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(54) Method and apparatus for conditioning coins

(57) A coin conditioner is provided for cleaning or otherwise conditioning coins in a coin discriminator apparatus prior to transfer to a coin sensor. Coins enter through a feed tray (1302) and move down the length of a perforated tumbler (1314), preferably without the use of gravity, such as under screw force, mechanical or centrifugal force. The spinning tumbler is preferably rotated about its longitudinal axis by a motor (1352). In one embodiment, a blower or vacuum draws or moves air from one area to another, with the air preferably being filtered. As coins move through and down a tumbler, projections such as vanes (1922a), fins, ridges, dimples (1820), spines or other raised features cause mechanical agitation and/or abrasion as coins are lifted and dropped while passing longitudinally through the tumbler. The coins are conditioned and non-coin matter is collected as it is separated and/or abraded from the coin surfaces. Tumbler perforations permit non-coin matter to pass through the perforations into a collection tray or other apparatus and/or are collected into filter media as a result of the air flow. In one embodiment, the air pressure system eliminates or reduces the occurrence of low density or light non-coin matter, such as hair or dust, and prevents these materials from settling or being carried through downstream portions of the coin processing system.

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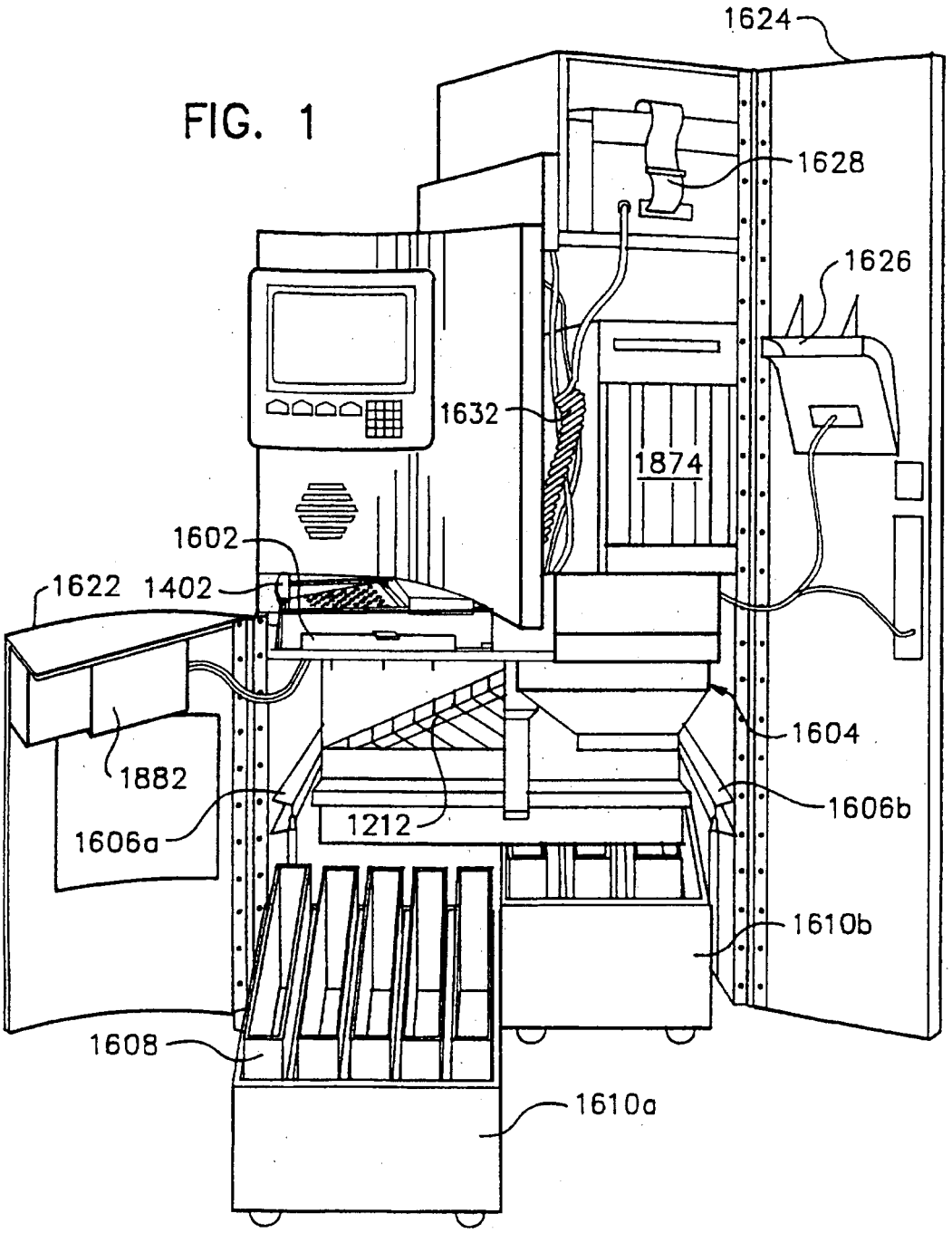
FIG. 1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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 01 5920

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G07D
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague	15 February 2008	Van Dop, Erik

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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