

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

# PCT

## WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To: OPPEDAHL, Carl  Oppedahl Patent Law Firm LLC P O Box 351240 Westminster, Colorado 80035 USA
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Date of mailing (day/month/year) <b>04 March 2020 (04.03.2020)</b>
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Applicant's or agent's file reference LX01p001WO	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraph 2 below
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International application No. <b>PCT/IB2019/060263</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>27 November 2019 (27.11.2019)</b>	Priority date(day/month/year) 29 November 2018 (29.11.2018)
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International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC <b>A44C 5/20(2006.01)i, A44C 5/04(2006.01)i, A44C 25/00(2006.01)i</b>
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Applicant <b>LXL GROUP INC.</b>
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1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
  - Box No. II Priority
  - Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
  - Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - Box No. VI Certain documents cited
  - Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
  - Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application
2. **FURTHER ACTION**
- If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.
- If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.  
For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

 Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR International Application Division Korean Intellectual Property Office 189 Cheongsa-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon, 35208, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. +82-42-481-8578	Date of completion of this opinion  04 March 2020 (04.03.2020)	Authorized officer  LEE, Hun Gil  Telephone No. +82-42-481-8525 
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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/IB2019/060263

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of :
  - the international application in the language in which it was filed
  - a translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
2.  This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43*bis*.1(b))
3.  With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, this opinion has been established on the basis of a sequence listing:
  - a.  forming part of the international application as filed:
    - in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
    - on paper or in the form of an image file.
  - b.  furnished together with the international application under PCT Rule 13*ter*.1(a) for the purposes of international search only in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
  - c.  furnished subsequent to the international filing date for the purposes of international search only:
    - in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file (Rule 13*ter*.1(a)).
    - on paper or in the form of an image file (Rule 13*ter*.1(b) and Administrative Instructions, Section 713).
4.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that forming part of the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

**PCT/IB2019/060263**

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-39</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-39</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-39</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations :

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: JP 3089087 U (KONISHI MATARU KOGYO K.K.) 11 October 2002

D2: JP 48-042569 U (SEICO INSTRUMENTS LTD.) 31 May 1973

D3: KR 10-2006-0093320 A ((JO, NAM SOO) 24 August 2006

D4: JP 2002-125727 A (KATSU KOGEI K.K.) 08 May 2002

D5: US 2009-0007395 A1 (IDA, KAZUO) 08 January 2009

I. Novelty and Inventive Step (PCT Article 33(2) and (3))

1. Claims 1-19

1.1. Claims 1,4-5,11-12

The subject matter of claims 1,4-5,11-12 differs from that of these prior art documents in that it comprises a main body and a tongue, the tongue having a respective shape and the main body having a respective shape, the tongue disposed to stand proud of a first external structure connected thereto, the main body and tongue each defining a respective near face and a respective far face, the main body defining a respective hole, the tongue defining a respective hole, the main body defining first and second ends, the main body disposed to be connected to a second external structure at its first end, the main body having a protrusion based at the second end and protruding into the respective hole and toward the first end, the protrusion being nearer the front face of the main body than the rear face thereof, the tongue with its respective hole defining a first portion of the tongue that is nearer the far face of the tongue than the front face thereof, the main body having a hinged cover disposed to be moved toward the hole of the main body and shaped generally to cover a portion of the hole of the main

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**Supplemental Box**

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body, the cover further defining a latch tending to hold the cover in place as it covers a portion of the hole of main body.

And they are not obvious to a person skilled in the art by the documents, taken individually or in combination. Therefore, claims 1,4-5,11-12 is novel and involves an inventive step.

1.2. Claims 2-3,6-10,13-19

Claims 2-3 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1, claims 6-10 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 5 and claims 13-19 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 12. Therefore, claims 2-3,6-10,13-19 are novel and involve an inventive step.

2. Claims 20-39

2.1. Claim 20

The subject matter of claim 20 differs from that of these prior art documents in that it comprises “a main body, wherein: said main body has top, bottom, front, rear, right, and left sides, said main body is adapted to be coupled to an end of a chain for an item of jewelry, said main body has a through-hole extending from said body member’s top side to its bottom side, and said main body has a protrusion disposed from the right side of said main body and horizontally into and over a portion of said through-hole; and a tongue, said tongue having a base and a mating projection, wherein: said tongue base is adapted to be coupled to an end of a chain for an item of jewelry, said mating projection includes two extended members separated by a space that is sized to be inserted into said through-hole and to receive said main-body protrusion when the clasp is engaged, and said two extended members are joined at the distal end with a joining member that extends downward and is sized to substantially fill said through-hole when the clasp is engaged with said protrusion disposed above said joining member; wherein when said tongue’s mating projection is inserted into said through-hole and rotated back to a fully seated position relative to said main body and slidably positioned to engage said protrusion with said main body: said tongue joining member is disposed to fill said through hole to substantially form a flat contiguous bottom surface with said main body and said tongue the upper surface of said fully seated tongue lies in a flat plane relative to the top surface of said main body, and said protrusion on said main body overlaps said tongue’s joining member within said space separating said two extended members on said mating

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**Supplemental Box**

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projection”.

And it is not obvious to a person skilled in the art by the documents, taken individually or in combination. Therefore, claim 20 is novel and involves an inventive step.

2.2 Claims 21-39

Claims 21-39 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 20. Therefore, claims 21-39 are novel and involve an inventive step.

II. Industrial Applicability (PCT Article 33(4))

Claims 1-39 are industrially applicable.