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(54) **Dunnage converter with separation device and method**

(57) A tabletop converter (30) has a conversion assembly that inwardly gathers and crumples a stock material (32) to form a strip (34) of dunnage. The conversion assembly includes a feeding assembly (54) that moves the stock material and a controller (60) that controls the feeding assembly to operate in both a forward direction and a reverse direction. To automatically separate a discrete dunnage product from the strip, a holder (164) grabs

and holds the strip of dunnage at a holding location downstream of the feeding assembly. The feeding assembly then operates in a reverse direction and urges the strip away from the holding location. This causes the strip to separate at or between the holding location and the feeding assembly, leaving a discrete dunnage product ready for use. The converter is mounted to a stand (40) that allows the converter to rotate relative to part of the stand about both a horizontal axis and a vertical axis.

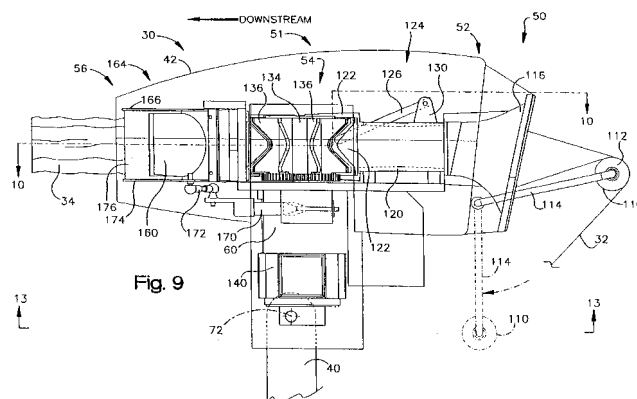


Fig. 9



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 07 7150

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	US 2002/082152 A1 (MANLEY THOMAS E [US]) 27 June 2002 (2002-06-27) * abstract; figure 2 * -----	1	INV. B31D5/00 B26F3/00 B65H35/10 B31F1/28 B31D1/02
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B31D B26F B65H B31F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 16 January 2012	Examiner Farizon, Pascal
<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)



Application Number

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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:

☒ 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:

1-8

☐ 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).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 06 07 7150

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: 1-8

Guide member extending through a gap between grippers

2. claims: 9, 10

Stand

3. claim: 11

Axis of motor parallel to the axis of the rotating member

4. claim: 12

Constant entry guide

5. claim: 13

Gripper including an aperture

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

EP 06 07 7150

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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16-01-2012

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002082152 A1	27-06-2002	NONE	

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82