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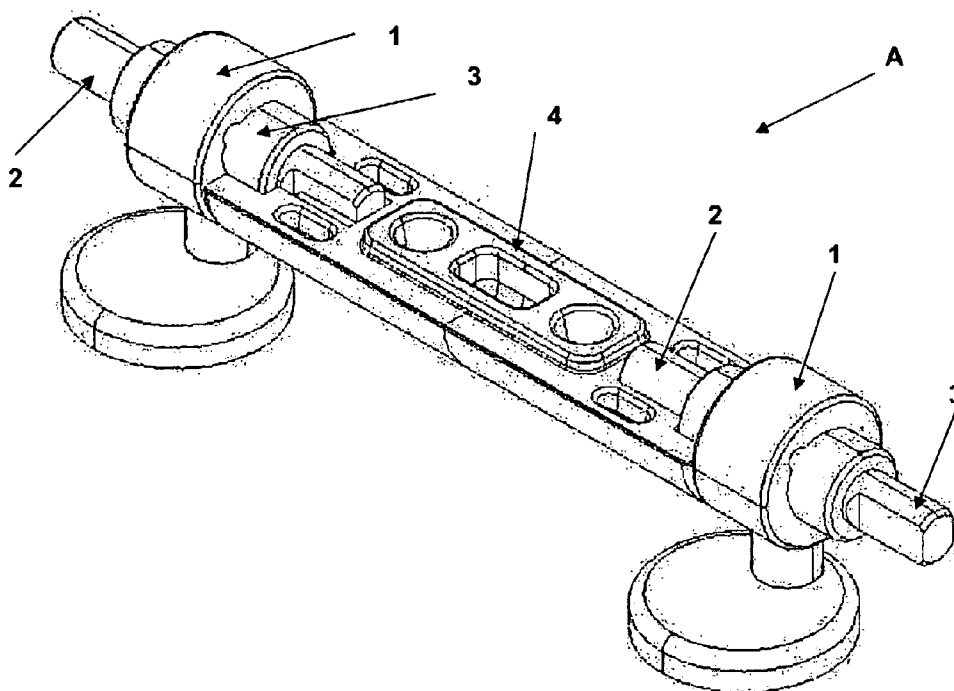
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(54) Title: SLOW CLOSURE MECHANISM FOR TOILET COVERS



(57) Abstract: The subject of the invention is a slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers wherein it comprises two-hinge bodies (1), two pins (2), two dampers (3) and a body cover (4). Slow closing and easy opening process of toilet covers are achieved by tightly recessing the pins (2) and dampers (3) in the hinge body (1), connecting toilet covers and body cover (4) to pin shaft (23) and damper shaft (31) in slow closure mechanism (A).

WO 2006/035338 A1



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DESCRIPTION

SLOW CLOSURE MECHANISM FOR TOILET COVERS

5 Technical Field

This invention relates to a hinge mechanism providing slow closure for toilet covers.

10 Background Art

Recently, hinge mechanism on the toilet covers have been modified extremely. Conventional hinges are replaced with slowly closing damper hinges. In conventional hinges, when the cover is being closed, it is closed very quickly by gravity without slowing down. Covers are self-closed in a controlled manner after a first action is
15 given by means of the dampers located in the hinge of toilet cover. Then, there is no need for any interference to slowly close the covers. Therefore user touches the toilet cover for a shorter time.

In the prior art, there are hinge mechanisms for slowly closing toilet cover. In
20 principle, one of dampers controls the lower cover and the other controls the upper cover by various methods and they provide slow closure. In published patent applications Nos. DE10233733, DE10324172, different applications about the subject are described.

In published German patent application No DE10233733, there is a fixed mechanism leg
25 and a shaft connected vertically to this foot providing slow closure through moving by friction relative to the mechanism leg. In a shaft connected to right mechanism leg, first cover is fixed to the shaft and second cover is connected to the shaft so that it could make a pivoting movement relative to the shaft. In a shaft connected to left mechanism leg,
30 second cover is fixed to the shaft and first cover is connected to the shaft so that it could make a pivoting movement relative to the shaft. The essential disadvantage of this system is that parts providing slow closure by friction are main parts of the system and functional failure due to wearing of these parts results in a requirement to replace more than one part. In the system of the invention, slow closure function is provided by available

dampers and when the parts are worn down it would be sufficient to replace the damper only.

5 In published German patent application No DE10324172, a slow closure mechanism obtained by using dampers is described. The essential difference of the mechanism described in DE10324172 is that numerous parts are present in DE10324172 and cost of parts and dies are high since these parts have a complex geometry.

10 The system of the invention is a slowly closing toilet cover mechanism obtained by using two dampers, a pin and a hinge body and a body cover.

Object of the invention

15 The object of the invention is to form a hinge mechanism providing controlled and slow closure of upper and lower toilet covers by means of pins and hinge body by using available dampers.

Description of the Drawings

20 The system of the invention is illustrated in the appended figures, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the hinge body.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the pin.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the damper.

25 Figure 4 is a perspective view of the body cover.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the slow closure mechanism, excluding covers, before mounting.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the slow closure mechanism, excluding covers, after mounting.

30 Figure 7 is a bottom view of an example of the toilet cover.

Figure 8 is a top perspective view of the cover shown in Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a rear perspective view of an example of the toilet cover.

35 In figures, each part is numbered individually and corresponds to the numbers given below:

Slow closure mechanism (A)

Hinge Body (1)

Pin (2)

5 Damper (3)

Body Cover (4)

Sitting Surface (11)

Pin-damper housing (12)

Protrusion slot (13)

10 Leg (14)

Pin Protrusion (21)

Pin Channel (22)

Pin Shaft (23)

Pin Body (24)

15 Damper Shaft (31)

Damper Fixing Protrusion (32)

Damper Body (33)

Hole For Body Cover Screw (41)

Damper Placement Housing of Body Cover (42)

20 Pin Placement Housing of Body Cover (43)

Body Cover Form on the Toilet Cover (51)

Damper Housing of Cover (62)

Pin Housing of Cover (63)

25 Drawings of the main parts of the slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers of the invention are shown in Figures 1-4. Also, the mechanism (A) is shown before mounting in Figure 5 and in Figure 6 as mounted, excluding toilet covers.

30 Hinge body (1) shown in Figure 1 is a part connecting the slow closure mechanism to the toilet and used as a housing for dampers and pins. Hinge body (1) comprises a sitting surface (11) having a wide face and preferably a rounded cross section; a leg (14) extending upward there from; a pin-damper housing (12) preferably having a rounded cross section extending on this leg and pin and damper are being recessed inside the hole therein; one or more protrusion slots (13) at the ends of the hole inside this housing.

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Pin (2) shown in Figure 2 is a part directly connected to lower and upper toilet covers, recessed in the hinge body (1) without any turning and attached to the damper (3) at one end. Pin (2) comprises a pin shaft (23) having a rounded cross section connected to lower and upper toilet covers; a pin body (24) having a rounded cross section coaxial with the pin shaft (23) at one end of this shaft and that could be received in the hole inside the hinge body (1); one or more pin fingers (21) in a protrusion form being at one end of this body (24) and on the arched lateral surface and that could be received in the protrusion slots (13); a pin channel (22) on the flat surface of the pin body (24) and being parallel to this surface preferably in tetragonal cross section at the side where the pin protrusions are located.

Damper (3) shown in Figure 3 is a part directly connected to lower and upper toilet covers, recessed in the hinge body (1) and attached to the pin (2) at one end. Damper (3) comprises a damper fixing protrusion (32) which could be tightly located in the pin channel (22), a damper body (33) which is rounded in cross section and a damper shaft (31) which is rounded in cross section having both sides flattened. The axis of the damper shaft (31) coincides with the axis of the damper body (33). Damper fixing protrusion (32) is on the flat surface of the damper body (33) and parallel to this surface and preferably having a rounded cross section. Damper fixing protrusion (32) and the damper body (33) have an integrated structure and made of elastic material to provide slow closure. Damper shaft (31) is tightly recessed in the damper body (33) at one side. The axis of the damper shaft (31) coincides with the axis of the damper body (33). Although the damper shaft (31) is tightly recessed in the damper body (33), since the damper body (33) is made of elastic material and the damper shaft is made of rigid material, damper shaft (31) could be slowly pivoted in the damper body (33) with a friction. This frictional slow pivoting direction is one-way. Damper shaft (31) could be pivoted in the damper body (33) at the other direction more easily and quickly.

Body cover (4) shown in Figure 4 is a part connected to the damper (3), pin (2) and either lower or upper toilet cover. Body cover (4) has an elongated cylindrical body preferably in rounded cross section and comprises one or more hole for body cover screw (41) in order to connect it to the lower and upper toilet covers, damper placement housing (42) of body cover to recess the damper (3) at one end and pin placement housing (43) of body cover to recess the pin (2) at the other end. Linear axis of damper placement housing (42) of body cover and pin placement housing (43) of body cover coincide with

the linear axis of the body cover (4). Damper placement housing (42) of body cover is in the form of a half gap with a rounded cross section having both sides flattened such that the damper shaft (31) is fitted. Pin placement housing (43) of body cover is in the form of a half gap with a rounded cross section such that the pin shaft (23) is fitted and freely pivoted.

Slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers given as before mounting view in Figure 5 is shown as after mounting view in Figure 6, excluding toilet covers. In slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers shown as after mounting in Figure 6, two hinge bodies (1) are connected to the mounting holes on the toilet (not shown in Figure). Pins (2) are attached to each two hinge bodies (1) such that they are on the same side relative to the hinge body (1). Pins (2) are located in the holes inside the hinge body (1) such that pin protrusions (21) remain in the protrusion slots (13). By means of this, pins (2) are prevented to be pivoted relative to the hinge body (1). In this mounting, pin shafts (23) outwardly extend from the hinge bodies (1) in same direction. Also, dampers (3) are attached to each two hinge bodies (1) such that they are on the same side relative to the hinge body (1) and on the other side relative to the pins (2). In this connection design, damper fixing protrusion (32) is tightly located in the pin channel (22) and damper shaft (31) remains outside of the hinge body (1). Therefore, one damper shaft (31) and one pin shaft (23) are between two hinge bodies (1) such that they extend to each other. Also, one damper shaft (31) and one pin shaft (23) extend from the hinge body (1) and they extend in opposite directions to each other. Body cover (4) is connected between the hinge bodies (1) wherein it houses damper placement housing (42) of body cover to recess the damper (3) at one end and pin placement housing (43) of body cover to recess the pin (2) at the other end. On the body cover (4), hole for screw (41) of body cover is used for connection to lower or upper toilet covers (not shown in Figure). Rear portions of lower or upper toilet cover are shaped as body cover (1) at the side of hinge body (1). One example of body cover form (51) on the toilet cover is shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8. This example form (51) shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8 is given for lower cover, however same structure could be used for upper cover. Therefore, upper or lower toilet cover is attached to the body cover (4) and then upper or lower toilet cover attached to the body cover (4) is recessed between hinge bodies. Other cover is connected to the mechanism outside the hinge bodies (1). On the other cover mentioned, there is a pin housing of cover (63) freely pivotable relative to the cover pin shaft (23) and a damper housing

of cover (62) pivotal with the damper shaft (31) of same cover. These recesses are shown in Figure 9. Pin housing of cover (63) has an identical form with the pin placement housing (43) of body cover and likely damper housing of cover (62) has an identical form with the damper placement housing (42) of body cover.

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When lower and upper covers are attached to the slow closure mechanism (A), one pin (2) and one damper (3) are attached to lower cover and at the same time one pin (2) and one damper (3) are attached to upper cover. Dampers (3) provide slow and controlled closure of the covers by applying brake to the covers in one and downward direction. Only function of the pins is recessing of the covers to allow freely pivoting thereon. Thus, braking function is done only by dampers (3).

Damper pins (31) are tightly engaged in damper sitting recesses in lower and upper cover. Since the damper shaft (31) has a cylindrical shape that is flattened at both ends and damper sitting recesses on lower and upper cover are in identical form with damper shaft (31), damper shafts (31) pivot together with lower and upper cover. Dampers (3) used herein exhibit resistance during pivoting of damper shafts (31) in one-way and only downwards direction. In this way, slow closure of lower and upper toilet covers is achieved. As the covers are lifted upwards, covers could be lifted by the user easily since damper shafts (31) are freely pivoted in damper body (33). Since dampers control lower cover and upper cover separately, namely they work independently from each other, lower and upper cover could also be closed separately in a slow manner.

Preferred slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers above is not intended to limit the protection scope of the invention. In view of the described knowledge by the invention, all modifications on this preferred slow closure mechanism (A) should be interpreted in the protection scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. A hinge body (1) used to connect a slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers to the toilet and to recess dampers (3) and pins (2) wherein it comprises a sitting surface (11) having a wide face and preferably a rounded cross section; a leg (14) extending upward from this surface characterized by the presence of a pin-damper housing (12) preferably having a rounded cross section extending on said leg (14) and pin (2) and damper (3) are being recessed inside the rounded hole therein; one or more protrusion slots (13) at the ends of the hole inside said housing (12) such that pins (2) are recessed without making a pivoting motion.

2. A pin (2) used in a slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers, directly connected to lower and upper toilet covers, recessed in the hinge body (1) without any turning motion and attached to the damper (3) at one end characterized in that it comprises a pin shaft (23) having a rounded cross section connected to lower and upper toilet covers; a pin body (24) having a rounded cross section coaxial with the pin shaft (23) at one end of this shaft and could be received in the hole inside the hinge body (1); one or more pin fingers (21) in a protrusion form being at one end of this body (24) and on the arched lateral surface and that could be received in the protrusion slots (13); a pin channel (22) on the flat surface of the pin body (24) and being parallel to this surface, preferably in tetragonal cross section at the side where the pin fingers are located.

3. A body cover (4) used in a slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers, connected to a damper (3), a pin (2) and a lower or upper toilet cover, having an elongated cylindrical body preferably in half circle cross section and comprising one or more holes for body cover screw (41) for connection to lower or upper toilet cover characterized in that it comprises a damper placement housing (42) of body cover to recess the damper (3) at one end and a pin placement housing (43) of body cover to recess the pin (2) at the other end and linear axis of damper placement housing (42) of body cover and pin placement housing (43) of body cover coincide with the linear axis of the body cover (4).

4. A damper placement housing (42) of body cover on the body cover (4) according to claim 3 characterized in that it is in the form of a half gap with a rounded cross section having both sides flattened such that the damper shaft (31) is fitted.

5. A pin placement housing (43) of body cover on the body cover (4) according to claim 3 characterized in that it is in the form of a half gap with a rounded cross section such that the pin shaft (23) is fitted and freely pivoted.

- 5 6. A mounting method of a slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers which is obtained by using a hinge body (1) according to claim 1, a pin (2) according to claim 2, a body cover (4) according to claims 3-5 and in addition an available damper, characterized in that the method comprises,
- 10 - connecting two hinge bodies (1) to the mounting holes on the toilet,
- attaching pins (2) to each two hinge bodies (1) such that they are on the same side relative to the hinge body (1).
- preventing a pivoting motion of pins (2) relative to hinge body (1) by locating pins (2) in the holes inside the hinge body (1) such that pin fingers (21) remain in the protrusion slots (13), and in this mounting pin shafts (23)
15 outwardly extend from the hinge bodies (1) in same direction,
- attaching dampers (3) to each two hinge bodies (1) such that they are on the same side relative to the hinge body (1) and on the other side relative to the pins (2).
-tightly locating a damper fixing protrusion (32) in the pin channel (22) and
20 damper shaft (31) remains outside relative to the hinge body (1),
-connecting a body cover (4) between the hinge bodies (1) wherein body cover houses damper placement housing (42) of body cover to recess the damper (3) at one end and pin placement housing (43) of body cover to recess the pin (2) at the other end,
25 -using holes for screw (41) of body cover on the body cover (4) for connection to lower or upper toilet covers.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 07 February 2006 (07.02.2006);
original claims 1-6 replaced by amended claims 1-4 (2 pages)]

1. A slow closure mechanism (A) provides slow closure of upper and lower toilet covers comprising,
a hinge body (1), used to connect said mechanism (A) to the toilet covers, comprising a sitting surface (11) having a wide face, a leg (14) extending upward from this surface (11), a pin-damper housing (12) extending on this leg (14),
a damper (3), directly connected to lower and upper toilet covers, recessed inside the hole of the pin-damper housing (12), and said damper (3) comprising a damper shaft (31) which is rounded in cross section having both sides flattened, a damper body (33) which is rounded in cross section, a damper fixing protrusion (32) which could be tightly located in the pin channel (22), being on the flat surface of the damper body (33) and parallel to this surface and having a rectangular cross section,
a pin (2), directly connected to lower and upper toilet covers, recessed inside the hole of the said pin-damper housing (12) and attached to the damper (3) at one end,
A body cover (4) connected to damper (3), pin (2) and lower or upper toilet cover, having a semi cylindrical body and comprising one or more holes (41) for body cover screw for connection to lower or upper toilet cover, a pin placement housing (43) with a semi circular cross section such that the pin shaft (23) is fitted and freely pivoted and a damper placement housing (42) where the damper shaft (31) is fitted,
and said mechanism (A) is characterized in that one or more protrusion slots (13) are extending through the inner surface of the hole inside the said housing (12) such that pin protrusions (21), on the outer circular surface of the said pins (2), are recessed not to make a pivoting motion.
2. A slow closure mechanism (A) according to claim 1 wherein said pin (2) comprises a pin shaft (23) having a circular cross section connected to lower and upper toilet covers; a pin body (24) having a circular cross section coaxial with the pin shaft (23) at one end of this shaft (23) and located in the hole of the pin-damper housing (12); one or more pin protrusions (21) being at one end of this body (24) and on the outer circular surface of the pin body (24) and said protrusions (21) mounted in the protrusion slots (13); a pin channel (22), with a

rectangular cross section, on the flat surface of the pin body (24) and being parallel to this surface, at the side where the pin protrusions (21) are located.

3. A slow closure mechanism (A) according to claim 1 wherein, said damper placement housing (42) has a semi circular cross section having both sides flattened such that the damper shaft (31) is fitted.
4. A mounting method of a slow closure mechanism (A) for toilet covers according to preceding claims comprises the steps of;
 - connecting two hinge bodies (1) to the mounting holes on the toilet,
 - attaching said pins (2) to each pin-damper housing (12) such that they are on the same side relative to the hinge bodies (1),
 - locating pins (2) in the hole of the pin-damper housing (12) such that pin protrusions (21) remain in the protrusion slots (13), to prevent pivoting motion of pins (2) relative to hinge body (1) and providing pin shafts (23) outwardly extend from the hinge bodies (1) in same direction,
 - attaching dampers (3) to each pin damper housings (12) such that they are on the same side relative to the hinge bodies (1) and on the other side relative to the pins (2),
 - tightly locating damper fixing protrusions (32) in the pin channels (22) and damper shafts (31) remain outside relative to the hinge bodies (1),
 - connecting a body cover (4) between the hinge bodies (1) providing damper placement housing (42) to recess the damper (3) at one end; and pin placement housing (43) to recess the pin (2) at the other end,
 - using holes (41) for screw connection of body cover to lower or upper toilet covers.