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(54) **Pusher apparatus**

(57) Pusher apparatus e.g. for pushing a row of cigarette packets towards the front of a shelf is disclosed. The leading package is arranged down to drop down a step at one end of a track (1) and be held in the dropped position against a stop (8) by gentle pressure on the entire row from a pusher (3). By locating a damped movement

connection, for example a rack (35) engaged by a damped pinion (36) mounted on the pusher (3), the movement of the pusher itself maybe sufficiently damped to enable certain and repeatable dropping of the leading package as the row of packages is advanced, following the repeated removal of the leading one.

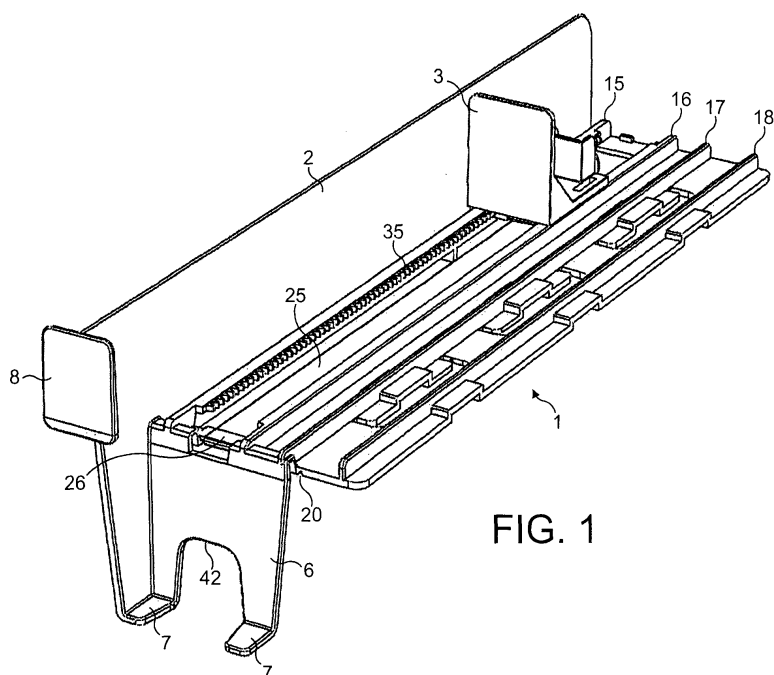


FIG. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 25 4509

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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Y	* page 5, line 24 - page 6, line 30 * * claims 1-8 * * figures 2,6,8 *	5,6	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A47F
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		20 July 2010	Linden, Stefan
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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