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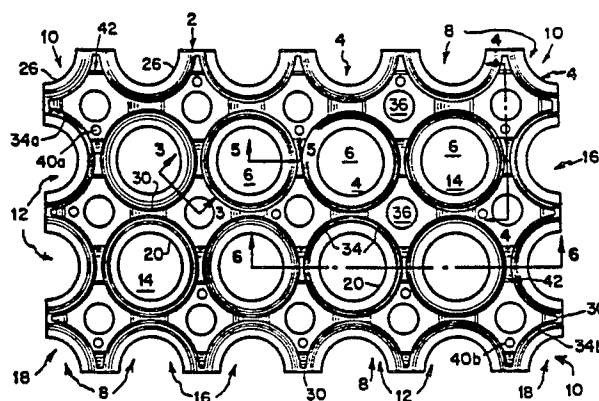
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(54) **Spacer tray for packaging containers.**

(57) A spacer tray 2 for containers 32 is formed of a moldable sheet material and is shaped to provide a plurality of container-bottom receptacles 4. Each container-bottom receptacle 4 is shaped to receive at least a part of a bottom portion of a container 32. A container spacer wall 30 is located between each pair of adjacent container-bottom receptacles 4 to maintain bottom portions of containers seated in the receptacles spaced apart from one another. The spacer tray 2 can include nesting-binding interference structures 40, 42 to prevent two spacer trays placed one atop the other from binding when one tray is rotated 180 degrees relative to but otherwise aligned with the other tray. The spacer tray can include a plurality of container-loading-guide-pin openings 36 passing through it which permit container-loading guide pins 78 - from a high-speed spacer-tray loading machine, for example - to pass through for locating the spacer tray 2 and guiding bottom portions of containers 32 into container-bottom receptacles 4 during loading of the spacer tray. The spacer tray 202 can include a plurality of container-loading-guide-pin caps 236 which permit end portions of container-loading guide pins 78 to

project into and fit within the interiors of the caps for locating the spacer tray 202 and for reinforcing the caps for guiding bottom portions of containers 32 into container-bottom receptacles 204 during loading of the spacer tray.

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. 4)
Y	FR-E- 91 139 (KEYES) * Page 1, right-hand column, lines 14-26; figures *	1,2,25	B 65 D 71/00 B 65 B 5/06
Y,D	US-A-3 650 395 (HOBBS) * Column 1, lines 38-45; column 3, lines 30-36; figures 2,4 *	1,2,5, 14,15, 17,25, 27 26	
A	---		
Y	FR-A-2 366 995 (MEAD CORP.) * Page 4, lines 5-13; page 6, line 17 - page 7, line 6; figures 1,1A *	5	
A	---	6-8,18, 24,26, 28,33	
Y	FR-A-2 313 280 (L'OREAL) * Page 5, line 32 - page 6, line 11; page 8, lines 6-20; figures 1-4,6 *	14,15, 17,27	
X	FR-A-1 474 782 (KEYES) * Page 1, right-hand column, lines 10-40; figures *	19,20, 22,23	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
Y	---	21	B 65 D
A	---	16	B 65 B
Y	FR-A-1 563 835 (TOULPAC) * Page 2, left-hand column, line 60 - right-hand column, line 7; page 3, left-hand column, lines 4-19; figure 6 *	21	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18-10-1988	Examiner NEWELL P.G.
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			



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	US-A-3 805 478 (STOHLQUIST) * Abstract; column 4, lines 28-45; figures 1,2 * -----	28, 33	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
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