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**Kim et al.**

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(54) **FLAT WIPER BLADE WITH SPOILER**

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(73) Assignee: **The Korea Development Bank**, Seoul (KR)

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **13/816,374**

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(86) PCT No.: **PCT/KR2011/006660**

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(2), (4) Date: **Feb. 11, 2013**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A flat wiper blade with spoilers is provided. The flat wiper blade has a wiper strip, a single elongated frame, first and second spoilers and a connecting unit for connection to a wiper arm. The frame holds and supports the wiper strip. The first and second spoilers have a pair of longitudinally extending fitting grooves and a receiving groove in the fitting groove. The receiving groove has a width greater than that of the fitting groove. The first and second spoilers are joined to the frame as opposed to each other in such a manner that the frame is fitted to the fitting grooves and an edge of the frame is received in the receiving groove. The connecting unit is joined to the frame between the first spoiler and the second spoiler. The connecting unit engages the first spoiler and the second spoiler.

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**B60S 1/40** (2006.01)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
USPC ..... 15/250.201, 250.361, 250.32, 250.43,  
15/250.44

See application file for complete search history.

**11 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets**

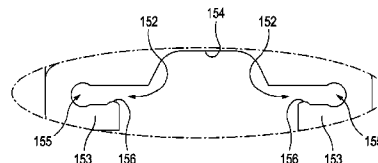
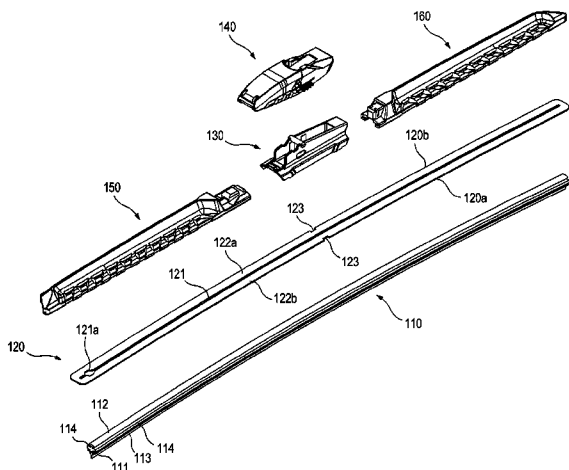


Fig. 1

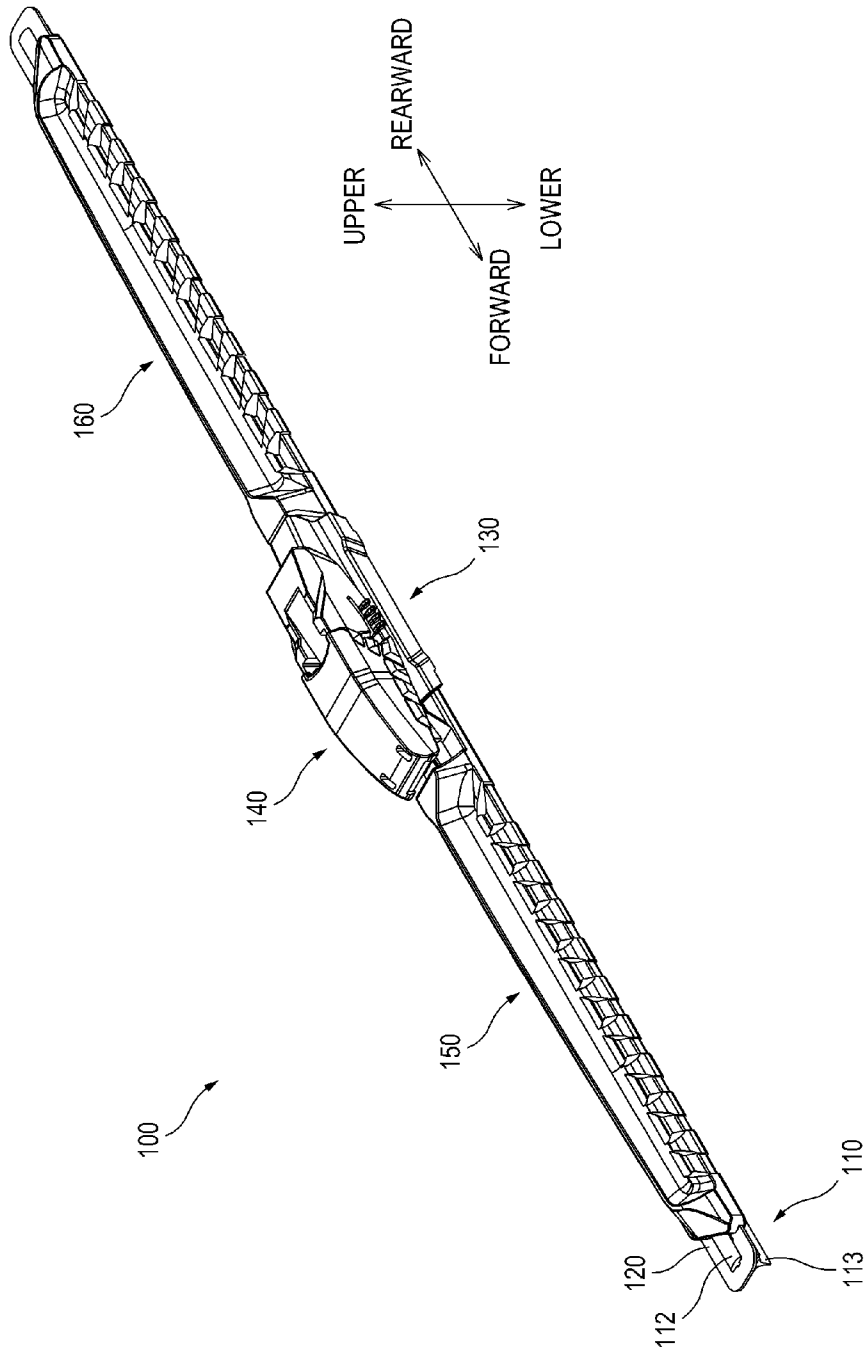


Fig. 2

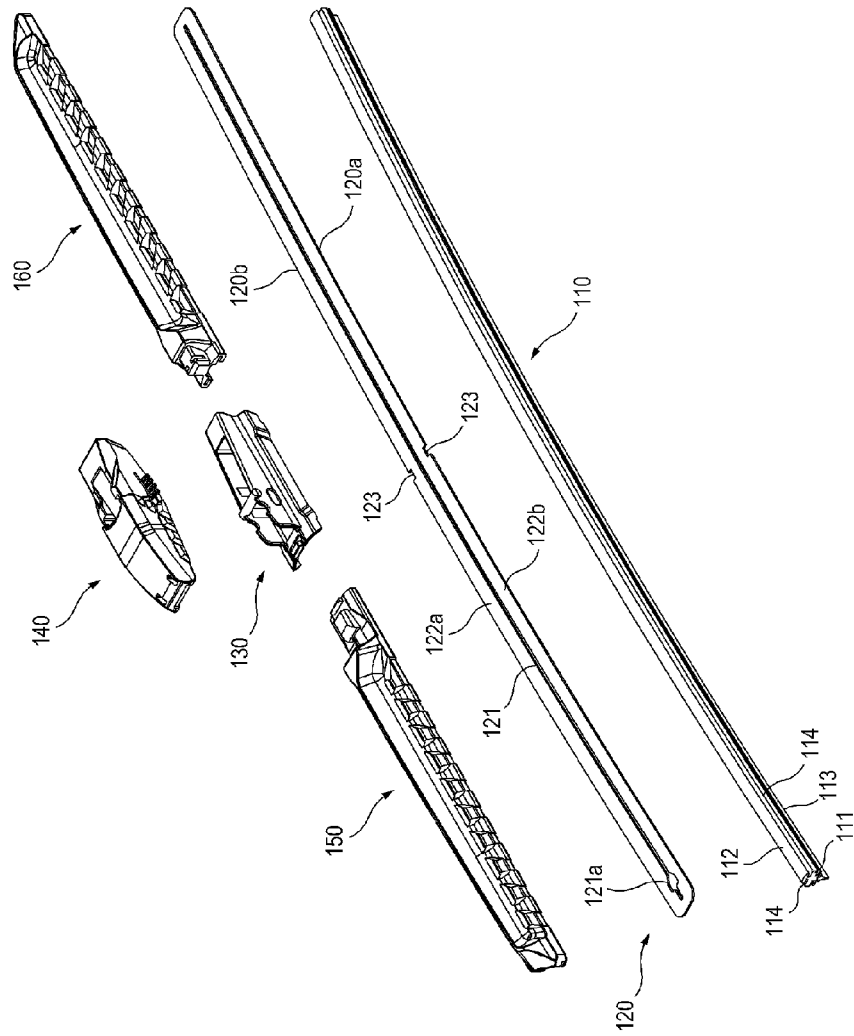


Fig. 3

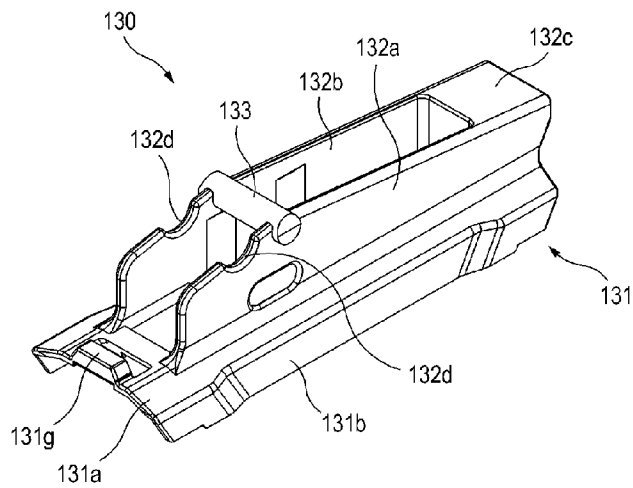


Fig. 4

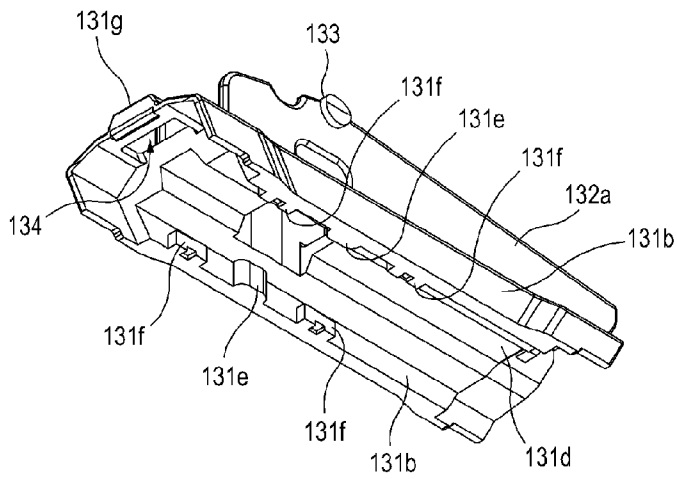


Fig. 5

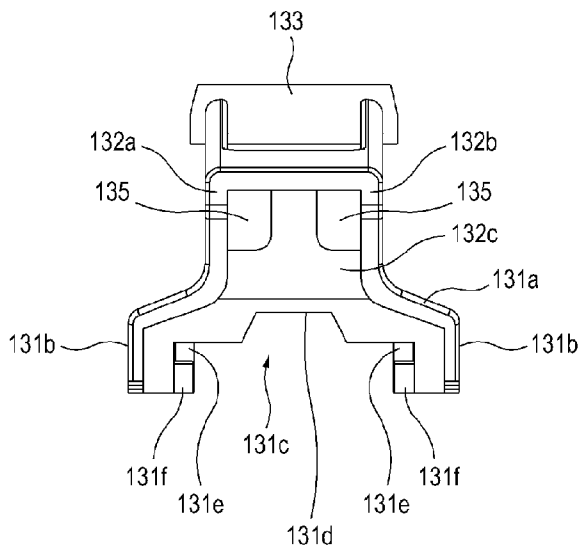


Fig. 6

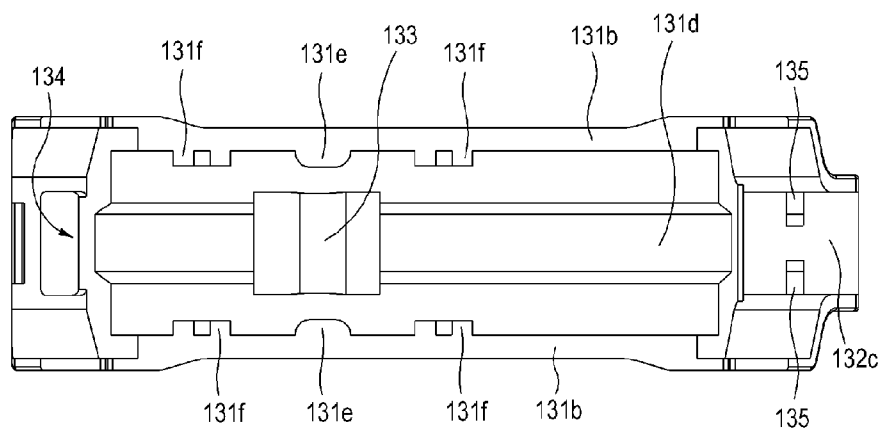


Fig. 7

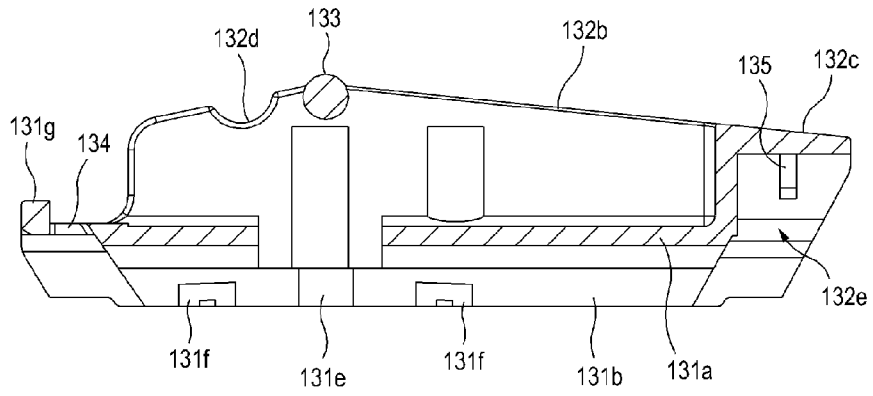


Fig. 8

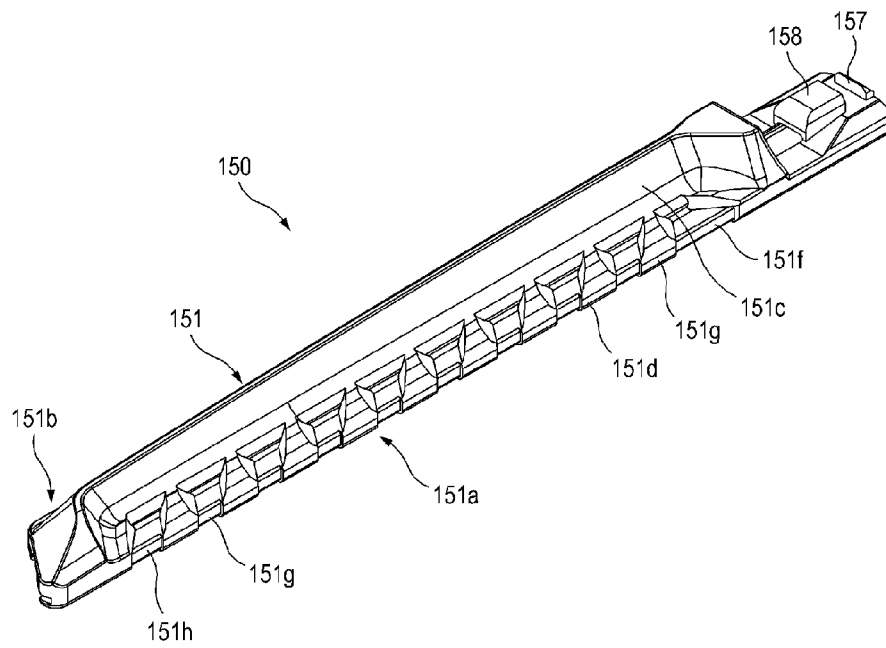


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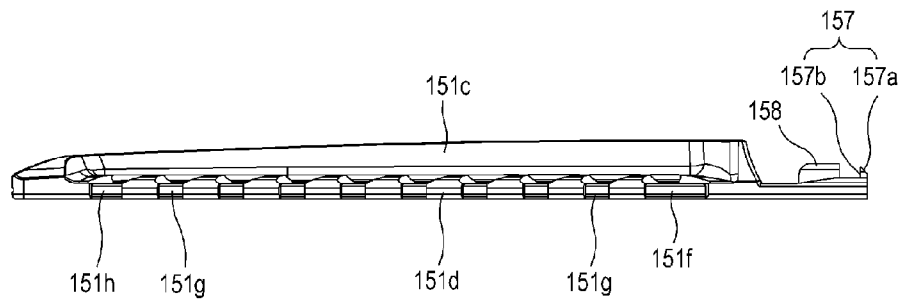


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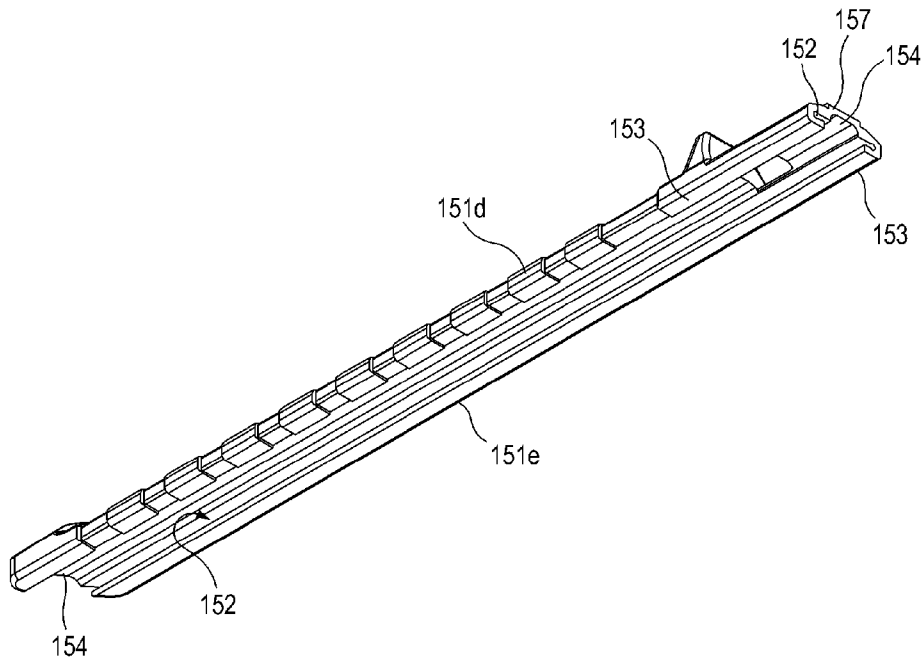


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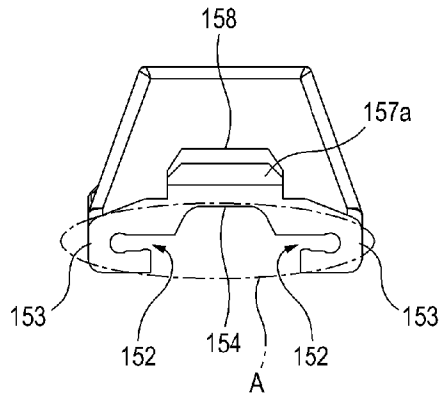


Fig. 12

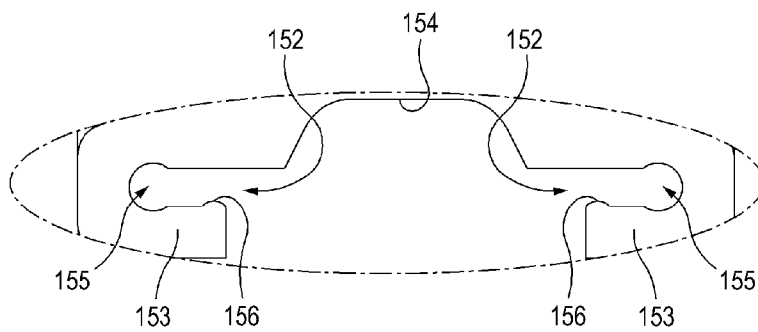


Fig. 13

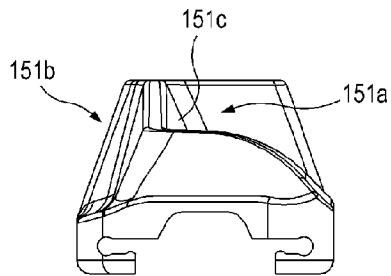


Fig. 14

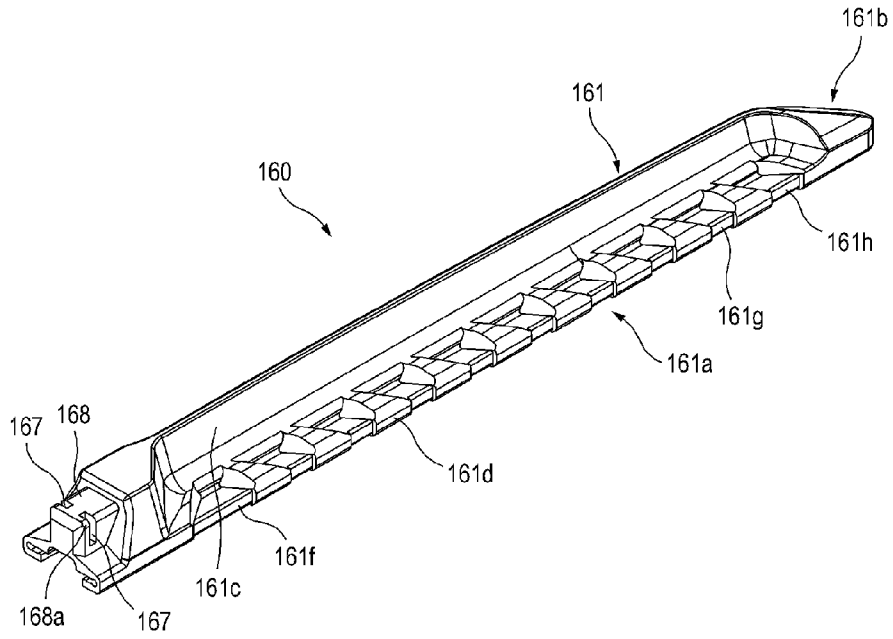


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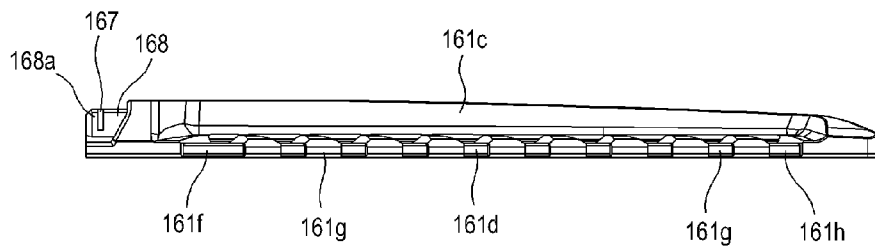


Fig. 16

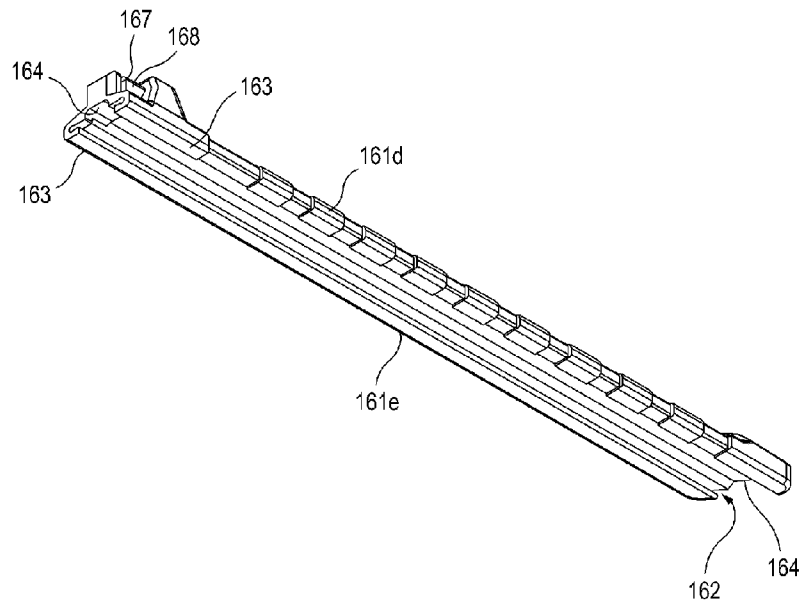


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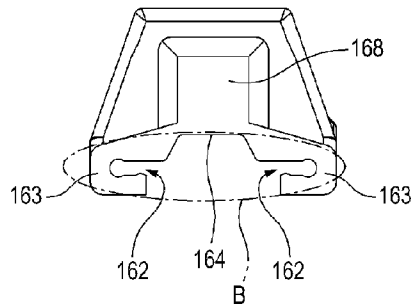


Fig. 18

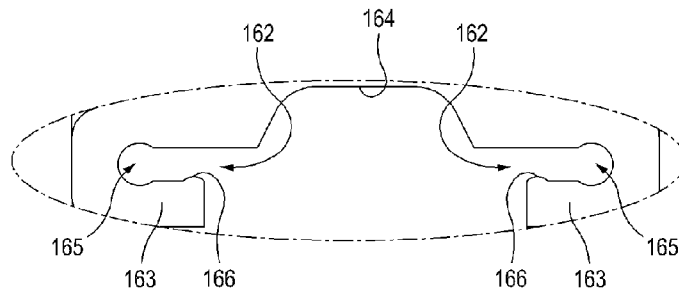


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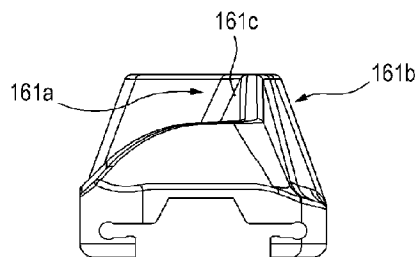




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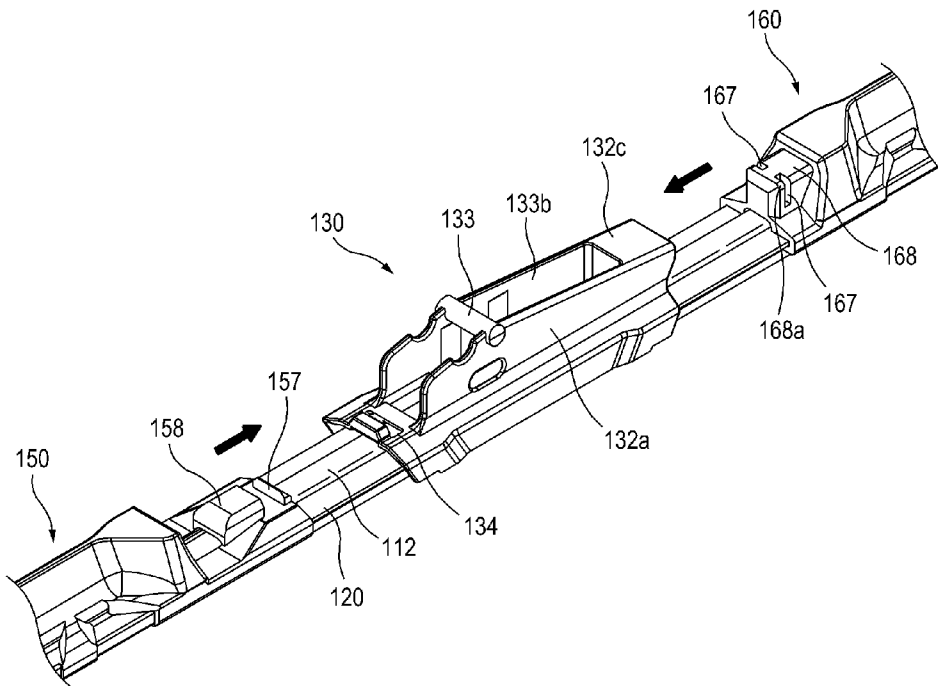


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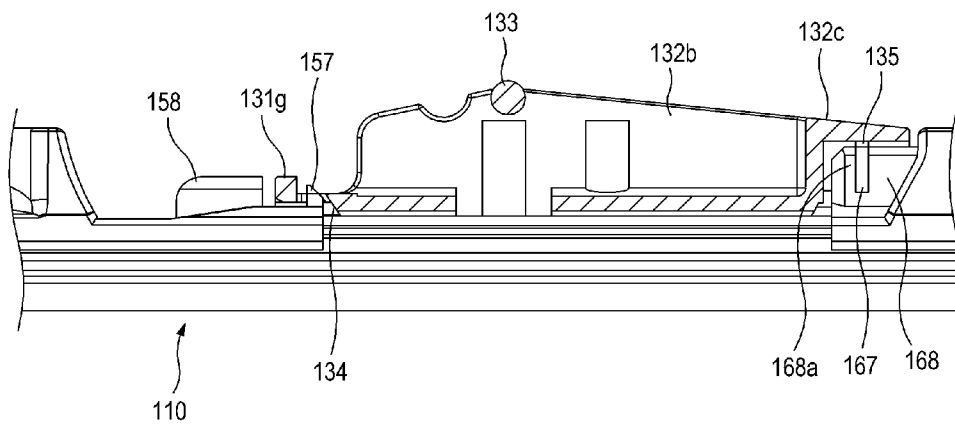


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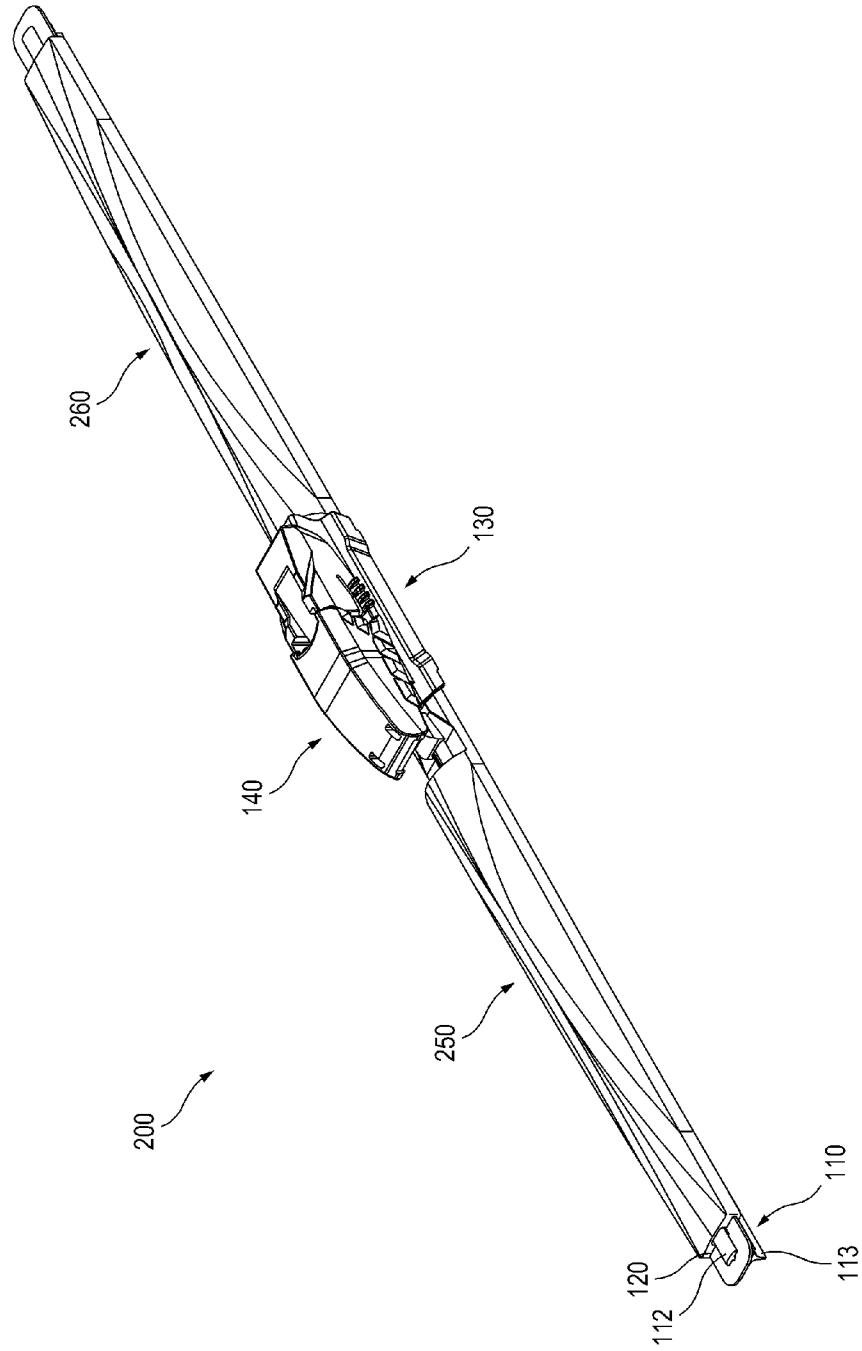


Fig. 23

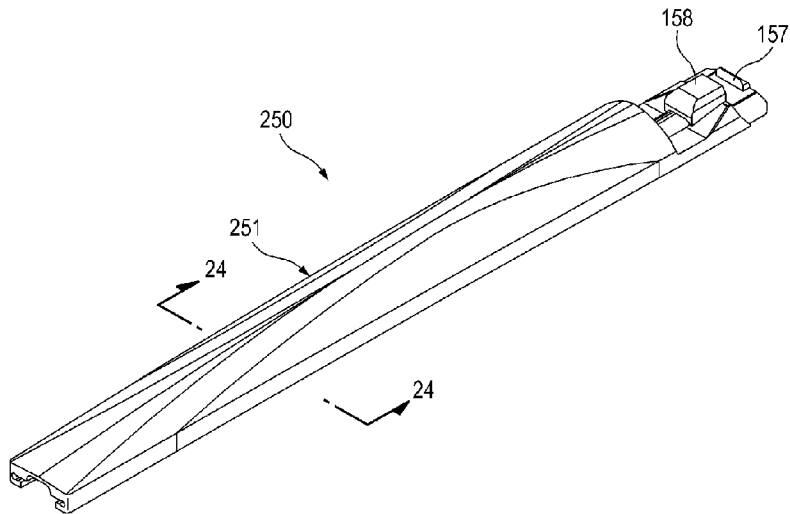


Fig. 24

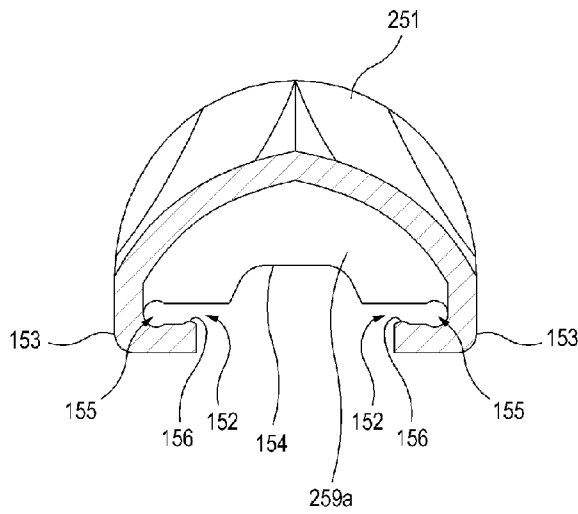


Fig. 25

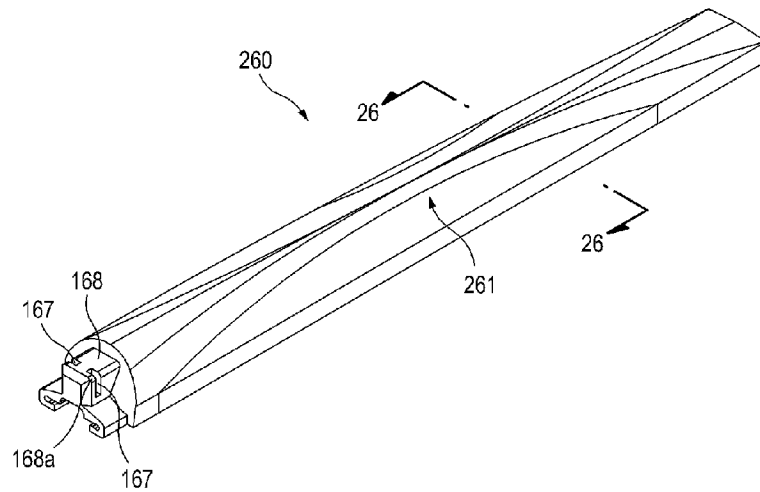


Fig. 26

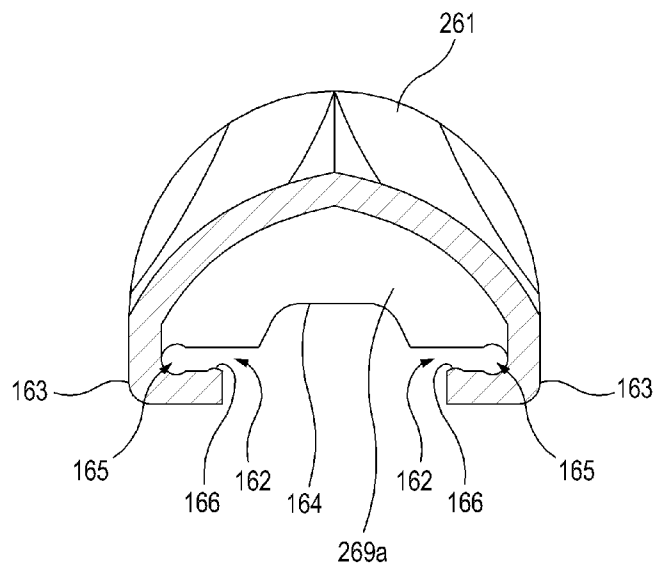


Fig. 27

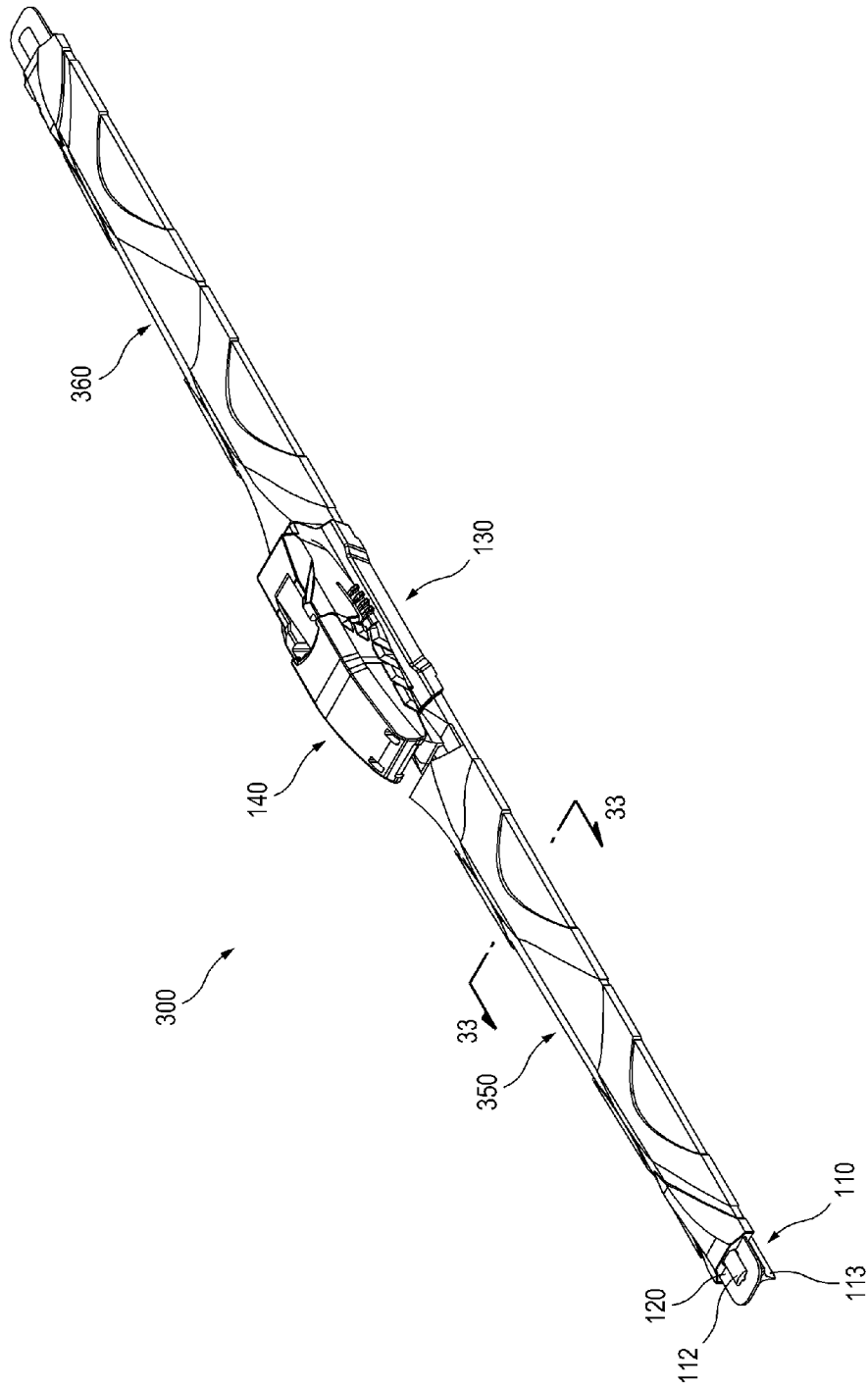


Fig. 28

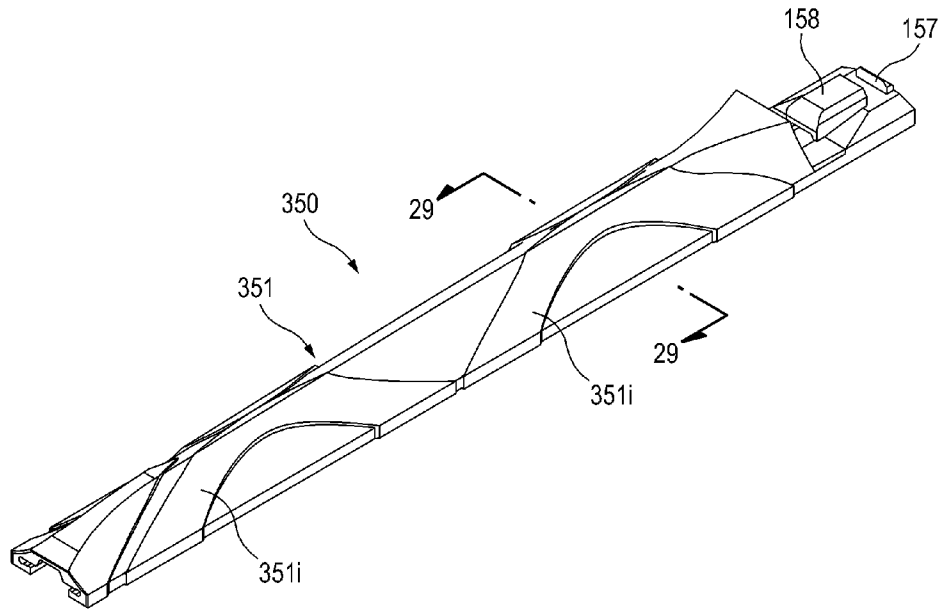


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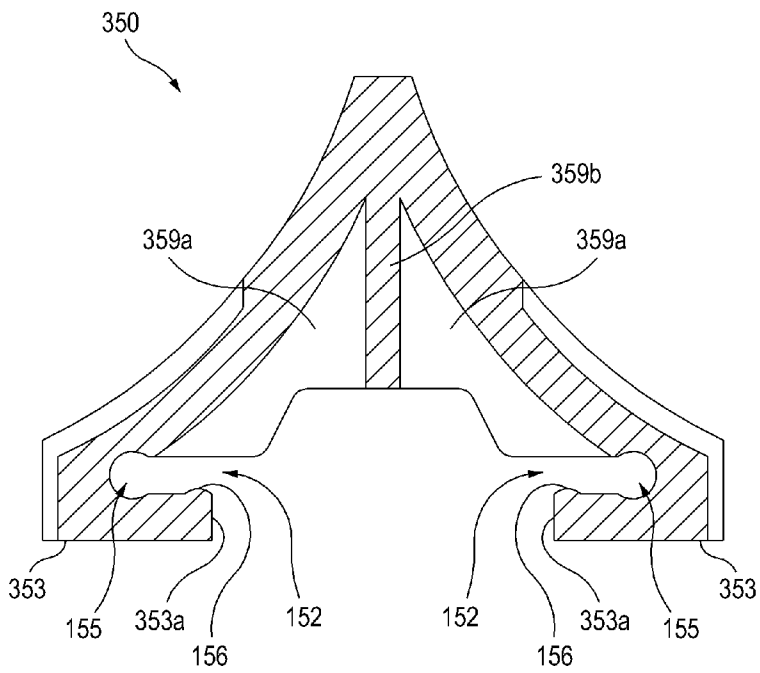


Fig. 30

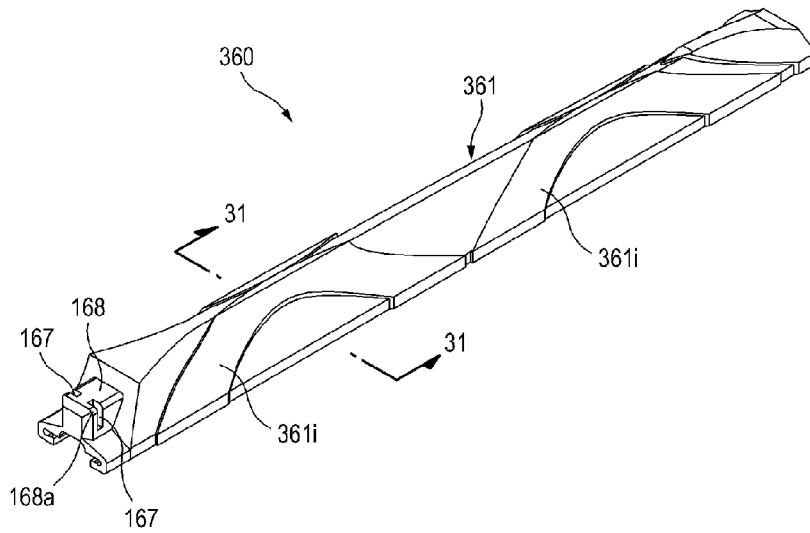


Fig. 31

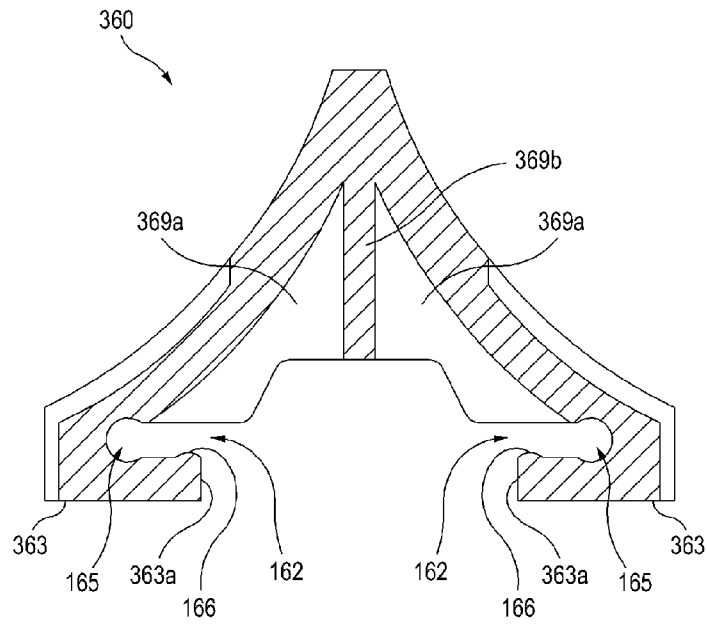


Fig. 32

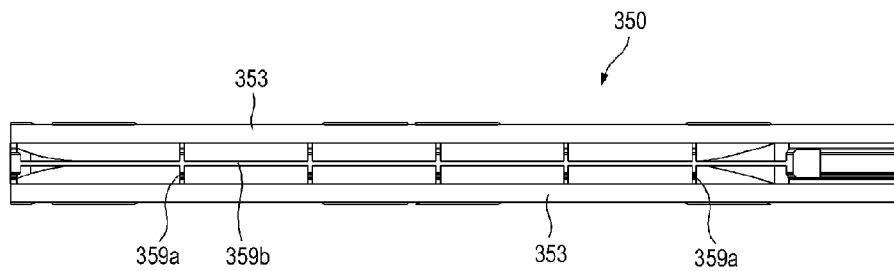


Fig. 33

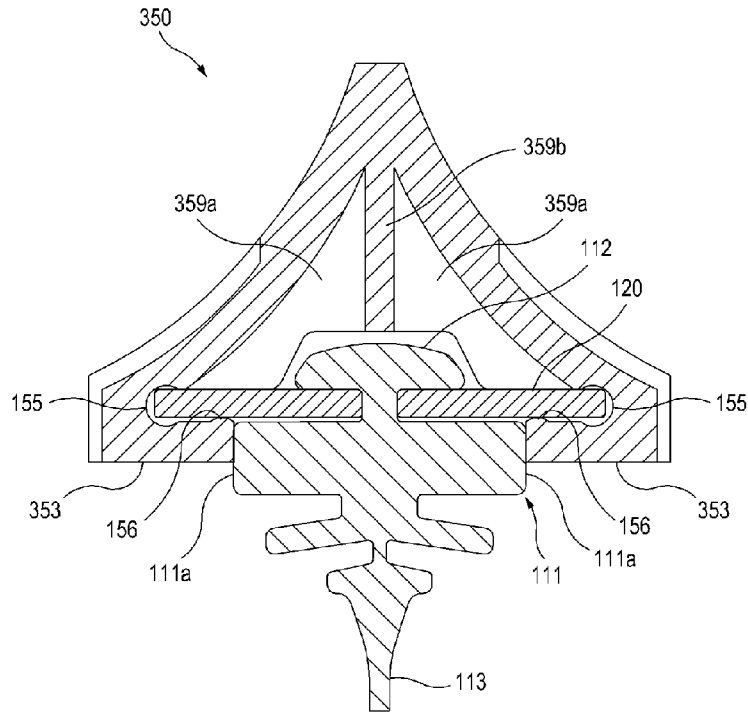


Fig. 34

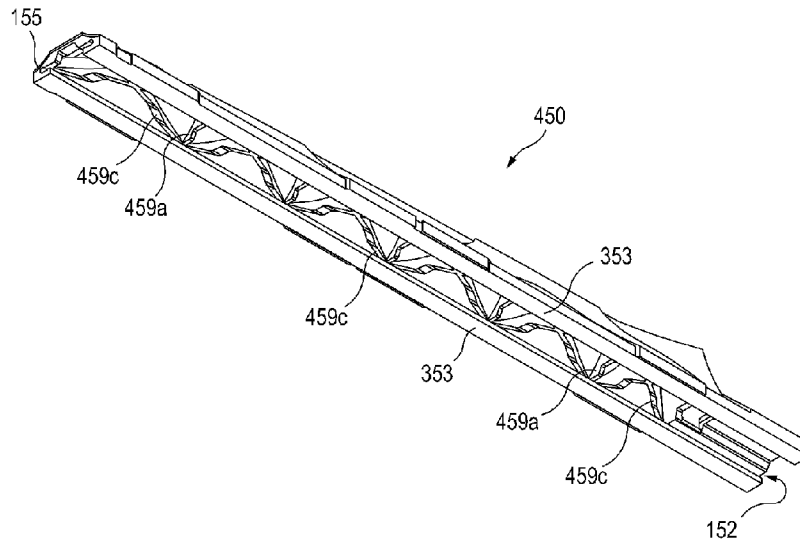


Fig. 35

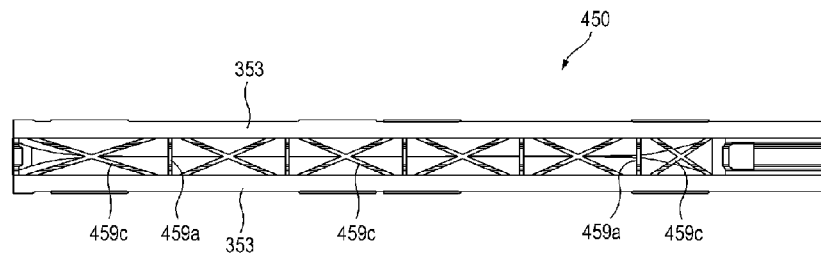




Fig. 36

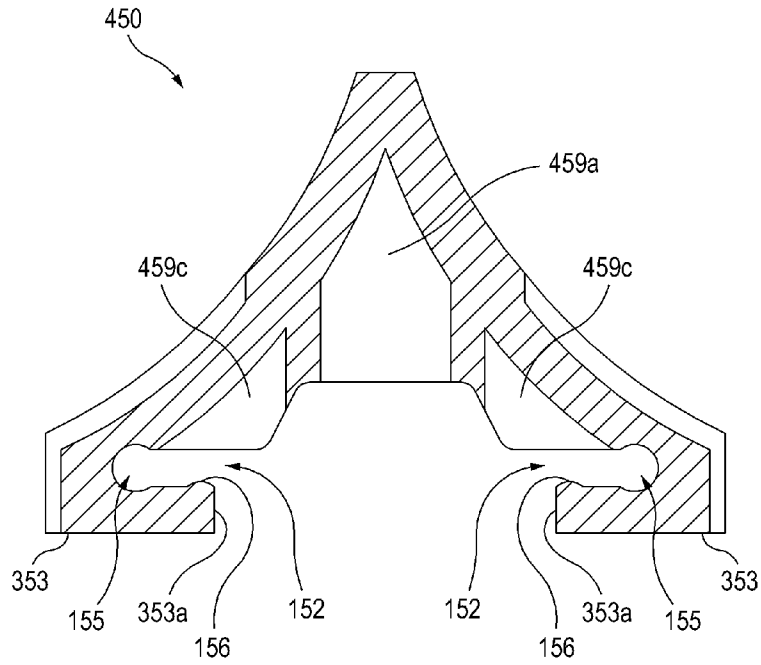


Fig. 37

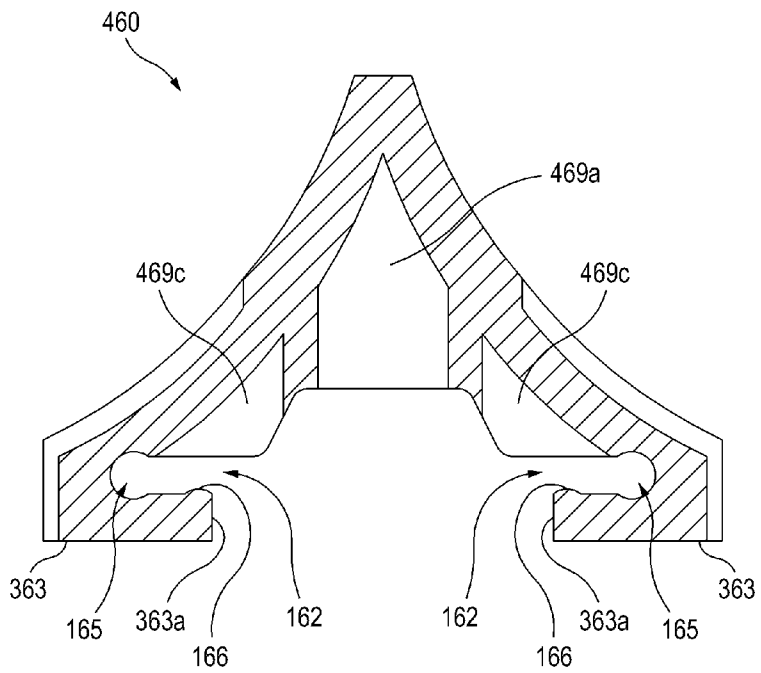
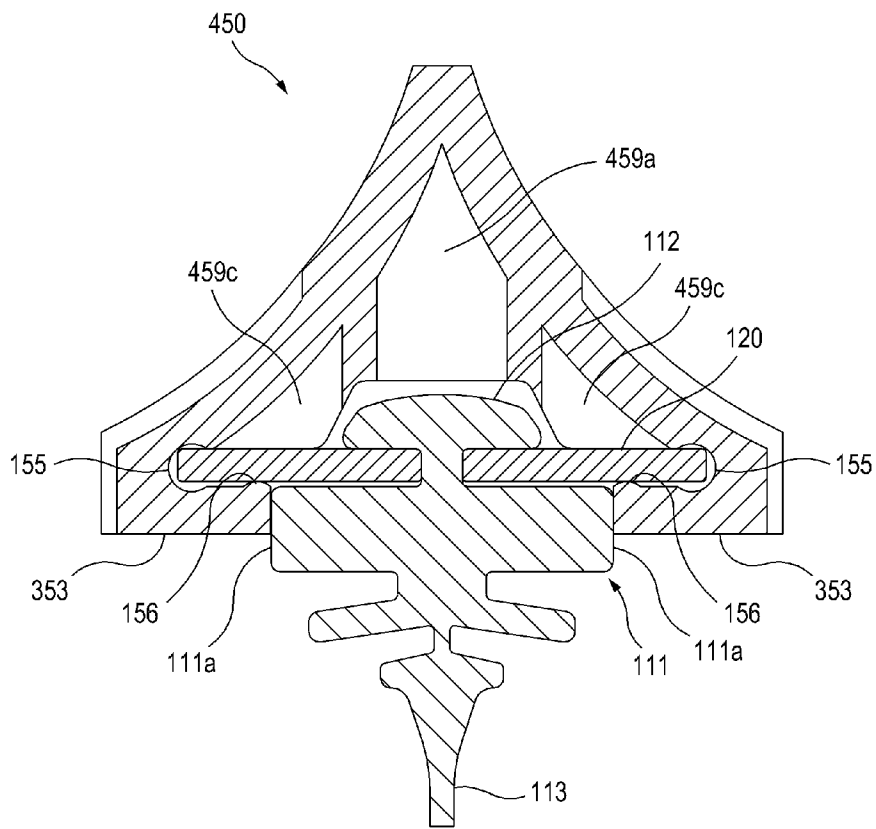


Fig. 38



**FLAT WIPER BLADE WITH SPOILER**

## RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a 35 U.S.C. §371 U.S. National Phase of International Application No. PCT/KR2011/006660 filed on Sep. 8, 2011 and published in English as WO 2012/033363A2 on Mar. 15, 2012, which claims priority to KR 10-2010-0089005 filed on Sep. 10, 2010 and KR 10-2011-0090239 filed on Sep. 6, 2011. The contents of the aforementioned applications are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

## TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a flat wiper blade with spoilers.

## BACKGROUND ART

Motor vehicles are equipped with a windshield wiper device for cleaning or wiping a surface of a windshield. The windshield wiper device includes a wiper motor, a wiper arm and a wiper blade. The wiper arm is connected to a rotating shaft of the wiper motor at its base end and is oscillated by the wiper motor. The wiper blade is separably joined to a distal end of the wiper arm. The wiper blade is positioned on the surface of the windshield by the wiper arm. The wiper blade wipes the surface of the windshield while sliding thereon through oscillating movements of the wiper arm.

The wiper blade has an elongated wiper strip and a frame for holding and supporting the wiper strip in its longitudinal direction. The wiper strip is placed in contact with the windshield surface. The frame may comprise an assembly including a main yoke and a plurality of sub yokes linked to the main yoke. A wiper blade with such a frame is known in the art as "a conventional wiper blade." A wiper blade, which uses a single frame curving with a certain curvature and having a thin and elongated bar shape as the frame, has been recently used. Such a wiper blade is known in the art as "a flat wiper blade" or "a flat-bar wiper blade." The flat wiper blade has a height lower than a conventional wiper blade and is subjected to less air resistance when compared to the conventional wiper blade. Further, the flat wiper blade can bring its wiper strip into contact the windshield surface under a uniform load.

When such wiper blades are placed on a windshield of a vehicle, wind or air stream impinging on the windshield during running of a vehicle exerts forces to the wiper blade throughout the entire length of the wiper blade. The wiper blade is positioned generally vertically on the surface of the inclined windshield. Thus, the forces caused by the wind or air stream act in a direction of lifting up the wiper blade from the surface of the windshield. The faster the vehicle runs, the stronger such lift forces would be. This weakens the contact between the wiper strip and the windshield surface, thus deteriorating wiping performance.

To address the deterioration of the wiping performance due to the lift of a wiper blade, a main yoke and sub yokes of a convention wiper blade are provided with apertures permitting the air stream to pass therethrough. Further, to apply forces in a direction opposite to the lift of the wiper blade during running of a vehicle to restrain the lift, spoilers are attached to a wiper blade. The spoiler has a profile that produces reaction forces toward the windshield surface from reaction to the wind or air stream.

Such a spoiler is made from a plastic or rubber material. The spoiler may be separably attached to the main yoke of a conventional wiper blade. Further, the spoiler may be sepa-

rably attached to the frame of a flat wiper blade. By way of example of a coupling configuration between a spoiler and a flat wiper blade, U.S. Pat. No. 7,228,588 discloses that a frame and spoilers of the flat wiper blade are coupled to one another by fitting.

## SUMMARY

In the flat wiper blade wherein a frame is fitted to spoilers, the spoilers may not be held on the frame due to the operation of the flat wiper blade and thus may be separated therefrom. Further, after the flat wiper blade is used for a long time, a portion of the spoiler, to which forces are exerted and stresses concentrate due to contact to the frame, may tear or crack. This may damage or break the spoiler.

The present invention is directed to solving the aforementioned problems of the prior art. It is an object of the present invention to provide a flat wiper blade with spoilers reliably joined thereto.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a flat wiper blade having a coupling configuration between the spoilers and the frame for enhancing the durability of the spoiler.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a flat wiper blade with spoilers that is configured to efficiently prevent the lift of the flat wiper blade and has a strong inner structure while achieving the aforementioned objects.

To achieve the above and other objects, in one exemplary embodiment, the present invention provides a flat wiper blade that has a wiper strip, a single elongated frame, first and second spoilers and a connecting unit. The wiper strip is configured to contact a surface of a windshield. The frame is configured to hold and support the wiper strip. The first and second spoilers are joined to the frame as opposed to each other. Each of the first and second spoilers includes a pair of fitting grooves extending in a longitudinal direction of the frame and a receiving groove extending in the longitudinal direction in the fitting groove. The receiving groove has a width greater than a width of the fitting groove. The frame is fitted to the fitting grooves and edges of the frame are received in the receiving grooves. The connecting unit is joined to the frame between the first spoiler and the second spoiler, and is configured to be connected to a wiper arm. The connecting unit engages the first spoiler and the second spoiler.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the receiving groove has a rounded surface.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the first and second spoilers have a holder extending along either edge thereof and located under the frame. The fitting groove is formed along an inside of the holder. The holder extends to closely contact the wiper strip by interference fit.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the first and second spoilers have a pressing ridge protruding inwardly of the fitting groove in the fitting groove.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the first and second spoilers have a concave surface extending along a leading edge. The concave surface is concave in both lateral and longitudinal directions of the first and second spoilers. An apex end of the concave surface is closer to a trailing edge of the first and second spoilers than the leading edge. The first and second spoilers have a plurality of indents arranged along the leading edge.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the first and second spoilers have a plurality of cross ribs therein.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the connecting unit includes a bracket joined to the frame and having a pivot

shaft. The bracket engages a base end of the first spoiler at one end and engages a base end of the second spoiler at an opposite end.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the first spoiler has a latching claw at the base end thereof and the second spoiler has a latching groove at the base end thereof. The bracket has a slot at the one end thereof and an engaging rib at the opposite end thereof. The latching claw engages the slot and the engaging rib engages the latching groove. The bracket may have an insertion cavity at the opposite end and the second spoiler may have an insertion portion at the base end thereof. The insertion portion is fitted to the insertion cavity. The engaging rib is formed in the insertion cavity in a lateral direction of the frame and the latching groove is formed in the insertion portion in the lateral direction of the frame.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the connecting unit further includes an adaptor pivotally mounted on the bracket via the pivot shaft and configured to be separably connected to the wiper arm.

According to the flat wiper blade of the embodiments, the spoilers are joined to the frame by fitting therebetween, while coupled to the bracket by engagement therebetween. Thus, the flat wiper blade includes the spoilers joined to the frame and the bracket. Further, since the edge of the frame is situated in the receiving groove of the spoiler having the rounded surface, the spoiler does not have a portion on which stresses concentrate and thus has an improved durability. Moreover, the spoiler can produce more reaction forces due to the concave surface and the indents.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing a flat wiper blade according to a first embodiment.

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view showing the flat wiper blade shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is an upper perspective view of a bracket.

FIG. 4 is a lower perspective view of the bracket.

FIG. 5 is a rear view of the bracket.

FIG. 6 is a bottom view of the bracket.

FIG. 7 is a longitudinally sectional view of the bracket.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a first spoiler.

FIG. 9 is a right side view of the first spoiler.

FIG. 10 is a lower perspective view of the first spoiler.

FIG. 11 is an end view of a base end of the first spoiler.

FIG. 12 is an enlarged view of a portion A in FIG. 11.

FIG. 13 is an end view of a distal end of the first spoiler.

FIG. 14 is a perspective view of a second spoiler.

FIG. 15 is a right side view of the second spoiler.

FIG. 16 is a lower perspective view of the second spoiler.

FIG. 17 is an end view of a base end of the second spoiler.

FIG. 18 is an enlarged view of a portion B in FIG. 17.

FIG. 19 is an end view of a distal end of the first spoiler.

FIG. 20 is a perspective view showing a coupling between the bracket and the first and second spoilers.

FIG. 21 is a sectional view showing a coupled configuration between the bracket and the first and second spoilers.

FIG. 22 is a perspective view showing a flat wiper blade according to a second embodiment.

FIG. 23 is a perspective view of a first spoiler shown in FIG. 22.

FIG. 24 is a sectional view taken along the line 24-24 in FIG. 23.

FIG. 25 is a perspective view of a second spoiler shown in FIG. 22.

FIG. 26 is a sectional view taken along the line 26-26 in FIG. 25.

FIG. 27 a perspective view showing a flat wiper blade according to a third embodiment.

FIG. 28 is a perspective view of a first spoiler shown in FIG. 27.

FIG. 29 is a sectional view taken along the line 29-29 in FIG. 28.

FIG. 30 is a perspective view of a second spoiler shown in FIG. 27.

FIG. 31 is a sectional view taken along the line 31-31 in FIG. 30.

FIG. 32 is a bottom view of the first spoiler shown in FIG. 27.

FIG. 33 is a sectional view taken along the line 33-33 in FIG. 27.

FIG. 34 is a lower perspective view of a first spoiler employed in a flat wiper blade according to a fourth embodiment.

FIG. 35 is a bottom view of the first spoiler shown in FIG. 34.

FIG. 36 is a cross-sectional view of the first spoiler employed in the flat wiper blade according to the fourth embodiment.

FIG. 37 is a cross-sectional view of a second spoiler employed in the flat wiper blade according to the fourth embodiment.

FIG. 38 is a cross-sectional view of the flat wiper blade according to the fourth embodiment.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments of a flat wiper blade are described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings. Like reference numerals in the drawings refer to like element or parts.

As used herein, the directional term "upper," "upward" or the like is generally based on an orientation, with which a bracket is placed relative to a frame bar in the drawings, while the directional term "lower," "downward" or the like generally refers to a direction opposite to the upward or upper direction. A flat wiper blade shown in the accompanying drawings may be otherwise oriented (e.g., rotated 180 degrees or at other orientations) and the aforementioned directional terms may be interpreted accordingly. Further, as used herein, the directional term "forward," "front" or the like generally refers to a direction away from a wiper arm in a longitudinal direction of the wiper arm, while the directional term "backward," "rearward," "rear" or the like generally refers to a direction opposite to the forward or front direction.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, in one exemplary embodiment, a flat wiper blade 100 includes the following: a wiper strip 110; a single elongated frame (a frame bar 120) for holding and supporting the wiper strip 110; a connecting unit fixed to the frame bar 120 for connection to a wiper arm; and a first spoiler 150 and a second spoiler 160 joined to the frame bar 120 in front and rear of said connecting unit respectively.

The wiper strip 110 may be made from, for example, a rubber or elastomer material. The wiper strip 110 has an elongated body portion 111, an head portion 112 that extends longitudinally on the body portion 111 and is placed on the frame bar 120, and a wiper lip 113 that extends longitudinally under the body portion 111 and is placed in contact with a surface of a windshield. The wiper strip 110 has a pair of grooves 114 for coupling to the frame bar 120 between the body portion 111 and the head portion 112. The grooves 114 extend in a longitudinal direction of the wiper strip 110.

The frame bar 120 functions as a frame of the flat wiper blade 100. The frame bar 120 fixes and supports the wiper strip 110 in the longitudinal direction thereof. The frame bar

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**120** has a shape of a thin and elongated bar. The frame bar **120** may be made from a metallic or plastic material. Further, the frame bar **120** may be made by coating a metallic or plastic bar-shaped part with paint. The frame bar **120** may be curved with a certain curvature as shown in FIG. 2. Alternatively, the frame bar may be formed without any curvature.

The frame bar **120** has a slot **121** formed along a longitudinal direction of the frame bar. The slot **121** extends from the proximity of a front end of the frame bar **120** to the proximity of a rear end of the frame bar. The frame bar **120** has a first half section **122a** and a second half section **122b** with respect to the slot **121**. A triangular insertion inlet **121a** is formed at one end of the slot **121**. Since the frame bar **120** has the slot **121** formed along its longitudinal center line, if forces are applied to both longitudinal edges of the frame bar **120** inwardly of the frame bar, then each half section **122a**, **122b** of the frame bar **120** can flex or curve inwardly. Further, the frame bar **120** has notches **123** at either edge in the middle section. The notches **123** are concave inwardly from an outer edge of each half section **122a**, **122b**. The notches **123** participate in engagement to the bracket **130** of the connecting unit. The wiper strip **110** may be affixed to the frame bar **120** by inserting its one end into the insertion inlet **121a** and then fitting in along the slot **121** of the frame bar **120**. Specifically, the wiper strip **110** may be joined to the frame bar **120** by inserting one end portion of the head portion **112** into the insertion inlet **121a** and then fitting a portion between the grooves **114** into the slot **121**. When the wiper strip **110** is coupled to the frame bar **120**, the head portion **112** of the wiper strip **110** protrudes on an upper surface of the frame bar **120**.

Said connecting unit is configured to separably connect an assembly comprised of the wiper strip **110**, the frame bar **120** and the first and second spoilers **150**, **160** to a distal end of a wiper arm. Further, the connecting unit is configured to be joined to the first and second spoilers **150**, **160** by engagement therebetween. In this embodiment, the connecting unit comprises a bracket **130** fixed to the frame bar **120** and an adaptor **140** pivotally mounted on the bracket **130** for connection to the distal end of a wiper arm. The first and second spoilers **150**, **160** engage the bracket **130**. In other embodiment, the connecting unit may comprise only a bracket with parts for connection to the distal end of a wiper arm. In other embodiment, the connecting unit may comprise a single part combining the bracket with the adaptor.

The bracket **130** is separably joined to the frame bar **120**. The bracket **130** serves as a base on which the adaptor **140** is mounted. The bracket **130** functions to hold the frame bar **120** during operation of a wiper arm. The bracket **130** is disposed in a midway portion of the frame bar **120**. For example, the bracket **130** is joined to the frame bar **120** in such a manner that a part of the bracket **130** engages the edge of the frame bar **120** and holds the edge portion of the frame bar **120**.

Referring to FIGS. 3 to 7, the bracket **130** includes the following: a holder **131** configured to substantially cover up the frame bar **120** in a lateral direction of the frame bar; a pair of support wall portions **132a**, **132b** vertically formed on the holder **131**; and a pivot shaft **133** disposed at an upper end of the support wall portions **132a**, **132b** with a portion thereof protruding on the upper end.

The holder **131** has a generally fork-like cross section. The holder **131** has a base portion **131a** placed on the frame bar **120** and a pair of leg portions **131b** extending downwardly from lateral edges of the base portion **131a**. A distance between the leg portions **131b** is equal to or somewhat smaller than the width of the frame bar **120**. The frame bar **120** is positioned in a space **131c** defined by the base portion **131a**

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and the leg portions **131b**. A groove or recess **131d** longitudinally extends on an underside of the base portion **131a**. The groove **131d** functions to receive the head portion **112** of the wiper strip **110** appearing on the frame bar **120**. The bracket **130** has engaging protrusions **131e** protruding from lower edges of the leg portions **131b** toward the space **131c**. The engaging protrusion **131e** is shaped to correspond to the notch **123** formed in the frame bar **120**. Further, the holder **131** has holding claws **131f** protruding from the leg portions **131b** toward the space **131c**. The holding claws **131f** are disposed on the lower edges of the leg portions **131b** with the engaging protrusion **131e** therebetween. The edge portion of the frame bar **120** is situated on top of the holding claws **131f**. One side of the holding claw **131f** facing toward the engaging protrusion **131e** is higher than the opposite side thereof. That is, a top surface of the holding claw **131f** becomes gradually lower relative to a flat bottom surface of the base portion **131a** as going away from the engaging protrusion **131e** (see FIG. 7). When the curved frame bar **120** is placed between the top surface of the holding claws **131f** and the bottom surface of the base portion **131a**, the frame bar **120** can curve without any restraint between the holding claws **131f** and the base portion **131a** due to the above-noted configuration of the holding claws **131f**.

When assembling the frame bar **120** and the bracket **130**, one of the notches **123** of the frame bar is first engaged to the engaging protrusion **131e** as the half sections **122a**, **122b** of the frame bar **120** are closed to each other. Then, a portion adjacent to the notch **123** is pushed in between the base portion **131a** and the holding claws **131f**. Thereafter, the other half section of the frame bar **120** is fully pushed into the space **131c** and the force exerted to each half section of the frame bar **120** is removed. Then, each half section reverts to its initial position due to elasticity of the frame bar and thus the frame bar **120** is fully situated within the space **131c**. When the frame bar **120** and the bracket **130** are assembled to each other, the engaging protrusions **131e** of the bracket **130** and the notches **123** are in engagement with each other. Thus, the frame bar **120** and the bracket **130** are fixed in the longitudinal direction of the frame bar **120**. Further, when assembled, each half section **122a**, **122b** of the frame bar **120** is placed between the lower surface of the base portion **131a** and the upper surfaces of the holding claws **131f** with a little play or gap therebetween. Thus, the frame bar **120** and the bracket **130** are fixed in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the frame bar **120**.

The support wall portions **132a**, **132b** are formed parallel to each other on the base portion **131a** of the holder **131**. A distance between the support wall portions **132a**, **132b** is less than a width of the base portion **131a**. Further, rear edges of the support wall portions **132a**, **132b** are continued to a rear edge of the holder **131**, while front edges of the support wall portions are not continued to a front edge of the holder **131**. That is, when viewing the bracket **130** sideways, the rear edges of the holder **131** and the support wall portions **132a**, **132b** are in a line, whereas the front edge of the support wall portions **132a**, **132b** is spaced rearward from the front edge of the holder **131**. Accordingly, the bracket **130** is configured such that its forward portion is lower than its rearward portion, thereby increasing a pivoting range of the adaptor **140** on its forward portion.

Further, a bridge portion **132c** is formed in the rear end portion of the support wall portions **132a**, **132b**, thus defining an insertion cavity **132e** therein. The bridge portion **132c** is angularly bent. Moreover, semicircular notches **132d** are formed in the upper edges of the support wall portions **132a**, **132b** in front of the pivot shaft **133**. The notches **132d** bear a

part of a wiper arm or prevent interference between the part and the support wall portions **132a**, **132b**.

The pivot shaft **133** extends on top of the support wall portions **132a**, **132b** with an orientation substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the frame bar **120**. Both lateral ends of the pivot shaft **133** slightly protrude outwardly of the support wall portions **132a**, **132b**. The pivot shaft **133** is fitted to or engages the adaptor **140**, thereby pivotally joining the adaptor **140** to the bracket **130**. The pivot shaft **133** serves as a pivot center of the flat wiper blade **100** with respect to a wiper arm. In the shown embodiment, the pivot shaft **133** is a solid shaft. In some embodiment, the pivot shaft **133** includes a hollow shaft with a bore therethrough. A part of a wiper arm may be inserted and fitted to such a bore.

The bracket **130** and the first and second spoilers **150**, **160** of the flat wiper blade **100** have an element for interlock therebetween. Said element may comprise a first element and a second element which complementarily engage each other. The first element is provided in the bracket **130**, while the second element is provided in each of the first and second spoilers **150**, **160**. Further, the first element may comprise a slot and a rib, while the second element may comprise a protrusion and a groove. A combination of the slot and the protrusion may be configured such that the protrusion elastically engages the slot in the longitudinal direction of the frame bar **120**. A combination of the rib and the groove may be configured such that the rib and the groove are oriented perpendicularly to the longitudinal direction of the frame bar **120** and the rib elastically engages the groove in the longitudinal direction.

In this embodiment, the bracket **130** has a slot and an engaging rib as said first element. The slot **134** is formed in a front end of the bracket **130** (one end of the bracket), while the engaging rib **135** is formed in a rear end of the bracket **130** (the opposite end of the bracket). Specifically, the bracket **130** has the slot **134** in the vicinity of a front end portion of the base portion **131a**, in which the support wall portions **132a**, **132b** do not exist. The slot **134** extends perpendicularly to the longitudinal direction of the frame bar **120**. A catch protrusion **131g** is formed at the front end of the base portion **131a** adjacent to the slot **134**. Further, the bracket **130** has a pair of engaging ribs **135** in the bridge portion **132c** at the rear end portion. The engaging ribs **135** are oriented in the lateral direction of the frame bar **120**. The slot **134** participates in joining of the first spoiler **150** and the bracket **130**. The engaging ribs **135** participate in joining of the second spoiler **160** and the bracket **130**.

The adaptor **140** is mounted on the bracket **130**. A distal end portion of a wiper arm may be separably coupled to the adaptor **140**. The flat wiper blade **100** is connected to the wiper arm in such a manner that the adaptor **140** and the distal end portion of the wiper arm are coupled to each other. The adaptor **140** has a part to which the pivot shaft **133** of the bracket **130** is engaged or fitted. Thus, when the flat wiper blade **100** is connected to the wiper arm via the adaptor **140**, an assembly comprised of the wiper strip **110**, the frame bar **120**, the bracket **130** and the first and second spoilers **150**, **160** can rotate around the pivot shaft **133** relative to the wiper arm within a certain angular range.

The first spoiler **150** and the second spoiler **160** are joined to a front portion and a rear portion of the frame bar **120** by fitting therebetween and are thus opposed to each other with respect to the bracket **130**. The first and second spoilers **150**, **160** may be made from a pliable or flexible rubber material. In this embodiment, the first and second spoilers **150**, **160** have a symmetrical shape except for a portion to be joined to the bracket **130**. In the descriptions on the spoilers, ends of the

spoilers facing to the bracket are referred to as a base end, while the opposite ends thereto are referred to as a distal end.

Referring to FIGS. **8** to **19**, the first and second spoilers **150**, **160** have a vane portion **151**, **161** and fitting grooves **152**, **162** to which the frame bar **120** inserted and fitted. The vane portions **151**, **161** are symmetrically shaped. The fitting grooves **152**, **162** longitudinally extend from the base end of each spoiler to the distal end underneath the vane portion **151**, **161**.

The vane portion **151**, **161** extends from the proximity of the base end of each spoiler **150**, **160** to the distal end of each spoiler. The vane portion **151**, **161** has a height that becomes gradually lower toward the distal end. The vane portion **151**, **161** has a profile that reacts to wind or air stream created during running of a vehicle and produces reaction forces preventing the flat wiper blade **100** from rising up.

The vane portion **151**, **161** has a leading portion **151a**, **161a** located where wind or air stream comes in and a trailing portion **151b**, **161b** located where the wind or air stream goes out (i.e., located opposite to the leading portion). Further, the vane portion **151**, **161** has a concave surface **151c**, **161c**, which is concave inwardly of the vane portion, in the leading portion **151a**, **161a**. The concave surface **151c**, **161c** is formed in the leading portion **151a**, **161a** and has a length shorter than the vane portion **151**, **161**. The concave surface **151c**, **161c** adjoins a leading edge **151d**, **161d** (an edge located where the wind or air stream comes in) and extends alongside the leading edge **151d**, **161d** in a longitudinal direction of the vane portion **151**, **161**. The concave surface **151c**, **161c** is concave in both lateral and longitudinal directions of the vane portion **151**, **161**. An apex end of the concave surface **151c**, **161c** is located at the top of the vane portion **151**, **161**. Further, the apex end of the concave surface **151c**, **161c** is closer to a trailing edge **151e**, **161e** than the leading edge **151d**, **161d** of the vane portion. That is, the apex end of the concave surface **151c**, **161c** is close to the trailing edge **151e**, **161e** with respect to a central axis of the spoiler. Thus, a concave space defined by the concave surface **151c**, **161c** is enlarged, thus providing greater reaction forces to the first and second spoilers **150**, **160**. Inclination angles of the leading portion **151a**, **161a** and the trailing portion **151b**, **161b**, curvature of the concave surface **151c**, **161c**, etc. can be determined so as to produce suitable reaction forces against the air stream.

Further, the first and second spoilers **150**, **160** have a plurality of indents **151f**, **151g**, **151h**, **161f**, **161g**, **161h** for increasing the reaction against the air stream at its leading edge **151d**, **161d**. The indents **151f**, **151g**, **151h**, **161f**, **161g**, **161h** are arranged along the leading edge **151d**, **161d** in the concave surface **151c**, **161c** at equal or predetermined spacing. Some of the indents, e.g., the indents **151g**, **151h**, **161g**, **161h** have a profile or a cross-section becoming wider toward the inside of the vane portion. Since the indents **151f**, **151g**, **151h**, **161f**, **161g**, **161h** interact with the wind or air stream impinging thereon, not only the reaction force caused by the concave surface **151c**, **161c** of the leading portion **151a**, **161a**, but also the reaction force produced by the indents are applied to each spoiler **150**, **160**. Thus, each spoiler **150**, **160** produces a greater reaction force, thus more efficiently preventing the flat wiper blade **100** from rising up.

In this embodiment, the first and second spoilers **150**, **160** have a pair of holders **153**, **163** having a hook-shaped cross-section. The holders **153**, **163** extend along lateral edges of the spoiler. The holders **153**, **163** define the fitting grooves **152**, **162** in an underside of the spoiler. That is, the fitting groove **152**, **162** is formed in a portion of the holder **153**, **163**, which face to the inside of the spoiler. A depth of the fitting

groove **152, 162** is determined such that each half section of the frame bar **120** can be sufficiently fitted to the fitting groove. Further, a width of the fitting groove **152, 162** (a distance between an upper surface and a lower surface of the fitting groove) may be equal to or somewhat greater than a thickness of the frame bar **120**. When the first and second spoilers **150, 160** and the frame bar **120** are assembled together, the first half section **122a** and the second half section **122b** of the frame bar **120** are fitted to the fitting grooves **152, 162** and the edges **120a, 120b** of the frame bar **120** can contact the innermost portion of the fitting grooves **152, 162**. Each spoiler **150, 160** has a recess or groove **154, 164**, in which the head portion **112** of the wiper strip **110** is situated when the spoilers and the frame bar **120** are assembled, at its underside between the holders **153, 163**.

Further, the first and second spoilers **150, 160** have an element for enhancing or reinforcing the durability of the spoiler. Specifically, the first and second spoilers **150, 160** have a reinforcement groove, round groove, chamfer groove or receiving groove **155, 165** in the innermost portion of the fitting groove **152, 162**. The receiving grooves **155, 165** extend along the entire length of the fitting grooves **152, 162**. The receiving grooves **155, 165** have a circular or oval cross section. That is, a surface of the receiving groove **155, 165** is rounded. Further, a width or diameter of the receiving groove **155, 165** (a maximum vertical distance in the receiving groove) is greater than the width of the fitting groove **152, 162**. Accordingly, the edge **120a, 120b** of the frame bar **120** is positioned in the receiving groove **155, 165** in the fitting groove **152, 162**. The edge of the frame bar **120** can contact the rounded inner surface of the receiving groove **155, 165** in the fitting groove **152, 162** when the flat wiper blade **100** operates.

The edge **120a, 120b** of the frame bar **120** generally has right-angled corners up and down. Further, fitting grooves may have a cross section with right-angled corners up and down. When the frame bar **120** and a spoiler with such fitting grooves are assembled together, the edge **120a, 120b** of the frame bar **120** with right-angled corners is fitted to the fitting groove with right-angled corners. That is, the right-angled corners of the edge **120a, 120b** are brought into contact with the right-angled corners of the fitting groove without any gap or clearance. When the flat wiper blade **100** is oscillated on the windshield surface by the wiper arm, the edges **120a, 120b** of the frame bar **120** apply a surface pressure to the fitting grooves due to the forces exerted to the flat wiper blade **100** by the wiper arm. Such a surface pressure can be concentrated on the right-angled corners of the fitting grooves with which the right-angled corners of the edges **120a, 120b** are in contact. If the flat wiper blade **100** works for a long time, then the concentration of such a surface pressure may cause cracks or tears in the right-angled corners of the fitting grooves. Such cracks or tears may deteriorate the durability of the spoiler.

As described above, since the receiving groove **155, 165** having a circular cross-section is formed in the innermost portion of the fitting groove **152, 162**, the right-angled corners of the edges **120a, 120b** of the frame bar **120** are brought into contact the rounded inner surface of the receiving groove **155, 165**. Thus, the fitting grooves **152, 162** and the receiving grooves **155, 165** do not have points or portions on which surface pressures or forces concentrate, thus enhancing the durability or stiffness of the spoiler.

Further, as mentioned above, the frame bar **120** may be made by coating a metallic or plastic bar with paint. In such a case, the paint coating may not be formed uniformly on the bar. Thus, the paint cakes or forms drops on or in the vicinity

of the edges **120a, 120b** of the frame bar and thus the paint coating may form swelled or protruding portions on the edges **120a, 120b**. Thus, if the frame bar **120** with a portion of the paint coating swelled or protruding on the edges **120a, 120b** is fitted to the fitting grooves **152, 162**, then the swelled or protruding portion of the paint coating presses the inner surface of the fitting grooves **152, 162**, thereby causing cracks or tears in the pressed spots due to the concentration of the surface pressure or force. However, as described above, the receiving grooves **155, 165**, which have the rounded inner surface and the diameter greater than the width of the fitting groove, are formed in the fitting grooves. Thus, the receiving groove **155, 165** can receive the swelled or protruding portions of the paint coating therein. Accordingly, even when the frame bar **120** having a non-uniform thickness and the spoilers **150, 160** are assembled together, the durability of the spoilers **150, 160** can last for a long time.

In some embodiment, said receiving groove may be formed in two lines in the fitting groove **152, 162**. That is, the fitting groove **152, 162** may have two chamfer grooves or receiving grooves spaced apart in the inner surface of the fitting groove. In such a case, the inner surface of the fitting groove comprises said two receiving grooves and a flat surface therebetween.

Further, the first and second spoilers **150, 160** have an element enabling application to frame bars **120** having different thicknesses. By way of example, the frame bar **120** may have a thickness of 0.5 mm to 1.5 mm. For application to such frame bars having different thicknesses, the first and second spoilers **150, 160** have an element that applies pressure to the first and second half sections **122a, 122b** of the frame bar **120** to bring each half section into close contact with the fitting grooves. Said element includes a pressing ridge **156, 166** that protrudes inwardly from one of opposed upper and lower surfaces of the fitting groove **152, 162**. In this embodiment, the pressing ridge **156, 166** protrudes upwardly from the lower surface of the fitting groove **152, 162**. The pressing ridges **156, 166** longitudinally extend along the lower surface of each fitting groove **152, 162**. In some embodiment, the pressing ridge **156, 166** may protrude from the upper surface of the fitting groove **152, 162**. Further, in some embodiment, a plurality of the pressing ridges **156, 166** may be formed in a line along the lower surface of the fitting groove **152, 162**. The width of the fitting groove **152, 162** is decreased by a protrusion height of the pressing ridge **156, 166**. Accordingly, when the first and second spoilers **150, 160** are applied to the frame bar having a small thickness, the frame bar having a small thickness can be stably and firmly fitted to the fitting grooves **152, 162** with the pressure vertically applied to the frame bar by the pressing ridges **156, 166**.

The first and second spoilers **150, 160** have said second element for engagement to the bracket **130**. As described above, said second element includes a protrusion and a groove. In this embodiment, the first spoiler **150** has a latching claw **157** at its base end. Further, the second spoiler **160** has a pair of latching grooves **167** at its base end.

The base end portion of the first spoiler **150** does not have the vane portion **151** and is flat. The latching claw **157** protrudes upwardly on the base end of the first spoiler **150**. A lateral distance of the latching claw **157** is slightly shorter than that of the slot **134** of the bracket **130**. A portion of the latching claw **157** facing to the bracket **130** is chamfered. Specifically, the latching claw **157** has a beveled surface **157a** at its surface facing to the bracket **130** and a vertical surface **157b** at the opposite surface thereto. As shown in FIG. 20, the frame bar **120** is fitted to the first spoiler **150** and then the base end of the first spoiler **150** approaches the front end of the

bracket 130. As the first spoiler 150 is further moved to the bracket 130, the latching claw 157 is flexed or curved toward the distal end of the first spoiler 150. If the first spoiler 150 is furthermore moved, the latching claw 157 returns and is then inserted to the slot 134 to engage the slot 134. Since the surface of the latching claw 157 facing to the bracket 130 is chamfered, the latching claw 157 can be smoothly curved and the first spoiler 150 can be easily joined to the bracket 130. As shown in FIG. 21, when the first spoiler 150 is joined to the bracket 130, the vertical surface 157b of the latching claw 157 is caught to the catch protrusion 131g of the bracket 130, thus preventing the first spoiler 150 being separated from the bracket 130.

The first spoiler 150 has a projection 158 at its base end portion between the latching claw 157 and the vane portion 151. The projection 158 is positioned so as to be in a front portion of the adaptor 140 when the adaptor 140 is pivoted toward the first spoiler 150.

The base end portion of the second spoiler 160 does not have the vane portion 161. The second spoiler 160 has an insertion portion 168 extending from a base end of the vane portion 161 toward the base end of the second spoiler 160. The insertion portion 168 has a rectangular cross section. A width and a height of the insertion portion are set such that the insertion cavity 132e formed in the rear of the support wall portions 132a, 132b of the bracket 130 can receive the insertion portion 168. The base end of the vane portion 161 adjacent to the insertion portion 168 has a surface inclined so as to correspond to the rear straight edge of the bracket 130. A pair of the latching grooves 167 are formed in the vicinity of a base end of the insertion portion 168. The latching grooves 167 are oriented in the lateral direction of the frame bar 120. Elastic portion 168a is formed between the base end of the insertion portion 168 and the latching grooves 167 due to the latching grooves 167. A surface of the elastic portion 168a facing toward the bracket 130 is chamfered. As shown in FIG. 20, the frame bar 120 is fitted to the second spoiler 160 and thus the base end of the second spoiler 160 is moved to the rear end of the bracket 130. Then, the insertion portion 158 is inserted into the insertion cavity 132e and the elastic portion 168a abuts against the engaging ribs 135. As the second spoiler 160 is further moved to the bracket 130, the elastic portion 168a passes through the engaging ribs 135 while being flexed or curved toward the distal end of the second spoiler 160. If the elastic portion 168a passes beyond the engaging ribs 135, then the elastic portion 168a returns and the engaging ribs 135 are fitted to the latching grooves 167. Since the surface of the elastic portion 168a facing to the bracket 130 is chamfered, the elastic portion 168a can be smoothly curved and the second spoiler 160 can be easily joined to the bracket 130. As shown in FIG. 21, when the second spoiler 160 is joined to the bracket 130, the engaging ribs 135 are fitted to the latching grooves 167, thus preventing the second spoiler 160 being separated from the bracket 130.

FIGS. 22 to 26 show a flat wiper blade 200 according to a second embodiment. The flat wiper blade 200 according to this embodiment has the same configuration as the flat wiper blade 100 according to the first embodiment except the configuration of a portion of the spoiler. In FIGS. 22 to 26, the same elements or parts as those of the flat wiper blade 100 of the first embodiment are denoted by the same reference numerals.

Referring to FIGS. 22 to 26, first and second spoilers 250, 260 have a vane portion 251, 261 that are symmetrically shaped. The vane portion 251, 261 longitudinally extends from the proximity of a base end of each spoiler 250, 260 to a distal end of each spoiler. The vane portion 251, 261 has a

profile that reacts to wind or air stream created during running of a vehicle and produces a reaction force preventing the flat wiper blade 200 from rising up. In this embodiment, the vane portion 251, 261 has a streamline cross sectional profile such as a circular arc shape. Further, such a cross sectional profile of the vane portion 251, 261 becomes gradually smaller from the base end of each spoiler toward the distal end. The first and second spoilers 250, 260 have a plurality of ribs 259a, 269a for reinforcing stiffness of the spoiler in the vane portion 251, 261. The ribs 259a, 269a are oriented in the lateral direction and are arranged at equal spacing. A recess 154, 164 receiving the head portion 112 of the wiper strip 110 is formed at a lower end of the rib 259a, 269a. The fitting grooves 152, 162, to which the frame bar 120 is inserted and fitted, longitudinally extend from the base end of each spoiler to the distal end underneath the vane portion 251, 261. The receiving groove 155, 165, which the edge 120a, 120b of the frame bar 120 contacts, longitudinally extends in the innermost portion of each fitting groove. Further, the pressing ridge 156, 166 for bring the frame bar 120 into close contact with the fitting groove protrudes upward from the lower surface of the fitting groove 152, 162. The first spoiler 250 has the latching claw 157, which engages the slot 134 of the bracket 130, at its base end. Further, the second spoiler 260 has the latching grooves 167, which engage the engaging ribs 135 of the bracket 130, at its base end.

FIGS. 27 to 33 show a flat wiper blade 300 according to a third embodiment. The flat wiper blade 300 according to this embodiment has the same configuration as the flat wiper blade 100 except the configuration of a portion of the spoiler. In FIGS. 27 to 33, the same elements or parts as those of the flat wiper blade 100 of the first embodiment are denoted by the same reference numerals.

Referring to FIGS. 27 to 33, first and second spoilers 350, 360 have a vane portion 351, 361 that are symmetrically shaped. The vane portion 351, 361 longitudinally extends from the proximity of a base end of each spoiler 350, 360 to a distal end of each spoiler. The vane portion 351, 361 has a cross sectional profile with a pair of symmetrical concave surfaces. The cross sectional profile of the vane portion 351, 361 becomes gradually smaller from the base end of each spoiler toward the distal end. Further, the vane portion 351, 361 has a V-shaped embossed surface 351i, 361i. The first and second spoilers 350, 360 have a plurality of transverse ribs 359a, 369a that are oriented in a lateral direction and a longitudinal rib 359b, 369b that is oriented in a longitudinal direction. The transverse ribs 359a, 369a are arranged at equal spacing. The longitudinal rib 359b, 369b extends from a base end of the vane portion 351, 361 to a distal end thereof. A recess for preventing interference with the head portion 112 of the wiper strip is formed in lower ends of the transverse ribs 359a, 369a and the longitudinal rib 359b, 369b.

The first and second spoilers 350, 360 have a pair of holders 353, 363 having a hook-shaped cross section. The holders 353, 363 extend along either lateral edge of the spoiler. The fitting groove 152, 162, to which the frame bar 120 is inserted and fitted, is formed in a portion of the holder 353, 363, which face to the inside of the spoiler. The receiving groove 155, 165, in which the edge of the frame bar 120 is received, longitudinally extends in the innermost portion of each fitting groove. Further, the pressing ridge 156, 166 for bring the frame bar 120 into close contact with the fitting groove protrudes upward from the lower surface of the fitting groove 152, 162. The first spoiler 350 has the latching claw 157, which engages the slot 134 of the bracket 130, at its base end.



Further, the second spoiler **360** has the latching grooves **167**, which the engaging ribs **135** of the bracket **130** engage, at its base end.

In this embodiment, the first and second spoilers **350**, **360** are configured to closely contact the wiper strip **110** in the lateral direction of the wiper strip. The first and second spoilers **350**, **360** sandwich or pinch the body portion **111** of the wiper strip **110** along the longitudinal direction of the body portion **111** throughout lower lateral edges of the spoiler. Referring to FIG. **33**, the pair of the holders **353**, **363** of the spoiler are in close contact with lateral surfaces **111a** of the body portion **111** at leading end surfaces **353a**, **363a**. The leading end surfaces **353a**, **363a** of the holders **353**, **363** are in close contact with the lateral surfaces **111a** of the body portion **111** by interference fit or transition fit. Thus, the first and second spoilers **350**, **360** have a sealing structure at a position where the wiper strip is located. For example, when a wiper blade operates in a rainy or snowy weather, rainwater or snow can enter or infiltrates to the inside of the spoiler through the wiper strip **110** and the frame bar **120**. The infiltrating rainwater or snow may rust the frame bar **120**. In particular, if the water having infiltrated to the spoiler freezes in wintertime, then the softness or flexibility of the wiper strip **110** made from a rubber material becomes worse and the hardness or brittleness rather becomes higher to thereby harden the wiper strip. This can cause the deterioration of the wiping performance of the wiper strip **110**. However, as described above, the interference fit or transition fit between the holders **353**, **363** and the wiper strip **110** forms the sealing structure for the inside of the spoiler, thus preventing rainwater or snow from infiltrating to the inside of the spoiler. Further, since the spoiler sandwiches or pinches the wiper strip **110** along the longitudinal direction thereof, the wiper strip **110** can be firmly held on the flat wiper blade **100**.

FIGS. **34** to **38** show a flat wiper blade according to a fourth embodiment. The flat wiper blade according to this embodiment has the same configuration as the flat wiper blades **100**, **300** according to the first and third embodiments except the configuration of the ribs in the spoiler. In FIGS. **34** to **38**, the same elements or parts as those of the flat wiper blades **100**, **300** of the first and third embodiments are denoted by the same reference numerals.

Referring to FIGS. **34** to **38**, first and second spoilers **450**, **460** have a vane portion **351**, **361** that are symmetrically shaped. The first and second spoilers **450**, **460** have a plurality of transverse ribs **459a**, **469a** and a plurality of cross ribs **459c**, **469c** therein. The transverse ribs **459a**, **469a** are oriented in a lateral direction of the spoiler and are arranged at equal spacing. The cross ribs **459c**, **469c** are formed in an X shape and are located between neighboring transverse ribs **459a**, **469a** and in the vicinity of the base and distal ends of the spoiler. The cross ribs **459c**, **469c** increase the stiffness of the spoiler in both lateral and longitudinal directions of the spoiler. A recess for preventing interference with the head portion **112** of the wiper strip is formed in lower ends of the transverse ribs **459a**, **469a** and the cross ribs **459c**, **469c**.

The first and second spoilers **450**, **460** have a pair of the holders **353**, **363** extending along either lateral edge of the spoiler. The fitting groove **152**, **162**, to which the frame bar **120** is inserted and fitted, is formed in a portion of the holder **353**, **363**, which face to the inside of the spoiler. The receiving groove **155**, **165**, in which the edge of the frame bar **120** is received, longitudinally extends in the innermost portion of the fitting groove. Further, the pressing ridge **156**, **166** for bring the frame bar **120** into close contact with the fitting groove protrudes upward from the lower surface of the fitting groove **152**, **162**. The first spoiler **450** has the latching claw

**157**, which engages the slot **134** of the bracket **130**, at its base end. Further, the second spoiler **460** has the latching grooves **167**, which the engaging ribs **135** of the bracket **130** engage, at its base end. Further, the leading end surfaces of the holders **353**, **363** are in close contact with the body portion **111** of the wiper strip by interference fit or transition fit.

In the embodiment shown in the drawings, each spoiler **150**, **160**, **250**, **260**, **350**, **360**, **450**, **460** has a length shorter than a distance between the bracket **130** and one end of the frame bar **120**. In other embodiment, the spoiler may have a length equal to the distance between the bracket **130** and one end of the frame bar **120**. In other embodiment, the spoiler may have a length longer than the distance between the bracket **130** and one end of the frame bar **120**. In such an embodiment, the distal end of the spoiler may be configured not to have the fitting grooves.

Moreover, in the embodiment shown in the drawings, the slot is located in the front end of the bracket (one end of the bracket), while the engaging ribs are located in the rear end of the bracket (the opposite end of the bracket). In other embodiment, the slot may be located in the rear end of the bracket and the engaging ribs may be located in the front end of the bracket. Further, only the slot may be provided in the front and rear ends of the bracket. Otherwise, only the engaging ribs may be provided in the front and rear ends of the bracket. In such a case, the spoilers may have one of the latching claw and the latching groove.

While the present invention has been shown and described by way of the foregoing embodiments, the present invention should not be limited thereto. It will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that various alternations or modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

The invention claimed is:

1. A flat wiper blade, comprising:

a wiper strip (**110**);

a single elongated frame (**120**) configured to hold and support the wiper strip;

first and second spoilers (**150**, **160**) joined to the frame as opposed to each other, each including a pair of fitting grooves (**152**, **162**) extending in a longitudinal direction of the frame, the frame being fitted to the fitting grooves, and a receiving groove (**155**, **165**) extending in the longitudinal direction in each of the fitting grooves and receiving an edge of the frame, the receiving groove having a width greater than a width of the fitting groove; and

a connecting unit for connection to a wiper arm, the connecting unit being joined to the frame between the first spoiler and the second spoiler, the connecting unit engaging the first spoiler and the second spoiler, wherein the connecting unit includes a bracket (**130**) joined to the frame and having a pivot shaft (**133**), wherein the bracket engages a base end of the first spoiler at one end and engages a base end of the second spoiler at an opposite end,

wherein the first spoiler has a latching claw (**157**) at the base end thereof and the second spoiler has a latching groove (**167**) at the base end thereof, and

wherein the bracket has a slot (**134**) at the one end thereof and an engaging rib (**135**) at the opposite end thereof, the latching claw engaging the slot and the engaging rib engaging the latching groove.

2. The flat wiper blade of claim 1, wherein the receiving groove has a rounded surface.

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3. The flat wiper blade of claim 1, wherein the first and second spoilers have a holder (153, 163) extending along either edge thereof and located under the frame, and wherein the fitting groove is formed along an inside of the holder.

4. The flat wiper blade of claim 3, wherein the holder extends to closely contact the wiper strip.

5. The flat wiper blade of claim 4, wherein the holder and the wiper strip are in close contact with each other by interference fit.

6. The flat wiper blade of claim 1, wherein the first and second spoilers have a pressing ridge (156) protruding inwardly of the fitting groove in the fitting groove.

7. The flat wiper blade of claim 1, wherein the first and second spoilers have a concave surface (151c) extending along a leading edge (151d, 161d), the concave surface concave in both lateral and longitudinal directions of the first and second spoilers, and

wherein an apex end of the concave surface is closer to a trailing edge of the first and second spoilers than the leading edge.

8. The flat wiper blade of claim 1, wherein the bracket has an insertion cavity (132e) at the opposite end,

wherein the second spoiler has an insertion portion (168) at the base end thereof, the insertion portion being fitted to the insertion cavity, and

wherein the engaging rib is formed in the insertion cavity in a lateral direction of the frame and the latching groove is formed in the insertion portion in the lateral direction of the frame.

9. The flat wiper blade of claim 1, wherein the connecting unit further includes an adaptor (140) pivotally mounted on

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the bracket via the pivot shaft and being configured to be separably connected to the wiper arm.

10. The flat wiper blade of claim 1, wherein the first and second spoilers have a plurality of cross ribs (459c, 469c) therein.

11. A flat wiper blade, comprising:

a wiper strip (110);

a single elongated frame (120) configured to hold and support the wiper strip;

first and second spoilers (150, 160) joined to the frame as opposed to each other, each including a pair of fitting grooves (152, 162) extending in a longitudinal direction of the frame, the frame being fitted to the fitting grooves, and a receiving groove (155, 165) extending in the longitudinal direction in each of the fitting grooves and receiving an edge of the frame, the receiving groove having a width greater than a width of the fitting groove; and

a connecting unit for connection to a wiper arm, the connecting unit being joined to the frame between the first spoiler and the second spoiler, the connecting unit engaging the first spoiler and the second spoiler,

wherein the first and second spoilers have a concave surface (151c) extending along a leading edge (151d, 161d), the concave surface concave in both lateral and longitudinal directions of the first and second spoilers, wherein an apex end of the concave surface is closer to a trailing edge of the first and second spoilers than the leading edge, and

wherein the first and second spoilers have a plurality of indents (151f, 151g, 151h, 161f, 161g, 161h) arranged along the leading edge.

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