



(11) Publication number : **0 554 228 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(21) Application number : **93850015.4**

(51) Int. Cl.⁵ : **B65D 81/02, B65D 85/44**

(22) Date of filing : **25.01.93**

(30) Priority : **29.01.92 SE 9200248**

(43) Date of publication of application :
04.08.93 Bulletin 93/31

(84) Designated Contracting States :
DE FR GB IT SE

(88) Date of deferred publication of search report :
08.09.93 Bulletin 93/36

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(54) **Container for the protection, transport and storage of porcelainware.**

(57) Protective device for transport and storage (1) of porcelainware adapted to be attached around piles of porcelainware, comprising an elongated, generally rectangular sheet (2) of a relatively rigid yet flexible material. At one short side (3) of the sheet (2) retaining means (6, 7) are provided for receiving and retaining a folded portion of the sheet (2), in which position the sheet (2) has an annular shape for surrounding a pile of porcelainware. Said retaining means (6, 7) preferably comprise opposing grooves facing one another, one at each longitudinal edge (4, 5) of said sheet (2) adjacent to one of said short sides (3), for receiving said longitudinal edges (4, 5) of said sheet (2) at said other short side (10) of said sheet (2).

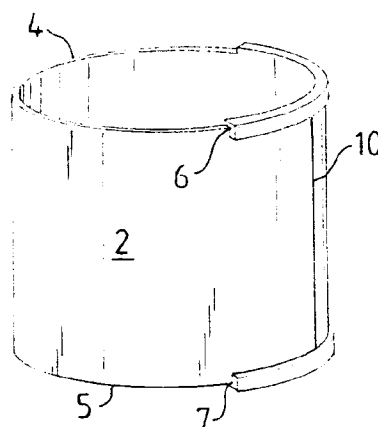
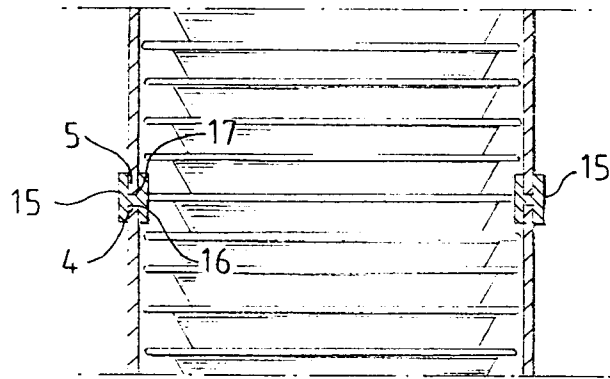


Fig. 2

Fig. 5





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 85 0015

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-3 804 311 (R. OGLESBEE) * column 2, line 60 - column 3, line 26; figures 1,4,5,10 *	1-3	B 65 D 81/02 B 65 D 85/44
A	DE-A-4 018 173 (W. BORCHARDT) * the whole document *	1-3	
A	US-A-4 784 265 (L. GITLITZ) * column 2, line 36 - column 3, line 40; figures 1-3 *	1-3	
A	DE-A-3 623 863 (SIMMERLEIN) * column 4, line 22 - column 5, line 39; figures 1-3 *	1-3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B 65 D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20-04-1993	Examiner PERNICE C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

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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.

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:

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- ☐ 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



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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. Claim 1-3: A protective device for transport and storage of porcelainwares.
2. Claim 4: Carrying handle for piles of porcelainwares.

The common inventive concept (rule 30 of the European Patent Convention) between claim 1-3 and claim 4 is porcelainware. However porcelainware per se does not constitute an inventive concept and therefore claim 1-3 and claim 4 form two distinct inventions.