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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CONNECTING AND CONTAINER SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a container system having at least two containers, preferably bottles, each comprising a removal opening, preferably closed off by a septum in each case, wherein the containers comprise, on a side remote from the respective removal opening, particularly on the bottom of the respective bottle, a connecting arrangements for providing a fluidic connection between the containers, and/or having at least one container which comprises a removal opening, the container comprising, on a side remote from the removal opening, a removable, caplike cover which comprises a holding device, for a region of the container forming the removal opening, so that the cover can be used as a support foot for the container when it is held by the holding device by the region forming the removal opening.

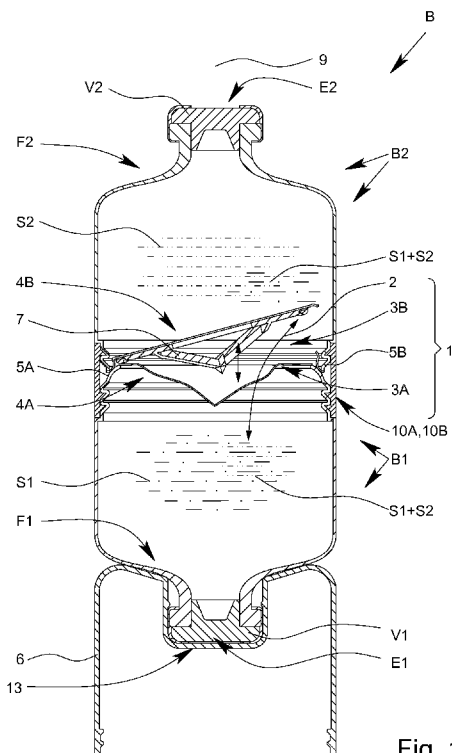


Fig. 1



(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. A61J1/16 A61J1/20 B65D8/00 B65D21/02 B65D25/08
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 ADD.
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 A61J B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 10 2010 025824 A1 (ENGHARD FLORIAN [DE]) 5 January 2012 (2012-01-05) paragraphs [0013] - [0016]; figures 1,2 -----	1-4, 11-20,25
X	US 2009/184116 A1 (LASKE LAWRENCE L [US]) 23 July 2009 (2009-07-23) paragraphs [0030], [0039]; figures 1A-2C,3A,4B,5B -----	1-4, 11-18,25
X	WO 93/08090 A1 (AEROQUIP CORP [US]) 29 April 1993 (1993-04-29) figures 1,2,11,14,15 -----	1-4
X	US 2015/114963 A1 (BILLET RONALD J [US]) 30 April 2015 (2015-04-30) figures 1-6 -----	1-3
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 7 December 2016	Date of mailing of the international search report 14/12/2016
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Gkama, Alexandra
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2016/025060

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2012/013206 A1 (BENETTI FABIO [IT]) 2 February 2012 (2012-02-02) figures 1-5 -----	1-3
X	WO 99/37190 A1 (NEWMAN ITAMAR [IL]; MUENSTER DAN [IL]; DVIR MENACHEM [IL]) 29 July 1999 (1999-07-29) figures 1A-3B,5A-6 -----	1-3,11, 12, 16-18,25
X	EP 1 447 334 A1 (KARDA PROJEKTENTWICKLUNG UND B [DE]) 18 August 2004 (2004-08-18) figures 1-3 -----	1-3,11, 12, 16-18,25
A	US 3 744 658 A (FUJIO M) 10 July 1973 (1973-07-10) figures 1-4 -----	1-4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP2016/025060

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

1-4, 11-20, 25

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-4

Container system including a cap-like cover which can be used as a support foot for a container of the system.
 Special technical feature (STF, found in claim 1): The cap-like cover can be used as a support foot for the container when its holding device holds the region of the container which forms a removal opening.
 Technical effect (TE): The container is supported by the cap-like cover.
 Technical problem (TP): How to support a container and prevent its contamination while saving space and material.

2. claims: 5-10

Container system of at least two containers comprising each a connecting arrangement.
 STF (claim 5): The container system comprises two containers with connecting arrangements.
 TE: The two containers can be fluidically connected via their connecting arrangements.
 TP: How to transfer a fluid from a container which comprises a connecting arrangement.

3. claims: 11-20, 25

Connecting arrangement including a cover device for protection against accidental opening of a container.
 STF (claim 11): The connecting arrangement includes a cover device which comprises a support portion arranged directly to an opening region of a container.
 TE: A force acting on the opening region is absorbed by the cover device.
 TP: How to protect a container from opening accidentally.

4. claims: 21-24

Container comprising a connecting arrangement covered by a cap-like cover device.
 STF (claim 21): The connecting arrangement is covered by a cap-like cover device comprising a holding device, a support portion and a strip-like portion.
 TE: The cap-like cover device is held on the container via the holding device and supports an opening region of the connecting arrangement.
 TP: How to securely cover the connecting arrangement of a container.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/EP2016/025060

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 102010025824 A1	05-01-2012	DE 102010025824 A1 WO 2012000643 A1	05-01-2012 05-01-2012

US 2009184116 A1	23-07-2009	NONE	

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