



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
29.01.2020 Bulletin 2020/05

(51) Int Cl.:
G07F 17/32^(2006.01)

(21) Application number: **18185051.2**

(22) Date of filing: **23.07.2018**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR
Designated Extension States:
BA ME
Designated Validation States:
KH MA MD TN

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(54) **GAMING TABLES FOR ROULETTE AND SIMILAR GAMES**

(57) A gaming table (1;20) for roulette and similar games has a wheel (2) and a betting area (3) delineated on the table-top (9) with a rectangular hollow shoulder (8) upstanding along a longitudinal side wall (4) of the table (1;20). The inner wall of the shoulder (8) has a slot-opening (12) that is closed by a top-hinged flap (13) that opens inwardly against a spring action under pressure of chips (C) drawn onto the flap (13) across the table-top (9) from the betting area (3). Chips (C) admitted through the opening (12) fall onto a moving belt (15) of a conveyor system (16) leading to a chipping machine (18) under the table (1) for collection and sorting. In a modification, the chips (C) fall down onto the belt (15) via an inwardly inclined chute (22) under the table (20).

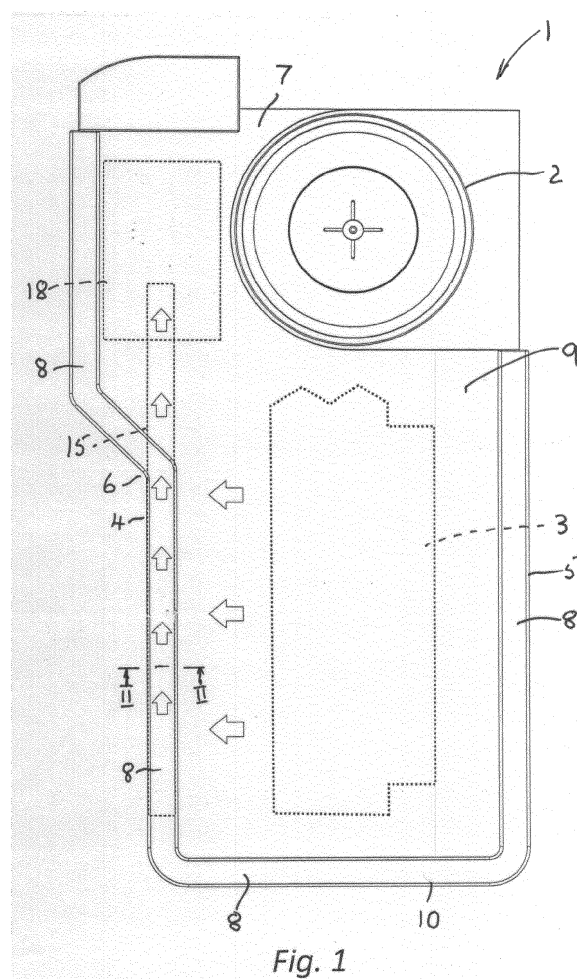


Fig. 1

Description

[0001] This invention relates to gaming tables for roulette and similar games, and is concerned with facilitating the collection of chips from such tables.

[0002] In a conventional game of roulette at a casino, the croupier attending the table withdraws the chips of non-winning bets from the table following each spin of the roulette wheel. The croupier does this by gathering all such chips together by drawing them from the betting area and elsewhere, laterally of the table onto a longitudinal side-wall of the table. They are then drawn by the croupier against this wall and along it towards the head of the table-top where the roulette wheel is located, for discharge through an opening in the table adjacent the roulette wheel. The opening leads to a chip sorting machine, namely, a so-called "chipping machine" that collects and sorts the chips for re-use.

[0003] While the croupier is marshalling the non-winning chips from the betting area and elsewhere to the discharge opening, his/her attention to the disposition of chips remaining in the betting area is, or readily can be, diverted to an extent that enables interference with the remaining chips of the betting area to go unnoticed. In particular, the location of one or more of the remaining chips may be changed, even by a small amount, for fraudulent purposes to enhance the win attributable to them.

[0004] It is one of the objects of the present invention to provide a form of table for roulette and similar games, which enables the extent to which the croupier is required to marshal the chips on the table for collection and sorting, to be reduced, and more particularly thereby, to reduce the likelihood and possibility of diversion of the croupier's attention during that operation.

[0005] According to the present invention there is provided a gaming table for roulette and similar games, in which the table has a side-wall located laterally of a betting area defined on the table-top, and an opening for receiving and admitting therethrough chips gathered from the betting area and elsewhere, the table being characterised in that the opening is in the side-wall of the table to admit therethrough chips drawn laterally of the table from the betting area, for discharge through the opening.

[0006] The opening in the side-wall may be a slot-opening lengthwise of the side-wall. A flap may be provided to close the opening, and may be hinged to open to admit through the opening chips gathered from the betting area and elsewhere that have been drawn across the table-top onto the flap. In this respect, the flap may be resiliently biased to open inwardly under pressure of the chips drawn onto it. Alternatively, the slot or other opening may be closed by a shutter which is movable to admit chips through the opening automatically.

[0007] The chips admitted through the opening may fall or otherwise load onto a conveyor mounted within the side-wall or beneath the table-top, for carrying the chips received through the opening into a chipping machine

for collection and sorting for re-use. Alternatively, the chips admitted through the opening may pass directly to the chipping machine. In either case, the chipping machine may be mounted under the table.

[0008] A gaming table for roulette and similar games, according to the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the top of the table according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line II-II of Figure 1 illustrative of operation of the table of Figure 1 in conjunction with a conveyor for transporting chips gathered from the table-top to a chipping machine for sorting and collection for re-use; and

Figures 3 and 4 are, respectively, a plan and an enlarged sectional view corresponding to Figures 1 and 2 (the section of Figure 4 being taken on the line IV-IV of Figure 3) illustrative of a modification of the table of Figures 1 and 2 that may be adopted in order to provide more readily for mounting a conveyor and a chipping machine under the table.

[0009] Referring to Figure 1, the table 1 has a conventional layout for the game of roulette and similar games having a roulette wheel 2 and a betting area 3 (delineated by dotted line); conventional or other graphic features of the wheel 2 and the betting area 3 are omitted from the drawing. The table 1 is generally of an elongate rectangular configuration which on a side 4 of its two longitudinal sides 4 and 5 juts outwardly through an angled corner 6 to provide a head area 7 which is of an increased width to accommodate the roulette wheel 2.

[0010] A shoulder 8, which may be upholstered, is upstanding from the table-top 9. It extends peripherally of the table throughout the length of the side 4, across the foot 10 of the table 1 and along the side 5 to just below the wheel 2. The shoulder 8 is rectangular in cross-section, and at least throughout most of its length along the side 4 between the foot 10 and the corner 6 is hollow. As illustrated in Figure 2, the inner wall 11 of this part of the shoulder 8 has a longitudinal slot-opening 12 that is closed by a top-hinged flap 13.

[0011] The hinge 14 of the flap 13 includes spring-loading (not shown) that causes the flap 13 to retain the opening 12 normally closed (shown in full-line) but to pivot inwardly (as indicated in dotted-line) under the pressure of chips C that are gathered and urged against it across the table-top 9, by the croupier. However, the spring-loading of the flap 13 is generally sufficient to hold the flap 13 closed against any chips C that accidentally strike it when thrown by players onto the table-top 9 legitimately during the game.

[0012] When the croupier scoops the gathered chips

C individually and together against the flap 13, they enter through the opening 12 to fall onto a moving belt 15 of a conveyor system 16 that is mounted in a downward extension 17 of the arm 8 below the table-top 9. The moving belt 15 conveys the fallen chips C through to a chipping machine 18 as indicated in Figure 1. The machine 18 collects and sorts the chips C for re-use.

[0013] The need for a downward extension 17 of the shoulder 8 to accommodate the conveyor system 16 can be avoided by adoption of the modification of the table 1 illustrated by Figures 3 and 4.

[0014] Referring to Figures 3 and 4, the table 20 illustrated is a modified form of the table 1 in which the conveyor system 16 and chipping machine 18 are mounted on the underside 21 of the table 20 inwardly of the side 4. In this case, the chips C that enter through the opening 12 from the table-top 9, fall down a chute 22 that is inclined downwardly and inwardly under the table 20 onto the moving belt 15 of the conveyor system 16. The moving belt 15 conveys the fallen chips C through to the chipping machine 18 for collection and sorting.

8. A gaming table according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the chips admitted through the opening (12) pass to a chipping machine (18) for collection and sorting for re-use.

9. A gaming table according to claim 8 wherein the chipping machine (18) is mounted under the table (1,20).

10. A gaming table according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the side-wall (4) is a side-wall of a shoulder (8) upstanding from the table-top (9) peripherally of the table.

Claims

1. A gaming table for roulette and similar games, in which the table (1,20) has a side-wall (4) located laterally of a betting area (3) defined on the table-top (9), and an opening for receiving and admitting there-through chips (C) gathered from the betting area (3) and elsewhere, **characterised in that** the opening (12) is in the side-wall (4) of the table to admit chips drawn laterally of the table from the betting area (3) for discharge through the opening (12) .
2. A gaming table according to claim 1 wherein the opening in the side-wall (4) is a slot-opening (12).
3. A gaming table according to claim 1 or claim 2 including a flap (13) for closing the opening (12).
4. A gaming table according to claim 3 wherein the flap (13) is hinged to open for admitting through the opening (12) chips gathered from the betting area (3) and drawn across the table-top (9) onto the flap (13).
5. A gaming table according to claim 4 wherein the flap (13) is resiliently biased to open inwardly under pressure of the chips drawn onto it.
6. A gaming table according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the opening is closed by a shutter which is movable to admit chips through the opening.
7. A gaming table according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein chips admitted through the opening (12) fall load onto a conveyor (16) mounted within the side-wall (4) or beneath the table-top (9).

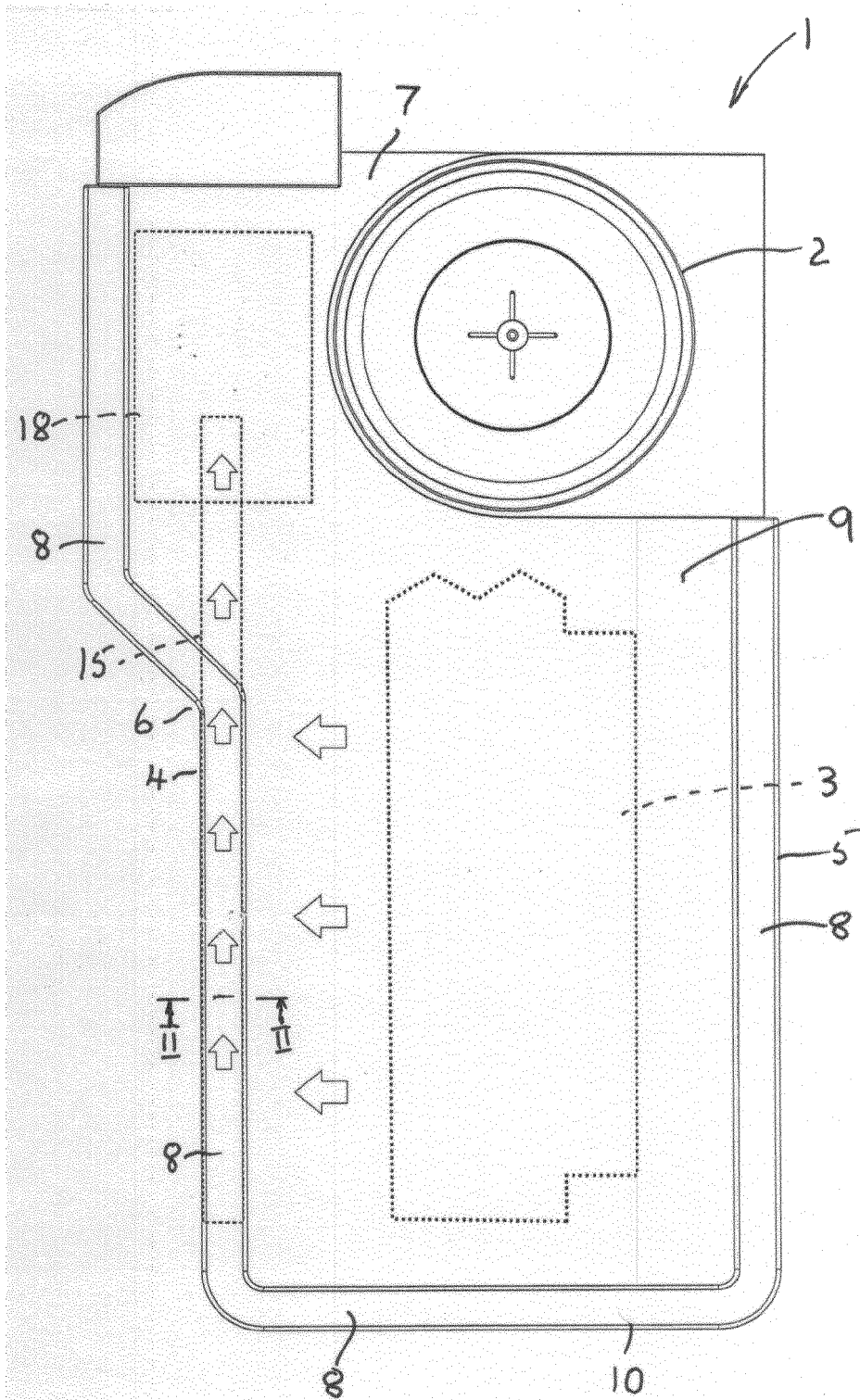


Fig. 1

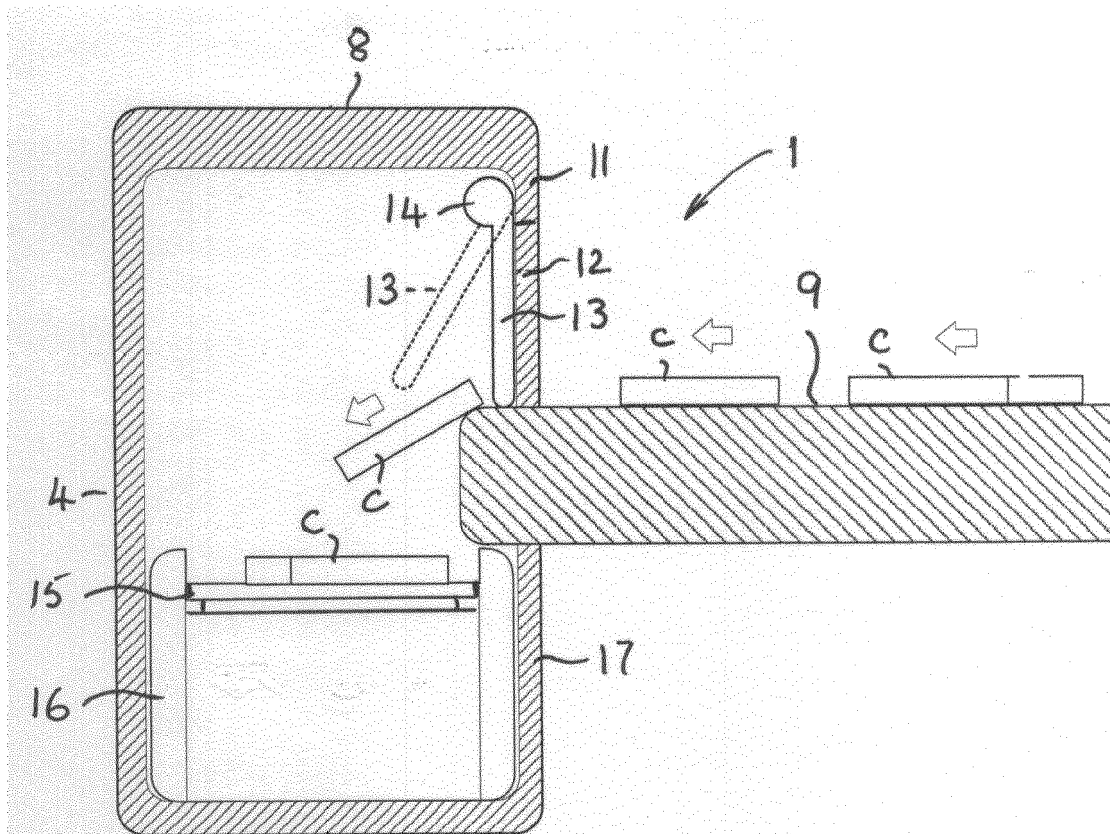


Fig. 2

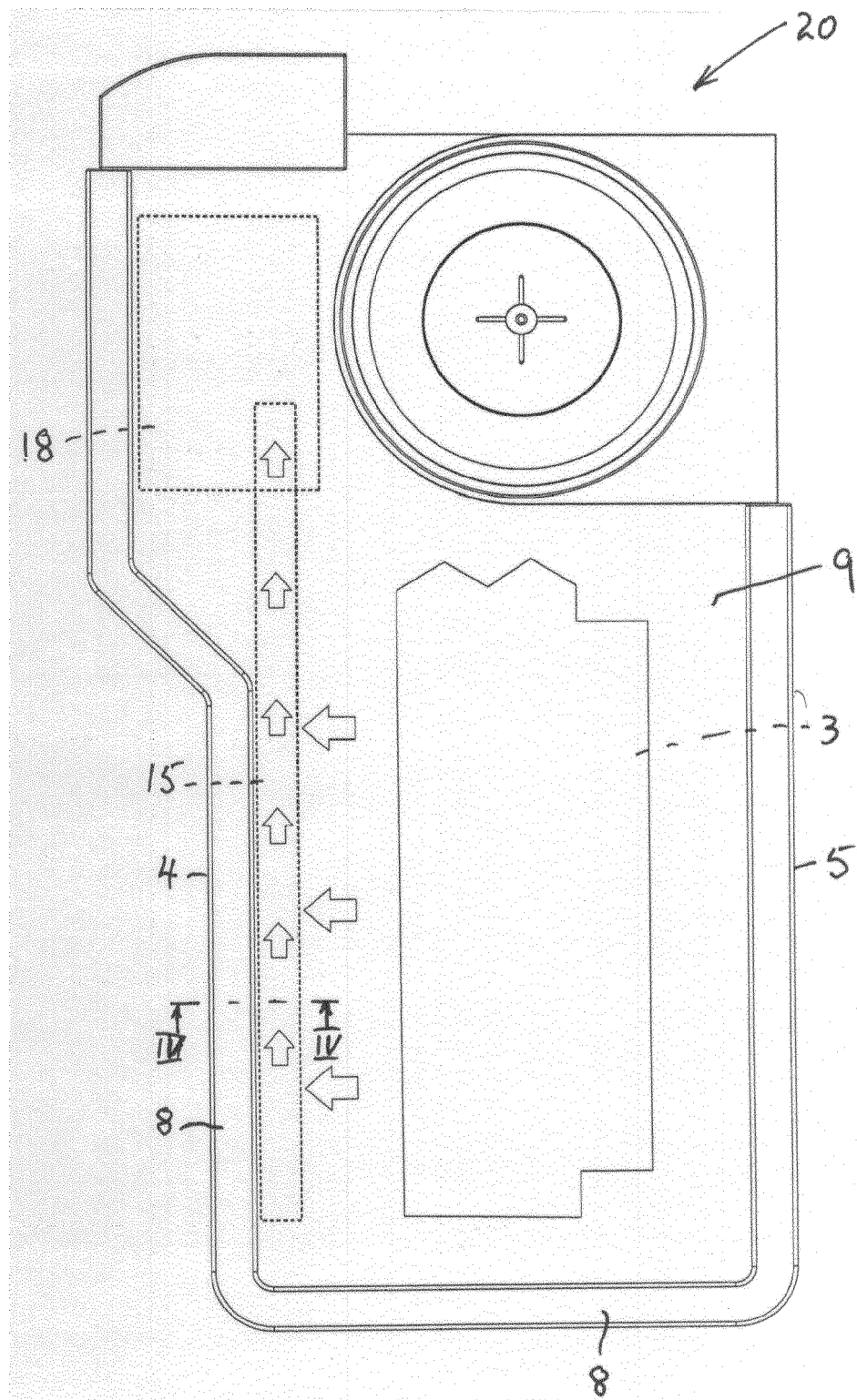
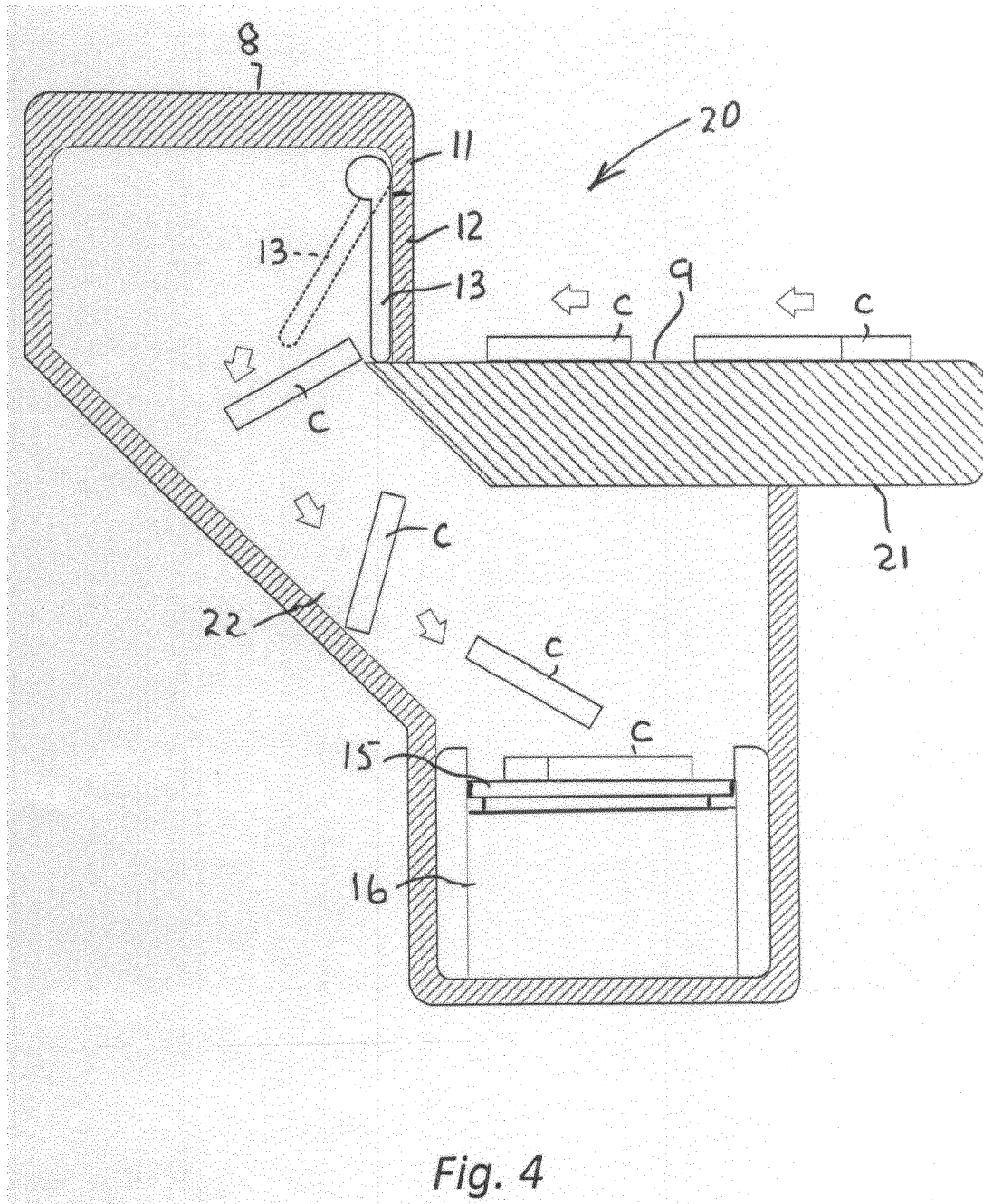


Fig. 3





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 18 18 5051

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 12 October 2018	Examiner Diepstraten, Marc
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)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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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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