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(54) **System to dispense disposable spoons for foodstuffs and relative device**

(57) System to dispense disposable spoons for foodstuffs of the type used for eating loose or packaged ice cream or other similar foodstuff, the system arranging the spoons (11) one above the other in at least one layer (111) in a collection seating (15) inside a container (13), the collection seating (15) comprising a supporting plane (19) and guide means (20), the container (13) cooperating with expulsion means (12) comprising an extraction structure (16) equipped with at least a thruster element (27) associated with the spoon (11a) placed at the bottom of the layer (111), the extraction structure (16) being associated with activation means (17) accessible from outside the container (13).

Device to dispense disposable spoons for foodstuffs of the type used for eating loose or packaged ice cream or other similar foodstuff, the device being able to be placed inside a containment and/or preservation element or directly on the sales counter of a food outlet, the device comprising a container (13) defining an at least partly closed collection seating (15) for the spoons (11), the collection seating (15) comprising lateral and longitudinal guide means (20) extending substantially vertically and a supporting plane (19), the device (10, 110) also comprising expulsion means (12) equipped with an extraction structure (16) arranged at least partly inside the container (13) and activation means (17) accessible from outside the container (13), the extraction structure (16) comprising at least a thruster element (27) cooperating with the spoon (11a) placed at the bottom of the layer (111), the container (13) including at least an aper-

ture (30) for the outlet of the spoons (11).

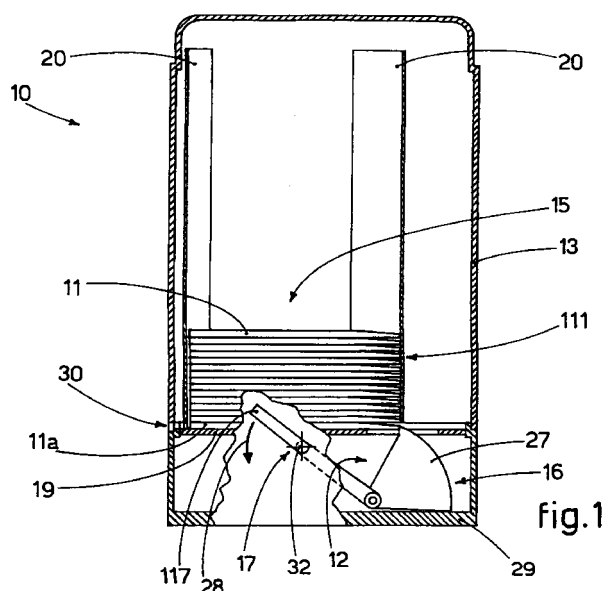


fig.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 12 2967

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)
X Y A	US 2 141 684 A (DIEMER) 27 December 1938 * the whole document * ---	1,2,5,8 4,9 7	A47F1/12 A47F1/10
X A	US 2 268 873 A (HOPKINS) 6 January 1942 * page 1, column 2, line 16 - page 3, column 1, line 66; figures * ---	1,3,5,6, 11 7,10	
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Y	FR 1 104 110 A (BRANCHER) 16 November 1955 * page 2, column 1, line 38 - line 45; figure 4 * ---	4,9	
A	US 5 131 565 A (LILLY CARY) 21 July 1992 * column 2, line 57 - column 3, line 61; figures * -----	1-3,5-8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A47F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24 November 1998	Examiner De Groot, R
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			

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