(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses systems and methods for storing and organizing UFDs (USB flash drives) on a storage pole, and for configuring UFDs to accommodate storage on a storage pole. Various embodiments also include configurations of the UFDs and/or storage poles which prevent rotation of the UFDs on the storage pole, thereby providing aligned stacking of the UFDs. Some embodiments include more than one pole for storage and/or alignment of the UFDs. Some embodiments do not require a pole for storage and/or alignment of the UFDs. In addition, systems which allow extraction of a single UFD from a stack of UFDs while maintaining the order of the UFDs are also disclosed.
### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

**IPC(8) -** B65D 85/30 (2008.04)
**USPC -** 206/308.1

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): B65D 85/30 (2008.04)
USPC: 206/308.1

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

USPC: 206/307, 310, 314, 232, 701, 710; 206/425; 361/685; 361/725; 312/331-333, 351.13; 360/900 (see text terms below)

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

Google Patents, Dialog Web, Google

**Search terms:** Holder, spindle, case, storage, usb and flash and drive, round, circular, disc, media, shape, USB, UFD, shifting, spinning, notch, slit, etc.

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X *** Y</td>
<td>US 6,685,014 B1 (DUNFORD) 3 February 2004 (3.02.2004) entire document, especially Abstract and fig. 1, col 2, line 44-49; col 3, line 14-19, 63-66; col 4, line 12-14</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,924,564 A (LIN) 20 July 1999 (20.07.1999) entire document, especially Abstract and col 2, line 22-30</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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* 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**

11 October 2008 (11.10.2008)

**Date of mailing of the international search report**

28 OCT 2008

**Name and mailing address of the ISA/US**

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
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PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2007)