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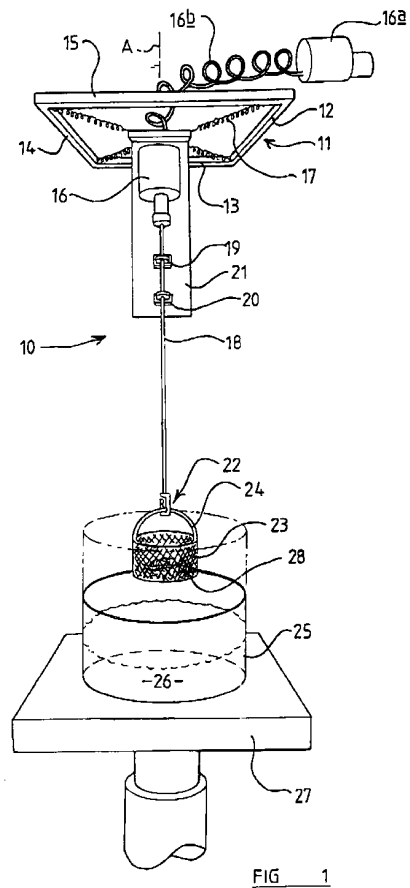
(30) Priority: **11.02.1997 GB 9702775**

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(54) **Apparatus and method for coating articles**

(57) Apparatus (10) for coating articles (28), comprising a support structure (11), a container (23) to contain the articles (28), container support means (21), and means (16a) to rotate the container, wherein resilient means (17) are provided to connect the container support means (21) to the support structure (11). The resilient means (17) preferably comprise metal coil springs, such that any wobble or other undesired vibrations caused by rotation of the container (23), conveniently a metal basket, are absorbed by the coil springs (17), such that the basket, whilst rotating at high speed, exhibits a high degree of stability, in a manner similar to that of a gyroscope.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 10 2284

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	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 096, no. 011, 29 November 1996 & JP 08 176772 A (KAWASAKI STEEL CORP), 9 July 1996 * abstract *	1-3,5	B05C3/10 B05C3/02 F26B5/08
X	--- US 3 659 550 A (FULTON WAYNE F) 2 May 1972 * the whole document *	1,2,4,5	
A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 025 (C-1017), 18 January 1993 & JP 04 247251 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 3 September 1992 * abstract *	1-3,5	
A	--- FR 2 228 982 A (FIVES LILLE CAIL) 6 December 1974 * page 2, line 22 - line 26 *	1,2	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B05C F26B
-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		5 January 1999	JUGUET J.M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims 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 claim(s):
- 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 requirements 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 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 invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-8



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-8

apparatus for coating articles contained in a suspended container which can be rotated for removing excess of coating material. The container support means are connected by resilient means to the support structure

2. Claims: 9-11

hook for receiving a part of an article. The hook comprises a channel having two parts of different width

3. Claims: 12-13

Method and apparatus for coating articles in a container. The articles are dried by application of heat to the articles, the articles remaining in the container during the application of heat.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 10 2284

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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05-01-1999

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3659550 A	02-05-1972	NONE	
FR 2228982 A	06-12-1974	NONE	

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82