

TITLE

Drop-down seal and building part

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a drop-down seal according to the preamble of patent claim 1 and to a building part according to the preamble of patent claim 12.

PRIOR ART

Drop-down seals for doors are well known. They prevent light transmissions, provide soundproofing and, depending on the embodiment, they can also suppress air circulation. Lowerable door seals customarily essentially consist of a housing in the form of a downwardly open, U-shaped profile rail, a sealing strip which is held in said housing and is displaceable relative thereto and has a sealing element, and a drive mechanism for lowering and for raising the sealing strip. The sealing strip is customarily lowered automatically during the closing of the door by a compressive force acting in the longitudinal direction on an actuating bar or slide and setting the mechanical lowering mechanism into operation. Door seals of this type are known, for example, from EP 0 338 974, DE 299 16 090 and EP 0 509 961.

Tried and tested lowering mechanisms which are triggered on one side are described, for example, in EP 0 509 961 and CH 688 741. Said lowering mechanisms use one or more leafsprings arranged one behind another. Each leafspring is fastened at a first end, which is adjacent to that end of the slide which protrudes beyond the housing, to the slide itself. Each

leafspring is furthermore fastened at its central region to the sealing strip and at its end remote from the protruding end of the slide to the housing. As a result, the pressure acting on the slide during closing
5 of the door is transmitted to the leafsprings, the latter bend and lower the sealing strip.

EP 0 037 131 and DE 20 2011 001 104 U also trigger the lowering mechanism via a compressive force.

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AU 2007 237 192 describes a drop-down seal which is triggered via compressive force. This compressive force is changed via a lever mechanism into a tensile force which likewise acts on the lowering mechanism.

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DE 297 20 978 U and DE 26 57 279 disclose drop-down seals which are triggered via compressive force and which can be actuated via a tensile force even when the door is open.

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However, no practicable sealing solutions are known for multi-part sliding doors, sliding windows and partition walls.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a drop-down seal which is also usable for multi-part sliding doors, multi-part sliding windows and partition
30 walls.

This object is achieved by a drop-down seal with the features of claim 1.

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It is a further object of the invention to provide a building part, in particular a multi-part sliding door, a multi-part sliding window and a partition wall, which has a drop-down seal.

This object is achieved by a building part with the features of claim 12.

5 The drop-down seal according to the invention for a building part has a housing, a sealing strip which is raisable and lowerable in said housing, and a spring-loaded lowering mechanism. The lowering mechanism brings about automatic lowering of the sealing strip
10 during closing of the building part. Said lowering mechanism is connected to a slide which protrudes at one end beyond the housing, preferably in the longitudinal direction of the housing. The slide activates the lowering mechanism during closing of the
15 building part. The slide applies a tension to the lowering mechanism. The lowering mechanism is activated with a tensile force by the slide.

In order to actuate the slide, there is preferably an
20 arm which protrudes laterally beyond the housing and which runs at least approximately perpendicularly to the longitudinal direction of the sealing strip. Said arm is operatively connected to the slide, or is connected to the latter or is arranged thereon.

25 This mechanical drop-down seal can be used in particular in single-part and multi-part displaceable building parts. Since said drop-down seal is triggered by tension and not by compression, entirely different
30 building solutions can be realized than with the known automatic, mechanical drop-down seals.

Despite being triggered by tension, the seal advantageously does not have to be designed to be
35 higher or wider than the known seals triggered by compression. In particular, said seal does not have to be designed to be larger than the seals described in CH 688 741 or EP 0 338 974.

The lowering mechanism preferably equates to the known mechanisms. It is spring-loaded, and therefore it automatically raises the seal again when an external
5 force is removed. It preferably has a triangular arrangement with levers and/or bending springs, which triangular arrangement, by means of a corresponding arrangement, permits the relative movement of the sealing strip with respect to the housing. In a
10 preferred embodiment, the lowering mechanism is connected at a first fastening point to the slide, is connected at a second fastening point to the sealing strip and is fastened at a third fastening point to the housing. In a preferred embodiment, the third fastening
15 point is arranged closer to the protruding end of the slide than the first fastening point.

In a preferred embodiment, the lowering mechanism has at least one spring, in particular a leafspring. Use
20 can also be made of, for example, spiral springs, depending on the type of lowering mechanism. The spring, in particular the leaf spring, is fastened to at least one of the abovementioned fastening points. If the spring is of single-piece design, a first of its
25 ends is fastened to or arranged on the first fastening point, its middle region is fastened to or arranged on the second fastening point and its second end is fastened to or arranged on the third fastening point. The spring, in particular the leafspring, can also be
30 of multi-piece design, for example can consist of two parts, wherein one end in each case of the two parts is fastened to the second, middle fastening point.

The slide preferably has a force transmission rod which
35 extends in the housing in the longitudinal direction thereof. The actuating rod preferably extends approximately over the entire length of the sealing strip. It preferably extends to the same extent as the

springs, in particular the leafsprings, expand in the longitudinal direction of the housing. The slide preferably furthermore comprises an actuating rod which protrudes beyond the housing and is fixedly connected
5 to the force transmission rod.

The at least one spring, in particular the leafspring, is preferably fastened at its first fastening point to the force transmission rod. The force transmission rod
10 is preferably a flat rod, and therefore it requires a relatively small amount of space within the seal and the seal has a relatively low overall height.

The at least one spring, in particular the leafspring, is preferably held at its second fastening point so as to be pivotable relative to the housing. This permits the sealing strip to be lowered in a manner running approximately perpendicularly to the longitudinal
15 direction of the sealing strip.

20 In order to transmit an external tensile force to the slide, in a preferred embodiment the arm is arranged on the slide or on the actuating rod of the slide, wherein the arm protrudes beyond the housing, and wherein the arm runs at least approximately perpendicularly to the longitudinal direction of the sealing strip. Said arm preferably also runs at least approximately perpendicularly to the lowering direction of the sealing strip. The arm is preferably fastened
25 releasably to the slide. Said arm preferably forms a stop surface for bearing against a positionally fixed or movable neighboring component of the building part.

Owing to the use of an arm protruding in the manner of
35 a flag, the tried and tested lowering mechanism according to CH 688 741 can be used, but the slide is now pulled and not pushed. For this purpose, only the arrangement of the springs, in particular of the

leafsprings with respect to the protruding part of the slide, has to be changed; or the slide protrudes in the seal according to the invention at the other end of the housing than in CH 688 741. A known seal can therefore
5 be used without all too great structural modifications for a multiplicity of new building parts, in particular in multi-part sliding systems. However, the invention is not restricted to this modification of the known drop-down seal but rather also extends to other
10 modified, known lowering mechanisms or novel lowering mechanisms which are activatable by tension.

The building part according to the invention has such a drop-down seal according to the invention, wherein the
15 building part has at least one movable panel which closes a building opening and in or on which the drop-down seal is arranged. According to the invention, the building part has a component which is adjacent to the movable panel and brings about the tension of the slide
20 on the lowering mechanism.

The adjacent component preferably has a stop surface for the arm, said stop surface running at least approximately perpendicularly to the longitudinal
25 direction of the sealing strip.

At least one of the components is preferably a second movable panel.

30 The tension on the slide can take place at an end of the slide which is on the rear side in the closing direction of the door. Alternatively, in another embodiment, the tension can take place at that end of the slide which is at the front in the closing
35 direction of the door.

In preferred embodiments, the building part is a single-part sliding door, a multi-part sliding door system, a single-part sliding window, a multi-part

sliding window system or a single-part or multi-part partition wall.

Further embodiments are indicated in the dependent
5 claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A preferred embodiment of the invention is described
10 below with reference to the drawings which serve merely for explanation and should not be interpreted as being limiting. In the drawings:

Figure 1 shows a schematic illustration of a multi-
15 part sliding door or partition wall or sliding door, in the partially open state with raised seals;

Figure 2 shows the sliding door or partition wall
20 according to figure 1 in the closed state with lowered seals;

Figure 3 shows a perspective illustration of a drop-
down seal according to the invention, wherein
25 details of individual parts are only illustrated in the left half;

Figure 4 shows a perspective illustration of the drop-
down seal according to figure 3 in the region
30 of a first fastening point of a leafspring;

Figure 5 shows a perspective illustration of the drop-
down seal according to figure 3 in the region
of a second fastening point of a leafspring;

35 Figure 6 shows a perspective illustration of the drop-
down seal according to figure 3 in the region of a third fastening point of a leafspring;

Figure 7 shows a perspective illustration of the drop-down seal according to figure 3 in the region of a slide and arm protruding beyond a housing;

Figure 8 shows a longitudinal section of a region of the drop-down seal according to figure 3 in the raised state of the sealing strip;

Figure 9 shows a perspective sectioned illustration of the drop-down seal according to figure 8;

Figure 10 shows a longitudinal section of a region of the drop-down seal according to figure 3 in the lowered state of the sealing strip;

Figure 11 shows a perspective sectioned illustration of the drop-down seal according to figure 10, and

Figure 12 shows a schematic illustration of a multi-part sliding door or partition wall or sliding door, in the partially open state with raised seals, in a second embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate a drop-down seal according to the invention in a preferred application. However, it is not restricted to this type of application.

Figures 1 and 2 show a building part in the form of a multi-part partition wall or a multi-part sliding door. Relevant guide rails embedded in the floor or in the ceiling are not illustrated. The partition wall or the sliding door system has a plurality of panels T1, T2, T3 which are arranged next to one another and are

displaceable relative to one another. Sliding mechanisms of this type are well known. In the figures, a three-part panel system is illustrated. However, the seal according to the invention can also use systems
5 with one, two, four or more panels.

The building part furthermore has at least one front frame R and a rear frame A, between which the panels T1, T2, T3 are held. The rear frame is preferably part
10 of a pocket or station, into which the panels are retracted when not in use. This pocket can likewise be seen in the figures. The first panel T1, which is frontmost in the open state, preferably has a locking mechanism and can therefore be fixed to the front frame
15 R. The locking mechanism is preferably a door lock.

A drop-down seal D1, D2, D3 is arranged in each panel T1, T2, T3. Said drop-down seals are preferably let into corresponding grooves of the panels. However, they
20 can be fastened to an end side or can be arranged laterally on the panels. In this example, the seals D1, D2, D3 are fastened on at least one end side, preferably to both end sides of the panel T1, in each case by means of angle brackets 5.

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An actuating bar or actuating button 4 protrudes beyond the drop-down seals D1, D2, D3 at one end in each case. In this example, the frontmost first drop-down seal D1 of the first panel T1 has an actuating bar 4 protruding
30 forward, i.e. in the closing direction. The actuating bars 4 of the drop-down seals D2, D3 of the following panels T2, T3 protrude rearward, i.e. in an opposite direction to the closing direction. A laterally protruding arm 7 is arranged on said rearwardly
35 protruding actuating bars 4, or said arm interacts therewith. The arm can be formed integrally with the actuating bar 4. However, the arm is preferably plugged onto the latter or fastened thereto in another manner.

The arm 7 extends toward the panel T3 following in each case in the closing direction or toward the rear frame A.

5 The panels T1, T2, T3 are of angular design at least in the lower region, i.e. in the region of said drop-down seals D1, D2, D3. The panels preferably have an L-shaped cross section, as illustrated in figures 1 and 2.

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In this example, the frontmost first panel T1, which is moved first during closing of the building opening, is designed differently than the other panels T2, T3. Its drop-down seal D1 is also not designed identically to 15 the remaining drop-down seals D2, D3.

An automatic, mechanical drop-down seal of a known type is arranged in the first panel T1, said drop-down seal being actuated with pressure via triggering on one side 20 when the panel T1 is present on the front frame R. This takes place because of the actuating bar 4 which protrudes beyond the housing of the seal and is connected to the lowering mechanism.

25 The remaining panels T2, T3 have an L-shaped cross section at least in the region of their seals. The protruding angle thus arising is arranged at the front end of the respective panels T2, T3. That is to say, said angle is at the front in the displacement 30 direction of the corresponding panel T2, T3 during closing of the building opening. The rear frame A has an analogous angle in its front region in the closing direction.

35 These angles of the panels T1, T2, T3 and of the rear frame A serve as a stop surface for the arm 7 in order to activate the drop-down seal of the respectively preceding panel T2 during the closing operation. This

can be readily seen in figure 2. The drop-down seal is therefore triggered by tension by the arm 7 being present at the angle B and therefore the actuating bar 4 being pulled even further out of the housing of the seal. As a result, the lowering mechanism of the seal is activated and the sealing strip is lowered. This is explained in more detail further below.

During opening of the building part, the arm 7 is released again from the angle B or the rear frame A and the tensile force on the actuating bar 4 is removed. As a result, the latter is pulled again further into the housing of the seal under spring loading and the lowering mechanism raises the sealing strip again. This can readily be seen in figure 1.

The angle of the second panel T2, which follows the first panel T1, can take on this function when the first panel T1 has the same drop-down seal as the other panels, i.e. is also triggered via tension. Since, however, in this example, the first drop-down seal D1 is triggered in a known manner via compression, the angle of the second panel T2 does not have the same function. However, said angle is preferably present at least for esthetic reasons so that the partition wall or the sliding door system has a uniform appearance.

The first panel T1 likewise has a protruding angle. However, the latter is arranged at the rear end of the panel T1, i.e. facing away from the front frame R. This angle also does not take on any function during the lowering of the seals, but is likewise present preferably for esthetic reasons.

The angles of the panels T1, T2, T3 in mutual interaction, like the arms, in combination with the adjacent angles preferably serve additionally as drivers and stops during the closing of the door.

However, this function may also be dispensed with depending on the configuration of the sliding mechanism of the building part.

- 5 If the drop-down seals are attached to the lower end side of the panels, the panels can also be formed without angles, wherein a corresponding angle, which serves as a driver for the arm of the adjacent seal, is formed on the exposed housing of the seal. Only the
10 rear frame A is likewise intended to have a corresponding stop for the arm of the final seal.

A preferred embodiment of a drop-down seal of this type is illustrated in figures 3 to 11. However, the concept
15 according to the invention is not limited to such lowering mechanisms or sealing strips.

Figure 3 shows a drop-down seal according to the invention with a housing 1 and a sealing strip 2, 3
20 which is raisable and lowerable relative to the housing. The housing 1 is a U-shaped profile rail of downwardly open design. The profile rail preferably consists of aluminum. It preferably extends over approximately the entire length of the panel and
25 therefore of the seal. A part is not illustrated in figure 3 so that the interior of the seal can be seen better. The sealing strip 2, 3, which likewise extends over the entire length, is also only partially illustrated. The housing 1 is fastenable to the panel,
30 for example, by means of angle brackets 5.

The sealing strip comprises a carrier profile rail 3 and a sealing element 2 arranged thereon. The carrier profile rail 3 is preferably likewise manufactured from
35 aluminum. The sealing element 2 consists of an elastomeric material and, in the lowered state of the sealing strip, rests on the building floor in a sealing manner. The sealing strip is preferably manufactured

from silicone, rubber or natural rubber. It can be of single-piece or multi-part design. It preferably has laterally sealing wings or limbs.

- 5 A lowering mechanism for lowering and raising the sealing strip 2, 3 is arranged in the housing 1. Said lowering mechanism is activated during closing of the building part such that it lowers the sealing strip. During opening of the building part, said lowering
10 mechanism automatically raises the sealing strip again, preferably under spring loading. In this exemplary embodiment, the lowering mechanism has at least one, preferably two or more bending or leafsprings 8. If a plurality of leafsprings 8 are present, they are
15 arranged spaced apart from one another one behind another in the longitudinal direction of the seal.

A force transmission rod 6 runs in the upper region of the U-shaped housing 1, i.e. adjacent to the upper web
20 thereof. Said force transmission rod is preferably designed as a flat rod and is held in a corresponding groove in the housing 1. The force transmission rod 6 is displaceable relative to the housing 1 in the longitudinal direction thereof. The housing 1 has steps
25 which preferably protrude on the inner sides of its parallel limbs and on which the rod 6 rests.

The at least one leafspring 8 is fastened in the seal at three locations. A first end of the leafspring 8 is
30 fastened at a first fastening point to the force transmission bar 6. This fastening is rigid. This can readily be seen in figure 4. A middle region of the leafspring 8 is fastened to the sealing strip, more precisely to the carrier profile rail 3. This fastening
35 is preferably positionally fixed, i.e. the leafsprings cannot be displaced in the longitudinal direction of the seal within the fastening point. This is illustrated in figure 5. At its second end, the

leafspring 8 is fastened to the housing 1. This fastening is pivoting, i.e. the leafspring 8 can pivot relative to the housing 1. This can be readily seen in figure 6. Further leafsprings which may be present are
5 fastened analogously.

An actuating bar 4 is arranged at a rear end of this force transmission rod 6. Rod 6 and bar 4 can be formed jointly as a single piece. However, the bar 4 is
10 preferably fastened, for example welded, to the rod 6. The bar 4 is preferably designed as a threaded bar, and therefore its length can optionally be adjusted. This bar 4 protrudes beyond the housing 1 of the seal on one side. Owing to the thread, the excess length of the bar
15 4 can be adapted to the local conditions of the building and the seal can thus be optimally adjusted in situ.

An arm 7 is fastened to the protruding end of the fastening bar 4. Said arm can also be formed as a
20 single piece with the bar 4. However, the arm is preferably plugged on, screwed on or fastened in another manner. The arm 7 protrudes at least approximately perpendicularly from the bar 4 and from the longitudinal direction of the seal. This can
25 readily be seen in figure 7. The arm preferably also protrudes perpendicularly from the longitudinal surface of the seal and therefore from the panel surface. The arm 7 is preferably a substantially cuboidal block. It
30 is preferably manufactured from plastic or a metal, in particular aluminum. The connection between arm 7 and bar 4 is preferably rigid and stiff, and therefore a force which acts on a side surface of the arm 7, which side surface faces the seal, can be transmitted to the
35 actuating bar 4 and is transmitted by the actuating bar 4 bar as a tensile force to the force transmission bar 6, which is fixedly connected thereto.

Figures 8 and 9 illustrate the seal in the raised state. No force acts on the arm 7, and the actuating bar 4 protrudes only slightly beyond the housing 1. By contrast, in figures 10 and 11, a force acts on the arm 7. As a result, the actuating bar 4 is pulled further out of the housing 1 and pulls the force transmission bar 6 with it. Owing to the three fastening points of the at least one leafspring 8, the latter is bent and lowers the sealing strip.

Figure 12 illustrates a second exemplary embodiment according to the invention of a multi-part sliding door with a drop-down seal. The drop-down seal can correspond, but does not have to correspond, to that according to figures 3 to 11.

In contrast to the exemplary embodiment according to figures 1 and 2, the arm 7 here is arranged at that end of the actuating bar 4 which is at the front in the closing direction of the sliding door, or said arm acts on the front end of said actuating bar. The arm 7 here is directed in the opposite direction in comparison to the first exemplary embodiment. The panels T1, T2, T3 themselves are formed identically as in the first exemplary embodiment, i.e. they have an L-shaped cross section with a long limb forming the door leaf, and a short limb. The short limb is directed toward the panel T2, T3 which follows during the closing of the sliding door.

However, there are now the front stops C, i.e. those surfaces of the short limbs which are at the front in the closing direction, which stops, during closing of the sliding door, make contact with the rear surface of the arm and carry along the arm during the further closing. As a result, the actuating bar 4 which is connected or is operatively connected to the arm 7 is

pulled out of the housing rail 1 and the seal is lowered.

It goes without saying that the lowering mechanism of the first seal D1 of the first panel T1, which panel precedes the other panels T2, T3 during the closing operation, is formed in a reflected manner with respect to the other seals D2, D3. That is to say, the first seal D1 is triggered by compression. If the actuating bar 4 of the first seal D1 is present on the front frame R, the actuating bar 4 is pressed in and the seal is lowered again.

The second embodiment according to figure 12 has the advantage over the first embodiment that, when the door is open or partially open, the arms 7 are freely accessible. This makes it easier to adjust the seal during installation and also facilitates a possible exchanging of individual parts, in particular the arms.

By contrast, the first embodiment according to figures 1 and 2 has the advantage that the arms 7 are not visible either when the door is open or when the door is closed and that the appearance of the sliding door is therefore not impaired.

In both exemplary embodiments, all of the seal are raised during the opening of the sliding door as soon as the respective contact between respective stop surface B, C and arm 7 or between frame and actuating bar 4 is removed.

The drop-down seal according to the invention permits one-sided triggering by tension, with the seal being of space-saving design.

LIST OF DESIGNATIONS

	1	Housing rail
5	2	Sealing element
	3	Carrier profile rail
	4	Actuating bar
	5	Angle bracket
	6	Force transmission rod
10	7	Arm
	8	Leafspring
	80	First fastening point
	81	Second fastening point
	82	Third fastening point
15		
	D1	First drop-down seal
	D2	Second drop-down seal
	D3	Third drop-down seal
20	T1	First panel
	T2	Second panel
	T3	Third panel
	R	Front frame
25	A	Rear frame
	B	Rear-side stop
	C	Front stop

PATENT CLAIMS

1. A drop-down seal for a building part, wherein the
5 drop-down seal has a housing (1), a sealing strip
(2, 3) which is raisable and lowerable in said
housing (1) and a spring-loaded lowering mechanism
(8) which brings about automatic lowering of the
10 sealing strip (2, 3) during closing of the
building part, wherein the lowering mechanism (8)
is connected to a slide (4, 6) which protrudes at
one end beyond the housing (1) and which activates
the lowering mechanism (8) during closing of the
15 building part, characterized in that the slide (4,
6) applies a tension to the lowering mechanism
(8).
2. The drop-down seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the lowering mechanism (8) is connected at a first
20 fastening point (80) to the slide (4, 6), is
connected at a second fastening point (81) to the
sealing strip (2, 3) and is fastened at a third
fastening point (82) to the housing (1).
- 25 3. The drop-down seal as claimed in claim 2, wherein
the third fastening point (82) is arranged closer
to the protruding end of the slide (4, 6) than the
first fastening point (80).
- 30 4. The drop-down seal as claimed in one of claims 1
to 3, wherein the lowering mechanism comprises at
least one spring, in particular a leaf spring (8).
- 35 5. The drop-down seal as claimed in one of claims 1
to 4, wherein the slide has a force transmission
rod (6), which force
transmission rod extends in the housing (1) in the
longitudinal direction thereof.

- 5 6. The drop-down seal as claimed in claim 5, wherein the lowering mechanism (8) is fastened at its first fastening point (80) to the force transmission rod (6).
- 10 7. The drop-down seal as claimed in either of claims 5 and 6, wherein the lowering mechanism (8) is held at its second fastening point (82) so as to be pivotable relative to the housing (1).
- 15 8. The drop-down seal as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, wherein an arm (7) is operatively connected to the slide (4, 6) which protrudes laterally beyond the housing (1).
- 20 9. The drop-down seal as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, wherein an arm (7) which protrudes beyond the housing (1) and which runs at least approximately perpendicularly to the longitudinal direction of the sealing strip (2, 3) is arranged on the slide (4, 6).
- 25 10. The drop-down seal as claimed in claim 9, wherein the arm (7) runs at least approximately perpendicularly to the lowering direction of the sealing strip (2, 3).
- 30 11. The drop-down seal as claimed in either of claims 9 and 10, wherein the arm (7) is fastened releasably to the slide (4, 6).
- 35 12. The drop-down seal as claimed in one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the arm (7) forms a stop surface for bearing against a positionally fixed or movable neighboring part (B) of the building part.

13. The building part with a drop-down seal (D1, D2, D3) according to one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the building part has at least one movable panel (T1, T2, T3) which closes a building opening and in or on which the drop-down seal (D1, D2, D3) is arranged, characterized in that the building part has a component (T1, T2, T3, R, A) which is adjacent to the movable panel (T1, T2, T3) and brings about the tension of the slide (4, 6) on the lowering mechanism (8).
14. The building part as claimed in claim 13 with a drop-down seal (D1, D2, D3) as claimed in one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the adjacent component (T1, T2, T3, R, A) has a stop surface (B, C) for the arm (7), said stop surface running at least approximately perpendicularly to the longitudinal direction of the sealing strip (2, 3).
15. The building part as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least one of the components is a second movable panel (T1, T2, T3).
16. The building part as claimed in one of claims 13 to 15; wherein the building part is a sliding door, a multi-part sliding door system, a sliding window, a multi-part sliding window system or a single-part or multi-part partition wall.