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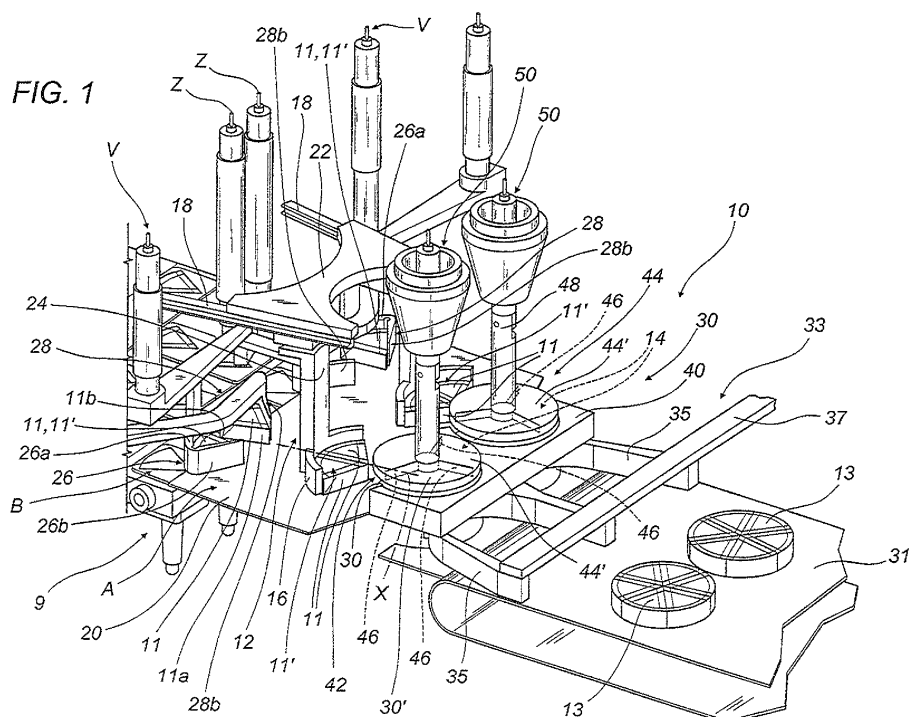
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(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
07804985.5 / 2 069 208

(54) **Device for forming groups of packages**

(57) A device (10) for grouping together packages (11) of a product, in particular for forming a group (13) to be packed in a suitable container, comprises means (12) for positioning the packages (11) at a grouping area (14), where said means (12) for positioning the packages at

the grouping area comprise package feed means that move between a position where they pick up the packages to a position inside the grouping area where the packages are released.





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 12 15 8125

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	DE 671 603 C (KUSTNER FRERES CIE SA) 10 February 1939 (1939-02-10)	1-3,7,8, 14,15	INV. B65B25/12
Y	* page 3, line 21 - line 29 * * figures 1, 3 * * page 1, line 27 * * page 2, line 114 - line 118 * -----	4-6	B65B35/40 B65B35/54 B65B35/58
X	FR 1 481 439 A (UNILEVER NV) 19 May 1967 (1967-05-19)	1-3,7,8, 14,15	ADD. B65B5/06
A	* figure 1 * * page 2, paragraph 6 * * column 4, line 14 * -----	4-6	
X	WO 03/091105 A1 (CORRAZZA S P A [IT]; BIANCHI MAURO [IT]) 6 November 2003 (2003-11-06)	1-3,7-15	
A	* abstract * * page 6, line 1 - page 7, line 11 * * figures 1, 2A, 4 * -----	4-6	
Y	US 5 666 789 A (ZIEGLER KELLY W [US]) 16 September 1997 (1997-09-16)	4-6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
	* abstract * * figures 1,2, 6 * -----		B65B
A	DE 12 79 531 B (FROMAGETIES BELI LA VACHE QUI) 3 October 1968 (1968-10-03)	9-15	
	* figures 5-6 * * page 10, line 8 - line 44 * -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 5 March 2014	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

EP 12 15 8125

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
EP 12 15 8125

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 device for grouping together packages with means for rotating the packages at the grouping area.

2. claims: 9-13

A device for grouping together packages with means for feeding the group out of the grouping area.

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

EP 12 15 8125

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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05-03-2014

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