

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 491 457 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
08.02.2006 Bulletin 2006/06

(51) Int Cl.:
B65D 71/50 ^(2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
29.12.2004 Bulletin 2004/53

(21) Application number: **04253639.1**

(22) Date of filing: **17.06.2004**

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

(30) Priority: **23.06.2003 US 480756**
23.04.2004 US 830684

(71) Applicant: **ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS INC.**
Glenview,
Illinois 60025 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Weaver, William N.**
Northbrook,
Illinois 60062 (US)
• **Slomski, Edward J.**
Huntley,
Illinois 60142 (US)

(74) Representative: **Finnie, Peter John et al**
Gill Jennings & Every,
Broadgate House,
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7LH (GB)

(54) **Returnable can carrier**

(57) A container carrier (10) of flexible resilient material includes an array of loops (16) for surrounding and holding full containers (14). Slots (20) are provided in the

carrier (10) for receiving levers (30) of empty pop top containers therein and for holding emptied containers (14) by the pop top levers (30) being held in the slots (20).

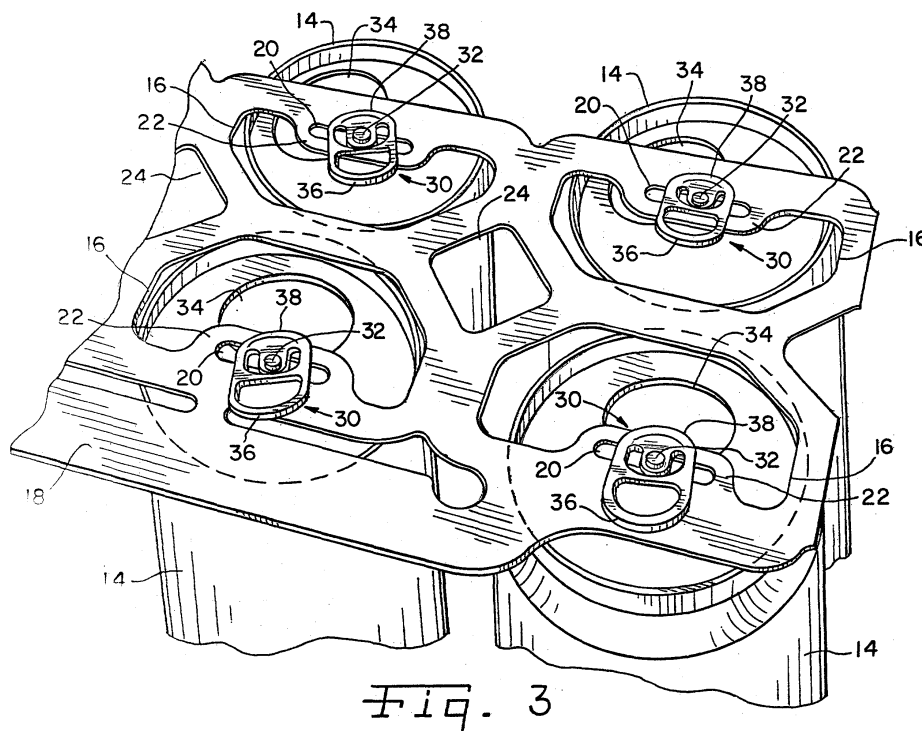


Fig. 3

EP 1 491 457 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 25 3639

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 5 193 673 A (RATHBONE ET AL) 16 March 1993 (1993-03-16) * the whole document *	1-4,6-10	B65D71/50
X	EP 0 507 479 A (ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS, INC) 7 October 1992 (1992-10-07) * column 4, line 1 - column 5, line 47; figures 1,3 *	1,3-10	
A	US 4 557 375 A (WEAVER ET AL) 10 December 1985 (1985-12-10) * the whole document *	1-10	
E	US 2004/134799 A1 (MATTSON LARRY J ET AL) 15 July 2004 (2004-07-15) * the whole document *	1-4,6-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		13 December 2005	Pernice, C
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			

4

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

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

EP 04 25 3639

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.

13-12-2005

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5193673	A	16-03-1993	NONE	

EP 0507479	A	07-10-1992	AT 125228 T	15-08-1995
			AU 632726 B2	07-01-1993
			AU 1317892 A	15-10-1992
			BR 9201117 A	24-11-1992
			CA 2064174 A1	03-10-1992
			CN 1065435 A	21-10-1992
			DE 69203506 D1	24-08-1995
			DE 69203506 T2	21-12-1995
			DK 507479 T3	27-11-1995
			ES 2075612 T3	01-10-1995
			FI 921410 A	03-10-1992
			GR 3017424 T3	31-12-1995
			HK 185495 A	15-12-1995
			IE 921028 A1	07-10-1992
			JP 1919614 C	07-04-1995
			JP 5124677 A	21-05-1993
			JP 6049503 B	29-06-1994
			KR 9500590 B1	26-01-1995
			MX 9201294 A1	01-10-1992
			NO 921271 A	05-10-1992
			NZ 242173 A	27-04-1995

US 4557375	A	10-12-1985	AU 580614 B2	19-01-1989
			AU 4530385 A	06-02-1986
			CA 1230583 A1	22-12-1987
			DE 3574465 D1	04-01-1990
			DK 352385 A	04-02-1986
			EP 0171947 A2	19-02-1986
			GR 851816 A1	26-11-1985
			HK 38091 A	24-05-1991
			IE 56738 B1	20-11-1991
			JP 1787842 C	10-09-1993
			JP 4079908 B	17-12-1992
			JP 61047317 A	07-03-1986
			MX 163097 B	22-08-1991
			NZ 212903 A	30-06-1987

US 2004134799	A1	15-07-2004	NONE	

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82