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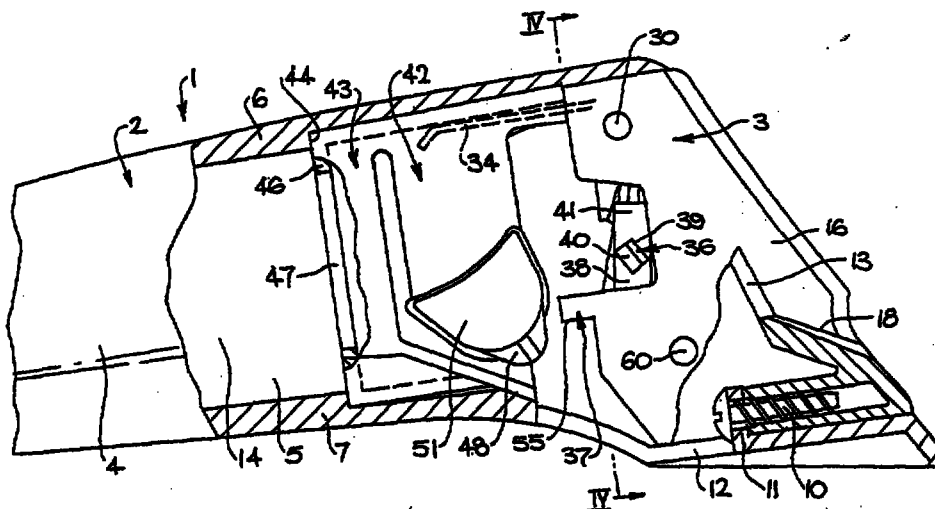
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(54) Title: A BLADE SCABBARD



(57) Abstract

A blade scabbard including a safety lock (36, 37) which functions to prevent accidental or inadvertent withdrawal of a blade (27) from a fully inserted position within the scabbard housing (1). The safety lock operates automatically in response to insertion of a blade into the scabbard and is preferably associated with blade sharpening mechanism (19) which is also responsive to movement of a blade into and out of the scabbard housing. The sharpening mechanism is preferably inactive during blade insertion and active during blade withdrawal. Manually operable release means (42) is provided to enable release of the lock for blade withdrawal purposes, and it is necessary to operate the release means while simultaneously withdrawing the blade from the scabbard. The safety lock is fully released after the blade has been withdrawn a distance from the fully inserted position and operation of the release means can then be terminated without hindering further withdrawal of the blade. Blade restraining means (21) coacts with the blade to prevent withdrawal when the safety lock is fully operative, and that restraining means may be pivotally mounted on the scabbard housing, together with the sharpening mechanism, to be pivoted into and out of the operative position.