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(72) Inventor: **Wambeke, Alain Marcel**
3440 Zoutleeuw (BE)

(74) Representative: **Beitsma, Gerhard Romano**
Corinium B.V.
Corinium Patents Ltd.,
Postbus 69
2650 AB Berkel en Rodenrijs (NL)

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(71) Applicant: **D W Plastics N.V.**
3740 Bilzen (BE)

(54) Pallet provided with friction elements

(57) A plastic pallet has a substantially planar deck for carrying articles such as boxes and/or kegs, and support elements for supporting the deck. Friction elements (20), such as rubber studs, are mounted in openings (10) in the deck (2) for increasing the friction between the pallet and any prongs of a fork lift. The friction elements (20) do not protrude above the top surface of said deck (2) so that they are not damaged by any articles on the deck. In addition, the friction elements (20) may have a lower collar (22) which is not countersunk so as to rest on the bottom surface of the deck, thus avoiding any distortion of the friction elements when the pallet is carried by a fork lift.

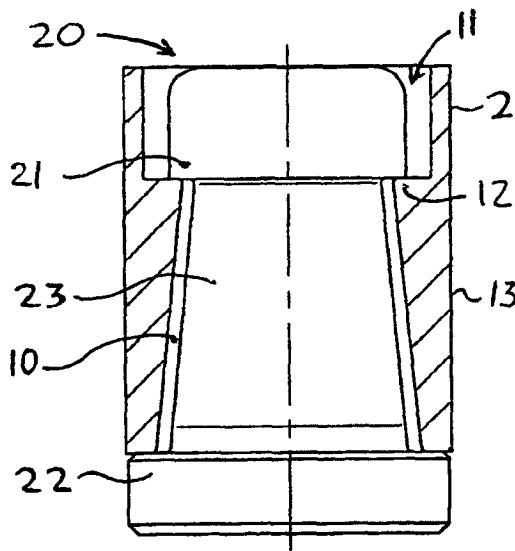


Fig. 2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 07 5140

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 4 051 787 A (NISHITANI KIYOSHI ET AL) 4 October 1977 (1977-10-04) * column 3, line 27 - line 38 * * column 4, line 36 - column 5, line 38 * * figures 20,24,25 *	1-5,7-14	B65D19/38 B65D19/44
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 006, no. 106 (M-213), 10 May 1983 (1983-05-10) -& JP 58 028316 A (MITSUBISHI KASEI KOGYO KK), 19 February 1983 (1983-02-19) * figures 6B,6C *	1-5,7-14	
X	JP 58 052044 A (MITSUBISHI CHEM IND) 28 March 1983 (1983-03-28) * figures 2B,3C *	1-5,7-14	
A	US 6 216 608 B1 (SHOEMAKER CRAIG L ET AL) 17 April 2001 (2001-04-17) * column 6, line 10 - line 56 * * column 11, line 49 - column 12, line 52 * * figures 24,25 *	1,12-14	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B65D
A	EP 0 305 082 A (COOL WILHELM ANDREAS) 1 March 1989 (1989-03-01) * column 3, line 36 - line 44 * * column 4, line 41 - line 58 * * figures 8,9 *	1,12-14	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 11, 30 September 1998 (1998-09-30) -& JP 10 152138 A (GIFU PLAST IND CO LTD), 9 June 1998 (1998-06-09) * figures 4-6 *	1,12-14	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 30 April 2004	Examiner Rodriguez Gombau, F
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:

1-5, 7-14



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 04 07 5140

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: 1-5,7-14

A pallet provided with friction elements.

2. claims: 1,6

A pallet provided with locating elements.

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

EP 04 07 5140

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

30-04-2004

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