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(54) **Apparatuses for packing products**

(57) An apparatus comprises weakening promoting means (14) suitable for generating weakening line means (15, 16) on a sheet material (4), said weakening promoting means (14) comprising a serrated profile; an appa-

ratus comprises folding means (25), suitable for folding a first portion of said sheet material (4), on an adjacent second portion of said sheet material (4), said folding means comprising comb means (25) that acts on localised zones of said sheet material (4).

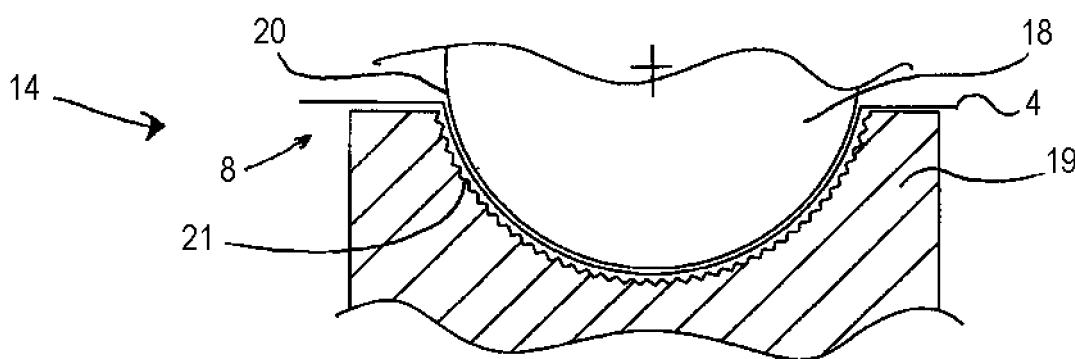


Fig. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 12 6308

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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X	US 6 119 439 A (STEVIE JOHN W [US]) 19 September 2000 (2000-09-19)	1-4,6	ADD. B26F1/18
A	* abstract; figure 2 * -----	5,7-24	
X	US 3 255 648 A (BUTTERY KENNETH T) 14 June 1966 (1966-06-14)	1-3,6,7	
A	* figures 1-5 * -----	4,5,8-24	
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A	* the whole document * -----	4,5,8-24	
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A	* pages 25,26; claims 125-127 * -----	13-24	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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A	* column 2, line 30 - line 60; figure 4 * -----	1-7, 13-24	
A	US 4 941 307 A (WOJCIK JOHN [US]) 17 July 1990 (1990-07-17)	11,12	
	* the whole document * -----		
6 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 28 April 2008	Examiner Wimmer, Martin
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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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☒ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

1-24

- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

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:

- ☐ 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**

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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: 1-7

A scoring station with serrated elements working together with an abutment element. Such an abutment element seems to avoid the need of a penetration stroke to be adjusted, which leads to a higher scoring quality and improved reliability.

2. claims: 8-15

A packing apparatus with a forming station a folding station and gripping means that are suitable to lock together two edge portions. Such a gripping means eases the welding together of two portions to one container and thus improves the welding process.

3. claims: 16-24

A packing apparatus with a folding station comprising comb means that act on localised zones of said sheet material. Since the comb means touch the sheet material on dedicated zones, which do not interfere with zones that affect cavity portions, the problem of damaging these cavity portions is eliminated and therefore a more precise folding process is enabled.

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

EP 06 12 6308

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.

28-04-2008

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