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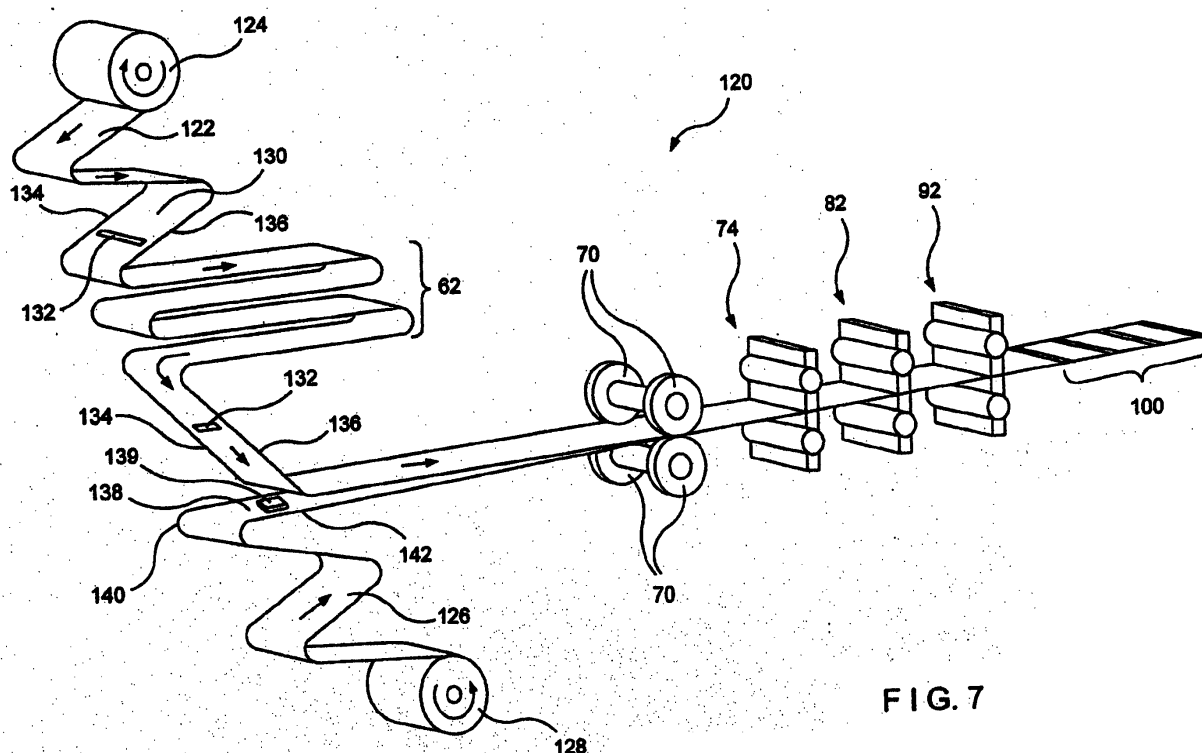
(30) Priority: **19.02.2003 US 369964**

(71) Applicant: **ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS INC.**  
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(54) **Method for manufacturing a strip of film packages**

(57) Various methods for making package strips (100) having a number of individual packages of a consumer product (63) and separable from one another by perforations are disclosed. The individual packages

have reclosable plastic zippers (60), which are applied during the manufacture of the package strips either transversely or lengthwise onto the sheet of polymeric film material (16) from which the packages are fashioned.



**FIG. 7**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 04 25 0730

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	US 5 085 031 A (MCDONALD DANIEL P) 4 February 1992 (1992-02-04)	1,6,10, 14,15	B65B61/18
Y	* column 2, line 27 - column 4, line 15; claims 1,5,7; figures 1-7 *	2-5,8,9, 13	
P,X	US 2003/177738 A1 (PLOURDE ERIC P) 25 September 2003 (2003-09-25) * the whole document *	1,6,7, 10,11	
P,X	EP 1 364 883 A (ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS) 26 November 2003 (2003-11-26) * the whole document *	1,6,10	
Y	US 4 878 987 A (VEN ERDEN DONALD L) 7 November 1989 (1989-11-07) * figure 8 *	2,3,8,9	
Y	US 4 876 842 A (AUSNIT STEVEN) 31 October 1989 (1989-10-31) * figure 1 *	4,5	
Y	EP 1 026 077 A (ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS) 9 August 2000 (2000-08-09) * paragraph [0026]; figure 7 *	13	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B65B B31B
<del>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</del>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		13 May 2004	Vigilante, M
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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### 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:

1-15



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**  
**SHEET B**

Application Number  
EP 04 25 0730

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 for manufacturing package strips with a zipper by  
feeding the zipper transversely.

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2. claims: 16-26

Method for manufacturing package strips with a zipper by  
feeding the zipper longitudinally.

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

EP 04 25 0730

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  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

13-05-2004

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