

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)**

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2015/062042

International filing date (day/month/year)
22.11.2015

Priority date (day/month/year)
23.12.2014

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. F16B5/02

Applicant
ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS INC.

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 usually 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:



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Date of completion of this opinion

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Box No. I Basis of the 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 43bis.1(a))
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 13ter.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 13ter.1(a)).
 - on paper or in the form of an image file (Rule 13ter.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:

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)	Yes: Claims	<u>3, 4, 15-17</u>
	No: Claims	<u>1, 2, 5-14</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-17</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-17</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

1 **Re Item V**

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1.1 Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1 EP 1 217 222 A1 (TEXTRON VERBINDUNGSTECHNIK [DE]) 26 June 2002 (2002-06-26)
- D2 EP 1 970 574 A2 (AOYAMA SEISAKUSHO [JP]) 17 September 2008 (2008-09-17)
- D3 DE 203 14 003 U1 (BOELLHOFF GMBH [DE]) 13 November 2003 (2003-11-13)
- D4 WO 2014/120707 A1 (ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS [US]) 7 August 2014 (2014-08-07)

1.2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(2) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new.

Document D1, see particularly abstract; figures 1,2 discloses all features of claim 1, namely

a compensation nut formed by an assembly of a nut 2 and a bolt 1 and used to attach, using a bolt, an application to a surface or panel while maintaining a variable distance between said surface and the supporting element or chassis in which the nut is attached, preventing this distance from collapsing when said application attachment bolt is tightened, wherein it includes a slightly flexible plastic annular body 3 held tightly in a cylindrical axial internal hollow of said bolt 1.

The applicant should note that documents D2-D4 also show compensation nuts with all features of claim 1.

1.3 Dependent claims 2-17 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step.

The additional features of claims 6,12 and 13 are directly known from document D1.

The additional features of claims 2,7 and 14 are directly known from document D2.

The additional features of claim 5 are directly known from document D3.

The additional features of claims 8-11 are directly known from document D4.

The additional features of claims 3,4 and 15-17 describe design options that are commonly known in the art.

2 Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

- 2.1 The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claim 1 is not clear.

In claim 1 the term bolt is used twice for different parts; namely a bolt (3) forming part of the claimed compensation nut and an attachment bolt (not shown in the figures) which does not form part of the claimed compensation nut.