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(54) **Multiple-cap package for a group of containers, e.g. cans.**

(57) Multiple-cap packaging for cans, cups and the like, which comprises a plurality of caps (1) which are mutually interconnected by means of at least two breakable connecting portions (2) and can be applied in a snap-together manner at the top of a respective container. The caps can be individually removed by tearing, together with their respective container, from the rest of the package and can act as removable cover for the container so as to ensure hygienic protection against dust and dirt. The package can be applied by means of a packaging machine which comprises a supporting structure, a sliding pathway along which the filled and sealed cans move in sequence so that their opening end is directed upwards, and pressure applicator means suitable for applying in a snap-together manner, on each can moving underneath, a cap included in a planar modular web or in a continuous strip fed between the applicator means and the cans.

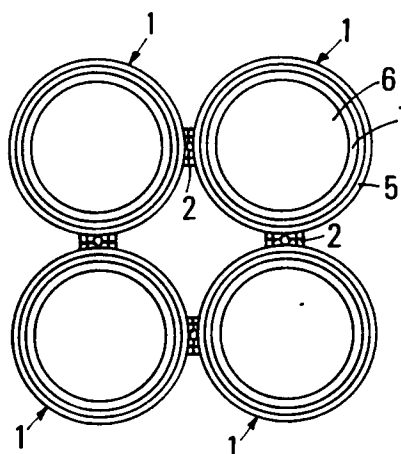


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 91 12 1648

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	US-A-3 302 854 (MIDGLEY) * column 2, line 34 - column 3, line 3; figures 1,2 *	1-3	B65D71/50 B65B17/02

X	US-A-3 350 131 (TANZER) * column 1, line 18 - column 2, line 32; figures 1-4 *	1,2	

X	US-A-3 202 448 (STERN) * column 2, line 4 - line 70; figures 1-7 *	1,2	

A	GB-A-974 619 (ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS) * page 2, line 49 - page 6, line 108; figures 1-12 *	4,5,8-10	

A	GB-A-2 170 774 (FEDERAL PAPER BOARD CO) * page 2, line 22 - line 53; figures 1-4 *	6,7	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B65D B65B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15 APRIL 1992	Examiner VANTOMME M. A.
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		I : 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	