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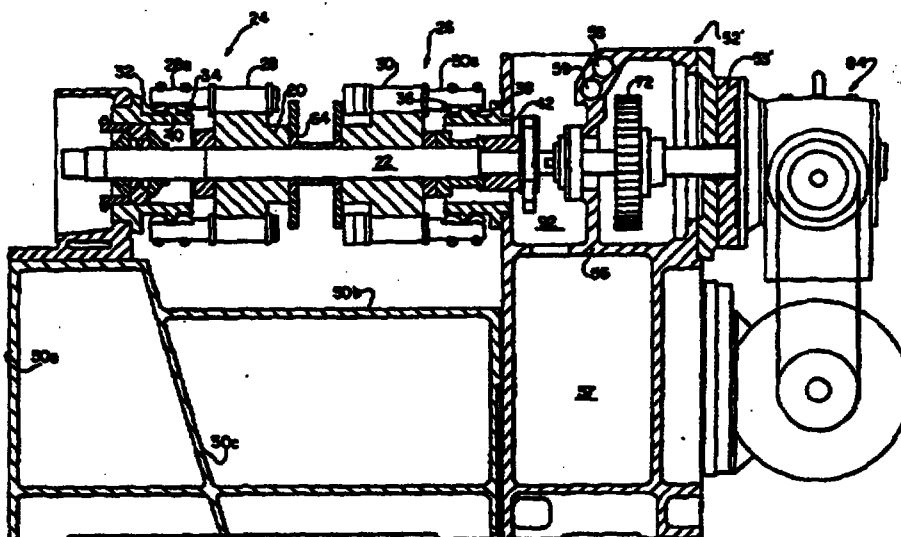
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6: B21D 51/26		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/33032
			(43) International Publication Date: 24 October 1996 (24.10.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/03297 (22) International Filing Date: 18 March 1996 (18.03.96) (30) Priority Data: 08/426,122 20 April 1995 (20.04.95) US (71) Applicant: DELAWARE CAPITAL FORMATION, INC. [US/US]; Suite 102, 1403 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19803 (US). (72) Inventors: MARRITT, Clifford, R. ; 328 Beechcliff Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27104 (US). MARSHALL, Harold, J. ; 217 Valleywood Drive, Forest, VA 24551 (US). BABBITT, Terry; 109 Oakmont Court, Lynchburg, VA 24503 (US). (74) Agents: HUMPHRIES, Nathaniel, A. et al. ; Popham, Haik, Schnobrich & Kaufman, Ltd., Suite 800, 655 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report. With amended claims.	

(54) Title: MODULAR BASE CAN PROCESSING EQUIPMENT



(57) Abstract

An apparatus for performing reshaping operations on a can, with the apparatus being modular in construction. The modular construction allows for the easy add-on of additional processing stations for performing additional reshaping operations to the cans. Each module (70, 80, 90) is readily connected to an adjacent module in such spaced relationship that cans are transferred directly from can support pockets (62) that hold the cans during processing on one module to can support pockets that hold the cans during processing on the adjacent module, without the need for any conveyors or track work to transfer the cans. The modules are cast with internal chambers (53, 57, 92) that form vacuum chambers, gear chambers, and/or pressurized air passageways. The internal chambers of one module can be interconnected with corresponding internal chambers in adjacent modules.