A method and apparatus for opening containers and reducing waste from containers are described. The apparatus (100) includes an opener device (110) and a puncture device (120). The opener device (110) facilitates the removal of a lid from a container without damaging the lid or the containers. The puncture device (120) is capable of creating one or more holes in the container channel of the container to allow liquid trapped in the container channel to drain back into the container.
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

**IPC 6** B67B7/44 B67B7/48

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 6** B67B

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

Electronic database consulted during the international search (name of database and, where practical, search terms used)

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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| X        | US 5 212 869 A (ZACHARCHUK WALTER)  
column 1, line 6 - line 8; figures 1-7  
column 2, line 41 - line 44 | 9-18 |
| A        | US 5 127 121 A (BOSSIE LELAND R)  
7 July 1992 (1992-07-07)  
column 1, line 54 - column 2, line 2;  
figures 1-4 | 1,6,18 |
| A        | GB 2 220 928 A (MCCUNE ROBERT)  
24 January 1990 (1990-01-24) |                          |
| A        | US 2 582 947 A (BURNARD, WILLIAM S.)  
22 January 1952 (1952-01-22) |                          |
| A        | US 5 568 665 A (FICK JOSEPH C)  
29 October 1996 (1996-10-29) |                          |

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- **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

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Date of the actual completion of the international search  
14 July 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report  
02.08.99

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Authorized officer  
Müller, C
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. □ Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. □ Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to parts of the international Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. □ Claims Nos.:
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

   see additional sheet

1. □ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. □ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. □ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. □ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

□ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest.

X No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-8
   A device for removing a lid from a container.

2. Claims: 9-17
   A device for creating a hole in a container.

3. Claim: 18
   A device for removing a lid from a container and for piercing a container.
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