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(54) Retroreflective distributor

(57) A distributor device 10 includes a container 44, which is arranged in use to contain retroreflective articles. The articles are supplied to the container via a supply line 34 and, in use, are arranged to exit the container through an outlet and down a distributing chute 36 on to a target material. A restrictor 18, which is arranged in the region of the outlet, is operable to determine the extent at which the outlet is restricted and therefore the egress of the articles from the container. The distributor device further comprises an agitator 78, which, in use, assists the articles from moving past the restrictor and also from locking together in the container or supply line. In use, relative movement of the distributor and target material, which includes a pre-laid encapsulant surface, assists in the distribution of a retroreflective deposit that has a different retroreflective character from light emanating from a common source.

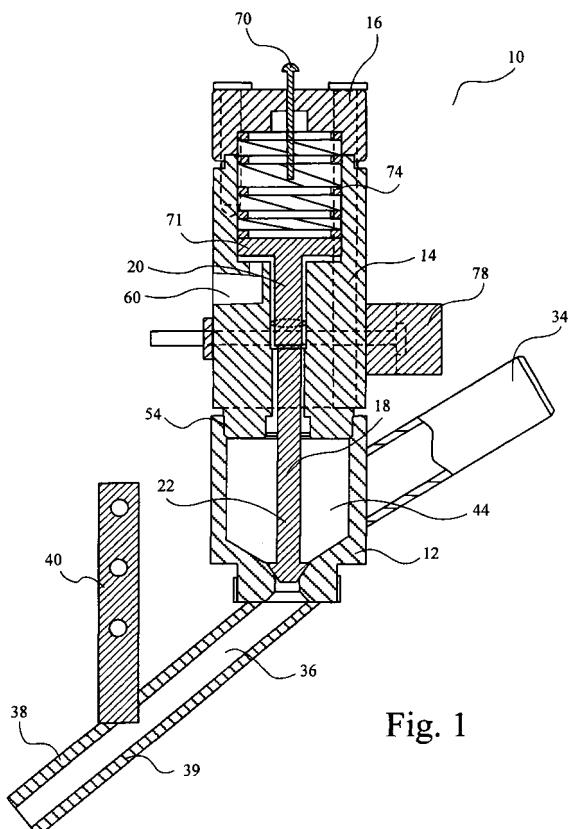


Fig. 1



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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 06 25 2142

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.

06-06-2007

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