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(54) Carton and carton blank

(57) A divisible carton (C) comprising two or more modular parts (B,B1) for packaging articles, such as tablets for example, each modular part (B,B1) having access means (238) for removing articles from that modular part (B,B1). The carton (C) has a common outer cover arranged so as to secure the modular parts (B,B1) together. The outer cover has a tear strip (266) which can be re-

moved to permit the modular parts (B,B1) to be separated. The modular parts (B,B1) are secured together such that the access means (238) of each modular part (B,B1) is oriented to prevent that access means (238) from being operable until one of the modular parts (B,B1) is separated from the next adjacent modular part (B,B1) by removing the tear strip (266).

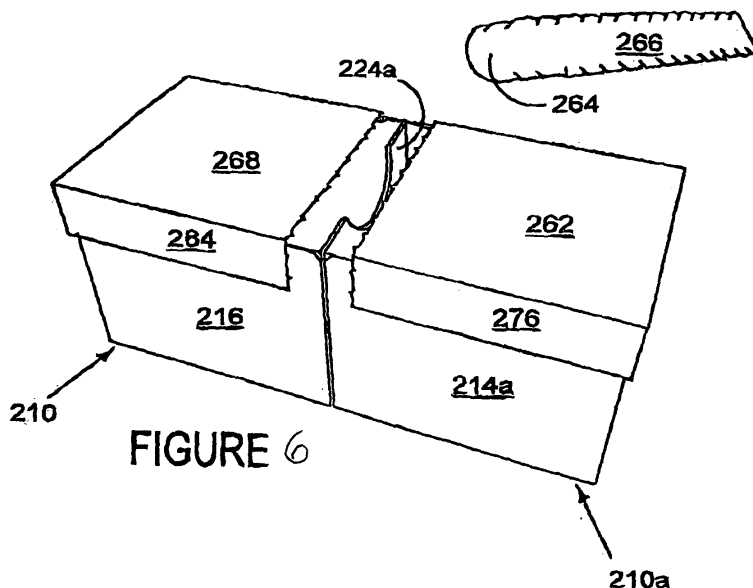


FIGURE 6

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 05 00 3503

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 3 168 234 A (BARTZ FRED H) 2 February 1965 (1965-02-02) * column 2, line 8 - column 4, line 63 * * figures 1-6 *	1,2	B65D5/72
A	-----	3,10,12	
X	US 3 253 765 A (TRAIN DAVID B) 31 May 1966 (1966-05-31) * column 3, line 16 - line 48; figures 8-10 *	1,10	
A	-----	4,5	
A	US 4 919 269 A (WRIGHT ET AL) 24 April 1990 (1990-04-24) * figures *	1,10	
D,A	US 5 853 088 A (SAULAS ET AL) 29 December 1998 (1998-12-29) * figures *	1,10	
X	US 5 048 690 A (ZIMMERMAN ET AL) 17 September 1991 (1991-09-17) * column 2, line 35 - column 6, line 36; figures 1-11 *	4,5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B65D
X	US 6 006 982 A (JONES ET AL) 28 December 1999 (1999-12-28) * figures 11,14,15 *	4,5	
D,X	US 4 533 052 A (FRUCHEY ET AL) 6 August 1985 (1985-08-06) * column 2, line 67; figures 3,4 *	4,5	
D,X	US 4 377 237 A (PAWLOWSKI ET AL) 22 March 1983 (1983-03-22) * column 2, line 4 - column 3, line 43; figures 2-6 *	4,5	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Berlin		Date of completion of the search 8 February 2006	Examiner Scheuer, J
<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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**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:
1-5, 10, 12
- ☐ 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:



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: 1-3,10,12

A divisible carton 10 comprising two modular parts 11,12 for packaging articles and each modular part 11,12 comprises a series of panels for forming the walls of that modular part see Figures, each modular part 11,12 also has an access means 26,27,55,56 for accessing the articles contained within each modular part, the divisible carton 10 comprising an outer cover formed by flaps 13,18,32,37 arranged so as to secure the modular parts together, the outer cover including at least one opening means tear line 28 with opening tab 31, wherein at least one of the opening means 28,31 is disposed in alignment with the access means 55,56 of one 12 of the modular parts 11,12, such that by deploying that opening means 28,31, said access means 55,56 is exposed so that access can be gained to the articles contained within that modular part 12.

In the light of D1 the carton of claim 1 is thus known. A divisible carton wherein the access means 26,27,55,56 of each modular part 10,11 comprises a closure panel 23,49 hinged to one of said walls for forward and backward pivotal movement to open and close an access aperture.

In the light of D1 the carton of claim 2 is thus known. A divisible carton wherein the access means of each modular part further comprises a moveable platform mounted within each modular part and hinged to the closure panel for movement therewith, which platform supports the articles contained within each modular part when the closure panel is in the closed position and which closure panel is moved towards the access aperture to move the contents of the modular part forward for their removal in response to the forward pivotal movement of the closure panel.

The movable platform mounted within each modular platform is not disclosed in D1 and thus new.

These last features thus form the special technical features according to Rule 30 EPC.

The problem solved by this movable platform may be regarded as to facilitate access of the articles contained in the modular part of the carton.

2. claims: 4,5



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:

A divisible carton 10 comprising two modular parts 11,12 suitable for packaging articles, such as tablets or food, each modular part 11,12 having access means 26,27,55,56 for removing articles from that modular part, the carton has a common outer cover 13,18,32,37 arranged so as to secure the modular parts together and a tear strip 28 which can be removed to permit the modular parts to be separated, the modular parts are secured together such that the access means 55,56 of one modular part is oriented to prevent that access means 55,56 from being operable until one of the modular parts is separated from the next adjacent modular part by removing a tear strip 28.

The difference is the mere fact that the access means 23,25 of the modular part 11 is accessible before the modular parts are separated.

These features thus form the special technical features according to Rule 30 EPC.

The problem solved by this feature may be regarded as improving the safety of the modular part.

3. claims: 6-9,11

A divisible carton 10 comprising two open top modular parts 11,12 arranged vertically and interconnected by means of an outer cover 13,18,32,37 secured to the side edges of each modular part 11,12, and wherein tear strips 28 are located on the cover 13,18,32,37

The following features are not disclosed by D1.

each modular part having end panels of greater vertical height in relation to the side panels

These features thus form the special technical features according to Rule 30 EPC.

The problem solved by these features could be improved aeration of the articles contained therein.

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

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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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08-02-2006

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