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(72) Inventor: **Favaro, Mansueto**  
**31100 Treviso (IT)**

(74) Representative:  
**Modiano, Guido, Dr.-Ing. et al**  
**Modiano & Associati SpA**  
**Via Meravigli, 16**  
**20123 Milano (IT)**

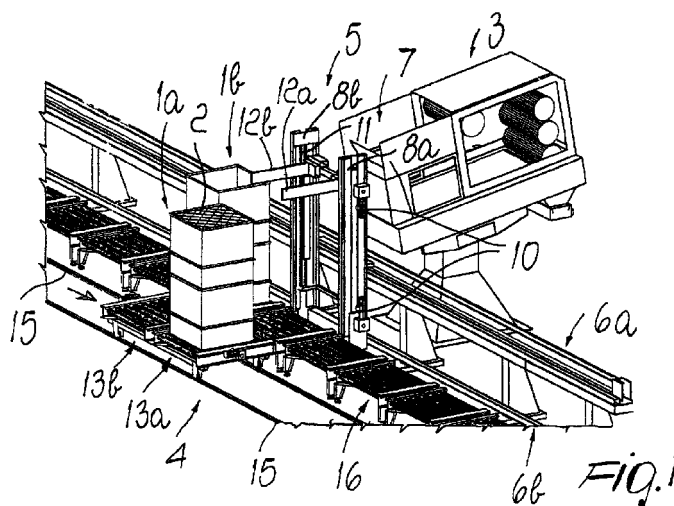
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(71) Applicant: **GARBUIO S.p.A.**  
**I-31100 Treviso (IT)**

(54) **Method and device for transferring containers of shredded tobacco**

(57) A method and a device for transferring containers of shredded tobacco to individual feeders of cigarette-making machines. The device comprises a station (5) which can move preferably at right angles to the feeders (3); the station (5) is also provided with means

(12a,12b) for gripping, tipping, stacking and unstacking the containers (1a,1b). The containers are arranged at supports (13a,13b) which move parallel to the feeders (3) and at right angles thereto.



EP 0 911 280 A3



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 98 11 8330

| 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) |
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| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | EP 0 375 631 A (COMAS S.P.A.)<br>27 June 1990 (1990-06-27)<br>* abstract; figures 1-7 *                                                                                                             | 1-12                             |                                              |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                  |                                              |
| Place of search                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Date of completion of the search | Examiner                                     |
| BERLIN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 18 September 2000                | Cuny, J-M                                    |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS<br>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document<br>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                  |                                              |

EPO FORM 1503.03.82 (P04C01)

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

EP 98 11 8330

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
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