



(11) **EP 2 422 632 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
**25.04.2012 Bulletin 2012/17**

(51) Int Cl.:  
**A24C 5/02 (2006.01)**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**29.02.2012 Bulletin 2012/09**

(21) Application number: **11179471.5**

(22) Date of filing: **31.08.2011**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**  
Designated Extension States:  
**BA ME**

(30) Priority: **31.08.2010 US 378399 P**

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(54) **Cigarettes filling machine**

(57) The present invention relates to electrical cigarettes filling machine with supporting additional accessories such as:

- Inlet storage container, for storing bulk tobacco and providing continual and smooth feeding of tobacco to the electrical cigarettes filling machine. -Internal device located in the container such as rotating mixer avoid the stack of tobacco inside the container to control the fluent continual supply of tobacco to the electrical cigarettes filling machine.

- The electrical cigarettes filling machine which may contain one or more feeding systems for a simultaneously easy and quick filling of few empty cigarettes tubes in parallel, with tobacco.

- The machine has also an option for tip cleaner system for removing excess tobacco from the cigarette tip.

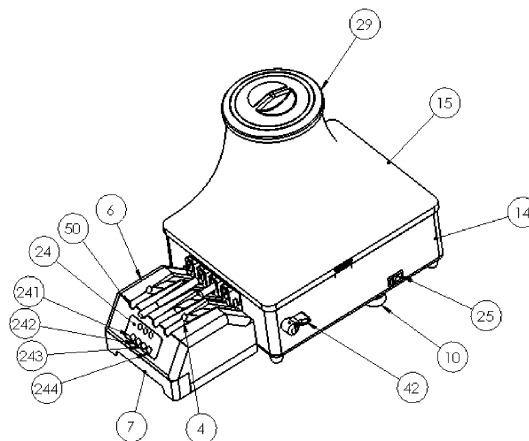


Fig 1



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 11 17 9471

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	DE 198 12 644 A1 (BAT CIGARETTENFAB GMBH [DE]) 30 September 1999 (1999-09-30) * column 2, line 36 - column 3, line 11 * * column 7, lines 11-46 * * figures *	1-8	INV. A24C5/02
X	WO 2009/094703 A1 (YANG JUN [AU]) 6 August 2009 (2009-08-06) * page 2, line 19 - page 3, line 33 * * page 5, line 14 - page 6, line 12 * * figures 1,2 *	1-8	
X	WO 02/056714 A1 (JOHN PLAYER & SONS LTD [IE]; RUPPERT HEINRICH W [DE]; TOFINI KIM [DK];) 25 July 2002 (2002-07-25) * page 18, line 23 - page 19, line 19; figures 6-9 *	1-8	
X	FR 2 716 344 A1 (DECOUFLE SARL [FR]) 25 August 1995 (1995-08-25) * abstract; figure 3 *	1	
X	US 3 699 975 A (SARABER PETRUS GERARDUS) 24 October 1972 (1972-10-24) * abstract; figures 1,2 *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) A24C
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X	US 2008/006284 A1 (BARNES VERNON BRENT [US] ET AL) 10 January 2008 (2008-01-10) * paragraphs [0007], [0047], [0070], [0085]; figures *	9	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 20 March 2012	Examiner Kock, Søren
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:

☐ 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: 1-8

A cigarette filling machine. The inlet of the storage container for bulk tobacco is sealed in order to isolate the tobacco from surrounding humidity conditions.

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2. claim: 9

A system for removing excess tobacco from the end of cigarettes opposite the buccal end. The excess tobacco is removed and dropped into a drawer for reuse. The removal is performed by e.g. vibration or by brushing and pulling of excess tobacco.

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**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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20-03-2012

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