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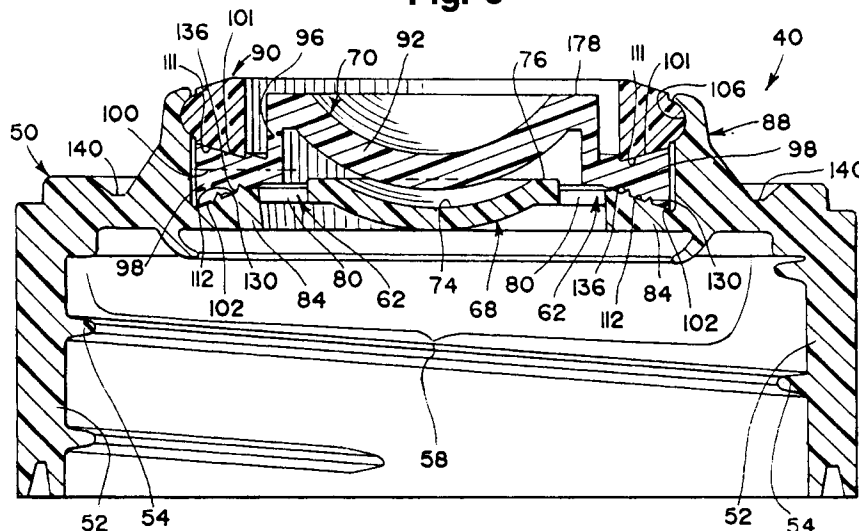
0 495 440 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION(21) Application number: **92100468.5**(51) Int. Cl.⁵: **B65D 35/50, B65D 35/52, B65D 47/08**(22) Date of filing: **13.01.92**(30) Priority: **14.01.91 US 641456**
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14.10.92 Bulletin 92/42(71) Applicant: **Pittway Corporation**
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Maximilianstrasse 54 Postfach 22 14 55
W-8000 München 22(DE)(54) **Dispensing closure with pressure-actuated flexible valve.**

(57) A dispensing closure is provided for an opening in a squeeze-type container and includes a body (50) defining a dispensing passage (62) for communicating between the container interior and the container exterior through a container opening. A flexi-

ble, self-sealing valve (70) is mounted in the body (50) for opening in response to increased container pressure. A retaining means (90) is provided for retaining the valve (70) in the body (50).

Fig. 5**EP 0 495 440 A3**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 10 0468

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)
A	US-A-4 749 108 (DORNSBUSCH et al.)	1-4, 6,	B 65 D 35/50
X	* In its entirety *	10, 15	B 65 D 35/52
	---	9, 11-14	B 65 D 47/08
X	US-A-4 969 581 (SEIFERT et al.)	12, 14	
	* Column 5, line 6 - column 6, line 33; figure 10 *		
A	---	1, 4, 6	
X	US-A-1 989 714 (STATHAM)	14	
	* Page 1, right-hand column, lines 3-15; page 2, left-hand column, lines 7-10; figure 3 *		
A	---	1, 4, 6	
A	GB-A-1 474 620 (BLENDAX-WERKE)	1	
	* Claim 15; figure 5 *		

A	US-A-3 281 000 (LOWEN)	4	
	* Column 4, line 74 - column 5, line 14; figure 1 *		

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 5)
			B 65 D
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		09-07-1992	LEONG C.Y.
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			



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.

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:

See sheet -B-

- ☒ 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:



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION A POSTERIORI

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:

The claims have been found to contain three inventive concepts. In order for there to be unity between these concepts they must all share one or more special technical features. As defined by EPC Rule 30, a special technical feature is one that makes a contribution beyond the prior art.

An examination of the prior art has revealed US 4 749 108, EP 412 390, US 1 989 714. These documents each anticipate those technical features that link the three inventive concepts:.... a flexible valve retained in the dispensing passage of a dispensing closure suitable for squeeze type containers... as these features are known and therefore constitute prior art, there is no unity between the inventive concepts: non-unity a posteriori.

The inventive concepts are defined as follows:

1. Claims 1-3, 9-15: Dispensing closure... with means for retaining the flexible valve by clamping the valve between two surfaces.
2. Claims 4,5: Dispensing closure... with means to permit the flexing of the top wall of the closure body.
3. Claims 6-8: Dispensing closure... with a supporting member located under the flexible valve and a lid with a central projection to force valve against support member in sealing engagement.

The search has been drawn up for the first inventive concept, subject 1.