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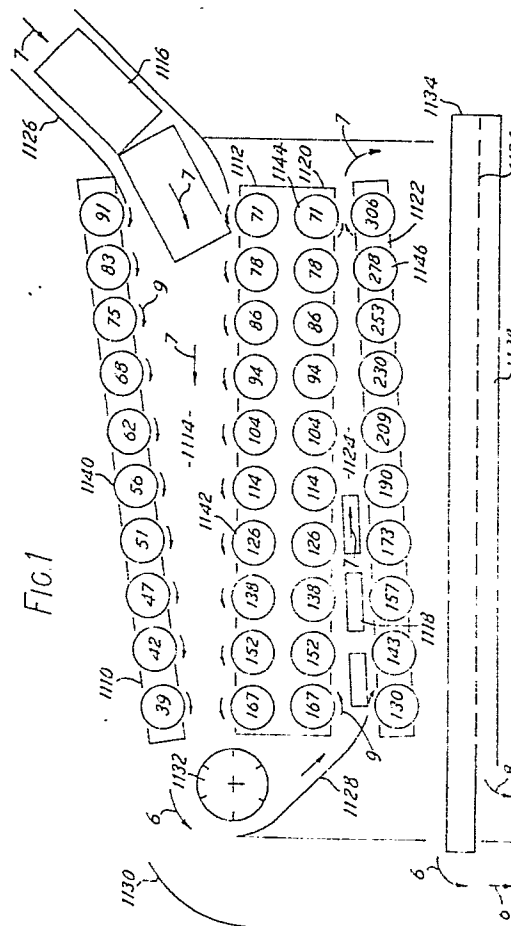
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02.11.88 Bulletin 88/44(71) Applicant: **IMPERIAL TOBACCO LIMITED**
Hartcliffe
Bristol, BS99 7UJ(GB)(72) Inventor: **Morris, Alan Arthur**
77 Long Acre
Nottinghamshire NG13 8BU(GB)(74) Representative: **Smith, Martin Stanley et al**
Stevens, Hewlett & Perkins 5, Quality Court
Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1HZ(GB)(54) **Package opening apparatus.**

(57) An apparatus for opening a wrapped bundle (1116) of cigarette packages and separating the wrapping from the packages comprises first and second opposed longitudinal arrays (1110, 1112, 1120, 1122) of transverse rollers (1140, 1142, 1144, 1146) defining a progressively narrowing channel (1114, 1124) adapted to receive said wrapped bundles (1116), means (2202) for positively driving the rollers (1140, 1142, 1144, 1146) so as to move the bundles (1116) through the channel (1114, 1124) towards the narrow end of the channel, the arrangement being such that the peripheral speeds of the arrays (1110, 1112, 1120, 1122) of rollers are unequal, thereby to exert a twisting or shearing action on the bundles as they pass along the channel so as to remove wrapping material from the bundle.

**EP 0 242 202 A3**



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. 4)
A	NL-A-8 303 265 (VAM) * Page 1, lines 22-27; figure 1 * ---	1	B 65 B 69/00
A	CH-A- 547 743 (ZELLWEGER USTER AG) * Column 2, lines 61-64; figure 1 * ---	1	
A	FR-A-2 293 878 (SERVICE D'EXPLOITATION DES TABACS) ---		
A	US-A-4 036 380 (BERRY et al.) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			B 65 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 16-08-1988	Examiner SCHELLE, J.
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			