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(54) **Apparatus for packaging articles and method for same**

(57) An apparatus for transferring articles (A) initially conveyed in an infeed stream (5) into cartons (C) conveyed in an outfeed stream (11), which apparatus (2) comprises first conveyor (4), a second conveyor (6) and a third conveyor (8), a first transfer means (9) and a second transfer means (14), the first conveyor (4) being operable to convey the infeed stream (5) comprising articles (A) disposed in a first arrangement, the first transfer means (9) being operable to engage and transfer selected articles from the infeed stream (5) onto the second

conveyor (6) to form a second stream (13) comprising articles (A) disposed in a second arrangement, the second transfer means (14) being operable to transfer articles (A) disposed in said second arrangement into one or more of said cartons (C) conveyed by said third conveyor (8) at a second transfer rate, said second transfer rate being faster than a first transfer rate at which the second transfer means would otherwise be operable to transfer articles disposed in said first arrangement directly into said one or more of said cartons (C).

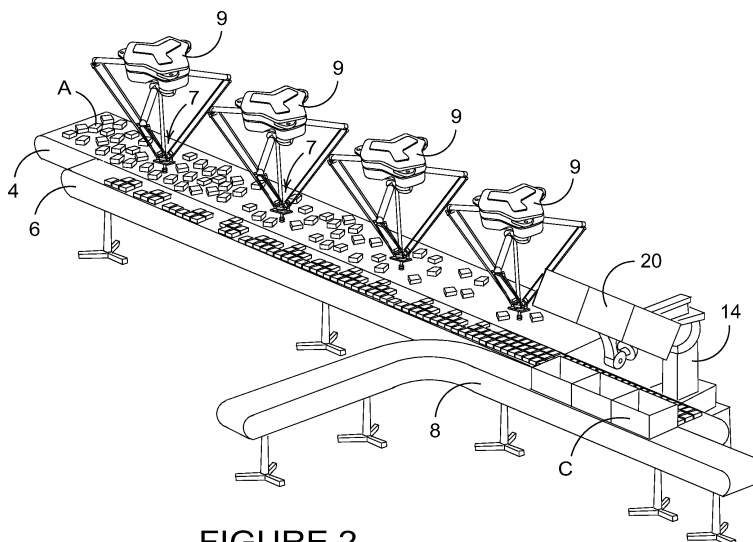


FIGURE 2



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

 Application Number
 EP 09 17 5450

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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Y	WO 2006/061024 A1 (SCANVAEGT INT AS [DK]; NIELSEN ULRICH CARLIN [DK]; GRUNDTVIG HENRIK [D]) 15 June 2006 (2006-06-15) * the whole document *	1-9,14,15	
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A	DE 198 20 537 A1 (KERLER RUDOLF [DE]; HESSE UWE [DE]) 18 November 1999 (1999-11-18) * column 6, line 16 - line 24; figure 1 *	14	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B65B
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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> </div>			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 31 August 2011	Examiner Johne, Olaf
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:

1-11, 13-15

☐ 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).



**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: 1-9, 14, 15

transferring articles into one or more cartons at a second transfer rate;

2. claims: 10, 11, 13

transferring selected articles from the second conveyor into one or more cartons;

3. claim: 12

transferring articles to selected locations on the second conveyor;

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

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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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31-08-2011

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