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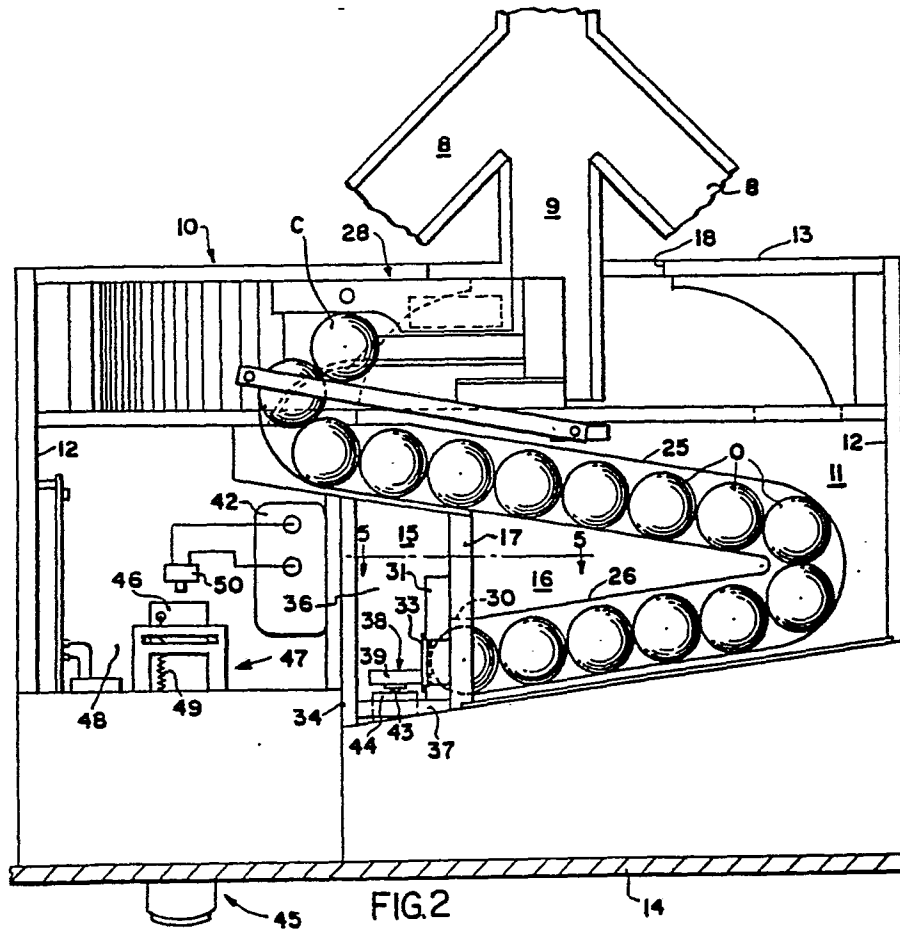
EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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AT BE CH DE ES FR GR IT LI LU NL SE(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
24.01.90 Bulletin 90/04(71) Applicant: **VALLEY HOLDING COMPANY INC.**
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Van-Gogh-Strasse 3
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(57) A pool table (1) having a playing surface (4) with which ball accommodating pockets (7) are associated. Pocketed object balls (O) are conveyed by a runway system (8) via a trap (22) toward a compartment (16) at one end of the table (1) that is accessible to a player. The trap has a gate (32) operable to prevent passage of the object balls (O) into the compartment. The operation of the gate is controlled by a latch (39) which is movable between a first position in which it latches the gate in ball-blocking position and a second position in which it

enables balls to pass the gate. The position of the latch is controlled by a latch driving motor (44) or solenoid (52).





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 88111688.3
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
A	<u>US - A - 3 618 943</u> (MILU) * Fig. 1-9; column 2, lines 31-44 * --	1,3,4,5,6,10	A 63 D 15/00
A	<u>GB - A - 471 832</u> (HILL) * Fig. 1-5; page 4, lines 10-16,87-116 * --	1,4,5,6,7	
A	<u>US - A - 1 227 833</u> (RUSSELL) * Fig. 1-5,7-9; page 3, lines 8-31,114-123; page 4, lines 52-54 * --	1,12	
A	<u>GB - A - 1 531 252</u> (MORAN) * Fig. 1-3; page 3, lines 70-77,97-104 * --	1,2,4,5,6	
A	<u>GB - A - 419 169</u> (ETABLISSEMENTS D. WAMBREUSE & CIE, SOCIETE COOPERATIVE) * Fig. 1,2; page 2, lines 77-87 * --	1,11	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4) A 63 D 15/00 G 07 F 17/00 A 63 F 7/00
A	<u>DE - A1 - 3 603 288</u> (KIDDE RECREATION PRODUCTS) * Fig. 1-4; page 15, line 19 - page 18, line 17 * ----	1,2,4,5,6	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 03-11-1989	Examiner BRÄUER
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			