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(54) **Method and device for wrapping a bouquet**

(57) The invention relates to a method for packing bunches of flowers (43), comprising of providing a supply of sleeves (3) of foil material, opening a sleeve (3), placing a bunch of flowers (43) in the opened sleeve (3) and discharging the bunch of flowers (43) packed into the sleeve (3). According to the invention the sleeve (3) is engaged before the sleeve (3) is opened.

The invention also relates to an apparatus (1) for packing bunches of flowers (43), comprising a frame (4), a holder (2) for a supply of sleeves (3) of foil material, opening means (17,18,32) for opening the sleeve (3) and discharge means (49) for packed bunches of flowers (43). According to the invention the opening means (17,18,32) comprise at least one engaging means for a sleeve (3).

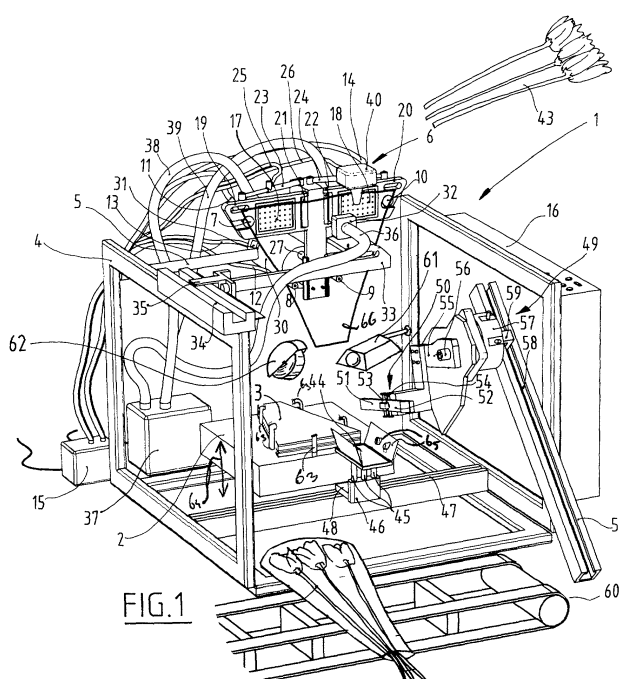


FIG.1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 07 7357

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	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 108 (M-1564), 22 February 1994 (1994-02-22) -& JP 05 305915 A (DAINIPPON PRINTING CO LTD;OTHERS: 01), 19 November 1993 (1993-11-19) * abstract; figures 1,2,22,24,25 *	1-15	B65B25/02 B65B43/30
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X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 05, 31 May 1996 (1996-05-31) -& JP 08 002715 A (KAWAMURA SEIKI KK), 9 January 1996 (1996-01-09) * abstract; figures 1,3,10-12,14,15,18 *	1,3-6	
A		2,7-15	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 27 September 2002	Examiner Johne, 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)



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 02 07 7357

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: 1-15

method and apparatus for packing bunches of flowers

2. Claims: 16-18

discharge device for bunches of flowers in a sleeve

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

EP 02 07 7357

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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27-09-2002

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