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(54) **Gripping member of a bag for pharmaceutical products**

(57) A bag (2) for pharmaceutical products is gripped by a gripping member provided with two jaws (6, 7) movable between a gripping position and a releasing position of the bag (2), with a recess (19) obtained between the two jaws (6, 7) to accommodate therein at least one duct

(4) to access the content of the bag (2), and with a support pin (20) protruding into the recess (19) to allow the access duct (4) to be folded from a substantially rectilinear, initial configuration to a final configuration, where the access duct (4) is folded about the support element (20) itself.

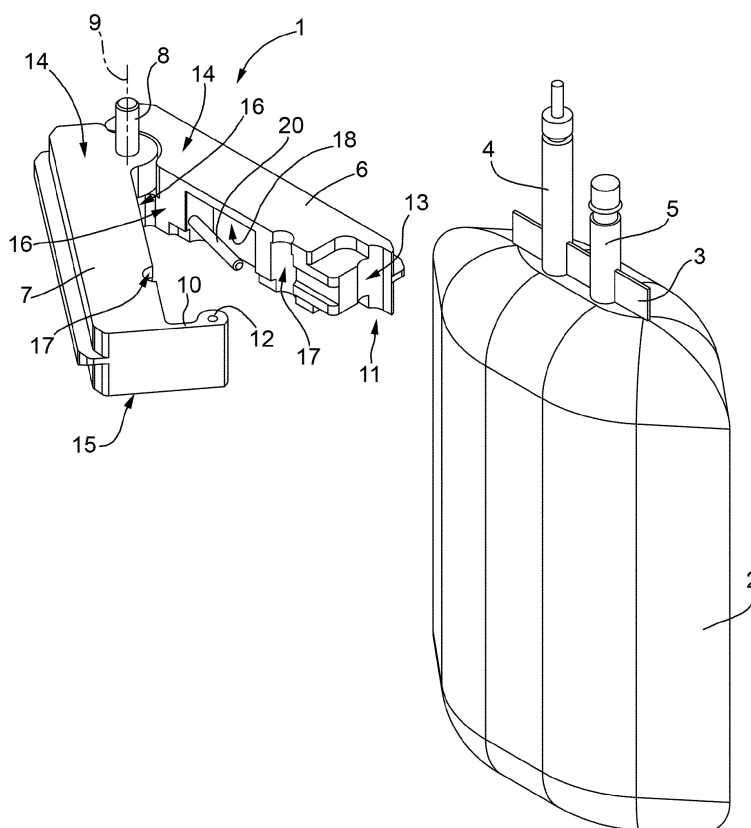


FIG.1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a gripping member of a bag for pharmaceutical products.

[0002] The bag is made of flexible material and is normally provided with an injection duct and with an infusion duct, which protrude upwards from an upper edge of the bag and allow to inject a pharmaceutical product into the bag and to take the pharmaceutical product from the bag itself, respectively.

[0003] The gripping member of the type described, for example, in international patent application WO-2008012596-A2, is generally used in an automatic machine for the preparation of pharmaceutical products, and comprises two substantially flat, shaped gripping jaws hinged to each other to rotate with respect to each other about a given fulcrum axis between a clamping position and a releasing position of the bag.

[0004] The mentioned injection and infusion ducts protrude upwards from the jaws when the two jaws are arranged in their clamping position.

[0005] As the infusion duct is relatively long and longer than the injection duct, the known gripping members of the above-described type have some drawbacks mainly deriving from that the infusion duct may fold over the injection duct, thus preventing the injection duct itself from being accessed, and may interfere with the fixed parts of the automatic machine during the movements of the gripping member within the automatic machine itself.

[0006] It is the object of the present invention to provide a gripping member of a bag for pharmaceutical products which is free from the above-described drawbacks and which is simple and cost-effective to be implemented.

[0007] According to the present invention, a gripping member of a bag for pharmaceutical products is provided as claimed in the appended claims.

[0008] The present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, which show a non-limitative embodiment thereof, in which:

figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the gripping member according to the present invention and of a bag;

figures 2 and 3 are two perspective views of the gripping member and of the bag shown in two operating positions different from that shown in figure 1; and

figure 4 is a bottom view of the gripping member in figures 1, 2 and 3.

[0009] With reference to figures 1 and 2, numeral 1 indicates as a whole a gripping member normally used in an automatic machine (not shown) for the preparation of pharmaceutical products in order to grip and hold a bag 2 for pharmaceutical products of the known type.

[0010] Bag 2 is made of flexible material and has a substantially flat upper edge 2 provided, in this case, with two ducts 4, 5 to access the content of bag 2, of which the duct 4 is longer than duct 5.

[0011] The two ducts 4, 5 protrude upwards from edge 3, and allow to take the pharmaceutical product from bag 2 and to inject the pharmaceutical product into the bag 2 itself, respectively.

[0012] The gripping member 1 comprises two flat jaws 6, 7 which are substantially rectangular in shape and hinged to each other by means of the interposition of a substantially vertical coupling pin 8 in order to rotate with respect to each other about a longitudinal axis 9 of pin 8 between a clamping position (figure 3) and a releasing position (figures 1 and 2) of bag 2.

[0013] Jaw 7 is substantially L-shaped and provided with an elastically deformable fin 10, which extends perpendicularly from jaw 7 and protrudes towards jaw 6 from an end of jaw 7 opposite to pin 8.

[0014] The jaws 6, 7 are locked in their clamping position by means of a locking device 11 comprising a substantially cylindrical tooth 12 obtained at a free end of the fin 10, and a slot 13 which is obtained through an end of jaw 6 opposite pin 8, extends parallel to axis 9, has a circular shape, and is adapted to receive and hold tooth 12 upon a movement of the jaws 6, 7 to their clamping position.

[0015] With regards to the above description, it is worth noting that pin 8 protrudes upwards from the jaws 6, 7 to define a feeding element of the gripping member 1.

[0016] As shown in figures 1, 2, and 4, each jaw 6, 7 is limited by an upper face 14 and a lower face 15 substantially parallel to each other and perpendicular to axis 9, and is further limited by a substantially flat side face 16, which extends perpendicularly to the faces 14, 15, facing the face 16 of the other jaw 6, 7.

[0017] The face 16 of each jaw 6, 7 has a substantially semi-cylindrical slot 17, which extends through the jaw 6, 7 parallel to axis 9, opens outwards at the faces 14, 15, and 16, and cooperates with the slot 17 of the other jaw 6, 7 to receive and hold duct 5 upon the movement of the gripping member 1 to its clamping position, thus allowing duct 5 to protrude upwards from the jaws 6, 7.

[0018] The face 16 of each jaw 6, 7 further has a slot 18, which opens outwards at the faces 15 and 16, and cooperates with the slot 18 of the other jaw 6, 7 to define a chamber 19 (figure 4) adapted to receive and hold duct 4 when the gripping member 1 is arranged in its clamping position.

[0019] Slots 18, and thus chamber 19, are longitudinally open at face 15 and are longitudinally closed at face 14.

[0020] According to a variant (not shown), slots 18, and thus chamber 19, are longitudinally open both at face 14 and at face 15.

[0021] Jaw 6 is provided with a support pin 20, which extends transversally to axis 9, protrudes into chamber 19 from a side wall of the slot 18 of jaw 6, and allows duct 4 to be folded from an initial configuration (figure 1), where duct 4 is substantially rectilinear and oriented upwards, to a final configuration (figure 2), where duct 4 is folded downwards about the pin 20 itself.

[0022] The support pin 20 allows duct 4 to be folded within chamber 19, so as to prevent duct 4 from protruding upwards from the jaws 6, 7, from interfering with the fixed parts of the mentioned automatic machine (not shown) during the movements of the gripping member 1 within the automatic machine (not shown) itself, and from folding over duct 5, thus preventing the duct 5 itself from being accessed.

Claims

1. A gripping member of a bag (2) for pharmaceutical products, the bag (2) having at least a first duct (4) to access the content of the bag (2), the gripping member comprising two jaws (6, 7), which are movable between a clamping position and a releasing position of the bag (2), and are shaped so as to define, when arranged in their clamping position, a first recess (19) adapted to accommodate the first access duct (4); and being **characterized in that** it further comprises a support pin (20), which protrudes into the first recess (19), so as to allow the first access duct (4) to be folded from an initial configuration, where the first access duct (4) is substantially rectilinear, to a final configuration, where the first access duct (4) is folded about the support element (20) and inside the first recess (19).
2. A gripping member according to claim 1, wherein each jaw (6, 7) is limited by an end face (16) facing the other jaw (6, 7), and comprises a slot (18), which opens outwards at the corresponding end face (16), and defines the first recess (19), together with the slot (18) of the other jaw (6, 7).
3. A gripping member according to claim 2, wherein the support pin (20) protrudes from a side wall of the slot (18) of one of the jaws (6, 7).
4. A gripping member according to claim 2 or 3, wherein each jaw (6, 7) is delimited by an upper face (14) and by a lower face (15), which are substantially parallel to each other; the corresponding slot (18) being longitudinally open at the lower face (15) and longitudinally closed at the upper face (14).
5. A gripping member according to claim 2 or 3, wherein each jaw (6, 7) is delimited by an upper face (14) and by a lower face (15), which are substantially parallel to each other; the corresponding slot (18) being longitudinally open both at the lower face (15) and at the upper face (14).
6. A gripping member according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the two jaws (6, 7) are pivotally coupled to each other, so as to rotate with respect to each other about a fulcrum axis (9); the support

element (20) comprising a pin protruding into the first recess (19) transversally to the fulcrum axis (9) itself.

7. A gripping member according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the two jaws (6, 7) are shaped so as to further define a second recess (17) adapted to accommodate a second duct (5) to access the content of the bag (2), when they are arranged in their clamping position.
8. A gripping member according to any one of the preceding claims and further comprising a locking device (11) to lock the two jaws (6, 7) in their clamping position.
9. A gripping member according to claim 8, wherein the locking device (11) comprises an elastically deformable tooth (12) obtained in a first said jaw (6, 7) and a further slot (13) obtained in a second said jaw (6, 7), so as to receive and hold the tooth (12) upon a movement of the jaws (6, 7) to their clamping position.
10. A gripping member according to claim 9, wherein the first jaw (6, 7) is substantially L-shaped, and comprises an elastically deformable fin (10), which protrudes perpendicularly to the first jaw (6, 7) to define said tooth (12).
11. A gripping member according to any one of the preceding claims and further comprising a hooking device (8) protruding from said jaws (6, 7), so as to allow the gripping member to be moved.

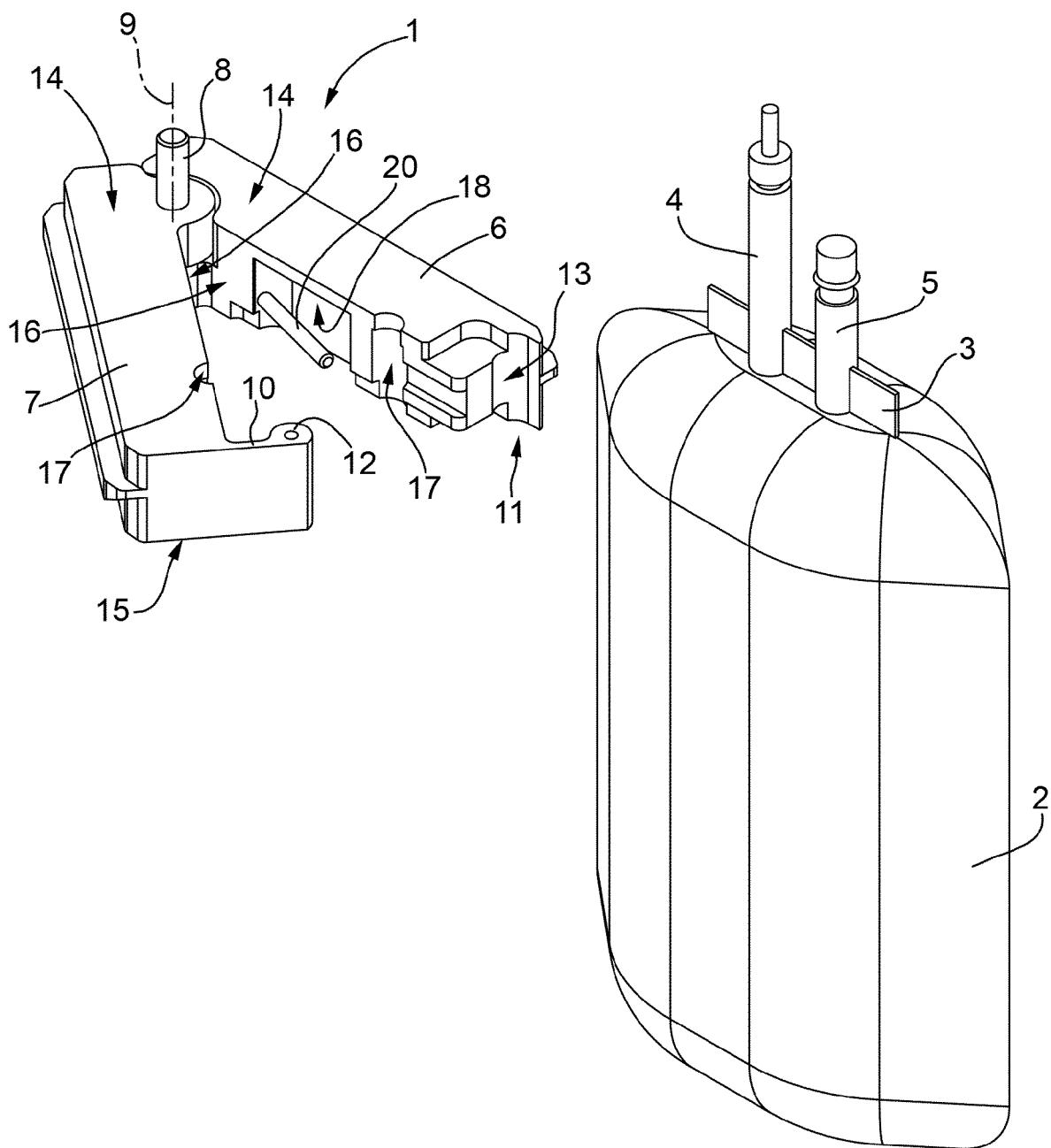
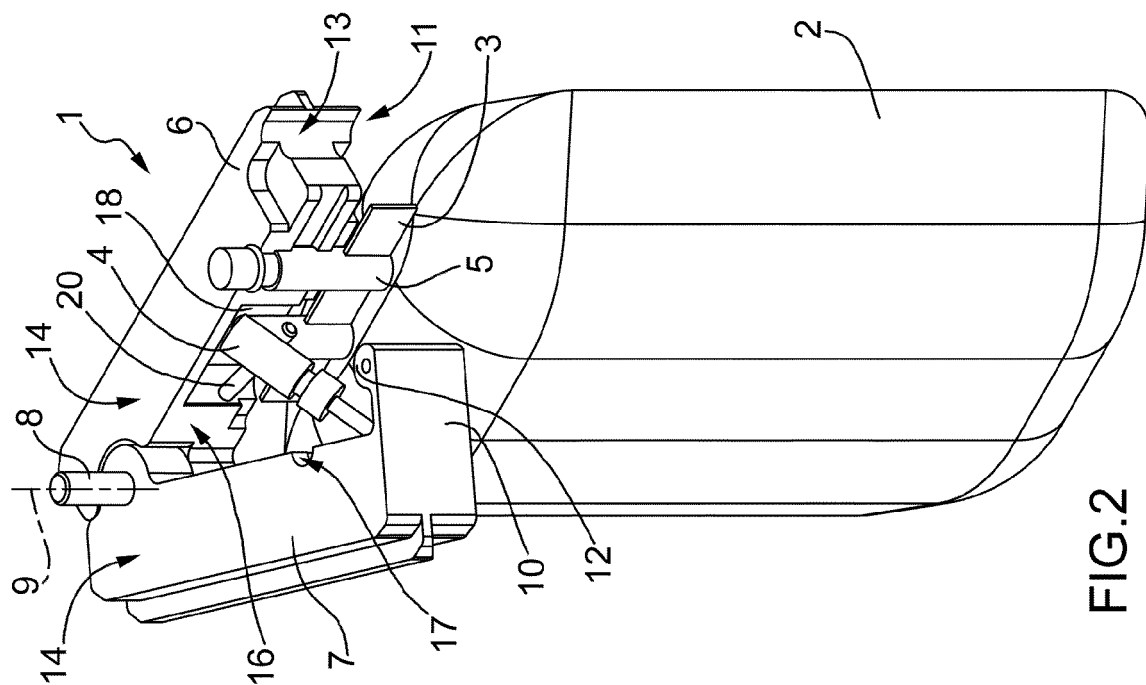
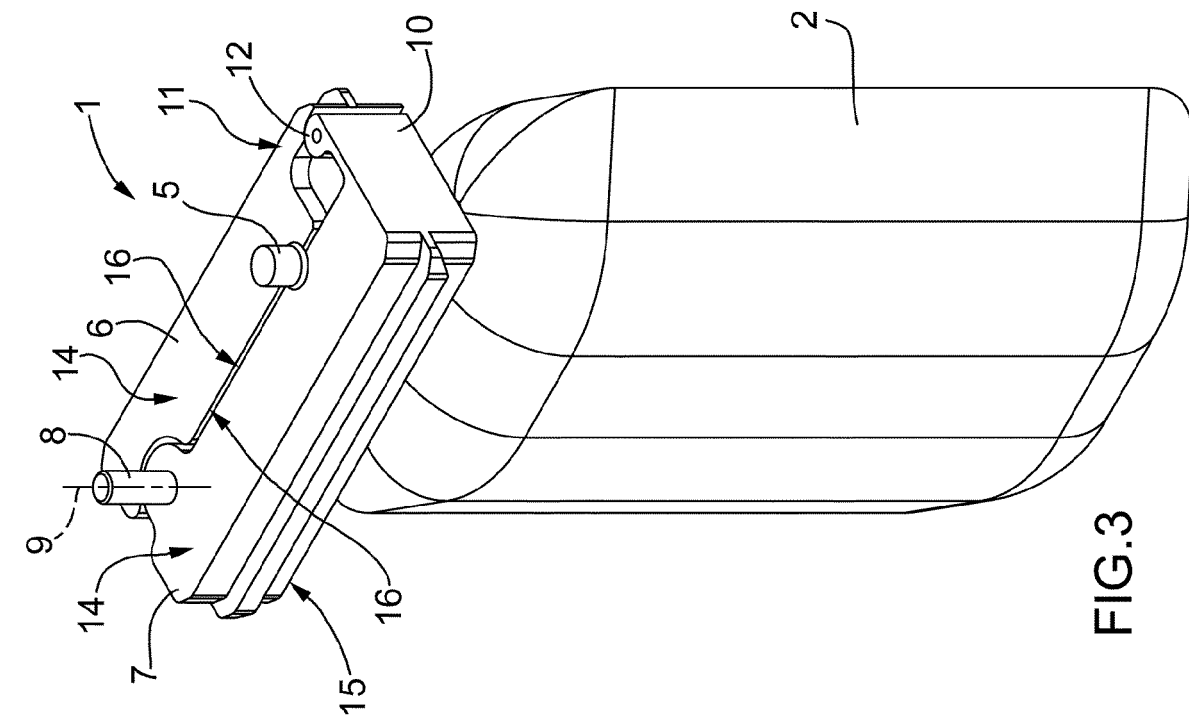


FIG.1



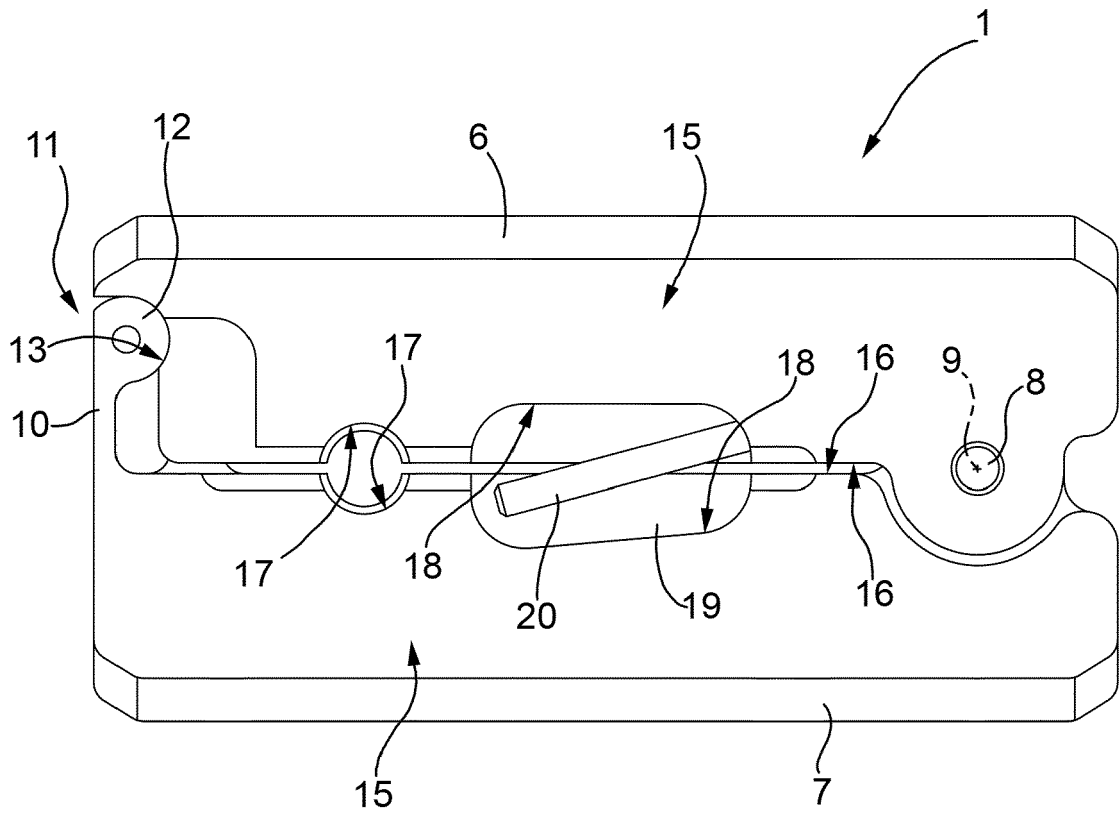


FIG.4



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Application Number
EP 12 16 1927

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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 13 September 2012	Examiner Ceccarelli, David
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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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