

12 **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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54 **Improvements in or relating to spacers.**

57 A support structure for supporting articles in stacks, such as beer kegs. The support structure including a spacer member (10) arranged to be flexible to accommodate differences in article size and include peripheral skirts (16) and protrusions (26) upon respective upper (12) and lower planar surfaces of the spacer. The peripheral skirts and protrusions being arranged to locate supported articles.

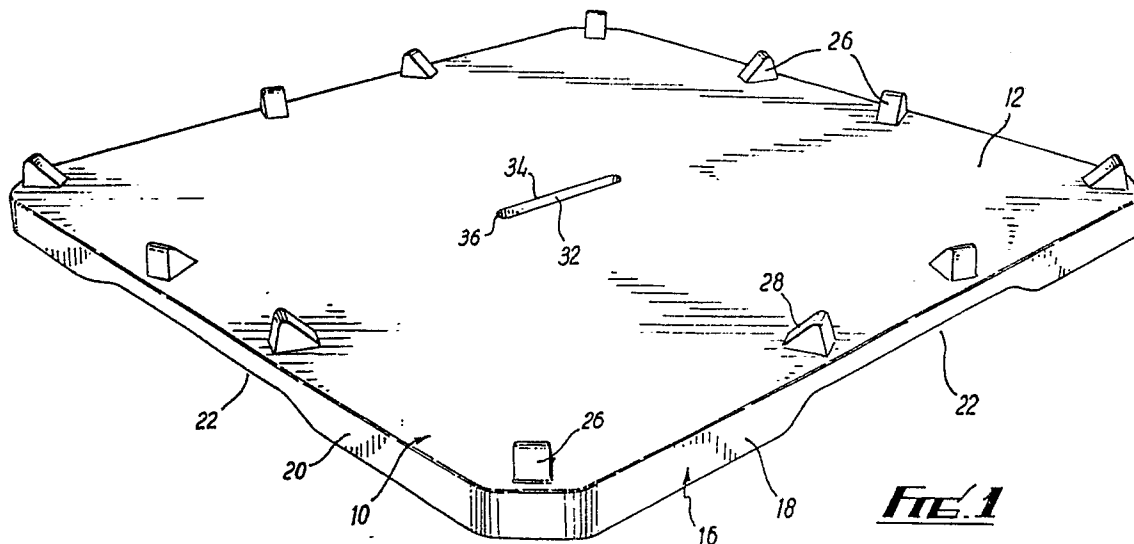


FIG. 1

EP 0 373 861 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number
EP 89 31 2913

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-3 995 749 (L.B. HASKINS) * Figures 1,3; column 2, lines 32-47; column 3, lines 7-28, 34-37 *	1,3-5	B 65 D 19/24 B 65 D 71/00
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A	US-A-4 226 192 (D.R. MYERS) * Figures 1,2; column 2, lines 14-35,57-63 *	1,3-5	
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A	US-A-3 948 190 (J.M. COOK et al.) * Figures 1-3; column 1, line 67 - column 2, line 30 *	1,3	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			B 65 D
THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT FOR EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. 89 31 2913			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30-01-1990	Examiner PERNICE
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	



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

X LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions.

namely:

1. Claims 1,3-5,9,10: A spacer member including a skirt with regions of reduced thickness.
2. Claims 2,6-8: A spacer member including upwardly directed protrusions.

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.

namely claims: 1,3-5,9,10