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(54) **Article counting systems.**

(57) There is described an article counting system in the form of an apparatus and a method of utilising the apparatus which counts accurately a number of discrete articles decanted from one container into another. The system is based on the articles impacting a sensor to produce a proportionate electrical signal. The apparatus includes detector means to detect said proportionate electrical signal and produce a second signal when the magnitude of said proportionate electrical signal lies within a predetermined magnitude range. The system has the capability of differentiating between the impact caused by more than one article impacting the sensor simultaneously. The system has particular application in the counting of fish.

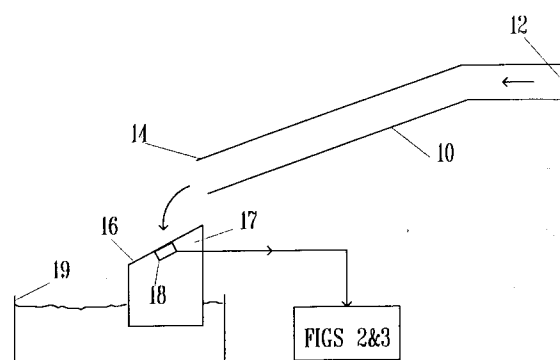


FIG 1

EP 0 388 002 A3



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 30 1388

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-3 711 538 (KRÄMER, N.)  * the whole document * ---	1-3, 5-9 4	G06M7/04 G06M1/10 G06M7/00
Y	US-A-3 552 053 (K.W. JARVIS) * column 3, line 47 - column 4, line 34 * ---	4	
A	FR-A-2 339 916 (M. RICHARD) * the whole document * ---	1, 9	
A	GB-A-876 885 (ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED)  -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			G06M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		30 JULY 1992	CELEBART Y. C. M.
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			