Title (en)

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STORING ARTICLES FOR USE WITH AN ARTICLE HANDLING DEVICE

Title (de)

VERFAHREN UND VORRICHTUNG ZUM SPEICHERN VON ARTIKELN ZUM GEBRAUCH MIT EINER ARTIKELBEHANDLUNGSVORRICHTUNG

Title (fr)

PROCEDE ET APPAREIL DE STOCKAGE D'ARTICLES S'UTILISANT AVEC UN DISPOSITIF DE MANIPULATION D'ARTICLES

Publication

EP 1313654 A2 20030528 (EN)

Application

EP 01945986 A 20010523

Priority

- US 0116847 W 20010523
- US 20636300 P 20000523

Abstract (en)

[origin: EP1986165A1] This concerns a method of using a camera imaging system (254) in a package vending machine (10) to identify packages (223) which have been stored in the vending machine. A plurality of at least one type of package, which is intended to be dispensed by the vending machine, is stored in a package storage area of the package vending machine. Each package includes at least one of a corresponding type of article therein, the package having a plurality of visual attributes, such that if the package is imaged from a plurality of different views, each image acquired from each of the plurality of different views may include a different one ctr more of the the plurality of visual attributes, where one or more of the visual attributes may be sufficient to identity the type of the package in the acquired image. When a user selection input of a desired type of package is received at the vending machine, at least a portion of a camera imaging system, of the vending machine, and a user selected package, arc brought into viewing proximity so that the camera imaging system can obtain a view of at least a portion of the package. The camera imaging system is operated so as to acquire an image of the package selected by the user before it is dispensed. One or more of the visual attributes that are captured in the image are analyzed, and, based on this analysis, the type of the package selected by the user is identified.

IPC 1-7

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IPC 8 full level

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CPC (source: EP KR US)

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