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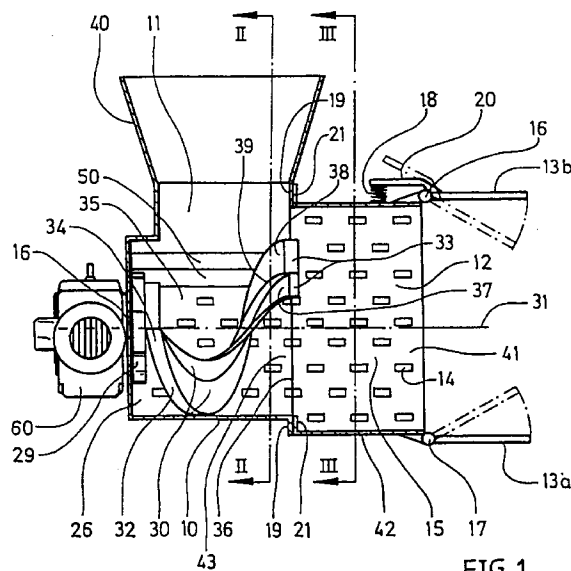
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(54) **Apparatus and method for compressing materials**

(57) The present invention relates to an apparatus for compacting material in which the apparatus includes a path (10), an infeed device (40) which discharges in an opening (11) disposed in the path, and a spiral (30) rotary about its longitudinal axis and lacking a mechanical shaft. In connection with the discharge opening (12) of the apparatus, baffle means (13) are provided which impede displacement of the material. Between the free end (39) of the spiral and the discharge opening (12) of the apparatus, the path forms a compaction cell (15). The spiral is disposed to at least intermittently abut against the path, in addition to which the spiral and the path form in the region of the opening (11) a feed compartment (35) for supplied material, this compartment directly merging into the compaction cell (15). The path (10) is provided with drainage apertures (14).



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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.6)
Y	DE 39 15 528 C (NOGGERATH & CO) 13 December 1990 * abstract; figures * ---	1-5, 8-10	B30B9/12 B30B9/16 B30B9/30
Y	DE 91 07 404 U (WECKER H.) 8 August 1991 * figures * ---	1-5	
Y	EP 0 219 785 A (SPIRAC ENGINEERING AB) 29 April 1987 * abstract; figures 1-4 * ---	8, 10	
Y	US 3 780 645 A (FARMER J) 25 December 1973 * figure 5 * ---	9	
A	FR 2 265 635 A (LOCANER SA) 24 October 1975 * figures * ---	1-5	
A	FR 2 462 263 A (VANDEKERCKHOVE CONSTR) 13 February 1981 * figures * ---	1, 8-10	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 May 1998	Examiner Belibel, 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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