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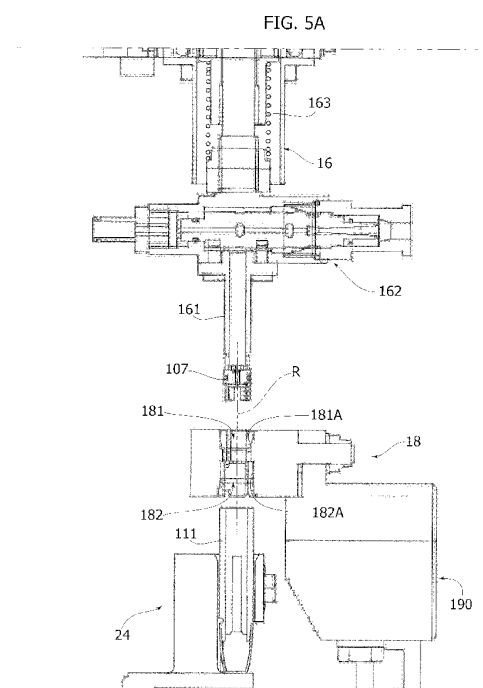
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(54) **AN APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR APPLYING A CLOSURE ELEMENT TO A RECEPTACLE BODY OF A CARTRIDGE, PARTICULARLY A CARTRIDGE FOR ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES**

(57) An apparatus and method is described for applying a closure element (107) to a receptacle body (111) of a cartridge for electronic cigarettes. The apparatus uses a centering unit (18) which allows the two components to be placed in a predetermined reciprocal position, for correctly applying the closing element on the receptacle body.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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 EP 19 20 2259

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Y	US 2017/259948 A1 (WERK TOBIAS [CH] ET AL) 14 September 2017 (2017-09-14)	1-3, 8-10, 12-14,17 6,7,15	INV. B65B7/16 B65B7/28
A	* abstract * * figures 1-3 * * paragraph [0067] * * paragraph [0070] - paragraph [0072] * * paragraph [0078] *		
Y	US 2003/056466 A1 (MUNEYASU SHIGENORI [JP]) 27 March 2003 (2003-03-27)	1-3, 8-10, 12-14,17 6,7,15	
A	* abstract * * paragraph [0059] * * figures 1, 4 *		
Y	US 4 286 389 A (OGLE ROBERT W) 1 September 1981 (1981-09-01)	2,17	
A	* abstract * * figures 1-5 *		
A	DE 103 18 731 A1 (BOSCH GMBH ROBERT [DE]) 11 November 2004 (2004-11-11)	1-3, 6-10, 12-15,17	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B65B
A	* abstract * * figures 1-2 *		
A	DE 10 2008 001287 A1 (BOSCH GMBH ROBERT [DE]) 22 October 2009 (2009-10-22)	1-3, 6-10, 12-15,17	
	* claim 1 * * figures 1-2 *		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 3 July 2020	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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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:

1-3, 6-10, 12-15, 17

☐ 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, 2, 12, 17

Apparatus and method wherein the first and second cavities are provided on opposite sides of the centering unit.

2. claim: 3

Apparatus with a centering unit which is fixed in the reference plane (X,Y).

3. claims: 4, 5

Apparatus with conical or concave conformation of the guide surfaces.

4. claims: 6, 7

Apparatus with first and second blocks which are adjustable in position.

5. claims: 8, 10, 13, 15

Apparatus and method with a gripping head which is movable inside a tridimensional space (X,Y,Z) and operated by vacuum.

6. claims: 9, 14

Apparatus and method with a centering unit which is movable along a given direction (Z).

7. claims: 11, 16

Apparatus and method with a plurality of centering members, for operating simultaneously on a plurality of receptacle bodies and closure elements.

**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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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