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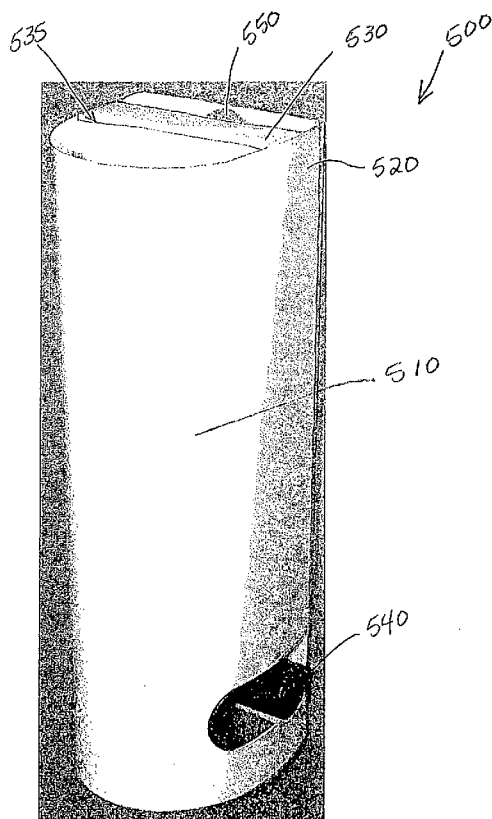
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FOLDED DISPENSING UNIT AND BLANK

FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: A folded dispensing unit and a blank therefor, wherein the blank is adapted to be glued and shipped in a folded condition and erected and further folded at a point of sale, and a method of erecting the glued and folded blank. The dispensing unit includes an interior slot adapted to receive a carton including a plurality of individual products to be dispensed.



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, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US13/00138

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A47F 1/00, B65G 59/00, B65H 3/00, B65H 1/00 B65D 5/00 and B65D 5/72 (2013.01)

USPC - 221/98, 104, 194, 197 and 229/122, 122.1

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)

IPC(8) Classification(s): A47F 1/00, B65G 59/00, B65H 3/00, B65H 1/00 B65D 5/00 and B65D 5/72 (2013.01)

USPC Classification(s): 221/98, 104, 194, 197 and 229/122, 122.1

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)

MicroPatent (US-G, US-A, EP-A, EP-B, WO, JP-bib, DE-C,B, DE-A, DE-T, DE-U, GB-A, FR-A); IP.com; Google/Google Scholar; DialogPRO; Searched Terms Used: dispenser, blank, carton, tubular, container, receptacle, sidewall, opening, aperture, gravity, interior, inside, align, merchandise, product, purchase, point, of, sale, tab, slot, adhesive, glue, fold, line,

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,788,117 (ZIMMANCK, J) August 4, 1998; figure 1; column 3; lines 35-40	1 and 2
X	US 2007/0295790 A1 (ZAMMIT, M) December 27, 2007; figure 1; column 9; lines 5-10	6 and 7
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Y		8 and 9
Y	US 2005/0263577 A1 (WALSH, JC et al.) December 1, 2005; figure 6; paragraph [0054]	8 and 9
X	US 5,390,821 A (MARKEL, SM) February 21, 1995; figure 1; column 3, lines 10-30	10
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Y		11
Y	US 6,357,652 B1 (EVANS, TM et al.) March 19, 2002; figure 2; column 4; lines 55-65	11

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


* 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

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Date of mailing of the international search report

27 SEP 2013

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US13/00138

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:

-Continued Within the Next Supplemental Box-

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 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. ☐ 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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US13/00138

-***-Continued from Box No. III: Observations where unity of invention is lacking-***-

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I: Claims 1-2 are directed toward a dispensing unit for tubular containers.

Group II: Claims 3-11 are directed toward a blank for a dispenser comprising rectangular panels.

The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons.

The special technical features of Group I include a carton configured to contain a plurality of tubular containers, the carton being removably disposed within the interior receiving slot of the dispenser such that said carton engages the bottom surface of the receiving slot; wherein said dispenser includes an outer wall defining a dispensing opening aligned with a removal opening in said carton, the opening in the carton being adapted for removal of one of said plurality of tubular containers therethrough, which are not present in Group II.

The special technical features of Group II include a first rectangular panel having at least one tab and defining a dispensing opening; a second rectangular panel hingedly connected to said first rectangular panel; a third rectangular panel hingedly connected to said second rectangular panel along a fold line, said fold line including at least one slit; a fourth rectangular panel hingedly connected to said third rectangular panel and having a first tuck flap; a fifth rectangular panel hingedly connected to said fourth rectangular panel; a sixth rectangular panel hingedly connected to said fifth rectangular panel and having a second tuck flap; and a glue flap, which are not present in Group I.

The common technical features of Groups I and II are the interior slot of the dispenser

These common technical features are disclosed by US 5,193,427 A to Johannsen (hereinafter "Johannsen"). Johannsen discloses the interior slot of the dispenser (a dispenser for a series of wire markers includes a slot; abstract).

Because Johannsen discloses the common technical features, these features are not special. Therefore, Groups I and II lack unity.