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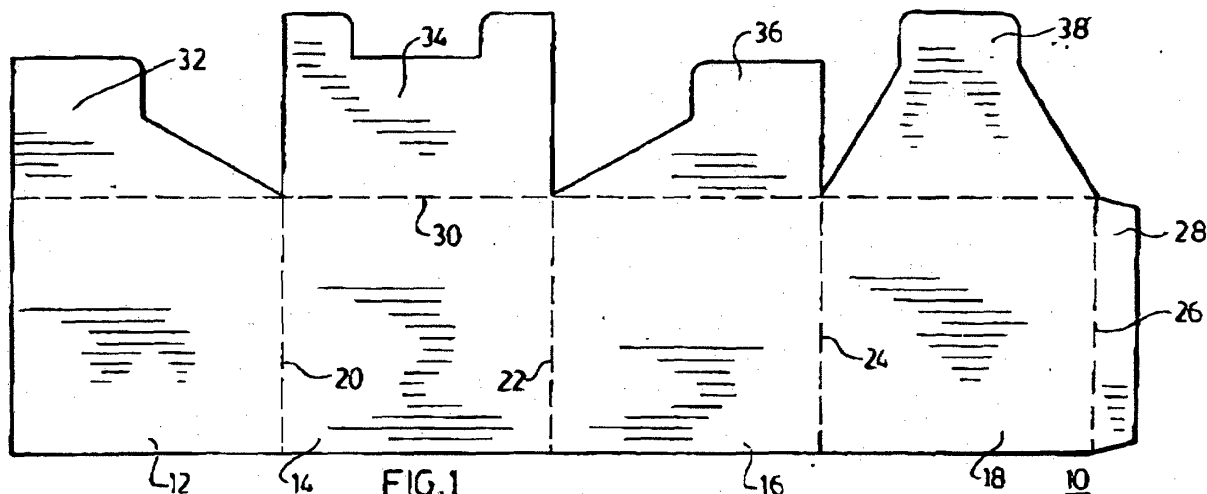
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(54) **Versatile gift box**

(57) A carton (10) which may be ideally used as a gift box comprises a folded carton contained within the lid (40) which ultimately closes the carton. The carton is formed from a blank having four panels (12,14,16,18) which form the sides of the carton. Four end panels

(32,34,36,38) connected to the side panels may be folded together to form a bottom for the carton when in its assembled condition. The entire carton blank is folded to fit inside the lid (40). A transparent wrap, preferably a shrink wrap encloses the carton and any other wrapping paraphernalia within the lid.



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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to a carton which when shipped from the manufacturer to its ultimate destination, is in a folded arrangement such that the box or containment vessel is folded so that it may be entirely embraced within the "lid" of the ultimate package. Such boxes are convenient for use as "gift" boxes.

[0002] Many "folded cartons" are available in present day commercial establishments. Most folded boxes are shipped in their folded condition and displayed in the folded condition, making it difficult for the consumer to gauge the ultimate size and capacity of the box. Since the dimensions of the box appear on the "knocked down" box it often requires that a consumer have a ruler or tape measure handy to determine the capacity of the assembled carton.

[0003] The entire carton will be contained in a transparent or semitransparent wrap so that the customer may easily determine the size, shape and color of the unassembled gift carton through the transparent wrap. Because the carton itself is stored within the confines of the lid, the informed customer may easily determine (from the size of the lid enclosing the folded carton) the dimensions of the unassembled carton. The customer has merely to hold the gift carton (in its folded condition) up to the article which is to be ultimately housed within the gift carton to gauge whether the folded gift carton will have sufficient capacity to contain the article once the folded box is assembled.

[0004] Many prior art gift cartons are manufactured and shipped in their final assembled condition. These prior art gift cartons are usually manufactured from rigid board with the lid in place on the carton. Usually the complete gift box is enclosed in a shrink-wrap plastic enclosure. Additional paraphernalia, such as ribbons, gift tags, decorative stickers, etc. are placed inside the box before the shrink-wrap is applied to the gift carton. The advantage of presenting the ultimate customer with a completely erected rigid gift carton (in a shrink wrap) is that the customer may determine immediately upon seeing the gift carton in its erected form is that it is easy to determine whether the intended gift will fit into the assembled gift carton. The disadvantage is that the shipping and packaging costs associated with the assembled carton can drive the ultimate selling price of the pre-assembled carton out of the range of most consumers.

[0005] Thus this type of gift carton will be available only in upscale gift shops where price is not a prime consideration.

PERTINENT PRIOR ART

Canadian Patent 289,528 May 7, 1929

[0006] This patent relates to a collapsible metallic box

in which the top and bottom components of the box fold around the side walls of the ballot box. The side walls have an accordion like pleat in the middle to permit the side walls to collapse inwardly so that the front and rear walls may be moved into a juxtaposed relationship with only the side walls (being previously folded) being nested therebetween. The top and bottom components may then be folded about the front and rear wall nested package.

[0007] The box described herein is metallic in nature and requires metal flanges on some of the wall components in order to deliver its promise of being truly collapsible.

Canadian Patent 1,118,734 February 23, 1982

[0008] This is a box manufactured from paperboard and is foldable for shipping and storage in a compact planar configuration. This carton requires considerable manual dexterity to assemble it, and in addition, requires adhesive strips to successfully assemble the box. A strip of adhesive tape is applied across the top of the box, provides additional security for the box.

[0009] This box which is paperboard and has a folding capability, has no capability to be ornamented, has no separate lid and lacks the user friendliness of applicant's container wherein the ultimate size of the container is revealed by the lid.

Canadian Patent, 1,245,309 April 26, 1983

(Very similar to 1,118,734 above)

Canadian Patent 1,226,563 September 8, 1987

[0010] This is a cardboard box which may be folded to form a ballot box. This container is simple in construction and is relatively easy to assemble, but requires a preglued panel to provide a handle and the enclosure requires tabs to engage slots in order to lock the device together. Sealing tape is used to secure the assembled container.

U.S. Patents. 4,699,312, 4,981,259, 5,610,383, 5,681,113

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] This invention thus relates to a method of packaging a folded container entirely within its lid so that the consumer can immediately see the carton, lid, ribbon, bow, gift tags and other wrapping paraphernalia which are displayed within the carton lid in a plastic shrink-wrap. The lid and the contained box assembly are shipped from The manufacturer to a retail purveyor in the compact "knocked-down" condition. Because of this method of packaging and storing, the entire folded carton within the rigid lid, the customer may easily ascertain

the length, width and height of the assembled carton without having to open the shrink-wrap covering. The customer only has to hold the package of the lid containing the folded carton up to the intended gift to determine whether the gift will fit into the assembled carton.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012]

Figure 1 is a drawing of the blank used to form the box of this invention.

Figure 2 is shows the blank of Figure 1 in a partially folded condition.

Figure 3 shows the partially folded box blank of Figure 1.

Figure 4 shows the box of Figure 1 completely folded.

Figure 5 shows the folded box of Figure 4 inserted into the box lid.

Figure 6 shows box 10 oriented for construction of the bottom

Figure 7 shows the box having the lid placed thereon.

Figure 8 shows the complete box having a ribbon applied.

Figure 9 shows the completely assembled box with a decorative ribbon in place.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0013] The carton of the invention described in this application is well known in the packaging industry as the Houghland or snap lock bottom carton. It is frequently known as the 1-2-3 closure because of the swift and speedy manner in which the bottom panels may be erected. The other outstanding feature of this closure is that once the bottom of the carton has been assembled, the carton and bottom are quite stable and not subject to collapse.

[0014] Referring now to Figure 1 a blank 10 is shown having four panels 12, 14, 16, 18 (which become the sidewalls of the container 10) separated by score lines 20, 22, 24, 26. Score line 26 separates glue flap 28 from panel 18.

[0015] A second score line 30 is provided between panels 12, 14, 16, 18 and end panel components 32, 34, 36 and 38 respectively. The end panel components 32 and 36 are bent inwardly of the sides 12 and 16 before or after glue flap 28 is glued to side 12. End flaps 34 and 38 are bent outwardly of panels 14 and 18 so as to overlie the exterior surface of panels 14 and 18 as shown in Figure 2.

[0016] Flap 28 is next glued to the side 12. With the glue flap 28 secured to side 12 and the end panels 32 and 36 tucked inside the carton and end panels 34 and 36 folded over the outside of panels 14 and 18, the folded blank 10 takes on the appearance of a flat folded

structure of Figure 3. The box may be folded again at scorelines 20 and 22 to produce the folded box as shown in Figure 4.

[0017] The folded box of Figure 4 may now be inserted in lid 40 as shown in Figure 5. Lid 40 is a rigid lid having shallow sides 42, 44, 46 and 48 to embrace and overlap box 10 when assembled. The box 10 and lid 14 require only as much space as the lid represents; in this condition the box and lid present a very compact unit for shipping and storage. A ribbon 52 and any other decorative paraphernalia such as gift tag 50 may be included in the box lid under the protection of a shrink-wrap.

[0018] It will be noted that the ribbon 52 shown in Figure 8 is preglued at 54 to provide a complete seal for box 10. The ribbon 52 shown in Figure 9 is securely fastened to the box 10 by means of preglued portion 54 to hold the lid closed and to secure the gift tag 50 in its proper place.

[0019] The gift box described above may be conveniently stored and assembled in a jiffy. It may be attractively appointed and used for a variety of occasions.

[0020] The enclosing wrap which secures the unassembled carton within the carton lid may be a transparent shrink wrap or it may be a plastic bag which surrounds the lid and unassembled carton. These materials may be transparent or semi transparent. It is envisioned that plastic or nylon enclosures may perform equally well.

[0021] The material comprising the box may be Kraft board, wood, plastic sheeting or sheet metal, such as aluminum or steel.

Claims

1. A blank for a carton which comprises panels which may subsequently be erected into a box having four sides and a bottom and an open top; and
a lid for said open top comprising a flat panel having four edge panels which overlap the sides of the carton when placed on said open top;
said blank being folded in such a manner that the blank may be completely stored within the confines of the box lid for shipping and display purposes.
2. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein panels forming the four sides of the assembled box have attached thereto four bottom panels which when assembled interlock to form a bottom for said carton.
3. A blank as claimed in claim 2 wherein said four bottom panels form a Houghland bottom for said carton.
4. A blank and lid as claimed in claim 1 wherein said lid also contains ribbon, gift tags and other wrapping paraphernalia.

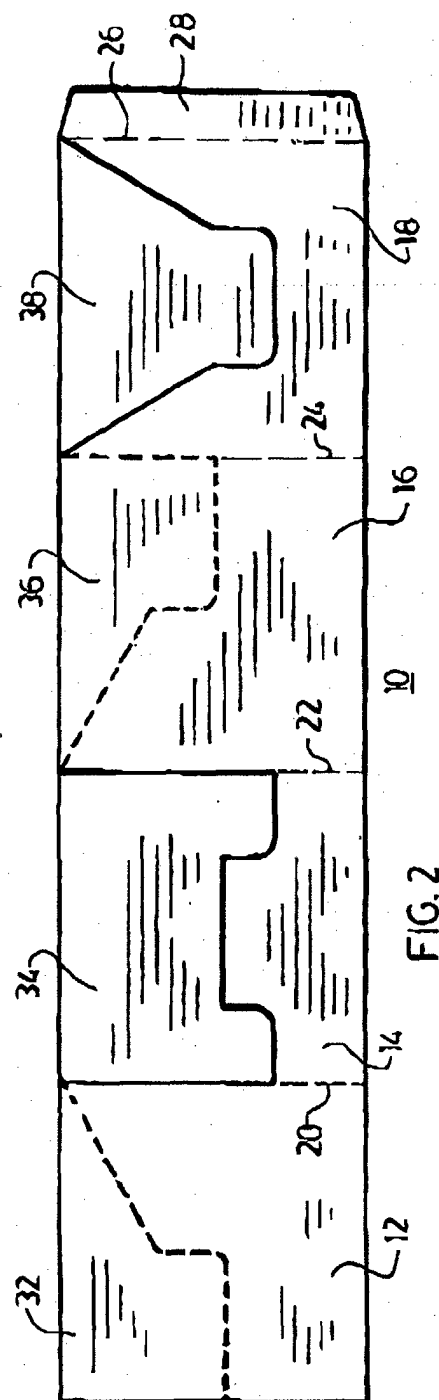
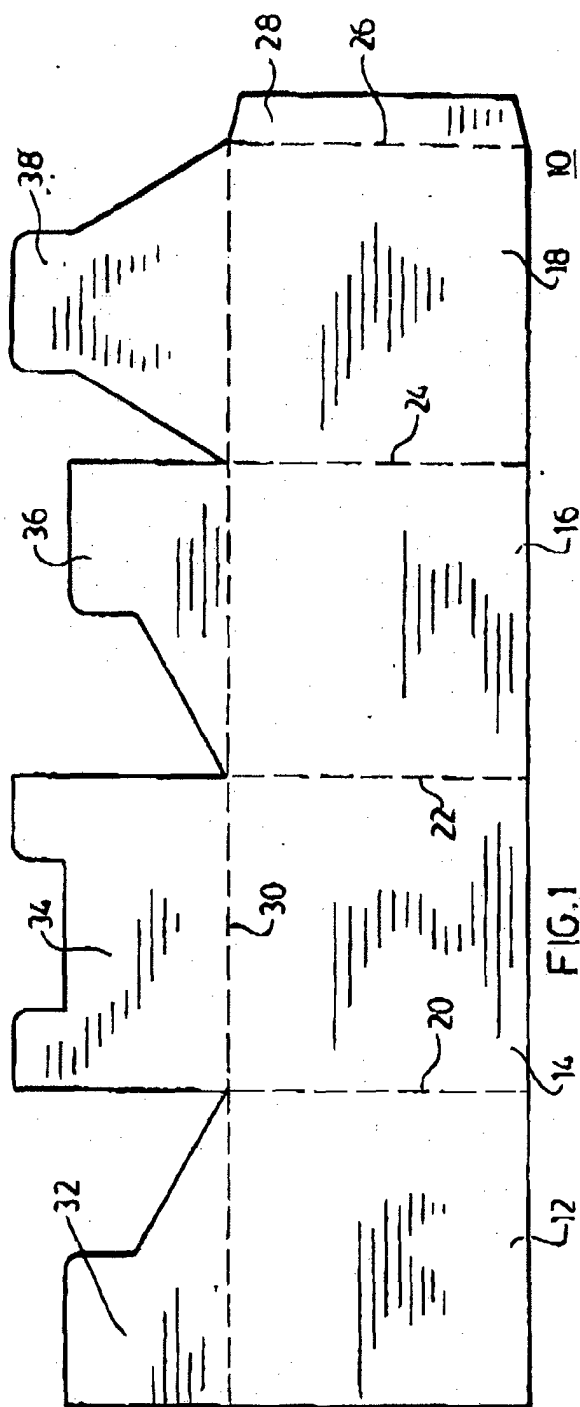
5. A blank and lid as claimed in claim 4 wherein said blank and ribbon, gift tags and other wrapping paraphernalia are contained within said lid and are enclosed within a transparent wrap. 5
6. A blank and lid as claimed in claim 4 wherein said blank and ribbon, gift tags and other wrapping paraphernalia are contained within said lid and are enclosed within a closely fitting bag of a translucent plastic material. 10
7. A gift carton having a rigid lid in which an unassembled gift carton is contained in its unassembled condition, 15
said rigid lid containing also other wrapping paraphernalia such as ribbons, bows, tags, etc. and said lid, and enclosed unassembled carton and other paraphernalia are displayed in an enclosed transparent shrink wrapped configuration. 20
8. A method of packaging a gift carton comprising:
- providing a rigid carton lid having four shallow sides for overlapping the top of the assembled gift carton, 25
- providing a suitable glued carton blank which can be knocked down into a folded configuration to fit within said carton lid,
- folding said carton into said compacted configuration; and placing said folded carton within said rigid carton lid, and 30
- enclosing other wrapping paraphernalia in said carton lid and enclosing said carton lid, folded carton and other wrapping paraphernalia within a transparent shrink-wrap. 35

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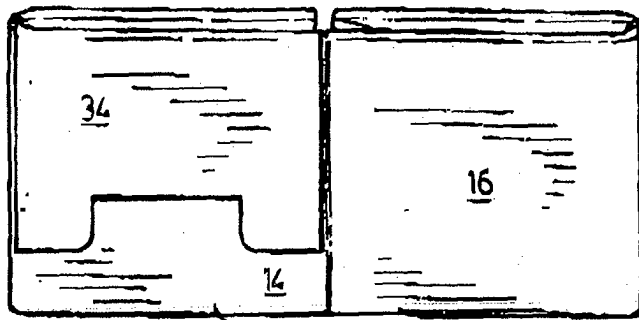


FIG. 3

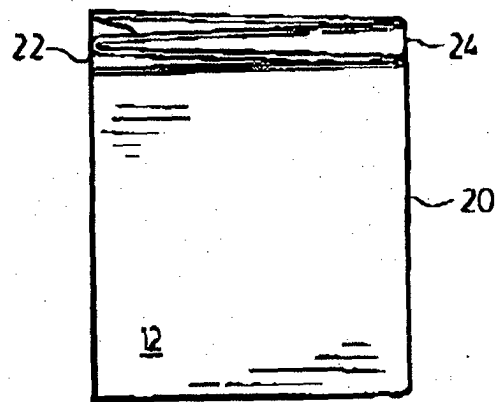


FIG. 4

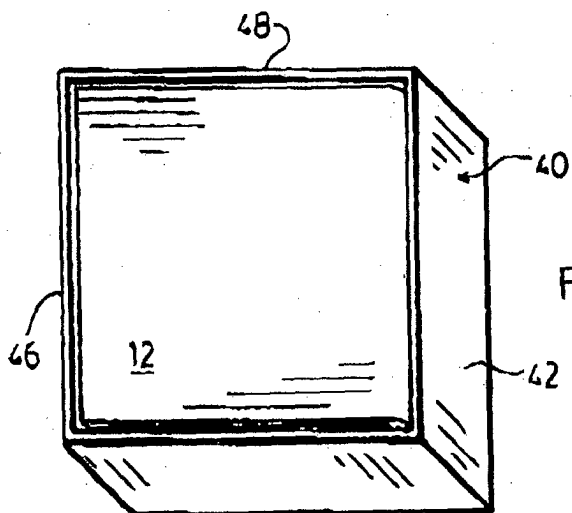
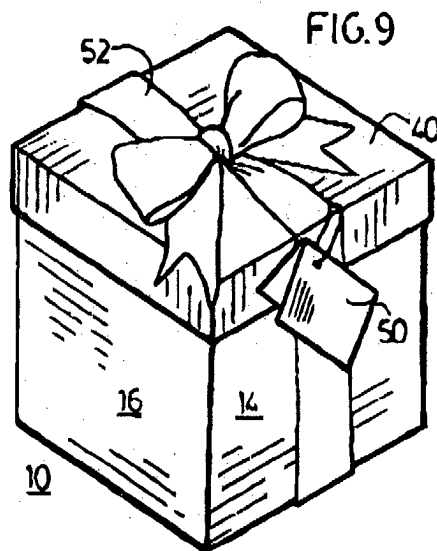
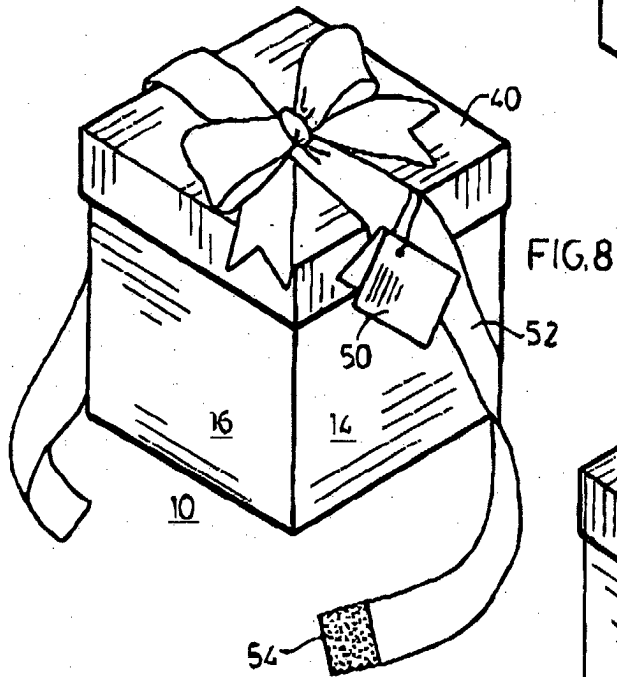
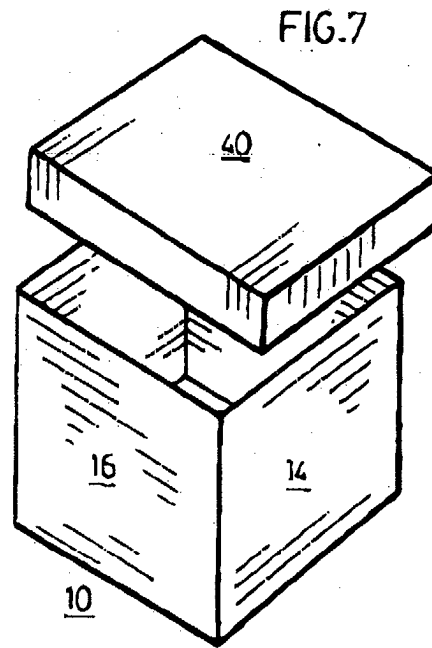
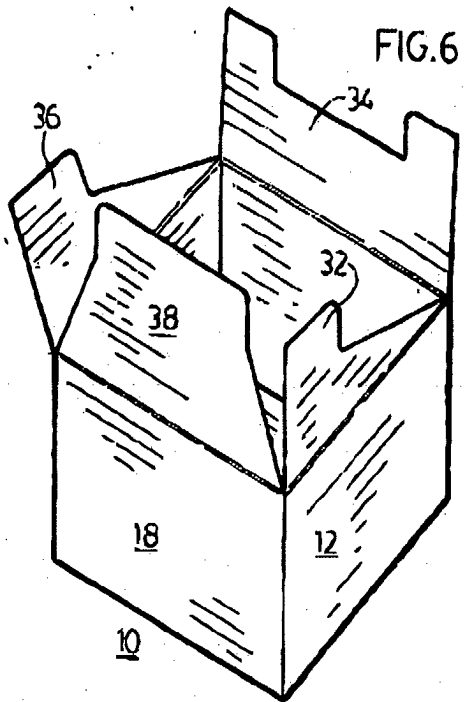


FIG. 5





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 25 0446

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	GB 2 358 391 A (FIELD GROUP PLC) 25 July 2001 (2001-07-25) * page 2, line 14 - line 25; figures 2-4 *	1-3	B65D5/36 B65D5/68
X	EP 0 512 291 A (KUNERT & SOEHNE WELLPAPPE) 11 November 1992 (1992-11-11) * column 3, line 17 - line 22; claims 1,9; figures 1-3 *	1-3	
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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 16 April 2003	Examiner Seegerer, H
<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</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 (03.82 (P04C01))

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 03 25 0446

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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16-04-2003

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