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(54) **Product grouping station**

(57) A product grouping station (1), of the type that comprises a product pickup and conveyance member (2), a unit (3) for forming groups of products and a compaction apparatus (4). The station (1) comprises at least one movable carriage (5), which is arranged downstream of the pickup and conveyance member (2), for insertion in at least one compartment (6) of the products to be

grouped, a pusher (7) for transferring the groups of products in the compaction apparatus (4). The compaction apparatus (4) comprises at least one lateral face (8) that can perform a translational motion from a maximum distance with respect to the face (9) that lies opposite thereto to a minimum distance, in order to reduce the overall bulk of the group.

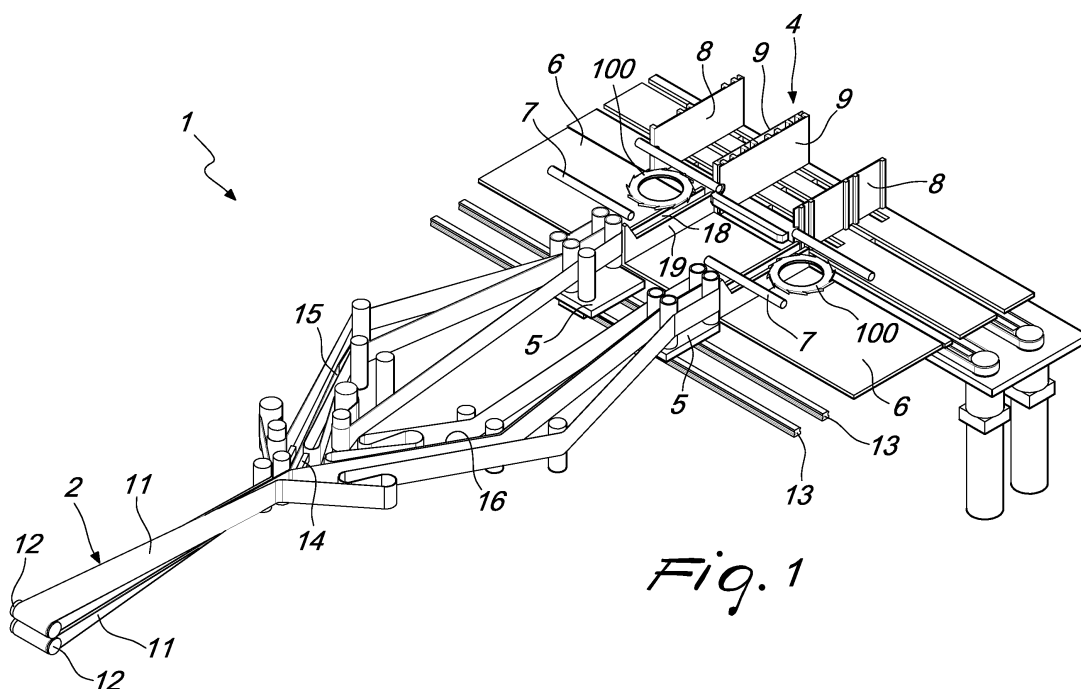


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 09 17 0928

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Y	US 6 170 635 B1 (ROMMELLI GUIDO [IT]) 9 January 2001 (2001-01-09) * abstract * * figures 1-7 * * column 3, line 36 - line 47 * * column 7, line 63 - line 64 * * column 4, line 38 - line 39 *	1-10	INV. B65B35/40 B65B63/02 B65G47/64 B65H29/50 B65H31/06
Y	EP 1 619 128 A1 (KAIBEL & SIEBER MASCHF GMBH [DE]) 25 January 2006 (2006-01-25) * abstract * * figure 1 *	1-10	ADD. B65B25/14
A	DE 10 2006 045087 A1 (FOCKE & CO [DE]) 27 March 2008 (2008-03-27) * abstract * * paragraph [0031] * * figures 1-2, 7, 11 *	2-3,6-8	
A	EP 1 216 923 A1 (GAMBERINI GIANLUIGI [IT]) TISSUE MACHINERY COMPANY S P A [IT]) 26 June 2002 (2002-06-26) * abstract * * figures 1-3 *	1-10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A	EP 0 501 382 A2 (RUSINA VIRGINIO SPATOLISANO FR [IT]) 2 September 1992 (1992-09-02) * the whole document *	1-10	B65B B65G B65H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 25 November 2009	Examiner Damiani, Alberto
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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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



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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:

1-10

☐ 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

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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: 1-10

A product grouping station with a conveyance member comprising a redirection unit

2. claim: 11

A product grouping station wherein the pusher can slide along slots from a raised configuration

3. claims: 12-13

A product grouping station with elements forming a containment and a covering roof

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

EP 09 17 0928

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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25-11-2009

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