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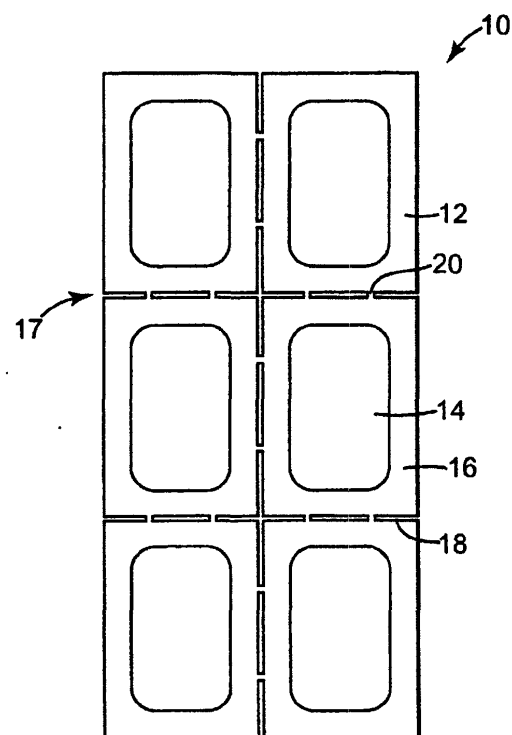
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(54) **Tray for sauces, products containing same and methods**

(57) A multiple portion sauce tray (10) formed from a rigid foam material is provided. The sauce is located in a plurality of receptacles (12) for holding individual portions of sauce. The receptacles (12) of the tray (10) do not separate when the tray is processed by automated packaging equipment, but may be readily separated by the consumer at time of use. The tray (10) is particularly useful in a combination product, wherein sauces are provided with comestible articles for dipping therein. Methods for manufacture of the sauce tray (10) and the combination product, as well as uses of the tray (10) and the combination product are provided.



**Fig. 1**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 03 00 0007

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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)
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Y	* column 1, line 10 - line 12 * * column 2, line 23 * * column 2, paragraph 7 * * column 3, paragraph 1 * * column 3, paragraph 2 * * column 3, line 13 - line 17 * * figures * ---	3,6,7, 9-11,15, 16,19-22	
3 X	FR 2 763 314 A (APRI IND) 20 November 1998 (1998-11-20)	8	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 2 June 2003	Examiner Nistor, L
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 03/02 (P04C01)



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 03 00 0007

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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)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
Place of search <b>BERLIN</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>2 June 2003</b>	Examiner <b>Nistor, L</b>
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></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  .....  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)



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### 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 03 00 0007

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: 1-7, 12-22

A multiple portion tray comprising a plurality of receptacles for holding individual portions of sauce, said tray comprising lines of weakness between the receptacles so that the receptacles do not separate from one another under tensile forces that generally correspond to the amount of force normally imparted to a tray when being converted by conventional automated packaging equipment, but which receptacles do separate under tensile force such that the consumer can readily separate the receptacles one from another by using only tensile force; said tray being formed from a rigid foam material.

Also the method claims 19, 20 and 22 are concerned.

2. Claims: 8-11

A multiple portion tray comprising a plurality of receptacles for holding individual portions of sauce, said receptacles being connected in said tray by land areas having a width of about 1 to 3 mm and a gap area having a width of about 15 to 30 mm between each land area; said tray being formed from a rigid foam material.

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

EP 03 00 0007

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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