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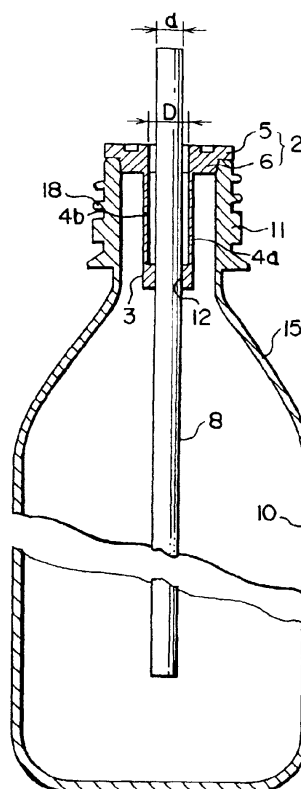
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(54) **Straw holding tool and storage case for it**

(57) A straw holding tool (1) holds a straw (8) inserted into a vessel (10) so that an upper section of the straw projects from an opening of the vessel before a cap (16) is set on the opening of the vessel and the straw is pressed by an internal bottom surface of the cap and accommodated in the vessel when the cap is set thereon. The straw holding tool has a body (2) having an engagement section (6) for engaging in the opening of the vessel and a hole for insertion of a straw, a straw holding section (3) with a holding hole (12) for holding therein an inserted straw, and an elastic expandable connector (4) which connects the straw holding section to the body. The straw can be packaged together with the straw holding tool within a packing log. A storage case (30) for storing the straw and the straw holding tool is also described.

FIG. 2





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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.7)
X	US 3 291 331 A (GRISHAM ET AL.) 13 December 1966 (1966-12-13)	1,3,4	B65D77/28 A47G21/18
A	* column 1, line 55 - column 2, line 16; figures 1,2 *	9	
X,P	WO 99 65782 A (ISHIKAWA OSAMU ;PRO TEX CO LTD (JP)) 23 December 1999 (1999-12-23) * abstract; figures 1-6,14 *	1,3,4	
X	FR 2 242 963 A (BREARD PHILIPPE) 4 April 1975 (1975-04-04) * figure *	9	
X	GB 2 124 543 A (OWENS ILLINOIS INC) 22 February 1984 (1984-02-22)	9	
A	* figure 5 *	10	
A	US 3 307 686 A (BRECHER) 7 March 1967 (1967-03-07) * claim 1; figures *	5,6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B65D A47G B65B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 6 December 2000	Examiner Bridault, A
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			

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-8

a straw holding tool

2. Claims: 9, 10

a storage case for a straw holding tool and a straw

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 4605

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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06-12-2000

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82