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(54) **An automatic vending machine for flat articles such as cases containing compact discs**

(57) The automatic vending machine comprises at least one magazine (14) arranged for holding a series of articles (30) in an arrangement in which these articles are packed against one another. The magazine (14) has guide means (36) which allow the series of articles (30) to slide towards a transparent flat wall (12), as well as thrust means which act resiliently on the article of the series situated at the end remote from the transparent

wall (12) and which hold the larger face (16) of the article (30a) situated nearest to this wall against that wall. Beside the magazine there is a release station (18) beneath which there is a receptacle from which the articles can be withdrawn by a purchaser. Transfer means (66) are provided for dragging the article (30a) which is disposed against the transparent wall (12) from the magazine (14) to the release station (18), each time.

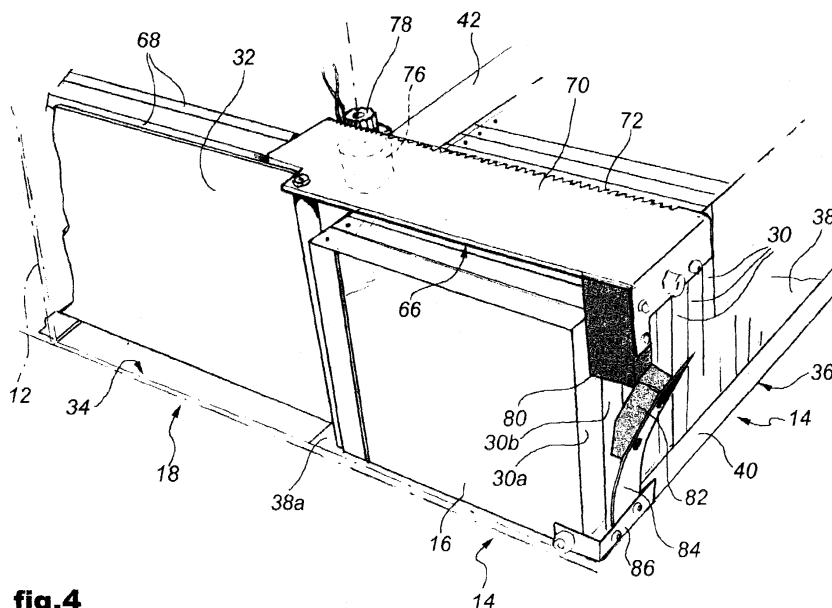


fig.4

EP 1 117 078 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 10 0313

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	DE 11 86 665 B (WILHELM GOLDMANN) 4 February 1965 (1965-02-04) * column 1, line 16 - line 21 *	1-3,8	G07F11/42
Y	* column 3, line 21 - column 4, line 68 *	4	
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Y	* figures 1,2,4 * * column 10, line 12 - line 16 * * column 2, line 7 - line 27 * * column 3, line 73 - column 4, line 44 * * column 5, line 30 - line 66 *	4	
A	FR 2 267 593 A (DISTRIBUTION AUTOMATIQUE CIE F) 7 November 1975 (1975-11-07) * page 2, line 17 - line 40; figures 1-4 * * figures 1,2 *	1	
D,A	US 5 415 319 A (RISOLIA JOE) 16 May 1995 (1995-05-16) * figure 1 * * column 2, line 12 - line 41 * * column 3, line 24 - line 31 * * column 6, line 23 - line 34 *	1,8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G07F
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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 19 April 2002	Examiner Lindholm, A-M
<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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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