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(54) **MACHINE AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING PACKAGES OF CONTAINERS, IN PARTICULAR CONTAINERS OF POURABLE FOOD PRODUCTS**

(57) A machine for producing packages of containers, in particular containers of pourable food, comprises:
- a first feeding device (4) for feeding a plurality of containers (100),
- a second feeding device (8) for feeding a succession of empty inner boxes (200),
- a filling station (6) having a manipulator (7) configured to pick up at least one group of containers (100) fed by the first feeding device (4) and to release the at least one

group of containers (100) in at least one respective inner box (200) fed by the second feeding device (8),
- a packing station (9) where each inner box (200) filled with the containers (100) is enclosed into a respective outer box (300) having an open lid, and
- a closing station (400) located downstream of the packing station (9) for closing the lid of each outer box (300) to obtain a closed package.

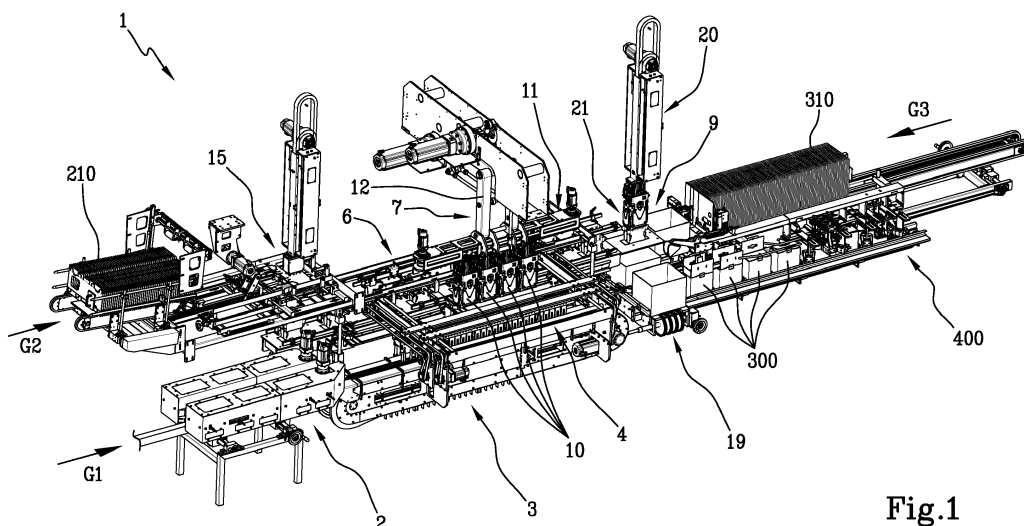


Fig.1



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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 4 September 2018	Examiner Vassoille, Philippe
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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Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 4 September 2018	Examiner Vassoille, Philippe	
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:

☐ 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: 1-6, 14

are directed to box formers

2. claim: 7

is directed to divaricating means for facilitating insertion of containers into a box

3. claims: 8-10

are directed to manipulating/gripping means for transferring of containers

4. claims: 11, 15

are directed to inserting means for inserting a inner box into an outer box

5. claims: 12, 13

are directed to placing a separating layer in the inner box between layers of containers

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