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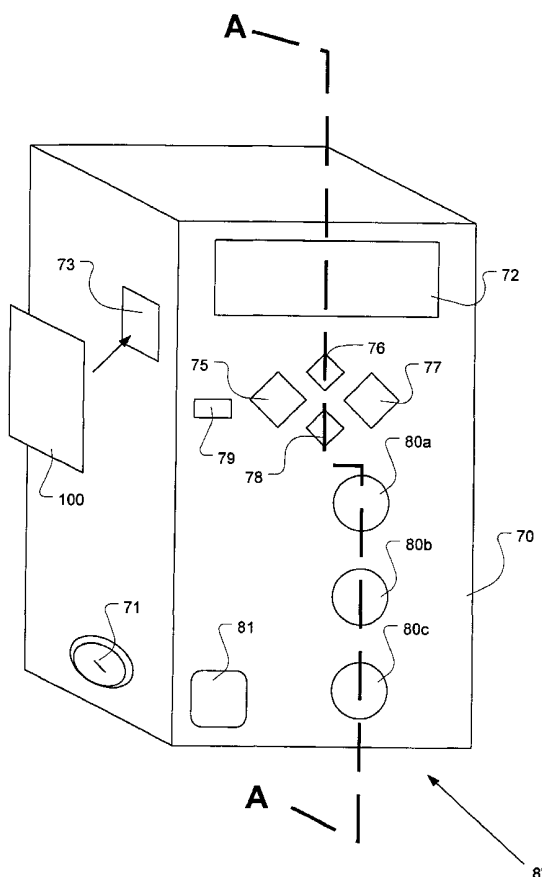
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- (74) Agent: **GEARY, Stuart, Lloyd**; Venner, Shipley & Co., 20 Little Britain, London EC1A 7DH (GB).
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **HOME-PORT (CAYMAN) LIMITED** [—/—]; P.O. Box 309, Ugland House, South Church Street, George Town (KY).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **BUTLER, Charles, Alexei** [GB/CZ]; Perneroova 35, 18600 Praha 8 (CZ).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SECURE DELIVERY SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A delivery system comprises a docking station and an element for releasably connecting to the docking station. The element is preferably a chain or cable which serves to both hold closed a transportable container and plug into the docking station. A keypad or card reader is provided so that a recipient can remove the plug from the docking station and gain access to the delivered goods in the container. A deliverer uses either the keypad or a portable communicator to release plug so that containers can be returned to the supplier. The plugs may be individually coded so that the docking station can determine whether a plug is correctly inserted into a socket on the basis of information received from the deliverer's communicator.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 01/02678

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A47G29/14 G07C9/00 G07F17/12

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 7 G07F A47G G07C

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

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

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 340 479 A (BUTLER BOXES LIMITED) 23 February 2000 (2000-02-23)	1
A	page 6, line 1 - line 6	2,9,10, 12,15, 19,22, 23,25, 29,31, 38,40, 43,46
	page 6, line 23 - line 29 page 9, line 4 - line 20 claims 1,5,7-10,12; figures 1,4-7 page 10, line 14 - line 20 ---	
A	WO 99 15393 A (ROUND JON ;CURETEC LIMITED (GB)) 1 April 1999 (1999-04-01) claims 1,3,4,9; figures 1-5 ---	1,22
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 January 2002

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07.05.2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Paraf, E

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 878 045 A (TANAKA YOSHIKI ET AL) 31 October 1989 (1989-10-31) column 2, line 51 - line 64 column 4, line 50 - line 60 figures 1,4,14 ---	1,22
A	FR 2 732 140 A (SERPI SOCIETE D ETUDE ET RECH) 27 September 1996 (1996-09-27) page 1, line 31 -page 2, line 5 claim 1; figure 2 ---	1,22
A	US 5 979 750 A (KINDELL GARY J) 9 November 1999 (1999-11-09) column 5, line 30 -column 6, line 3; figures 1-5,15 ---	40,43
A	US 5 774 053 A (PORTER DAVID) 30 June 1998 (1998-06-30) column 5, line 25 -column 6, line 28; claims 1,8,15; figures 2,5 -----	40,43

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 01/02678

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.:

1-51

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-51

Method and system for delivering items :

- allocating an attachment element having a plug with a machine readable id,
- transmitting the id of the plug to an anchoring fixture having a socket with an electrically operated locking member at the delivery site,
- plugging the plug into the socket and reading the id of the plug by the anchoring fixture,
- comparing the transmitted id and the readed id from the plug in the anchoring fixture and automatically locking the plug-socket assembly if the ids match.

2. Claims: 52-58,

claim 53 having been read as dependent on claim 52, and claim 54 dependent on claim 53

e-commerce order processing method having exchange of hypermedia documents between a vendor web server and a user including a user identification form, customer profile data and associating an order id with the user, the delivery of goods being dependent on the profile data.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 01/02678

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