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(54) **PACKAGING ASSEMBLY FOR SUBSTANTIALLY FLAT PRODUCTS**

(57) A packaging assembly (1) for substantially flat products (A) of the type adapted to operate on a conveyance line (2) for products (A) and comprising an apparatus (3) for supplying wrapping sheets (B) which is arranged along the conveyance line (2) directly upstream of the assembly (1). The assembly (1) comprises a carousel (4) provided with a plurality of radial expansions (5) which are provided, at their terminal part, with grip means (6) which can move between a passive, open configuration, in which their terminal edges (9) are arranged like a hopper for the folding and juxtaposition of a wrapping sheet (B) on respective surfaces of a product (A)

that is pushed inside them by the conveyance line (2), and an active, clamping configuration, in which they clamp the product (A) which is partially covered by the sheet (B) and is arranged in a seat delimited by them. The assembly further comprises at least one heat-sealing station (7, 8), which is arranged facing and proximate to the trajectory of the terminal edges (9) of the grip means (6) arranged on the radial expansions (5), for the stable coupling of superimposed flaps (C) of the sheet (B), which is partially juxtaposed against the product (A), which protrude with respect to the terminal edges (9).

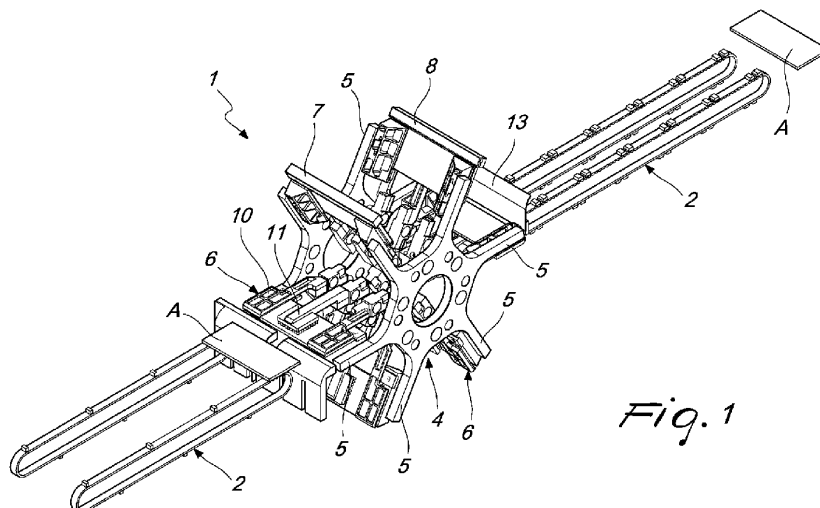


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 23 18 8603

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	EP 0 256 332 A2 (FOCKE & CO [DE]) 24 February 1988 (1988-02-24)	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9	INV. B65B11/30
Y	* column 2, line 48 - column 6, line 48 * -----	1	B65B49/06 B65B49/14
Y	US 2 720 738 A (BRIGHTWELL ROBERT R) 18 October 1955 (1955-10-18) * column 1, line 48 - column 6, line 67 * -----	1	B65B11/42 B65B25/00 B65B49/04
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A	EP 3 909 879 A1 (TEEPACK SPEZIALMASCHINEN GMBH & CO KG [DE]) 17 November 2021 (2021-11-17) * the whole document * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B65B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

Place of search Munich	Date of completion of the search 11 December 2023	Examiner Yazici, Baris
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, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9

☐ 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, 5, 6, 8, 9

two heat sealing stations.

2. claims: 3, 4, 7, 10, 11

grip means with contoured terminal edges, brushes, a fixed folding lamina and a method for folding a wrapping sheet by means of grip means with contoured terminal edges.

**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
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