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Publication number:

**0 366 441 A3**

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: **89310992.6**

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup>: **B26D 3/18**

(22) Date of filing: **25.10.89**

(30) Priority: **25.10.88 IL 88162**

(43) Date of publication of application:  
**02.05.90 Bulletin 90/18**

(54) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH DE ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE**

(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:  
**18.09.91 Bulletin 91/38**

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(54) **Food cutting apparatus.**

(57) A food item cutting apparatus, having a housing (10) including a food inlet port (12) and food outlet port (14), a first row of reciprocable knives (16) oriented with their cutting edges facing the food inlet port and disposed inside the housing on a plane between the food inlet port and the food outlet port and a second row of reciprocable knives (20), also oriented with their cutting edges facing the food inlet port, on a plane substantially parallel to the first row of reciprocable knives and positioned between the first row of knives and the food outlet port, the axis of the second row of knives are oriented at an angle to the axis of the knives in the first row. The apparatus also includes a cutter (24) disposed in a plane between the second row of knives (20) and the food outlet port (14), adapted to be driven in a direction substantially perpendicular to a line joining the food inlet port to the food outlet port. The cutting means (24) are arranged for movement in a direction transversely to the axes of the second row of reciprocable knives (20), and at least one electric motor (50) arranged to drive the knives and the cutter.

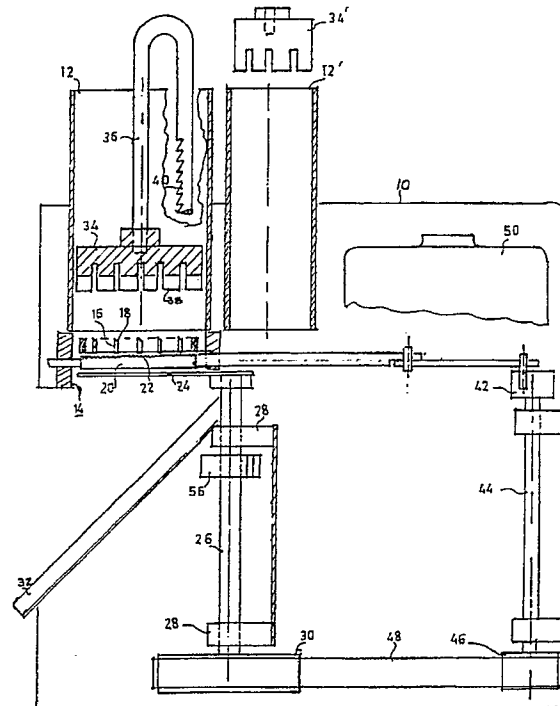


FIG. 1

**EP 0 366 441 A3**



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 89 31 0992

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)
X,Y	DE-A-1 507 997 (REIFENHÄUSER) * page 3, line 10 - page 11, line 3; figures * - - - -	1,2,4,5, 10,11,3, 6-9	B 26 D 3/18
Y	US-A-2 161 480 (R.MC HAYNES) * column 1, line 53 - column 4, line 53; figures 1, 2 * - - - -	3,9	
Y	US-A-3 333 616 (R.W.WALKER) * column 6, lines 18 - 41; figures 4, 5 * - - - -	6,7	
Y	GB-A-2 129 286 (NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION) * page 4, line 116 - page 5, line 91; figures 5a, 5b * - - - -	8	
X	DE-C-1 620 24 (TENGE) * page 1, line 43 - page 2, line 45; figures * - - - -	1,2,4,5,10	
X	DE-C-8 812 48 (BÜRGER) * page 2, line 35 - page 3, line 54; figures * - - - - -	1,2,10,11	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B 26 D
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		24 July 91	GARELLA M.G.C.D.
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> 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			