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(54) Container with emptying means, in particular for fuel pellets

(57) In many pellet stores, like in the invention, the container is emptied using a feed screw from an area (M) at the bottom of the container. A pit then forms and the pellets along the walls will be left. This has previously been solved using a fixed inclined bottom at the cost of a bulky container. This has previously also been solved by a slantable bottom. All such solutions seem to have a cloth or bag, and if they have a feed screw, it is a bottom screw (a horizontal screw collecting pellets along the entire length of the container). The invention, however, enables a compact container entirely made of plywood (no cloth), provided with a slantable bottom. The invention also enables emptying by means of an inclined screw. The invention comprises a container, a main sheet (1) articulated to a side sheet (2), a shaft (3) and couplings (4) between the main sheet and the shaft. The angling of the main sheet makes the pellets fall down, and the side sheet prevents the pellets from falling down under the main sheet.

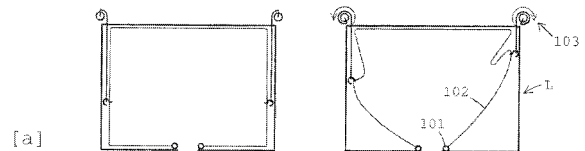


fig 2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 10 6179

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Y,D	US 2 829 803 A (PATON HAMILTON N. K) 8 April 1958 (1958-04-08) * column 5, line 39 - line 61; figures 7,9 *	1	B65D88/60 F23K3/00
Y	DE 33 42 281 A1 (DREHTAINER CONTAINER-TECHNIK GMBH & CO) 5 June 1985 (1985-06-05) * page 11, line 1 - line 4; figures *	1	
A	US 4 317 410 A (PRUNET ET AL) 2 March 1982 (1982-03-02) * column 1, line 8 - line 17; figures *	1,3	
A,D	FR 2 512 790 A (NODET GOUGIS) 18 March 1983 (1983-03-18) * figure 5 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B65D F23G F23K F23B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 27 September 2005	Examiner Zanghi, A
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			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.92 (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 - 7.



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

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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

A container with an emptying device according to claim 1.

2. claims: 8-10

A container with an emptying device as in claim 1 further having a body comprising U-shaped joists.

**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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27-09-2005

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2829803	A	08-04-1958	NONE	
DE 3342281	A1	05-06-1985	NONE	
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