



(43) International Publication Date
18 October 2012 (18.10.2012)

(51) International Patent Classification:

A47J 31/40 (2006.01) B65G 65/30 (2006.01)
B65D 83/06 (2006.01) B65G 47/18 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2012/033489

(22) International Filing Date:

13 April 2012 (13.04.2012)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

61/475,723 15 April 2011 (15.04.2011) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **WATSON INVESTOR COMMUNICATIONS, LLC** [US/US]; 10500 Kincaid Drive, Suite 201, Fishers, IN 46037 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GEIER, Eric** [US/US]; 6236 Winford Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46236

(US). **HARTMAN, Jim** [US/US]; 8523 Castleton Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46256 (US). **MATHIS, Everett** [US/US]; 677 Downing Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143 (US). **PATEL, Mehul** [US/US]; 2040 Lafayette Road, Indianapolis, IN 46222 (US). **GOTWAY, Jerry** [US/US]; 5225 N. New Jersey Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220 (US). **WATSON, Cheryl, E.** [US/US]; 236 Ashbourne Drive, Noblesville, IN 46060 (US).

(74) Agents: **MCKENNA, William, A.** et al.; Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty, McNett & Henry LLP, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700, Indianapolis, IN 46204 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISPENSING A MEASURED AMOUNT OF A LOOSE MATERIAL

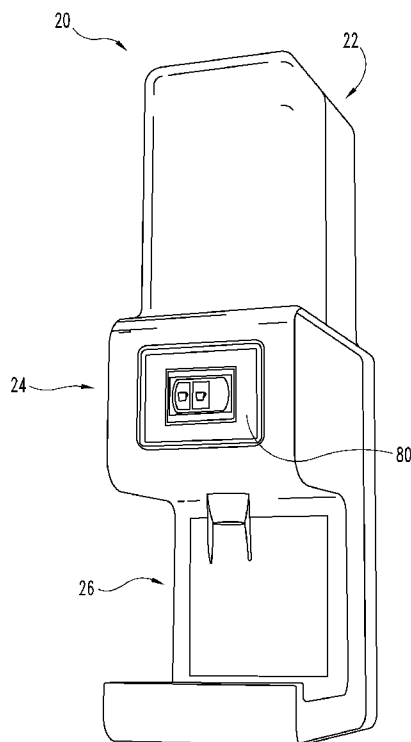


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A loose material measuring and dispensing system including a container and dispenser. The tea container serves to store the tea leaves or grounds in a storage bin prior to activation of the system. Upon activation, the dispenser measures and loads a selected amount of tea into a hopper for dispensing, such as into a waiting cup or a tea infuser. The amount of tea may be selected based upon user operation of one of a number of quantity indicating/selection buttons provided in a user interface. The container is a sealed canister, such as a bag or jug, which is preferably impermeable to light. Furthermore, the dispenser is able to operate to load a desired amount of tea (e.g. by weight), specified by the user, into the hopper. Once the desired amount of tea is loaded into the hopper, the tea may be dispensed, such as into a waiting cup or infuser below.



SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(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, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, 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, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

10 January 2013

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER*A47J 31/40(2006.01)i, B65D 83/06(2006.01)i, B65G 65/30(2006.01)i, B65G 47/18(2006.01)i*

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)

A47J 31/40; G07F 11/16; A47J 31/42; G01F 11/20

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

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

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

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: dispenser, loose material, tea, scale measurement, vending machine

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2008-0164274 A1 (STETTES GREGORY G.) 10 July 2008 See abstract; figures 1,7A; paragraphs 36,38,65,66; claims 1, 12	1-20
A	EP 0331271 A1 (KONINKLIJKE OLLAND GROEP B.V.) 06 September 1989 See abstract; figure 1; column 3, lines 47-49; column 4, lines 4-22, 37-46; claims 1-3	1-20
A	US 2010-0199850 A1 (KOOPMAN CARLOS NICOLAAS JOZEF MARIA et al.) 12 August 2010 See abstract; figures 1, 4a; paragraphs 43,45,52; claim 17	1-20
A	US 05241898 A (NEWMAN; BRIAN D.) 07 September 1993 See abstract; figures 1,3; column 5, lines 24-45; column 6, lines 3-15, 52-68; claims 1-2	1-20



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 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

25 OCTOBER 2012 (25.10.2012)

Date of mailing of the international search report

01 NOVEMBER 2012 (01.11.2012)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR

Korean Intellectual Property Office
189 Cheongsu-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon Metropolitan
City, 302-701, Republic of Korea

Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140

Authorized officer

JOHN, Moon song

Telephone No. 82-42-481-8191



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2012/033489

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2008-0164274 A1	10.07.2008	US 2008-0163760 A1 US 2008-163756 A1 US 2008-164284 A1 US 7885520 B2 US 7912579 B2 US 8070019 B2 US 8087542 B2	10.07.2008 10.07.2008 10.07.2008 08.02.2011 22.03.2011 06.12.2011 03.01.2012
EP 0331271 A1	06.09.1989	DE 68923303 D1 EP 0331271 B1 ES 2076198 T3 NL 8800548A	10.08.1995 05.07.1995 01.11.1995 02.10.1989
US 2010-0199850 A1	12.08.2010	AT 508670 T AU 2008-253808 A1 CA 2687539 A1 CN 101677710 A DK 2148600T3 EP 2148600 B1 IL 20229000 JP 2010-527685 A KR 20100021622A NL 2000662C2 RU 2009148032 A TW 200927043 A WO 2008-143505 A1	15.05.2011 27.11.2008 27.11.2008 24.03.2010 15.08.2011 11.05.2011 16.06.2010 19.08.2010 25.02.2010 25.11.2008 27.06.2011 01.07.2009 27.11.2008
US 05241898 A	07.09.1993	EP 0616502 B1 EP 0804894 A3 KR 10-1994-0703142 A WO 94-07401 A3	15.04.1998 19.11.1997 24.10.1994 14.04.1994