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(54) Method and apparatus for applying a printed label to a metal container

(57) A method and apparatus for labeling a metallic container, such as an aluminum collapsible tube with a flexible label, which is especially suited to short production runs and in such a manner that the label is bonded to the container such that it is able to withstand physical abuse without peeling or breaking away from the con-

tainer. The container comprises an enamel coating (24) which is bonded to the surface of the container (22), the coating comprising an adhesive which is activated within a predetermined temperature range, and the label comprises a transparent film (26) having reverse printing (28) on the lower surface thereof.

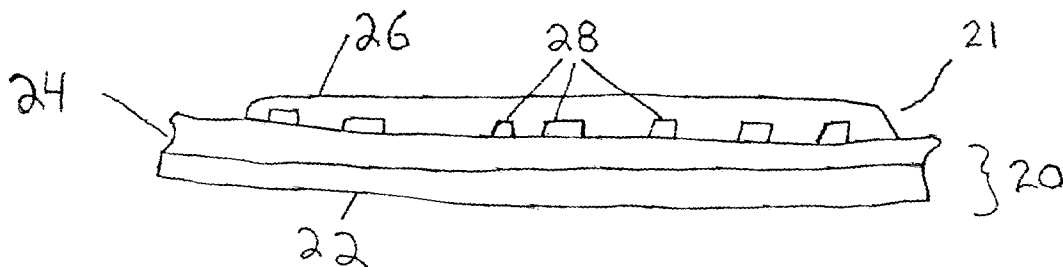


Figure 2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 9639

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	US 5 366 251 A (BRANDT) 22 November 1994 * column 2, line 46 - column 3, line 58; figures 1,2 * ---	1,8,15, 26	B65D25/20
A,P	WO 98 00294 A (AVERY DENNISON) 8 January 1998 * page 6, line 6 - line 31; claims 1,20; figure 1 * ---	1,8,15, 26	
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A	US 4 027 426 A (WALLDING) 7 June 1977 -----	15,26	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) B65D G09F B65C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	6 April 1999	Newell, P	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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**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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