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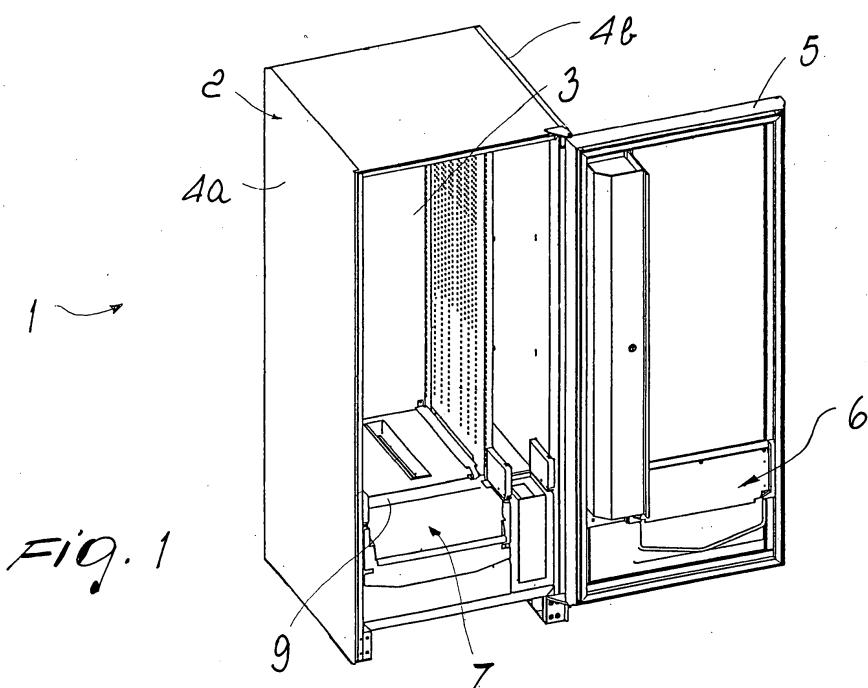
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(54) Vending machine

(57) A vending machine (1), comprising a containment frame (2), which has at least one rear wall or back (3) and two side walls (4a, 4b) and supports a front door (5) provided with means (6) for accessing a region (7) for withdrawing dispensed products; the containment frame supports a plurality of trays associated with

means for dispensing the products to be dispensed, which are arranged on the trays, the withdrawal region (7) further comprising a withdrawal pocket (8), which can be associated detachably, by way of detachable connection means, with the containment frame at an engagement portion (9) arranged below the plurality of trays.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 5 996 838 A (BAYER ET AL) 7 December 1999 (1999-12-07) * column 3, line 2 - column 4, line 67 * * figures 1-3 * -----	1-5	G07F11/00
X	DE 10 17 391 B (THE VENDO COMPANY) 10 October 1957 (1957-10-10) * column 3, line 26 - line 63 * * column 5, line 49 - line 66 * * figures 1,2 * -----	1-5	
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X	US 2002/166870 A1 (MARTIN JESUS SAN ET AL) 14 November 2002 (2002-11-14) * paragraph '0006! - paragraph '0007! * * paragraph '0046! - paragraph '0049! * * figures 1,2 * -----	1-5	
A	US 5 579 952 A (FIEDLER ET AL) 3 December 1996 (1996-12-03) * column 3, line 8 - line 18 * * column 8, line 32 - line 53 * -----	1-5	G07F
X	US 5 909 823 A (RANFT ET AL) 8 June 1999 (1999-06-08) * column 3, line 25 - column 5, line 29 * * figures 5-12 * -----	6,7	
		-/--	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
4	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	Munich	12 October 2005	Königer, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			



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 4 094 440 A (LOTSPEICH ET AL) 13 June 1978 (1978-06-13) * column 3, line 4 - line 19 * * column 3, line 53 - line 63 * * column 4, line 13 - column 5, line 41 * * figures 3-5 * -----	6,7	
A	US 3 269 595 A (KRAKAUER MERRILL ET AL) 30 August 1966 (1966-08-30) * column 2, line 23 - line 41 * * column 4, line 54 - column 5, line 7 * * figure 3 * -----	6-15	
A	GB 1 245 048 A (ENTWISTLE DEREK) 2 September 1971 (1971-09-02) * page 2, line 93 - line 125 * * page 4, line 65 - line 87 * * figure 5 * -----	6-15	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
<p>4 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		12 October 2005	Königer, A
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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			

**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:



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: 1-5

Detachable withdrawal pocket

Problem: To enable easy cleaning or replacement of withdrawal pockets in vending machines.

Solution: To use a withdrawal pocket that can be associated detachably with the containment frame of a vending machine.

2. claims: 6-15

Protective flap for withdrawal area

Problem: To prevent theft in vending machines.

Solution: Use of a withdrawal door and a protective flap at the withdrawal pocket. Whereby the withdrawal door and the protective flap are mechanically connected and the flap is preventing that a customer can reach the product trays via the withdrawal area.

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

EP 05 00 8551

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.

12-10-2005

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