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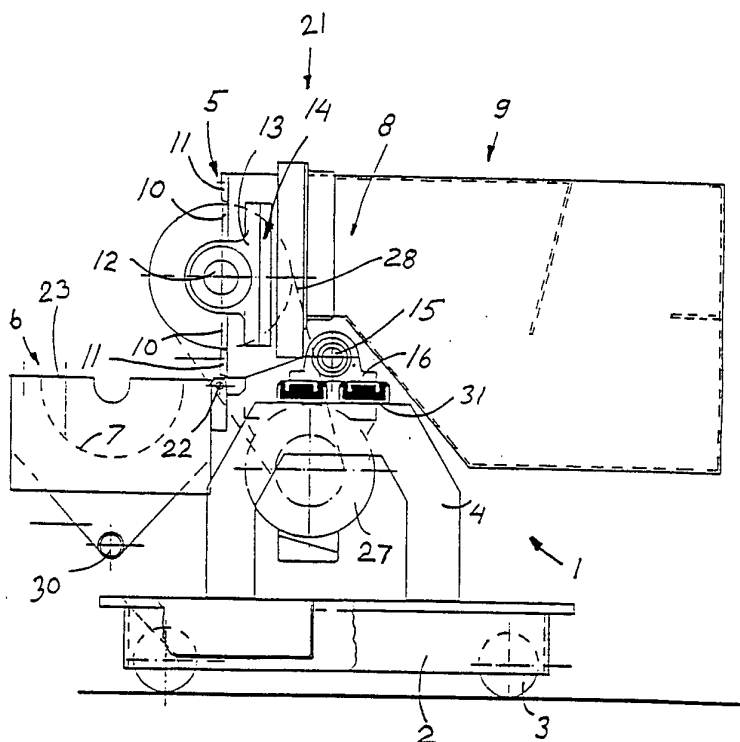
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(54) Title: A GRANULATING MACHINE

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to an arrangement in granulating mills including a cutter disposed for rotation in a granulate container (6), above which there is a collection hopper (9) for feeding the shaped pieces of preferably plastics material that are to be comminuted, and a high pressure air pump (17) for conveying ready comminuted granulate away from the container (6). The cutter is mounted for rotation in bearings (13) placed on a centrally disposed subframe (14), in turn pivotably mounted on a main pivot shaft (15) journaled in bearings on the main frame (4) of the mill (1). The cutter (5), hopper (9) and container (6) are hinged, via pivot means (21, 22), and openably connected to each other, these components being pivotable about the shaft (15) via the central sub-frame (14) carrying the cutter (5). The line of action of the common centre of gravity of the pivotable components (5, 6, 9) extends through the shaft (15), and thus these are statically balanced about it. Accordingly, only minor force is required to pivot the components (5, 6, 9) into the opened state of the mill for service and/or cleaning in connection with changes in pigment/material.



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A GRANULATING MACHINE.

The present invention relates to an arrangement in granulating mills and includes a cutter means with a
5 cutter rotatably mounted in a granulate container and disposed such that during rotation of the cutter the perimeter of its blades is juxtaposed to a cylindrical-ly shaped sieve made from a perforated sheet of material and removably mounted in the container, the peri-
10 meter also being accessible to an upper feed opening for the shaped pieces of primarily plastics material that is to be comminuted, this material being supplied to the feed opening from a collection hopper situated above the cutter blades, which are adapted for coaction
15 with at least one cutter bar disposed in the fixed part of the cutter means for comminuting the plastics material. The shaft ends of the cutter are journalled in bearings in a centrally disposed subframe, which is in turn pivotably mounted via a main pivot shaft journal-
20 led at either end in mutually opposing main pivot bearings fixed to the primary frame of the mill. The arrangement also includes a high pressure pump for conveying air through a first hose into the lower portion of the container and for conveying the ready
25 milled granulate via a second hose away from the container to a collection point outside the mill.

A problem burdening already known granulating mills of a similar type is that service and cleaning in connec-
30 tion with changing pigment or other material are troublesome and time-consuming, as well as being very laborious, since the components included in the mill have considerable weight, which comes into prominence in the dismantling necessary to get at the mill components
35 which are to be serviced, exchanged or cleaned. It is important that cleaning is carried out very thoroughly

when changing pigment or other material, since pieces or granules from a previous comminuting operation with the mill can otherwise loosen and discolour the granulate in a subsequent operation.

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The object of the present invention is thus to achieve an arrangement in granulating mills of the kind mentioned in the introduction, where both service and cleaning in connection with changing pigment or other material are substantially facilitated. The distinguishing features required for the invention are disclosed in the accompanying claims.

By reason of the invention there has now been provided an arrangement in granulating mills of the kind mentioned above, and which excellently achieves the inventive intention, while being at the same time relatively cheap and simple in its construction. The arrangement is unique in that all the chief components of the mill (excluding its main frame) are suspended by a shaft, about which they pivot from a closed state to an open state. Since the components are adapted such that their common centre of gravity has its line of action substantially passing through the shaft, this results in that these components will be apparently almost weightless during opening and closing the mill. At the same time, after the mill has been opened by swinging apart the components forming it, all the nooks and crannies of the apparatus become readily accessible for effective cleaning, this better accessibility ensuring that service can be performed more easily than with previously known arrangements. In addition, no special tools for opening up the mill are required, since the parts to be opened are kept together by bayonet-type latches, which can be rapidly opened. This means that the entire service and/or cleaning procedure does not

take a long time, which is the case with known mill arrangements, thus enabling very rapid, time-saving procedures. In connection with swinging or tipping the pivotable chief components of the mill to the open
5 state, the granulate container opens automatically, and on termination of the tipping operation, a pivoting shaft for the upper components comprising the cutter and collection hopper, assumes a vertical position, which enables swinging the collection hopper out later-
10 ally with the use of practically no force at all.

The invention will now be described in more detail below with the aid of a preferred embodiment example, and with reference to the accompanying drawing, where:
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- Fig. 1 is a schematic side view of a granulating mill, arranged in accordance with the present invention, in an operative, closed state.
- 20 Fig. 2 illustrates the mill of Fig. 1 in an open state, preliminary to cleaning and/or service.
- Fig. 3 is a partial, schematic, perspective view of a part of the mill arrangement in accordance
25 with the invention, more specifically a high pressure pump in its swung out position, the pump being intended for conveying air through a supply hose, towards which the pump may be swung such that a sprung hose connection on
30 the pump mates with the hose, and
- Fig. 4 is a partial, schematic, perspective view of the mill, more specifically the sprung hose connections for sealing engagement against air
35 input and output openings in the lower portion of the granulate container.

As will be seen from Figs 1 and 2, the granulating mill 1, according to a preferred embodiment example of the invention, includes a main frame 4 mounted on a carriage 2, which is movable with the aid of wheels 3. The frame 4 carries a cutter 5 journalled for rotation in a granulate container 6. The cutter is provided with blades 10, the periphery of which during rotation is juxtaposed to a removable, semi-cylindrically shaped sieve 7 of perforated sheet material, removably arranged in the container 6. The mill also includes a collection hopper 9, and shaped pieces of primarily plastics material which are to be comminuted are supplied via a feed opening 8 of the hopper 9, this opening being in communication with the cutter 5. For comminuting the plastics material the blades 10 of the cutter 5 coact with at least one cutter bar 11 situated on the fixed part of the cutter means, the cutter shaft ends 12 of which are mounted for rotation by means of bearings 13, in turn mounted on a centrally placed subframe 14. The subframe 14 is pivotably mounted on a main shaft 15, in turn mounted in pivot bearings 16 rigidly fastened to the main frame 4 of the mill 1. The latter also includes a high pressure pump 17 for conveying air in a first hose 18 into the lower portion 19 of the container 6 via an input opening 29, ready milled granulate being conveyed in a second hose 20 via an output opening 30 in the portion 19 to a collection point outside the mill 1.

The cutter 5 and collection hopper 9 are mutually pivotable via means 21, while the granulate container 6 is pivotable via means 22, these components being openably, mutually connected via unillustrated bayonet fastenings, and they are also pivotable about the main pivot shaft 15 via the central subframe 14 carrying the cutter means. The line of action of the common centre

of gravity of these components 5, 6 and 9 substantially passes through the shaft 15, about which they are pivotable and balanced, whereby only minor force is required to swing them into position for opening the mill 1 when service and/or cleaning are required in connection with changes in pigment/material.

As indicated in Figs 1 and 2, the pivot means 22 extends between the cutter 5 and granulate container 6 parallel to the main pivot shaft 15. When the unit formed by the cutter 5 and hopper 9 is swung about the shaft 15 to the open position, the granulate container 6 in the lower portion of the mill is opened up as the container 6 moves about its pivot means 22. These movements reveal an opening plane formed by the upper edge of the container along an opening line 23 as the container is lifted from a lower, closed position to its upper, open position.

The pivot means 21 between the cutter 5 and collection hopper 9 extends transverse the main shaft 15. The result of this is that after pivoting the unit (5 and 9) about the main shaft 15 and lifting the granulate container 6 to its upper, open position, wherein its opening plane forms substantially 90 degrees to the pivot means 21, it will now be possible to release the bayonet fastening between the cutter 5 and hopper 9. Since the pivot means 21 is now vertically oriented, the hopper 9 requires very small force to move it radially about the pivot means 21, which is an important feature of the mill arrangement in accordance with the invention, and it contributes to the easy and simple opening procedure.

As will be seen from Figs 3 and 4, a high pressure pump 17 is provided, also in the lower portion of the mill

1, for conveying the ready comminuted granulate away from the mill. In order to facilitate service and/or cleaning, this pump is also pivotable laterally before tipping the unit (5 and 9) about the shaft 15 and releasing the bayonet fastening between components 5 and 9. For this purpose the pump is provided with a hose connection means, which includes a spring-loaded, compressible connector 24 on the first hose 18, the other end of which has in turn such a connector 25 for mating with a connection means at the bottom portion 19 of the container 6. At the other side of the bottom portion 19 there is a similar connection means including a connector 26 on a second hose 20, which is for conveying ready comminuted granulate away from the container. The cutter drive is from a motor 27 via V-belts 28. Rubber dampers 31 are placed under the main shaft bearings 16 to prevent transmission of vibrations from the cutter 5 to the main frame 4 and further to the substructure supporting the mill 1. Noise from the mill is mitigated with the aid of a sound insulating casing (not illustrated on the drawing). This casing preferably comprises two halves with mutual hingeing and adapted such as to be pivotable on the main frame 4. The halves are also arranged so that when they are opened safety switches are operated for interrupting current supply to the electrical components of the mill.

Opening the mill 1, provided with the inventive arrangement, is performed in the following manner: The first step is to unlatch the sound insulating casing halves, thus interrupting electrical supply to the mill, and then swing the halves clear. The second step is to release a lock on the pump and swing it to one side. The third step is to release the bayonet catch locking the granulate container 6 to the cutter

5, and then to swing the unit formed by the chief mill components 5, 6 and 9 about the main pivot shaft 15 through approximately 90 degrees to the open position of the mill. During this pivoting or swinging movement, 5 the granulate container 6 is automatically raised simultaneously as its plane of opening maintains a substantially horizontal orientation along the line 23 of opening as the container becomes completely open. The pivot means 21 on the hopper 9 is now in a sub- 10 stantially vertical position and preferably at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the line 23 of opening of the container 6. The fourth step is now taken in this completely pivoted position, namely to release the bayonet catch keeping the hopper 9 to the cutter means, 15 thus enabling the hopper readily to be swung to one side. After service and/or cleaning the reverse procedure is performed for returning the completely opened mill to its operational state, subsequent to which the mill can function once again.

Claims

1. Arrangement in granulating mills, including a cutter (5) disposed for rotation in a granulate container (6), the shaped pieces of preferably plastics material that are to be comminuted being supplied to a feed opening (8) from a collection hopper (9) situated above it, the shaft ends (12) of said cutter being mounted for rotation in bearings (13) placed on a centrally disposed subframe (14), this frame being pivotably mounted on a main pivot shaft (15) which is journaled in at least two bearings (16) rigidly mounted on the main frame (4) of the mill (1), there also being a high pressure pump (17) for generating an air stream to convey ready comminuted granulate out from the container (6) **characterized** in that the cutter (5), collection hopper (9) and granulate container (6) are hingedly, via pivot means (21, 22), and openably connected to each other, while at the same time these components (5, 6, 9) are in turn pivotable about the main shaft (15) via the central subframe (14) carrying the cutter (5), the line of action of the common centre of gravity of the pivotable components (5, 6, 9), substantially passing through said shaft such that said components are statically balanced about it, thus enabling the requirement of only minor force to pivot the components (5, 6, 9) into position for opening the mill for service and/or cleaning in connection with changes in pigment/material.

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2. Arrangement as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that the pivot means (22) between the cutter (5) and container (6) extends parallel to the main shaft (15), such that when the unit formed by the cutter (5) and hopper (9) is pivoted about the shaft (15) the part of the lower portion of the mill (1) formed by the con-

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tainer (6), which is carried by the pivot means (22), is simultaneously opened such that at its upper edge forming an opening plane along an opening line (23) is raisable from a lower, closed position for the container to an upper opened position.

3. Arrangement as claimed in claims 1 or 2, **characterized** in that the pivot means (21) between the cutter (5) and hopper (9) extends transverse the main shaft (15), and functions such that the cutter (5) may be swung to one side to open the upper part of the mill (1), after pivoting or swinging the unit formed by components (5, 9) about the shaft (15) to the open position while simultaneously lifting the container (6) to its upper, open position where its opening plane forming the opening line (23) is substantially at right angles to the pivot means (21).

4. Arrangement as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that, before the chief components of the mill (1) are swung about the shaft (15) into the open position, the high pressure pump (17) may be swung to one side and is therefore provided with a sprung, compressible connection means (24) to a first hose (18) for supplying air to the lower portion (19) of the granulate container (6), where this hose is provided with a means (25) similar to the means (24), a further means (26) being provided at said lower portion (19) for a second hose (20) for conveying ready comminuted granulate away from the mill (1).

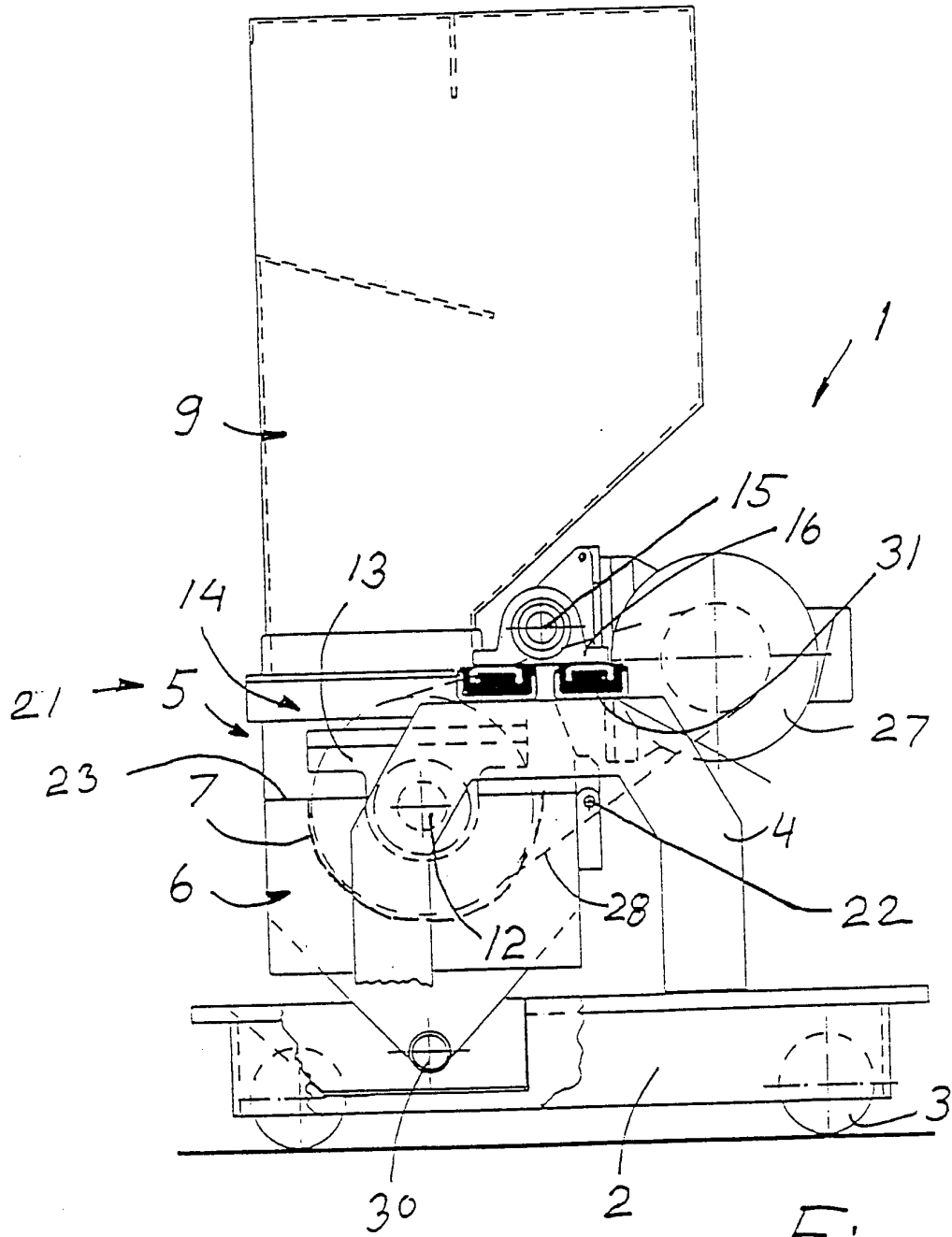


Fig. 1

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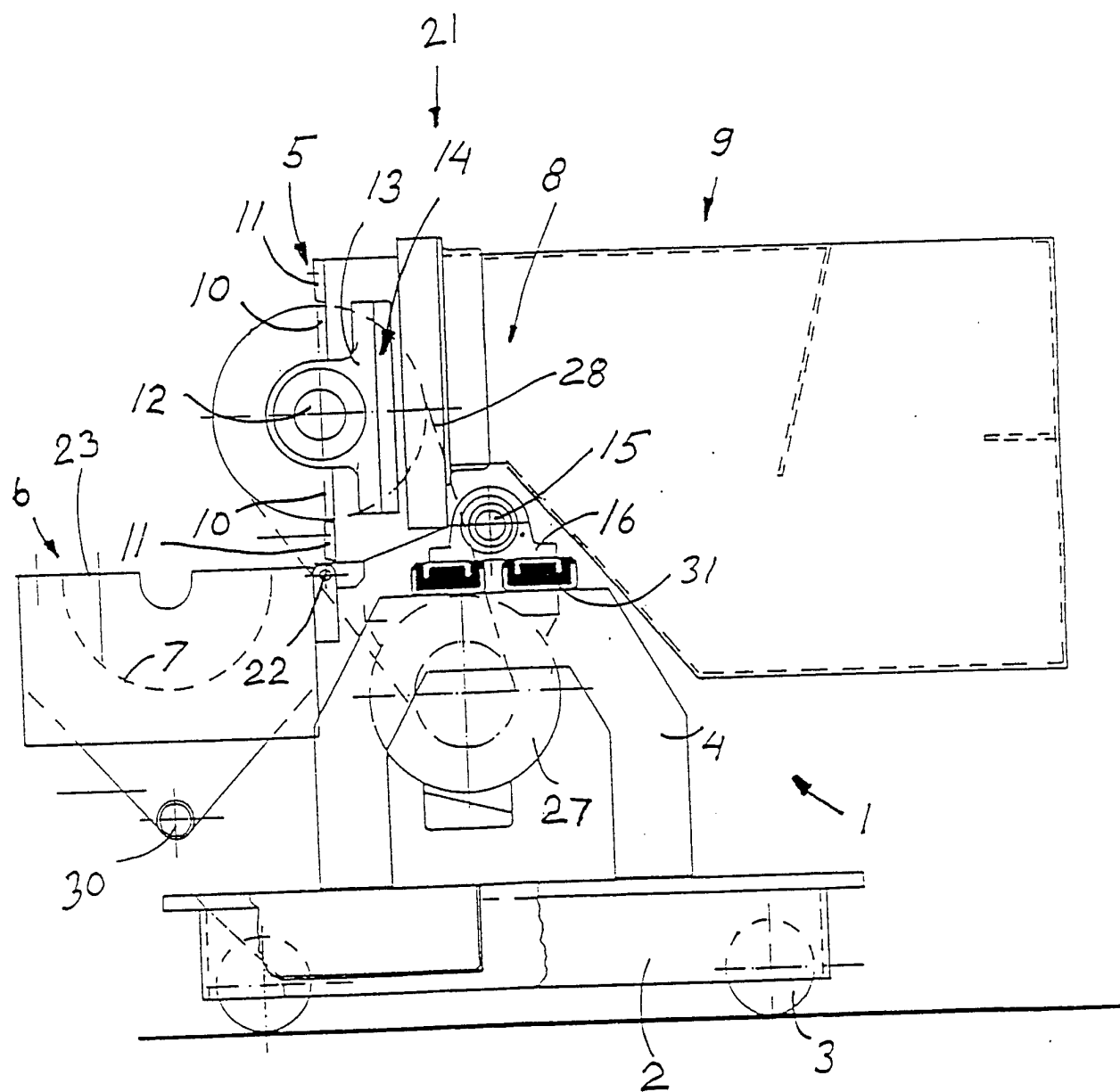


Fig. 2

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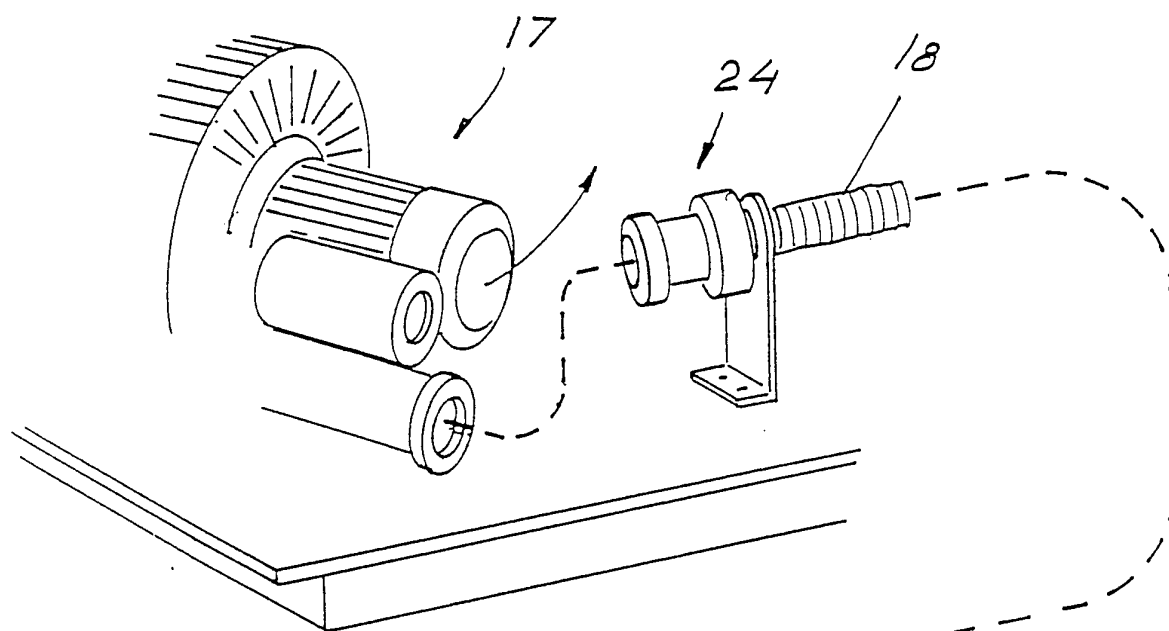


Fig. 3

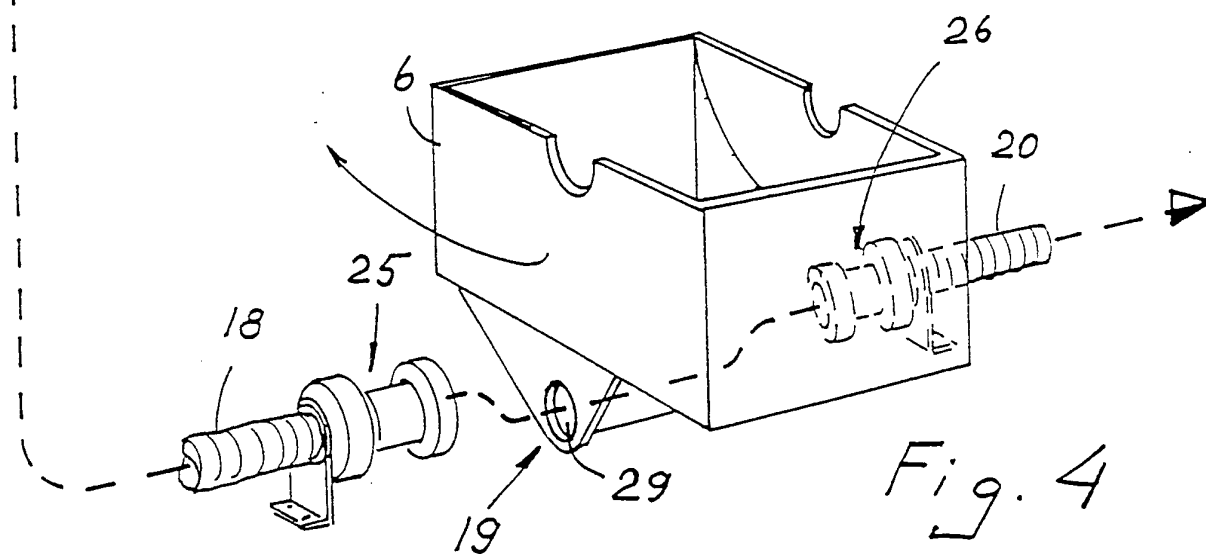


Fig. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/00754

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC5: B02C 18/44

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)

IPC5: B02C

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

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 4073444 (JARMIL PAV), 14 February 1978 (14.02.78), column 3, line 42 - column 4, line 10, figures 1,2 --	1-4
A	US, A, 3419223 (NELSON H. MORIN), 31 December 1968 (31.12.68), figures 1-4, claims 1,2 -- -----	1-4

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
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16/10/93

International application No.

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A- 4073444	14/02/78	DE-A- 2544496	14/04/77
		JP-C- 998762	30/05/80
		JP-A- 52044449	07/04/77
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US-A- 3419223	31/12/68	NONE	