**Title**: COFFEE BEAN PACKAGE AND METHOD FOR DISPENSING A DOSE OF COFFEE BEANS

**Abstract**: Coffee bean package (3) provided with an inner space for holding a collection of coffee beans for multiple portions of coffee beverage, which inner space is surrounded by at least one wall, a coffee bean outlet (11) for dispensing coffee beans from the inner space, and a dosing device (16) which is arranged for dispensing coffee beans from the inner space in a predetermined dose.

**Fig. 1**
(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
31 March 2011
### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

| INV. | A47J31/42 |

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

- Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols):
  - A47J B65D G01F
- 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 practical, search terms used):
  - EPO-Internal

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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### X

- Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

### X

- 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 document 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

* Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

### Date of the actual completion of the international search

| 17 November 2010 |

### Date of mailing of the international search report

| 31/01/2011 |

### Name and mailing address of the ISA/Authorized officer

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Kempeneers, Johanna
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. [X] Claims Nos.: 42 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:

   see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

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.:

4. [X] 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.:

   1-41, 44-52

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.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (2)) (April 2005)
<table>
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<td>WO 2006/090183 A2 (COFFEE NATION LTD [GB]; MARTIN SCOTT [GB]; IRWIN STEVE JAMES [GB]; YAU) 31 August 2006 (2006-08-31) page 31, line 7 - line 14 page 32, line 32 - page 33, line 9 page 34, line 15 - line 35 page 47, line 23 - page 49, line 2 page 49, line 25 - page 51, line 10 figures 3,10,11</td>
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</table>
This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-41, 44-52

   coffee bean package, provided with an inner space, a coffee bean outlet and a dosing device; a package component, comprising a scoop for at least partly surrounding a predetermined volume of coffee beans; a method for dispensing a dose of coffee beans to a grinder, wherein a predetermined dose of coffee beans is supplied directly from the coffee bean package to the grinder while the coffee bean package remains connected to the apparatus

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2. claim: 43

   coffee making apparatus, provided with a connecting device for connecting and uncoupling a coffee bean package to and from the apparatus, a coffee bean grinder, a coffee bean inlet, a coffee preparation device, wherein the connecting device comprises a drive which is arranged to rotate at least a part of the package, for the purpose of dispensing coffee beans from the package and/or closing the package

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Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 42

The initial phase of the search revealed a very large number of
documents relevant to the issue of novelty for independent claim 1. So
many documents were retrieved that it is impossible to determine which
parts of claim 1 may be said to define subject-matter for which
protection might legitimately be sought. For these reasons, a meaningful
search of the whole claimed subject-matter of claim 1 could not be
carried out. The extent of the search was consequently limited. The
following points have been taken into consideration in order to
establish the extent of this limitation.

1) The coffee bean package as defined in independent claim 1 is much
broader than what has been disclosed in the description, since there is
no relationship mentioned to a connecting device and a coffee making
apparatus in this claim 1.

2) The problems, solutions and embodiments mentioned in the description.
As a result, the search has been restricted to a coffee bean package
suitable for being used in a system as described in claim 26.
The same reasoning can be applied to the package component as defined in
independent claim 25.

Therefore, the search has been restricted to a package component
suitable for being used with a coffee bean package as described in claim
1, this coffee bean package being suitable for being used in a system as
described in claim 26.

Independent claim 42 relates to a coffee making apparatus as defined in
claim 41, which leads to the conclusion that claim 42 relates to a
coffee making apparatus which is provided with a coffee preparation
device (see claim 41) and provided with a coffee bean grinder (see claim
26). It is thus clear that here too, the initial phase of the search
revealed a very large number of documents relevant to the issue of
novelty for independent claim 42. There are no specific technical
features in the description of the coffee preparation device or the
coffee bean grinder that could indicate how to limit the search, nor can
there be found any link in the other claims to the coffee preparation
device or coffee bean grinder indicating how to limit the search.
Therefore, this claim has not been searched.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to
inventions in respect of which no international search report has been
established need not be the subject of an international preliminary
examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO
policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is
normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has
not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the
claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any
Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase
before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried
out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2),
should the problems which led to the Article 17(2)PCT declaration be
overcome.