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(54) **Machine for packaging, by sealing with synthetic film, products, particularly food products, in containers such as trays, tubs or the like, with high flexibility in use**

(57) A machine (1) for packaging, by sealing with synthetic film, products, particularly food products, in containers such as trays, tubs or the like, the machine (1) comprising means (3) for moving the containers (60), in which the products to be packaged are arranged, along an advancement direction (4) from a station (5) for loading the containers (60) to a station (6) for unloading the containers (60), between the loading station (5) and the unloading station (6) a packaging station (7) being provided with means (8, 9) for positioning a sealing film (10, 11) on the upper side to be sealed of the containers (60) and with means (12, 13) for heat-sealing the sealing film (10, 11) on the containers (60), in the packaging station (7) at least two packaging chambers (14, 15) being provided and each one of these packaging chambers (14 or 15) being served by corresponding means (8, 9) for positioning a sealing film (10, 11), which can be used autonomously with respect to the ones that serve another packaging chamber (15 or 14) located in the packaging station (7).

11) on the upper side to be sealed of the containers (60) and with means (12, 13) for heat-sealing the sealing film (10, 11) on the containers (60), in the packaging station (7) at least two packaging chambers (14, 15) being provided and each one of these packaging chambers (14 or 15) being served by corresponding means (8, 9) for positioning a sealing film (10, 11), which can be used autonomously with respect to the ones that serve another packaging chamber (15 or 14) located in the packaging station (7).

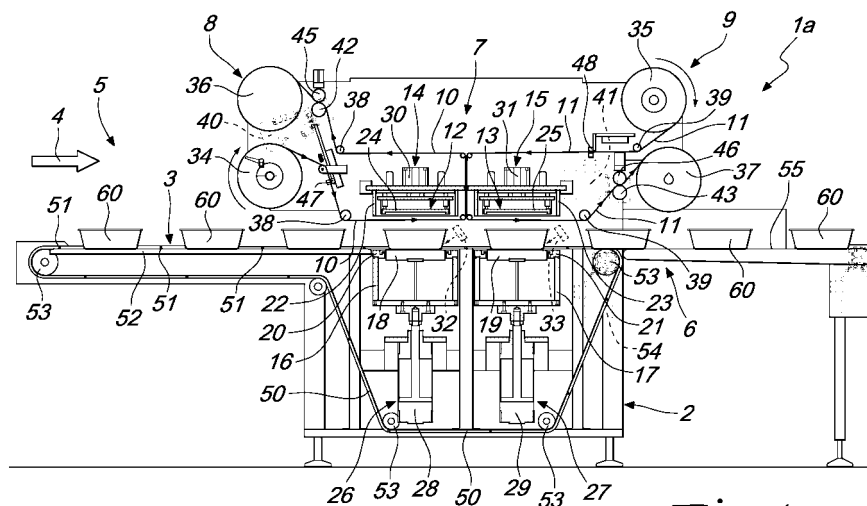


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 11 15 7792

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	WO 94/27868 A2 (WORLD CLASS PACKAGING SYST [US]; GORLICH MICHAEL P [US]; MCPHERSON ROB) 8 December 1994 (1994-12-08)	1,6	INV. B65B7/16 B65B31/02 B65B59/02
A	* abstract * * figures 5,15 * * page 14, line 24 - line 28 * * page 17, line 9 - line 10 * -----	2-5	ADD. B65B51/14
X	EP 1 935 789 A1 (JOERG VON SEGGERN MASCHB GMBH [DE]) 25 June 2008 (2008-06-25)	1-5	
A	* abstract * * paragraph [0027] - paragraph [0031] * * figures 1-7 * * paragraph [0040] * * column 7, line 23 - line 24 * * paragraph [0038] * * column 7, line 25 - line 27 * -----	6	
A	EP 1 842 776 A2 (AWAX PROGETTAZIONE [IT] GRUPPO FABBRI S P A [IT]) 10 October 2007 (2007-10-10) * the whole document *	1-6	
A	US 2005/257501 A1 (NATTERER JOHANN [DE]) 24 November 2005 (2005-11-24) * the whole document * -----	1-6	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 5 September 2011	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 03.02 (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:

1-6

☐ 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 11 15 7792

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: 1-6

A packaging machine with chambers comprising a lower bell and an upper bell, hermetically mutually engageable.

2. claim: 7

A packaging machine with means for heating the sealing film along its path.

3. claim: 8

A packaging machine with chains and, fixed to them, traction elements being engageable with the containers to be packaged.

4. claim: 9

A packaging machine with an element which can control the at least two packaging chambers alternately or simultaneously or sequentially according to preset programs.

5. claim: 10

A packaging machine with a conveyor in the unloading station.

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

EP 11 15 7792

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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05-09-2011

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