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(11) **EP 0 876 960 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
14.04.1999 Bulletin 1999/15

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **B65C 9/18, B65H 37/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
11.11.1998 Bulletin 1998/46

(21) Application number: **98302893.7**

(22) Date of filing: **07.04.1998**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **13.05.1997 GB 9709625**
07.04.1997 GB 9707028
03.03.1998 GB 9804491

(71) Applicant:
The Harland Group Limited
Hull, HU10 6RN (GB)

(72) Inventors:
• **Nuttall, Alan Thomas Robert**
Stubbins, Bury, Lancashire, BLO OPQ (GB)
• **Davies, John**
Disley, Cheshire, SK12 2JF (GB)

(74) Representative:
Quest, Barry et al
Wilson, Gunn, M'Caw,
41-51 Royal Exchange,
Cross Street
Manchester M2 7BD (GB)

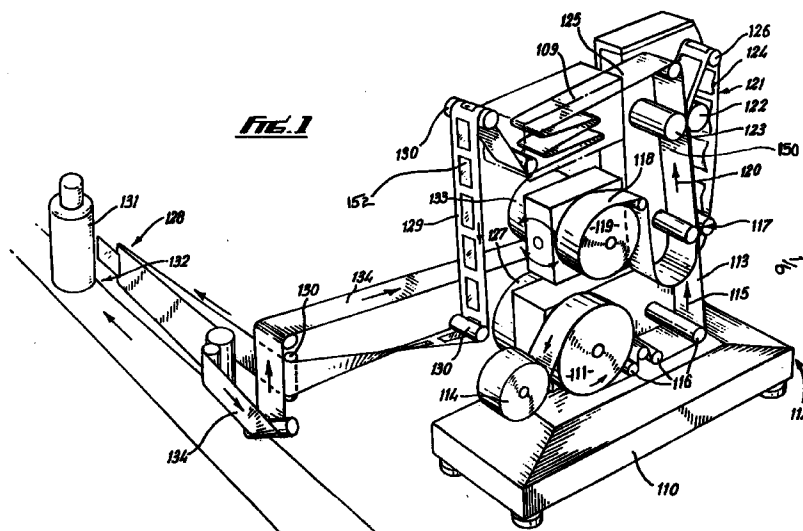
(54) **Label handling system**

(57) A label handling system (112) in which a face material (113) supported on a carrier (118) is transported through various stages including a die cutting stage (where labels are cut into the face material) and a label separation/application stage at which point the labels are separated from the carrier and applied to a product surface.

In one embodiment the carrier (118) is recyclable for repeated use in the system. In another embodiment,

a laminator is used to attach the face material (113) to the carrier (118) and controlled so as to improve the release value of the face material.

In a further embodiment, the die cutting is undertaken prior to attachment of the face material (113) to the carrier (118) preventing damage of the carrier (118) during the cutting process.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 2893

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			B65H B65C B31D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18 February 1999	Examiner Raven, P
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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