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(72) Inventor: **Reynolds, Michael Anthony**
Christchurch Dorset BH22 4NF (GB)

(74) Representative: **Locke, Andrew Robert**
Barker Brettell LLP
Medina Chambers
Town Quay
Southampton
SO14 2AQ (GB)

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(71) Applicant: **Reynolds, Michael Anthony**
Christchurch Dorset BH22 4NF (GB)

(54) **An automatic blister pack pill dispenser**

(57) An automated blister pack pill dispenser (1) is provided to enable pills to be dispensed from relatively quickly and in relatively large numbers from blister packs. The dispenser (1) is provided with sensors (9, 19) operative to detect the size of the blister pack, and the position of the blister pockets on the blister pack. The sensors (9, 19) generate a signal used by a controller (51) to alter the relative transverse and longitudinal position of a pill dispensing head (25) comprising an electronic plunger (33) such that the plunger (33) is aligned with a blister

pocket. When so aligned, the electronic plunger (33) is actuated to force a pill from the blister pack. The controller (51) is then operative to index the blister pack, or the pill dispensing head (25), such that the plunger (33) is aligned with the next blister pocket in the row. When the row is completed, the controller (51) is operative to adjust the relative position of the blister pack and the pill dispensing head (25) such that the plunger is aligned with the second row of blister pockets.

The sensors may comprise cameras.

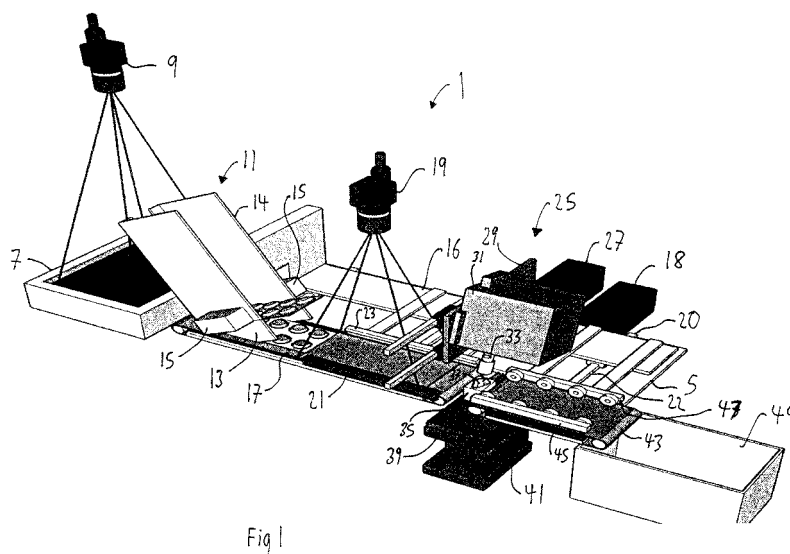


Fig 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 10 17 3078

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 23 November 2012	Examiner Lawder, M
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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EP 10 17 3078

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