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(54) **Apparatus for sizing elongated food pieces.**

(57) Apparatus for sizing a mix of randomly sized food pieces into chunks of a predetermined maximum length. The apparatus includes a carrier drum (11) and a cutting drum (12) mounted on parallel shafts (14, 15) which are interconnected for rotation in opposing directions. The carrier drum (11) has a plurality of parallel longitudinal bars (16) mounted equidistant around the periphery of the drum, spaced apart a distance equal to the desired maximum length of the food chunks. The cutting drum (12) carries a plurality of elongated cutting blades (25) mounted parallel to the longitudinal bars (16) on the carrier drum (11) and spaced apart the same distance as the longitudinal bars (16). The drums (11, 12) are aligned so that upon rotation of the drums the blades (25) cooperate with the longitudinal bars (16) to sever elongated food pieces carried on the surface of the bars into the nip between the drums, without striking against the bars (16). A conveyor (40) mounted adjacent the carrier drum (11) delivers a mix of randomly sized food pieces onto the carrier drum (11), with the longitudinal axes of the elongated pieces in the mix being aligned so that the elongated pieces are deposited on the longitudinal bars (16) of the rotating carrier drum (11) perpendicular to the axes of the bars (16) and are carried into the nip between the counter rotating drum (12) where they are cut to a desired length.

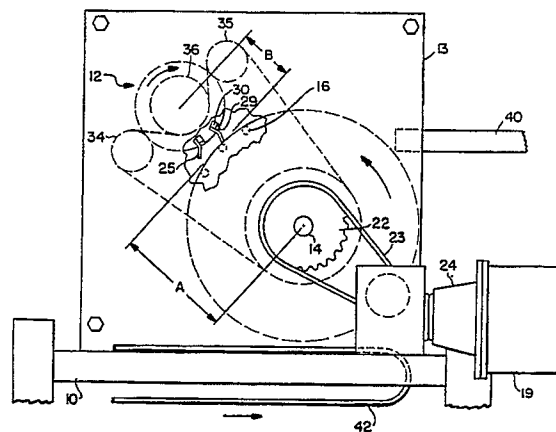


FIG. 3

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

EP 89 11 1380

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.5)
Y	BE-A-4 343 95 (LAMBIOTTE) * Page 2, lines 28-31; page 3, lines 11-14; page 3, lines 25-29; page 4, lines 19-21; figures 1,2 * -- --	1	B 26 D 1/62
A		2,5,11	
Y	US-A-4 404 879 (FROHWERK) * Column 5, lines 12-25; figures 1,4,9-14 * -- --	1	
A		6-10	
A	DE-A-3 211 344 (KONE) * Abstract; page 5, lines 15-17; page 10, lines 7-14 * -- --	1	
A	US-A-4 391 374 (KRYNOCK) * Column 2, lines 10-13,18-28; figures 1,2 * -- --	1-4	
A	US-A-3 483 780 (HUDSON) * Column 1, lines 30-32; figures 1,2,3 * -- --	1	
A	US-A-2 454 237 (WAHL) -- -- -- --		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B 26 D B 07 C B 07 B B 27 J A 01 D A 01 F B 03 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		12 April 91	MATZDORF U.H.
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>X: particularly relevant if taken alone</div> <div>Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</div> <div>A: technological background</div> <div>O: non-written disclosure</div> <div>P: intermediate document</div> <div>T: theory or principle underlying the invention</div> <div>E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</div> <div>D: document cited in the application</div> <div>L: document cited for other reasons</div> <div>&amp;: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div>			