

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B62D 23/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/20516
		(43) International Publication Date: 29 April 1999 (29.04.99)

Published *With international search report.
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of
amendments.*

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a vehicle body assembly 10, showing a rear cargo area with a fold-down seat 12 and a rear window 14. The assembly includes a rear door 16, side rails 18, and a roof rack 20. Various components are labeled with reference numerals.

A space (10) for a motor vehicle comprising a first hydroformed, longitudinally extending tubular lower side rail (12) and a second hydroformed, longitudinally extending tubular lower side rail (12), the lower side rails being laterally spaced from one another and extending in generally parallel relation to one another. Also included is a pair of generally parallel, hydroformed tubular upper longitudinal structures (20), each being an integrally formed structure fixed to an associated one of the lower side rails. Each upper longitudinal structure has a longitudinally extending portion (26) constructed and arranged to support a roof of the motor vehicle, each longitudinally extending portion extending longitudinally between an upper end of an A pillar (24) of the space frame and an upper end of a rearward-most pillar (28) of the space frame. The hydroformed tubular upper longitudinal structures thus define lengths between the vehicle A pillars and the rearward-most pillars of the space frame. Laterally extending connecting structure connects the lower side rails to one another.