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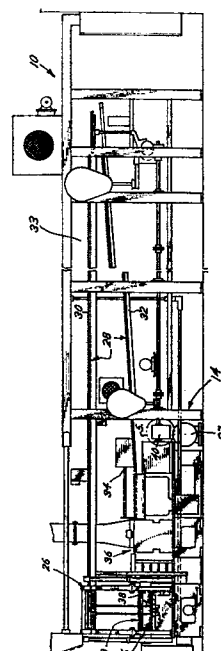
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54 **Hard shell gelatin capsule dipping apparatus and method.**

57 An apparatus and method for forming hard shell gelatin capsules. The apparatus (10) is the type that includes a container (16) for holding liquid gelatin therein, and a plurality of separate and distinct rigid bars are provided to rigidly support a plurality of upright pins. The pins are shaped and sized to have individual halves of the capsules formed thereon. Apparatus is provided for dipping a preselected number of adjacent bars with the pins thereon into the liquid gelatin. The gelatin is dried on the pins that are carried on the bars. The capsules are stripped from the pins. A drive operates the dipping system, the drying system, and the stripping system at a selected speed, when five of the bars are dipped simultaneously into the liquid gelatin. The improvement in the apparatus and process involves dipping six or more of the bars simultaneously, into the liquid gelatin, and providing drive means that operates at least the stripping means at a speed which is at least twenty percent greater than the selected speed when the apparatus utilizes a five bar dip.





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. ³)
A	US-A-1 787 777 (A. COLTON) * Whole document, in particular page 3, line 26; figures 12, 17 *	1,2	A 61 J 3/07
A	--- US-A-2 869 178 (A.W. KATH) * Column 10, lines 23-60; figures 3, 9 *	1,2	
A	--- DE-A-1 486 058 (R.P. SCHERER CORP.) * Page 16, line 21; figure 5 *	1,2	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³)
			A 61 J 3/07
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 19-04-1984	Examiner CLOT P.F.J.
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	

