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(54) **Beverage dispenser**

(57) A beverage dispense system (1) has a beverage source (2) connected to a supply line (12) that splits into two lines (14a, 14b) upstream of a cooler (5) and the lines (14a, 14b) are re-combined downstream of the cooler (5)

for connection to a dispense tap (7). Splitting the supply line (12) enables flow rate through the system (1) to be increased with reduced velocity and minimal pressure drop so that break-out of CO₂ during dispense is suppressed.

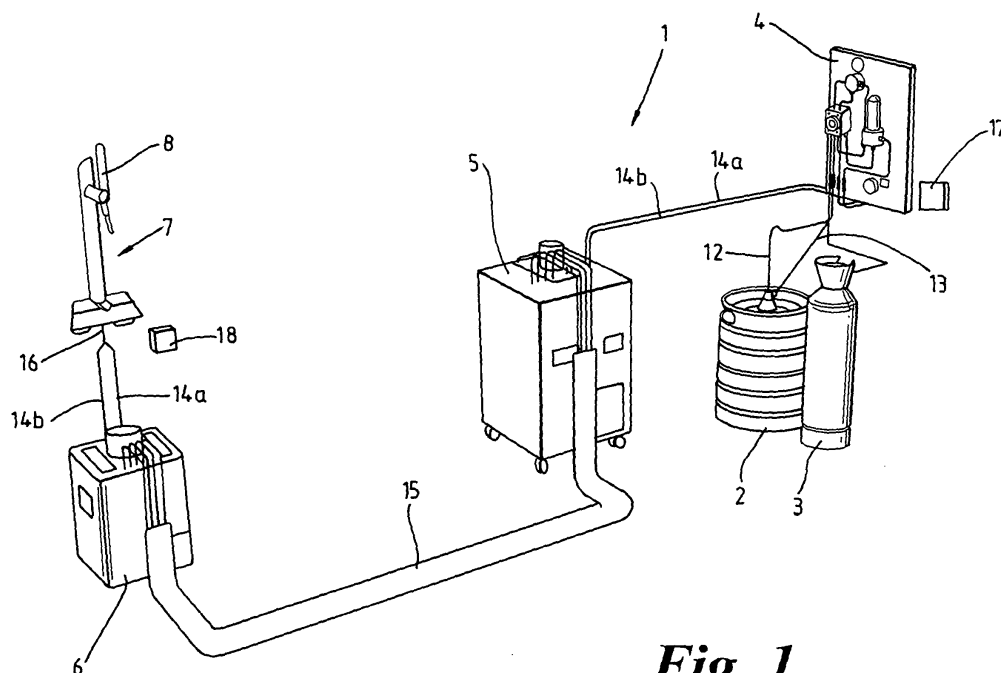


Fig. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 25 0752

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	EP 1 380 536 A (IMI CORNELIUS UK LTD [GB]) 14 January 2004 (2004-01-14)	1,10	INV. B67D1/04
Y	* paragraphs [0060] - [0064]; figure 1 *	2-7	
Y	US 5 909 825 A (LYDFORD STEVEN R [GB]) 8 June 1999 (1999-06-08) * column 2, lines 6-26 * * column 3, lines 27-47; figure 1 *	2-4,7	
Y	GB 1 300 383 A (PRIESTLEY TERENCE PATRICK) 20 December 1972 (1972-12-20) * page 6, line 111 - page 7, line 9; figure 1 *	5,6	
X	NL 1 019 215 C2 (MERTENS LEON JOSEPH EUGENIUS G [NL]) 24 April 2003 (2003-04-24) * page 4, lines 2-16; figure 1 *	1	
A	US 3 162 323 A (KROMER WALLACE R) 22 December 1964 (1964-12-22) * column 4, lines 30-67; figure 1 *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B67D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 22 July 2008	Examiner Müller, Claus
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 03/82 (P04/C01)

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due 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 those claims for which no payment was due.

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:
1-7, 10
- ☐ 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 present supplementary 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 (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 06 25 0752

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: 1-4, 7, 10

Beverage dispense system with a switchover device for the
beverage containers and method therefor

2. claims: 5,6

Beverage dispense system with a switchover device for the
gas container

3. claims: 8, 9

Beverage dispense system with a dispense valve that can be
adapted to desired flow characteristics

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

EP 06 25 0752

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.

22-07-2008

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