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(54) **Beverage dispense tap**

(57) A beverage dispense tap 1 has a valve 6 disposed within the tap body 2 between an inlet 3 and an outlet 4, and a manually operable handle 5 pivotally mounted on the tap body 2 for actuating the valve 6. The valve 6 has a piston 29 slidable in a bore 30 of the tap body 2 and the handle 5 has a drive formation 5f en-

gageable with an annular groove 41 in the piston 29 for reciprocating the piston 29 to open and close the valve 6. The handle 5 is uncoupled from the piston 29 in the open position to allow the piston 29 to be slid out of the bore 30 to remove the valve 6 from the tap body 2 with the handle 5 in situ.

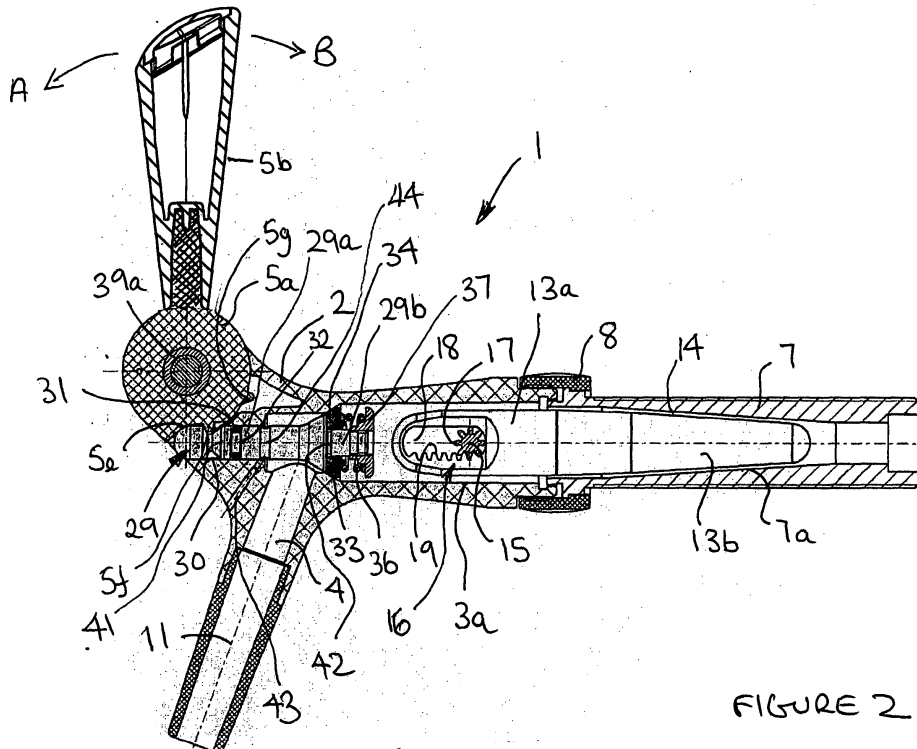


FIGURE 2



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 25 6724

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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) |
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| X | DE 24 20 293 A1 (TRAMPE, WILLI, 4972 LOEHNE) 6 November 1975 (1975-11-06) * page 1, paragraph 5; figure 1 * | 1-5 | |
| X | GB 2 275 263 A (* IMI CORNELIUS) 24 August 1994 (1994-08-24) * figure 1 * | 1-5 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B67D |
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| -The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search Munich | | Date of completion of the search 27 January 2005 | Examiner Desittere, M |
| 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 | |

1 EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



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:

1-9



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: 1-9

dispense tap with removable valve

2. claim: 10

dispense tap with adjustable compensator

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

EP 04 25 6724

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.

27-01-2005

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