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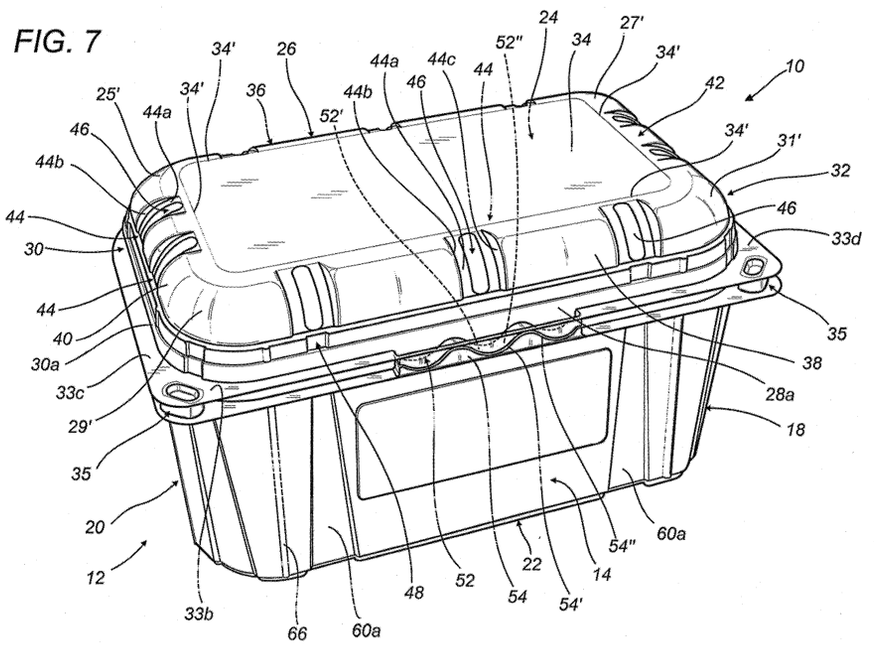
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(54) A product container, in particular for fruit or vegetables

(57) A container (10) of transparent plastic material, in particular for fruit or vegetables comprises an open-top container body (12) and a lid (24) associated with the container body (12) in such a way as to close it. The lid (24) has at least one rib (44) made on a curved connecting wall of it. The rib includes a recessed portion (44a) which is formed in the curved connecting wall (36, 38, 40, 42) and which extends crossways, the rib being joined to the curved connecting wall (36, 38, 40, 42) through substantially vertical opposite lateral stiffening portions (44b, 44c). The substantially vertical stiffening portions (44b, 44c) form a surface whose height, or radial distance between the curved portions (44a and 36, 38, 40, 42), increases to a maximum at a point intermediate between the opposite ends of the stiffening portion (44b, 44c).

FIG. 7



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 05 10 0660

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 3 837 526 A (MEDENDORP R) 24 September 1974 (1974-09-24)	1-13, 36-38, 47-50	B65D1/42 B65D43/16 B65D43/02
A	* abstract; figures *	14-17	
X	FR 2 399 359 A (GATRUN ANSTALT) 2 March 1979 (1979-03-02) * abstract; figures *	1-3,7, 10,12, 48-50	
X	US 3 795 360 A (BIANCHI J ET AL) 5 March 1974 (1974-03-05) * abstract; figures *	1,2	
A	US 4 113 095 A (DIETZ RAYMOND A F ET AL) 12 September 1978 (1978-09-12) * abstract; figures *	43-45	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)

B65D

~~The present search report has been drawn up for all claims~~

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich	2 March 2005	Balz, O

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

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims 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 the first ten claims.

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:

1-17,36-38,43-45,47-50

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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 05 10 0660

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: 1-17,36-38,43-45,47-50

   Group I relates to a container comprising a container body and a lid having stiffening ribs.

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2. claims: 18-24

   Group II relates to a container comprising a container body and a lid having openings.

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3. claims: 25-27

   Group III relates to a container comprising a container body and a lid having corner portion vault-shaped.

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4. claims: 28-35

   Group IV relates to a container comprising a container body and a lid having a horizontal perimetric portion.

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5. claims: 39-42

   Group V relates to a container comprising a container body and a lid having engagement means.

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6. claim: 46

   Group VI relates to a container comprising a container body and a lid whereby the top surface comprises a perimetric border.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 05 10 0660

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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02-03-2005

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US 4113095 A	12-09-1978	NONE	

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82