

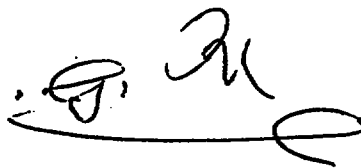
PATENTS ACT 1977

and

PATENTS (AMENDMENT) RULES 1987

I, Harold George BROWN, F.I.L.,  
c/o Europa House, Marsham Way, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.,  
declare that I am conversant with the French and English  
languages and that to the best of my knowledge and belief  
the accompanying document is a true translation of the  
text on which the European Patent Office intends to grant  
or has granted European Patent No. 0,203,247  
in the name of Planacord S.A.

Signed this                      day of

no. 

H.G. BROWN

The invention relates to a fitment for buildings, for use in dwellings or offices or for any other use. A fitment of this kind is known, for example, from US-A-4360991.

The aim of the invention is to provide a fitment enabling the user of the premises to vary at will the size of the two parts of the room which are separated by the fitment according to the invention.

The fitment according to the invention comprises a double, braced rectangular metal or wooden box and framework structure which extends vertically from floor to ceiling and horizontally from one wall of the room to the opposite wall. This box and framework structure is self-supporting and capable of translatory movement in the room, guide means being provided in the room in order to guide the displacement of the box and framework structure in a horizontal direction parallel to the two walls between which it is moved.

In its thickness the box and framework structure is equipped to order, to constitute a cupboard, a passageway, a cavity for a retractable bed, a wardrobe, a bookcase, or any other storage space, depending on the functions that the fitment is intended to serve.

Two examples of construction of the fitment according to the invention will be described below and illustrated in the drawings accompanying this description.

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the basic construction of the box and framework structure according to a first embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a vertical section through the depth of the box and framework structure of the same embodiment of the invention.

Figure 3 is an elevation, partly broken away, of the box and framework structure shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 shows a detail of the box and framework structure shown in Figure 3.

Figure 5 shows one use of the invention.

Figure 6 shows another use of the invention.

Figures 7 to 10 show examples of the utilization of

the fitment according to the invention.

Figure 11 is a vertical section in the width of a box and framework structure according to another embodiment of the invention.

Figure 12 is a vertical section in the width of the box and framework structure, showing certain details of this other embodiment of the invention.

Figure 13 is a vertical section in the depth of the box and framework structure, showing certain details of this other embodiment of the invention.

Figure 14 is a schematic horizontal section showing one type of side seal of a box and framework structure according to the invention.

The fitment shown in Figure 1 comprises a box and framework structure 1 mounted to run on two rails 2, 3. The box and framework structure extends vertically from the floor 4 to the ceiling 5 of the room in which it is situated (Figure 2). In this room it extends from one to the other of two opposite walls 6, 7, in which case the two rails 2, 3 are preferably situated near and along these walls. In Figure 1 only one of the walls (reference 6) is shown for the sake of clarity.

The box and framework structure 1 is composed essentially of a self-stable supporting frame forming the sides of the box and framework structure; the interior of the frame constitutes the cavity of the box and framework structure and the front and rear faces of the frame constitute respectively the front and rear faces of the partition formed in the room by the box and framework structure.

In the embodiment illustrated the supporting frame consists of a front frame 8 and a rear frame 9, which are mounted parallel and braced by panels 10 fixed to the frames, for example by means of screws or nails. These panels 10 constitute the sides of the cavity.

The front and rear frames are preferably in the form of hollow sections P of rectangular cross-section, joined by angles C which fit into the sections (Figure 3).

Acoustic or thermal insulating material 11 (for example foam, felt or the like) is disposed as required on the periphery of the box and framework structure 1 to provide insulation on the sides and top of the box and framework structure 1, between the front and rear frames 8 and 9 respectively.

The front frame 8 and the rear frame 9 are optionally provided with decorative coverings 12.

The front frame 8 and the rear frame 9 are equipped with end rollers 13 to run on the rails 2, 3.

Figure 4 is a detail view showing the mounting of a roller 13 in the bottom left-hand angle C<sub>1</sub> of the front frame 8.

If desired, known means are provided for retracting the roller 13 in the upward direction when it is desired to secure the box and framework structure 1 in position. In the embodiment illustrated the box and framework structure 1 is provided with additional running means, for example rollers 14 which bear directly on the floor of the room. One or more of the rollers 13 or running means 14 may if desired be motorized in order to facilitate the movement of the box and framework structure 1 in the room.

The cavity of the box and framework structure 1 is equipped in accordance with the user's wishes.

This cavity contains for example hanging cupboards 15 (Figures 5 and 6), a door 16 (Figure 5), retractable beds 17 (Figure 6), and so on.

Figures 7 to 10 show a building in which a room 19 is equipped with two box and framework structures 20 and 21 disposed opposite one another and separating said room 19 from the adjoining rooms 22 and 23. The box and framework structure 20 has a door 16 and the remainder of its cavity faces towards the room 22; the box and framework structure 21 has no door and part of its cavity faces the room 23. By moving one and/or the other of the box and framework structures 20 and 21 as desired, the size of the rooms 19, 22 and 23 can be varied in accordance with momentary requirements (Figures 7 to 10).

In another embodiment, which is illustrated in Figure 11, the box and framework structure 1 according to the invention is suspended on two rails 24, 25 fixed to the ceiling, each rail 24, 25 consisting of an omega-shaped section whose ends serve as running track for the rollers 26. The rollers 26 are fixed to the flanges of a section 27 on which the box and framework structure 1 is suspended by means of a rod 28.

In this more particular form of construction of the box and frame structure 1 according to the invention the box and frame structure 1 is also provided with a mechanical system which, when the box and framework structure 1 is at rest, firmly applies acoustic sealing sections 29, 30 and 31 firmly against the floor and the ceiling while making it possible, when the box and framework structure 1 is in movement and the sections 29, 30 and 31 are detached from the floor and ceiling, for air to be rapidly evacuated from the room which has been made smaller to the room made larger by the movement of the box and framework structure 1, by way of the space 32 left free between the box and framework structure 1 on the one hand and the walls 6 and 7, the floor 4 and the platform 5 on the other hand.

In a particular form of construction of a box and framework structure according to the invention (Figure 12), an acoustic seal 29 is applied by a telescopic action against the base of the rail 24, while an acoustic seal 30 is applied against the ceiling through the rotation of the plate 33 about the axis 34 under the control of a cable 35.

In another particular form of construction of a box and framework structure according to the invention (Figure 13), a double acoustic seal 36 mounted on a movable rigid frame 41 is applied against the ceiling by means of a telescopic operating means 37.

The box and framework structure according to the invention may also be equipped with rotary side seals 39 (Figure 14).

The mechanical system which effects the opening and closing of the free spaces 32 necessary for the rapid evacuation of the air from the room made smaller to the room made larger by the movement of the box and framework structure 1 according to the invention, is housed between the front frame 8 and the rear frame 9 of the box and framework structure 1 (Figure 11) and is operated by a crank 40.

This mechanical system may consist of cables, rods, pneumatic piston-cylinder units, eccentrics, worms, or electrical or other control systems, without thereby departing from the scope of the invention.

This mechanical system provides thermal insulation at the same time as acoustic insulation of a room separated from the adjoining room by the box and framework structure according to the invention.

The number of rails or rollers serving as guide means for the movement of the box and framework structure according to the invention depends on the width of the room to be partitioned and is not limited to two.



CLAIMS

1. Fitment for buildings, for use in dwellings or offices or for any other use, characterized in that it comprises a double, braced rectangular metal or wooden box and framework structure (1) which extends vertically from the floor (4) to the ceiling (5) and horizontally from one wall (6) of the room to the opposite wall (7), said box and framework structure (1) being self-supporting and capable of translatory movement in the room, guide means (2, 3, 24, 25) being provided in the room in order to guide the displacement of the box and framework structure in a horizontal direction parallel to the two side walls (6, 7) between which it is moved.
2. Fitment according to Claim 1, characterized in that the guide means are rails (2, 3, 24, 25) and in that the box and framework structure (1) is mounted to run on these rails.
3. Fitment according to Claim 2, characterized in that the rails (2, 3) are fixed to the floor (4), and in that the box and framework structure (1) is provided with rollers (13) profiled to follow the rails (2, 3) during the movement of the box and framework structure (1) and optionally with intermediate running means (14), which rollers or running means may or may not be motorized.
4. Fitment according to Claim 2, characterized in that the rails (24, 25) are fixed to the ceiling (5), and in that the box and framework structure (1) is provided with rollers (26) profiled to follow the rails (24, 25) during the movement of the box and framework structure (1).
5. Fitment according to Claim 4, characterized in that the rails (24, 25) consist of inverted omega-shaped sections fixed to the ceiling, the rollers (26) fixed to the box and framework structure (1) running inside these omega-shaped sections on the ends of said omega-shaped sections (24, 25).
6. Fitment according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one of the guide means (2, 3, 24, 25) is disposed along and near one of the side



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walls (6, 7).

7. Fitment according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the box and framework structure (1) consists of a front frame (8) and a rear frame (9) which are mounted parallel and braced by panels (10).

8. Fitment according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the box and framework structure (1) is equipped with modular furniture (15, 17) opening onto one or the other or both faces of the partition thus formed.

9. Fitment according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the box and framework structure (1) contains a passageway between the two rooms separated by the partition in the premises, thus permitting passage through the partition, which passageway may or may not be provided with doors (16) on one or the other or on both faces of said partition.

10. Fitment according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that an acoustic or thermal insulating material (11) is disposed as required on the outer periphery and/or between the front frame (8) and rear frame (9) of the box and framework structure (1).

11. Fitment according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it contains at least one free space (32) capable of being opened or closed at will, the total section of this free space (32) being sufficient to permit the rapid evacuation of air from the room made smaller to the room made larger in the premises by the movement of box and framework structure (1).

12. Fitment according to Claim 11, characterized in that it is provided with a telescopic, pneumatic or electric mechanism fixed between the front frame (8) and the rear frame (9) of the box and framework structure (1) or on the periphery of said box and framework structure (1) to effect the opening or closing of the free space (32).

13. Fitment according to Claim 12, characterized in that the mechanism effecting the opening and closing of the free space (32) consists of flexible seals (29, 30,



31, 36, 39), which are optionally mounted on movable rigid frames (41) and which are capable of being or not being applied against the walls: ceiling (5), floor (4), rails (2, 3, 24, 25), side walls (6, 7) by said mechanism with the aid of cables (35), rods, pistons, eccentrics, etc., by means of a control (40) fixed to the box and framework structure (1) and optionally concealed in a piece of furniture (15) situated in the box and framework structure.

14. Rooms equipped with at least one fitment according to the preceding claims.