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(11) **EP 1 151 935 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
21.08.2002 Bulletin 2002/34

(51) Int Cl.7: **B65D 71/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
07.11.2001 Bulletin 2001/45

(21) Application number: **01201649.9**

(22) Date of filing: **04.05.2001**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(30) Priority: **04.05.2000 GB 0010734**

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(54) **Carton and carton blank**

(57) A carton and a blank (10) for forming a carton for encircling one or more articles (A), for example bottles, comprising a plurality of panels including a first wall panel (14,16,18) and an adjacent second wall panel (20,22,24,26) for forming a tubular structure. The carton is provided with an article retention structure arranged in spaced, substantially parallel relationship with the first wall and further comprises one or more apertures (44,52) for receiving at least one of the articles (A). The spacer means (60,62) is provided to maintain spaced relationship between the first wall and the retention structure and anchor means is provided to substantially prevent lateral and/or transverse movement of the retention structure relative to the first wall.

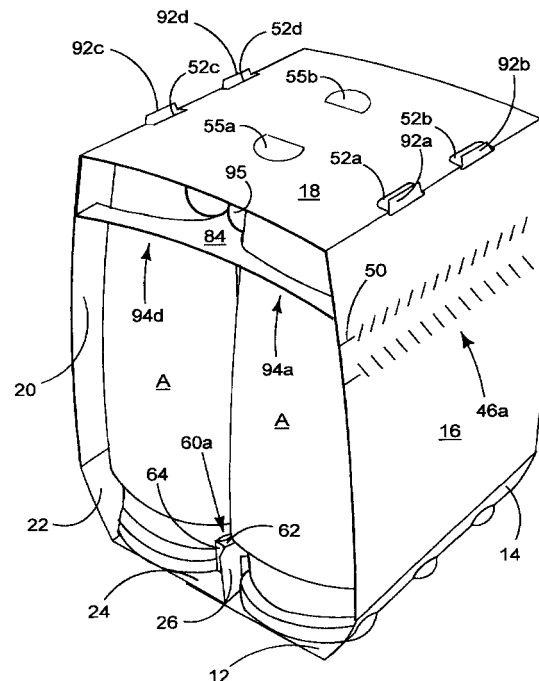


FIGURE 5



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 20 1649

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.7)
X	FR 1 141 058 A (LEDUC PIERRE-PASCAL-AUGUST) 26 August 1957 (1957-08-26) * figures 1-5 *	1-4,6-8, 12,14	B65D71/00
Y		9,11, 15-17, 19,20	
A	---	5,13	
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A	---	1,2,7,8	
Y	US 4 131 198 A (FISCHER EDWARD F) 26 December 1978 (1978-12-26) * figures 1-7 *	15-17, 19,20	
X	US 4 925 019 A (GANZ ROBERT H ET AL) 15 May 1990 (1990-05-15) * figures 1-10 *	21	
Y		22,24	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	---	23	B65D
Y	US 2 421 748 A (FINK RAYMOND E) 10 June 1947 (1947-06-10) * figures 6-11 *	22,24	
A	---	1,7-12, 21	
A	US 5 351 878 A (COOPER LEONARD M) 4 October 1994 (1994-10-04) * figures 1-6 *	21	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 7 June 2002	Examiner Schultz, O
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



European Patent
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Application Number

EP 01 20 1649

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.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ 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:



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 01 20 1649

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: 1-14

A retention structure used for an articles encircling carton having receiving apertures with tabs which are integrally formed with the spacer panel permitting a simultaneously folding of spacer panel and tab.

2. Claims: 15-24

A single blank for encircling articles having anchor means cooperating with apertures to prevent movement of the retention means.

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

EP 01 20 1649

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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07-06-2002

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