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# **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

21 Application number: **84300158.7**

51 Int. Cl.<sup>3</sup>: **A 24 B 3/00**  
**B 65 B 69/00**

22 Date of filing: **11.01.84**

30 Priority: **12.01.83 GB 8300700**

43 Date of publication of application:  
**29.08.84 Bulletin 84/35**

88 Date of deferred publication of search report: **21.11.84**

84 Designated Contracting States:  
**DE FR GB IT**

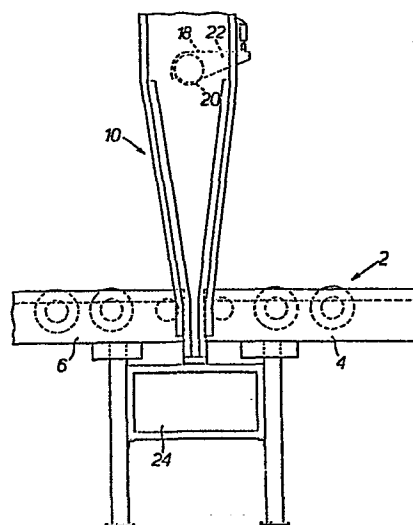
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54 Unpacking tobacco bales.

57 Apparatus for unpacking a tobacco bale which is contained inside a plastic bag within a telescopic cardboard container, the container having a surrounding plastic strap. The apparatus includes (1) a destrapping station having a cutter adapted to ride along the top of the carton to cut the strap; (2) a lifting device for removing the top of the container by gripping it around the upper corners and then moving it away from the bale and collapsing it and (3) a bag removal device which pulls the bag from the bale, after it has been inverted so that the bottom of the bag is uppermost.



*Fig.1.*



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
A	<u>US - A - 2 820 282 (SCHNEIDER)</u> * Figures 1-8; column 5, line 45 - column 7, line 30 * --	1	A 24 B 3/00 B 65 B 69/00
A	<u>US - A - 3 513 522 (THOMSON)</u> * Column 1, lines 10-21; figures 1,9,11,12,14 * --	1	
A	<u>WO - A - 79/00682 (BORN)</u> * Abstract; figure 1 * --	1	
A	<u>DE - A - 2 002 089 (DEMAG AG)</u> --		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
A	<u>DE - A - 3 045 933 (KOBE DOCK YARD)</u> -----		B 65 B A 24 B
<del>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</del>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		27-04-1984	RIEDEL
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



## CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

## ☒ LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

- 1) Claims 1-3: Device for removing a surrounding plastics strap from a container
- 2) Claims 4-7: Device for removing and collapsing the top half of a carton
- 3) Claims 8-9: Device for removing a polythene bag from a bale of tobacco.

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims,

namely claims: 1-3