

FRAMELESS GLASS DOOR

SPECIFICATION

Technical Field

[0001] The invention pertains to a frameless glass door, especially a swinging glass door or a door which rests in stops, with a glass door leaf installed in a doorway and with hinges at the bottom and top or on the side.

[0002] Glass facades, glass walls, and glass doors have become widely accepted not only for business entryways but also for offices and in the area of modern interior architecture. They offer an unimpeded view in both directions and contribute to a feeling of openness and to a connection between indoors and outdoors. Barriers are thus eliminated, and "threshold anxiety" is reduced in business areas.

[0003] Glass doors require fittings, especially hinges, which are usually made of metal and which must be attached to the glass door leaf by flanges at the top and bottom. For this purpose, U-profiles of metal are used, which grip the hinge-side corner areas and partially enclose and thus support the glass door leaf. The axes of rotation or mandrel mounts, which engage in mating parts in the floor or ceiling structure, are located on these metal profiles.

[0004] A special type of design is based on a multi-layer laminated glass pane. A flat piece of a hinge part is embedded in the laminated construction, so that the glass is not enclosed as usual between two cheeks of a U-profile but rather encloses the hinge part.

[0005] It is felt to be a disadvantage of the prior art that, although these glass doors are

indeed frameless, they still have visible metal hinge parts.

Disclosure of the Invention

Technical Problem

[0006] The invention has the goal of freeing the glass door leaf of all visible hinge parts and of designing the entire doorway so that it is completely transparent.

Technical Solution

[0007] This goal is achieved for a frameless glass door of the type described above, in that the glass door leaf has a tongue-like glass extension in the area of each hinge. These extensions project toward the doorway beyond the geometric form, in particular the rectangular form, of the glass door leaf and fit into rotatable hinge parts outside the visible area.

[0008] Although we are speaking here of a glass door, all of the features also apply correspondingly to other types of glass leaf structures such as windows. All of the hinge parts are therefore always located outside the doorway; that is, they are entirely inside the floor or ceiling structure or completely out of sight in a door post. The glass extensions are parts of the door leaf and represent the invisible connection between the door and the hinges, which are also invisible. It is advisable for the glass door leaf and the glass extensions to be made out of a single piece of material. Modern adhesives, however, can also be used to attach the extensions to the edges of the glass. If the refractive properties of the adhesive are the same as those of the glass, the joint will remain completely invisible, even if it is shaped or grooved to increase its strength. Finally, it is advantageous for the glass extensions and for the rotating

hinge parts to be permanently bonded to each other by means of an adhesive, for example, and for the rotating hinge part to be mounted on a pin, e.g., the pin of a bottom door closer. The glass extensions engage in gaps, grooves, or openings in the profile of the rotating hinge parts and are anchored in place there. All of these areas are outside the doorway and are entirely out of sight. The glass extensions can engage in diagonal grooves in cylindrical bearing pieces, which are able to turn in nonrotatably installed bearing shells, the turning angle preferably being limited by stops. The bearing pieces and the bearing shells can be designed as radial and axial roller bearings or ball bearings. Underneath the bottom or the top cylindrical bearing piece, a bottom door closer can be installed, the pin of which (e.g., a square pin) positively engages in a corresponding opening in the bottom of the bearing piece. The entire unit consisting of the nonrotating bearing shell and (if present) the bottom door closer can be lowered into a recessed installation box on threaded spindles (spacer screws), so that at least one glass extension, together with its cylindrical bearing piece, can be released, thus allowing the glass door to be removed.

Short Description of the Drawings

[0009] Exemplary embodiments of the object of the invention are illustrated in the drawings. Figure 1 shows a cross section of a frameless glass door with its hinges in a doorway; Figure 2 shows a top view of the bottom hinge; Figure 3 shows a view of the glass door leaf; Figure 4 shows a partial cross section of a corner area of a doorway with a glass door leaf and hinge on a bottom door closer; Figure 5 shows a cross section of another embodiment of a hinge; and Figure 6 shows a cross section along line VI-VI in Figure 5.

[0010] According to Figure 1, a glass door leaf 1 completely fills a doorway 2,

illustrated in dashed line. No hinge fittings or hardware parts can be seen inside the dashed outline of the doorway 2. The glass door leaf 1, in the embodiment according to Figures 1-4, has tongue-like glass extensions 3, 4 on the narrow sides of the rectangular glass door leaf 1, near one of the long sides. These glass extensions 3, 4 project beyond the doorway 2, i.e., beyond the dashed line of the doorway 2 in Figure 1, and fit into openings 5 in rotating, cylindrical hinge parts 6, 7. These cylindrical hinge parts 6, 7 are bearing pieces such as bearing journals, which are mounted with freedom to turn in nonrotatably installed bearing shells 8, 9 in the manner of friction bearings. Roller bearings or ball bearings acting in the radial and/or axial direction between the hinge parts 6, 7 and the stationary bearing shells 8, 9 are also possible. When the shells are lowered into a recess located underneath, the rotating hinge parts 6, 7 disengage, and the glass door can be removed.

[0011] Figure 2 shows a top view of the bottom hinge part 6, the opening 5 in which is designed as a diagonal slot or groove, which positively holds the glass extension 3. In a concrete exemplary embodiment, the glass extensions had a projecting length of approximately 2 cm and a width of 5-6 cm. Under consideration of the floor gap of 5 mm, the depth of the opening 5 was approximately 1.5 cm; the length of the opening 5 was approximately 5-6 cm; and the width was the same as that of the safety glass. This hinge part 6, which is made of metal, could also be bonded to the glass extension 3 by the use of a suitable adhesive.

[0012] The production of the glass door leaf 1 begins with a glass plate which is a few (e.g., four) centimeters too long, and then, by the use of modern high-pressure jet methods, the narrow sides are cut back in such a way that the glass extensions 3, 4 are formed.

[0013] In the design according to Figure 4, the glass extension 3 fits into a rotating hinge part 10, which has a square recess at the bottom. A pin 11 of a bottom door closer 12

engages in this square recess. When, therefore, the frameless glass door is opened, the hinge part 10 turns by 75° , for example, and thus tensions the bottom door closer 12 by way of the positively engaging pin 11. The closer then makes sure that the hinge part 10 is braked as it returns and thus allows the glass door to close. The braking behavior of the bottom door closer and also the holding of the door in the 90° position can also be adjusted by means of one or more adjusting screws 13. For this purpose, a cover 14 can be removed, or the cover can have closeable access openings for screwdrivers or wrenches.

[0014] Figure 4 also shows that the entire previously described assembly (bottom door closer 12 with pin 11) is mounted on a plate 15, which can be lowered (arrow 18) by way of spindles, e.g., threaded bolts 16, 17, with hexagonal heads or heads with hexagonal sockets in them. In the lowered state, the pin 11 is disengaged from the hinge part 10, and the glass door leaf 1 together with the hinge part 10 can be removed sideways from the doorway. For this purpose, in Figure 4, the cover 14, which is divided down the middle (in the plane of the drawing), must also be removed.

[0015] If the glass extensions 3, 4 are not bonded by an adhesive to the hinge parts 6, 7, or 10 but merely fit positively into the openings 5, the glass door leaf 1 can be removed, as shown in Figure 3, simply by lowering all of the components, including the hinge part 10.

[0016] An embodiment according to Figures 5 and 6 is also possible, in which glass extensions 23 are provided on one of the long sides of the glass door leaf 24, one near the bottom and one near the top. These glass extensions 23 project beyond the dashed-line doorway 25, and each fits into a rotating hinge part 26. The slot 27 formed for this purpose and the axis of rotation 28 can be seen in Figure 6. The glass extensions 23 can be bonded adhesively in the slots 27, or screws can be used, which pass through holes in the glass

extensions 23. So that the glass door can be opened a full 90°, the hinge part 26 can pivot as shown by the arrow 29 in Figure 6. When the door is closed, the hinge part 26 disappears completely from the area of the doorway 25. The exemplary embodiment according to Figures 5 and 6 has a rotating hinge part 26 in the form of a cylinder with a base in the form of a quarter circle. The axis of rotation is near the center of the imaginary complete circle. When the door is closed, the rotating hinge part 26 lies completely in an opening of complementary shape in a door post. When the door is opened, the hinge part 26 pivots out and allows the door to open a full 90°.

CLAIMS

[0001] Frameless glass door, especially a swinging glass door or a glass door which rests in stops, with a glass door leaf installed in a doorway and with hinges at the top and bottom or on one side, characterized in that the glass door leaf (1, 24) has a tongue-like glass extension (3, 4; 23) near each hinge, these extensions projecting toward the doorway beyond the geometric form, especially the rectangular form, of the glass door leaf (1, 24), thus fitting into rotatable hinge parts (6, 7; 10; 26) outside the visible area.

[0002] Frameless glass door according to Claim 1, characterized in that the glass door leaf (1, 24) and the glass extensions (3, 4; 23) are made out of a single piece of material.

[0003] Frameless glass door according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that the glass extensions (3, 4; 23) and the rotating hinge parts (6, 7; 10; 26) are permanently bonded to each other by an adhesive, for example, and in that a rotating hinge part (6, 7; 10; 26) can be mounted on a pin (11), e.g. on the pin of a bottom door closer (12).

[0004] Frameless glass door according to one of Claims 1-3, characterized in that the rotating hinge parts (6, 7) are seated in nonrotatable bearing shells (8, 9), and in that at least one nonrotatable bearing shell (8, 9) can be lowered, so that the rotating hinge part (6, 7) can be disengaged from the nonrotating bearing shell (8, 9), thus allowing the glass door to be removed.

[0005] Frameless glass door according to Claim 3, characterized in that the bottom door closer (12) can be lowered on threaded spindles, especially threaded bolts (16, 17), where the pin (11) of the bottom door closer (12) moves out of the driver opening in the rotating hinge part (10) and releases the glass door.