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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DEVICE AND SYSTEM FOR HANDLING OF DENTAL WORKPIECES

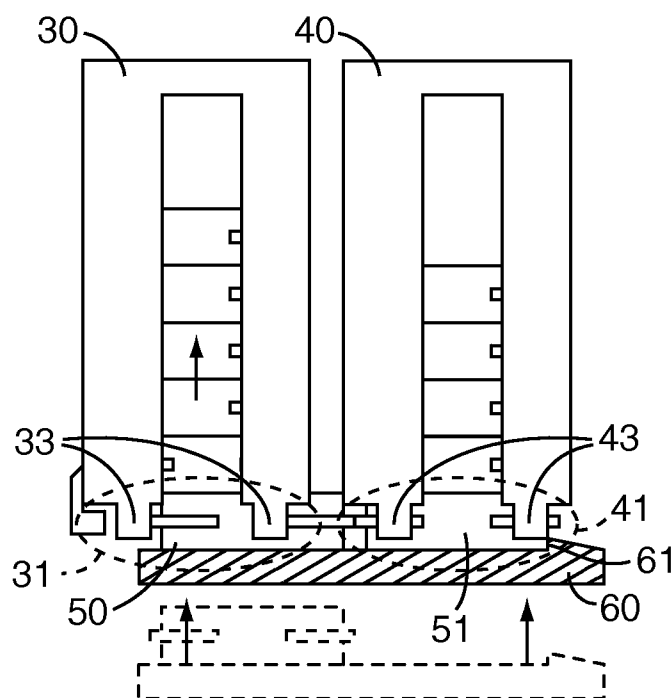


**Fig. 6b**

(57) Abstract: A device for handling workpieces. The device has a magazine (12) for holding at least one workpiece, and a delivery location (10). The device is retainable in the magazine by a retainer (s) (43) in the delivery location and displaceable to a position in which the workpiece because of its shape releases the retainer (s) so that the workpiece is free for being removed from the magazine. The device may provide for easy handling of workpieces and may be manufactured cost effectively.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
INV. B65G60/00 A61C13/00

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)

B65G A61C F41A

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)

EP0-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No.                  |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| X         | US 6 454 568 B1 (BEUSCHEL MARTIN [DE] ET AL) 24 September 2002 (2002-09-24)        | 1, 2, 5-9, 12, 14-18, 23, 26-31, 34-36 |
| A         | column 3, line 30 - line 50; figure 3                                              | 19-22, 33                              |
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| A         |                                                                                    | 19, 23                                 |
|           | -----<br>-/--                                                                      |                                        |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family 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
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*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
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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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. |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
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| X         | US 2004/020092 A1 (CHRISTENSEN CRAIG A<br>[US]) 5 February 2004 (2004-02-05)<br>figure 13<br>-----                              | 1,23                  |
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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2008/071180

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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 No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 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 allsearchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search reportcovers 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.:

see annex

### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ 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: 1,2,5-9,12,14-23,26-31,34-36

A device and method for handling workpieces with two buffers and an actuator  
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2. claims: 3,4,24,25

A device and method for handling workpieces with a distance between the first and second position less than half the length of the workpiece.  
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3. claims: 10,11

A device for handling workpieces with retainers of a certain length  
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4. claim: 13

A device for handling workpieces with four retainers  
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5. claim: 32

A method for handling workpieces where placement of one workpiece in the delivery direction moves another workpiece  
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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2008/071180

| Patent document<br>cited in search report | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s)  | Publication<br>date        |
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