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(54) **Machine for packaging articles**

(57) A packaging machine for loading articles into cartons to form packages, wherein the cartons and the articles in the packages may be of various different types and/or sizes, wherein the packaging machine comprises a carton erection device, a carton conveying mechanism, an article supply device for loading the cartons from at

least one end, a regulation device for regulating supply of the articles to the carton, an article grouping device, a control means, and a gluing mechanism for application of glue and for securing end panels of the carton, wherein all the components are readily adaptable to accommodate a change in package configuration.

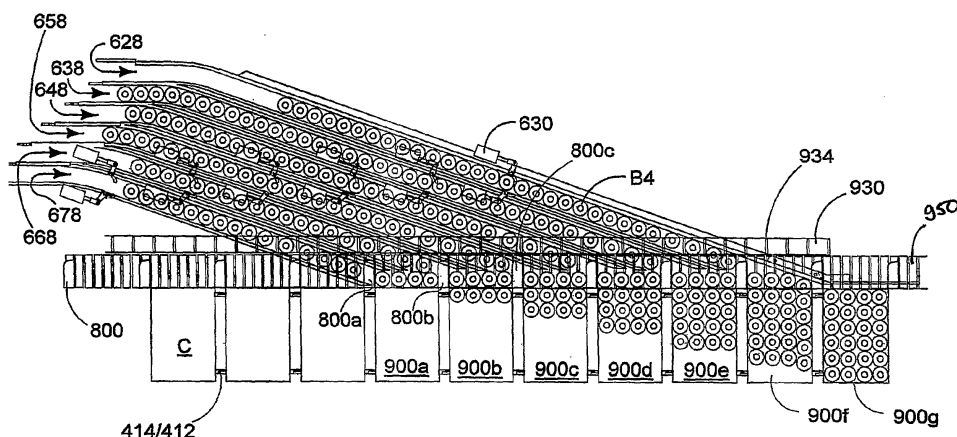


FIGURE 24



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 10 19 7442

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 5 711 137 A (MONCRIEF FRANK [US] ET AL) 27 January 1998 (1998-01-27)	1,12	INV. B65B57/06 B65B21/24 B65B59/00 B65B21/06
A	* abstract * * column 6, line 45 - line 62 * * column 15, line 13 - line 14 * * figures 2-4 * * column 3, line 4 - column 4, line 15 *	3	
A	----- WO 97/25246 A1 (MEAD CORP [US]; CHALENDAR ERIC [FR]) 17 July 1997 (1997-07-17) * abstract * * figure 7 *	1,3,12	
A	----- US 4 578 054 A (HERRIN ROBERT M [US]) 25 March 1986 (1986-03-25) * abstract * * figures 1-6 *	1,3,12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B65B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 25 June 2012	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)



Application Number

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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, 3, 12

☐ 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
EP 10 19 7442

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, 3, 12

A machine and a method for packaging articles wherein the carton erection device comprises a cam mechanism.

2. claims: 2, 13

A machine and a method for packaging articles into cartons with means for handling the case of absence of carton blank.

3. claim: 4

A machine and a method for packaging articles wherein the carton conveying mechanism with adjustable carton engaging lugs.

4. claims: 5, 6

A machine for packaging articles with special article supply means.

5. claims: 7, 14, 15

A machine and a method for packaging articles with a plurality of tributary channels.

6. claims: 8-11

A machine for packaging articles wherein the article grouping device comprises interchangeable lugs.

**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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25-06-2012

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