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(54) **KIT, CONTAINER AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING AND COLLECTING REUSABLE RECEPTACLES**

(57) The invention relates to the field of collecting reusable receptacles based on information on a label provided on the reusable receptacles. To this end, the invention provides a collection container and a method for

collecting the reusable receptacles. Furthermore, the invention also provides a method for providing and collecting reusable receptacles, as well as a kit which is suitable for this purpose.

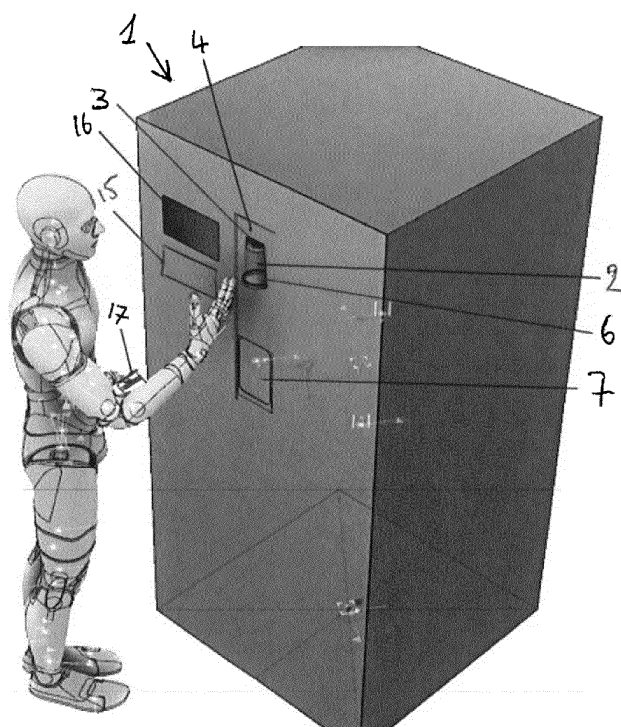


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

 Application Number
 EP 20 21 0038

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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 2003/010597 A1 (KIVA KRIS M [US] ET AL) 16 January 2003 (2003-01-16)	9-12	INV. B07C5/34 G07F7/06
Y	* paragraph [0001] - paragraph [0030];	1,3-8	
A	figures 1-3 *	2	
X	WO 99/57687 A1 (CYCLELOOP A S [NO]; HALLDEN BJOERN [SE]; HENRIKSEN TOM [NO]) 11 November 1999 (1999-11-11)	9-12	
Y	* page 3, line 20 - page 6, line 30;	1,3-8	
A	figures 1,2 *	2	
A	US 2019/304236 A1 (CHAN CHUNG WAH [US] ET AL) 3 October 2019 (2019-10-03) * the whole document *	5,7,8	
X	US 2006/289276 A1 (HECHT SIEGMAR [DE] ET AL) 28 December 2006 (2006-12-28)	9-12	
Y	* Figures 1-3 and the corresponding part of the description *	1,3-8	
X	US 4 919 274 A (HAMMOND NATHAN J [US]) 24 April 1990 (1990-04-24)	9-12	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
Y	* Figures 1 and 2 and the corresponding part of the description *	1,3-8	B07C G07F
A	EP 1 811 468 A1 (WINCOR NIXDORF INT GMBH [DE]) 25 July 2007 (2007-07-25) * the whole document *	7,8	
A	DE 195 01 559 A1 (RUDOLPH KLAUS [DE]) 30 November 1995 (1995-11-30) * the whole document *	1	
Y	EP 0 698 867 A2 (LICO LINDENMAIER BETEILIGUNGS [DE]) 28 February 1996 (1996-02-28) * the whole document *	1,3-8	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 9 April 2021	Examiner Rüdiger, Patrick
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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EP 20 21 0038

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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:

1-9(completely); 10-12(partially)

☐ 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 20 21 0038

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: 1-9(completely); 10-12(partially)

Sorting kit according to claim 1, characterized by the shape of the insert opening and the type of container. To clarify what is considered the special technical feature according to this invention: According to a first possible Reasoning of lack of unity, the feature "wherein the disposal opening (6) has a shape which is such that the reusable receptacle (2) can only be inserted into the disposal opening (6) with the filling opening (10) directed downwards" together with the feature "wherein said reusable receptacle is a reusable cup" is considered as potential special technical feature of the first invention. However, since the prior art renders these features obvious, according to a second equally valid reasoning of lack of unity, only the the additional features of claim 2 might be regarded as the special technical feature of the first invention. All dependent claims that further define features regarding the path of the containers through the collecting device and/or the recognition of the containers have been grouped with this invention in so far as they do not refer to the other invention. Claim 10 has been partially grouped with the first invention, which includes claim 10 without any of the optional features mentioned in the claim. This correspondingly also applies to the dependent method claims 11 and 12.

2. claims: 13-15(completely); 10-12(partially)

Method for sorting bottles according to claim 10 characterized by the optional steps mentioned in claim 10. Claims 11 and 12 have been partially grouped with this invention in so far as they contain the optional features of claim 10. Claims 13 to 15 relate to a kit which includes corresponding features to the optional method steps and have thus been grouped with the second invention.

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

EP 20 21 0038

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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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