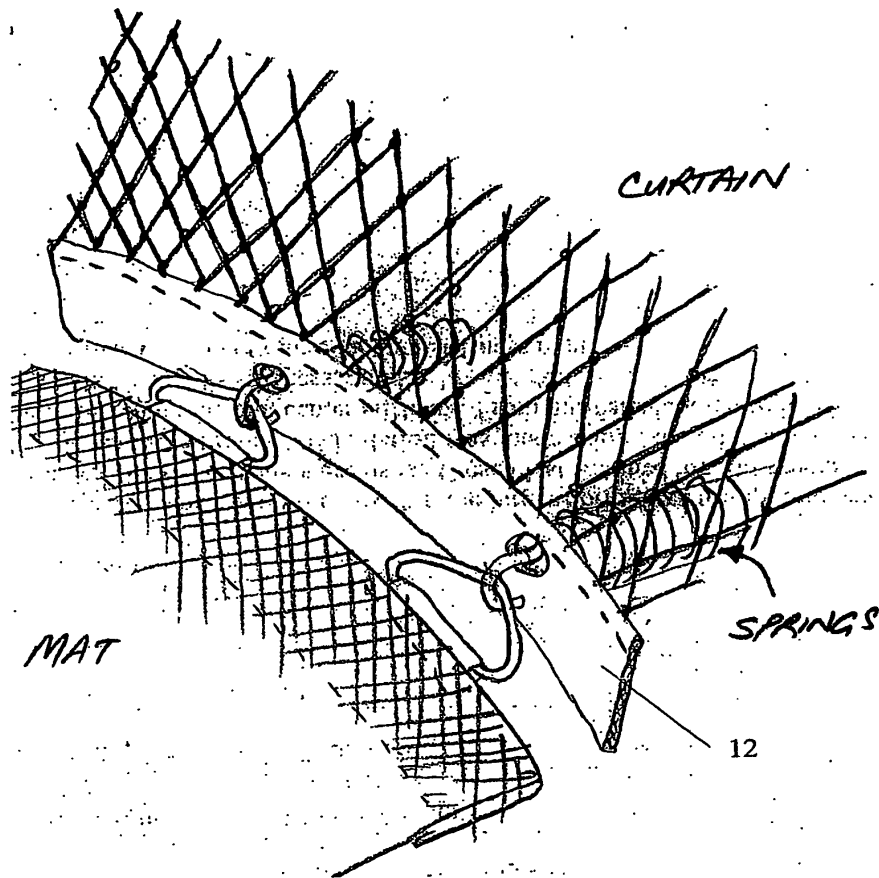


Figure 13

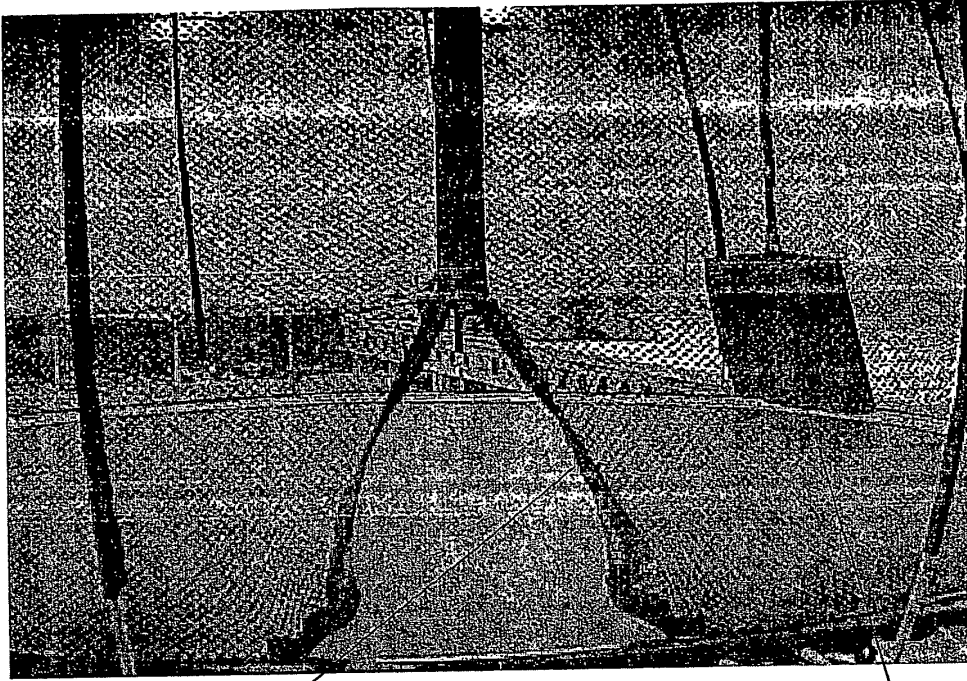


Figure 14

15

14



Figure 15

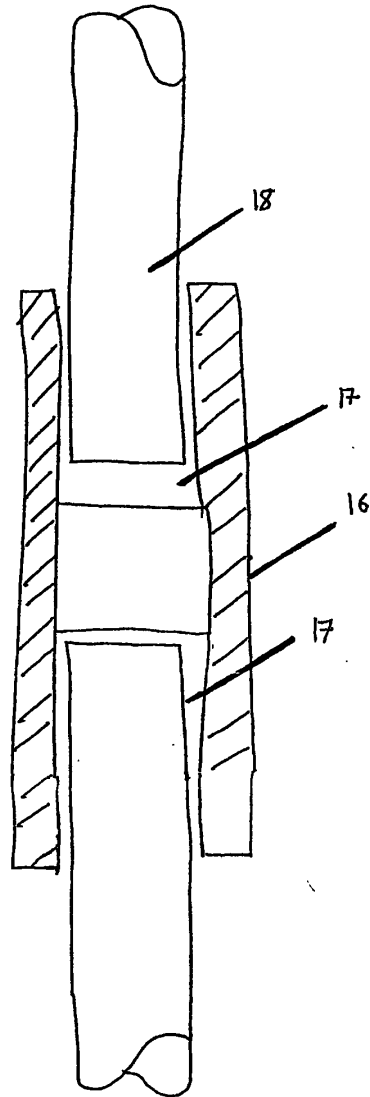


Figure 16

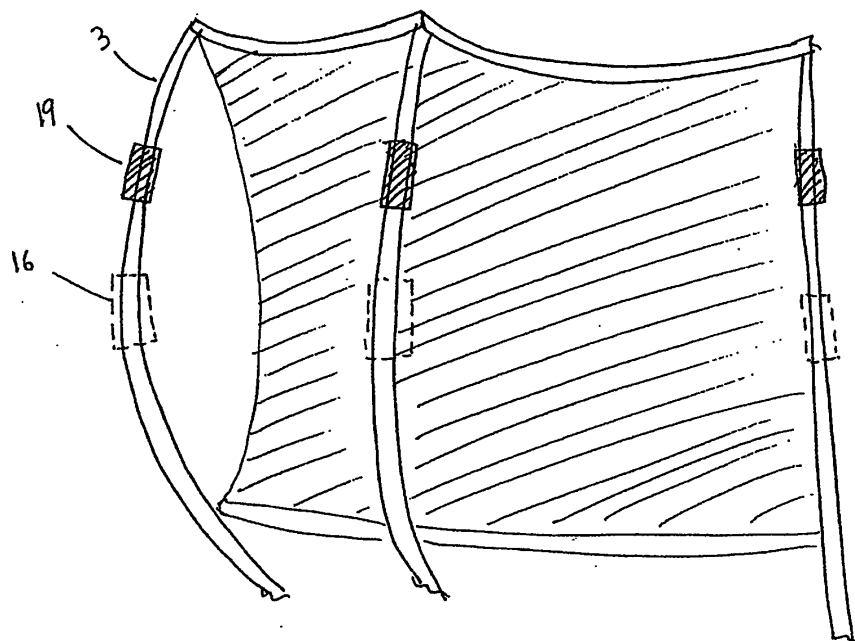


Figure 17

Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

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Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 17 January 2005 (17.01.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



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India Evans, Patent Application Specialist/ National Stage Division

U.S. Appl. No. 10/582551

International Appl. No. PCT/NZ04/000318

Application filed by : ☐ 20 months ☒ 30 months

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- ☒ International Application (RECORD COPY)
- ☐ Article 19 Amendments
- ☐ PCT/IPEA/409 IPER : ☐ EP ☐ JP ☐ SE ☐ AU
☐ US ☐ FR ☐ CN ☐ ES ☐ RU ☐ AT ☐ KR ☐ _____
- ☐ Annexes to 409
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☐ US ☐ FR ☐ CN ☐ ES ☐ RU ☐ AT ☐ KR ☐ _____ ☐ NONE
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- ☒ Drawing Figure(s) - (# of drwgs. 5)
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- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) Filed on :
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- ☐ Assignee PG Publication Notice
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- ☐ Verified Small Status Statement
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35 U.S.C. 371 - Receipt of Request (PTO-1390)

mo. / day / yr. 200

Date Acceptable Oath/ Declaration Received

☐ Same as 371 Req. Date; ☐ mo. / day / yr. 200

Date of Completion of requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371

☐ Same as 371 Req. Date; ☐ Same as OATH Date; ☐ mo. / day / yr. 200

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Date of Completion of DO/ EO 905 - Notification of Missing Requirements

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 909 - Notification of Abandonment

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 916 - Notification of Defective Response

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 922 - Notification to Comply w/ Requirements for Patent

Applications Containing Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures

Date of Completion of DO/ EO 923

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM FEE CALCULATION SHEET (FOR USE WITH FORM PTO-875)						SERIAL NO. 10/582551		FILING DATE					
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	IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.		IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.
1	1						51						
2		6					52						
3		8					53						
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TOTAL IND.	3	↓		↓		↓	TOTAL IND.	↓		↓		↓	
TOTAL DEP.	10	←		←		←	TOTAL DEP.	←		←		←	
TOTAL CLAIMS	13						TOTAL CLAIMS						

PTO - 1560 (REV. 11/04)

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Effective December 8, 2004

Application or Docket Number

10/582551

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SEARCH FEE	U.S. is ISA = \$ 50 / \$ 100 ALL other countries = \$ 200 / \$ 400	ALL other situations = \$ 250 / \$ 500
FEE FOR EXTRA SPEC. PGS.	minus 100 =	/ 50 =
TOTAL CHARGEABLE CLAIMS	13 minus 20 = *	—
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3 minus 3 = *	—
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT		☒

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X \$ 25 =		OR	X \$ 50 =	
X \$ 100 =		OR	X \$ 200 =	
+ \$ 180 =	180	OR	+ \$ 360 =	
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Independent	*	Minus ***	=
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM ☐		

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OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY

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X \$ 100 =		OR	X \$ 200 =	
+ \$ 180 =		OR	+ \$ 360 =	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
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Total	*	Minus **	=
Independent	*	Minus ***	=
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM ☐		

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
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X \$ 100 =		OR	X \$ 200 =	
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