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(54) **Machine and method for printing containers**

(57) A machine for printing containers comprises a printing unit (8) suitable for interacting with containers (7, 7a) to be printed, said containers (7, 7a) being grasped by respective support means (32, 36); the printing unit (8) comprises a printing roller (16) externally provided with cavities suitable for containing fluid printing means to be transferred by contact to regions of external

surface of said containers (7, 7a).

A method for printing containers comprises arranging containers (7, 7a) to be printed on support means (32, 36), bringing the external surface of said containers in contact with printing means (8) for printing said external surface, said containers (7, 7a) are brought in contact with said printing means by advancing said containers (7, 7a) along a pre-established path.

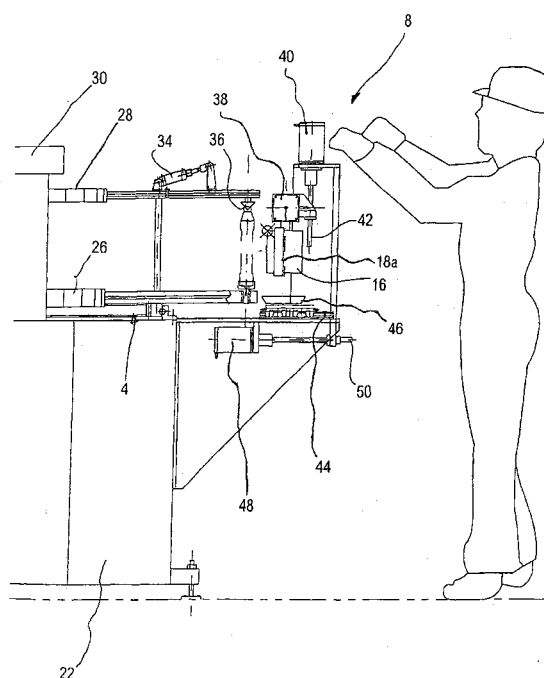


Fig. 5



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 10 6793

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.7)
			B41F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 23 December 2002	Examiner Madsen, P
<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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