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(54) **HORIZONTAL FLEXIBLE CONTAINER FORMING AND FILLING MACHINE AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING A CUTTING DEVICE OF SAID MACHINE**

(57) The machine comprises a conveyor device moving a continuous band of preformed containers (BP) step by step in a forward movement direction (D), a cutting device (2) with cutting blades (3a, 3b) operated for cutting the continuous band of preformed containers (BP) transversely in sites related with transverse welding lines (ST) of the continuous band of preformed containers (BP), and an automatic cutting correction device comprising detection means (4) arranged for detecting a plurality of successive detectable elements (21) in the continuous band of preformed containers (BP), and an actuator (5) operatively connected for moving and positioning the cutting device (2) along guide means parallel to the forward movement direction (D) in response to a positioning signal generated from a detection signal emitted by said detection means (4).

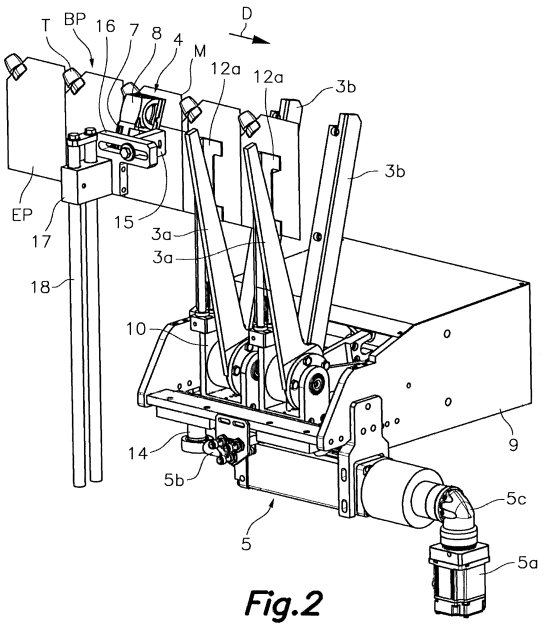


Fig.2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 13 38 0035

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 5 807 222 A (TOTANI MIKIO [JP]) 15 September 1998 (1998-09-15) * column 5 - column 6; figures 1-8 * -----	1-8,11, 12	INV. B31B1/16 B65B5/02
A	US 4 299 151 A (BURTON CHARLES A) 10 November 1981 (1981-11-10) * the whole document * -----	1-8,11, 12	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)

B31B
B65B
B26D

~~The present search report has been drawn up for all claims~~

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich	29 January 2014	Sundqvist, Stefan

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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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:

1-8, 11, 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).

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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 13 38 0035

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, 11, 12

   Guiding and moving a movable support with respect to a fixed support (claims 5 to 8 as dependent on claims 1 to 4; the subject-matter of claims 1 and 11 as well as claims 2, 3 and 12 being corresponding).

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2. claim: 9

   Guiding a web (claim 9 as dependent on claims 1 to 4).

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3. claim: 10

   Operating the cutters (claim 10 as dependent on claims 1 to 4).

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4. claims: 13, 14

   Controlling a vision control system (claims 13 and 14 as dependent on claims 11 and 12).

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 13 38 0035

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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29-01-2014

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		DE 69514972 T2	20-07-2000
		EP 0701895 A2	20-03-1996
		ES 2141889 T3	01-04-2000
		US 5807222 A	15-09-1998
US 4299151 A	10-11-1981	NONE	

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82