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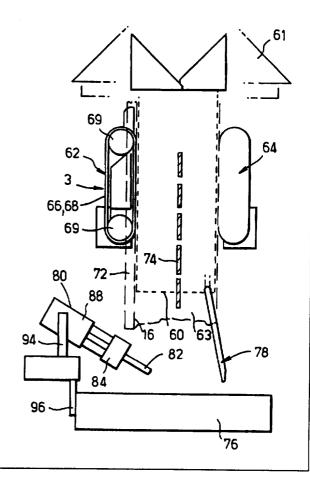
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

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(54) Title: MANUFACTURE AND FILLING OF PLASTICS BAGS

(57) Abstract

A form and fill machine for resealable plastics bags having reclosable fastening strip adjacent the mouth thereof, the machine comprising a filling tube (60) around which the bags are formed on a continuous tube from sheet material upon which the fastening strip is attached, means (66, 68) for advancing the continuous tube over the filling tube in bag-width steps, sealing means (76) for forming side seams and at least partially severing successive bags at bag width intervals, and means (78, 80) for spreading the lower end of the continuous tube prior to forming a side seam, characterized in that the spreading means comprises at least one means (80) for externally engaging a portion of the continuous tube so as to position the portion of the tube whereat the fastening strip is disposed relative to the sealing means.



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Inte(mail Application No PCT/GB 95/02406

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 B65B9/20

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 B65B

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)

| C. DOCUMENTS | CONSIDERED | TO | BE RELEVANT |
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| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. | |
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| X | US,A,4 829 745 (R. BEHR) 16 May 1989 see column 4, line 46 - column 6, line 16; figures | 1-3 | |
| Х | US,A,4 974 395 (M. MCMAHON) 4 December 1990 see column 2, line 29 - column 4, line 31; figures | 1-3 | |
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| Date of the actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the international search report |
| 6 February 1996 | 2 8 . 05. 96 |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+ 31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+ 31-70) 340-3016 | Authorized officer JAGUSIAK, A |

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inational application No.

PCT/GB95/02406

| 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)(2) for the following reasons: |
| 1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: |
| 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 sheet B |
| |
| |
| 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 searches without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee. |
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| 4. X 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.: 1-5 |
| Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees. |

International application No. PCT/GB95/02406

1. Claims 1-5: Form and fill machine for resealable plastic bags comprising spreading means (externally and internally of the tubular material) in order to guarantee a wrinkle-free zone before the tube passes between the sealing means.

2. Claims 6-10: Method and apparatus for making resealable plastic bags comprising means to control the spreed of the sheet material at a first station in response to the quantity of this material between this this first and a second station.

There is obviously technical relationship between these 2 mentioned inventions. Means for spreading the tubular material is a complete other technical feature as means for controlling the speed of sheet material. Consequently these inventions are not linked by a single inventive concept. The application therefor lacks inity of invention. The partial search has been performed for the first invention, i.e. claims 1-5.

information on patent family members

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