

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
30 January 2003 (30.01.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/008308 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B65G 47/14**,
51/02

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/23307

(22) International Filing Date: 19 July 2002 (19.07.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/306,782 20 July 2001 (20.07.2001) US
09/934,940 22 August 2001 (22.08.2001) US

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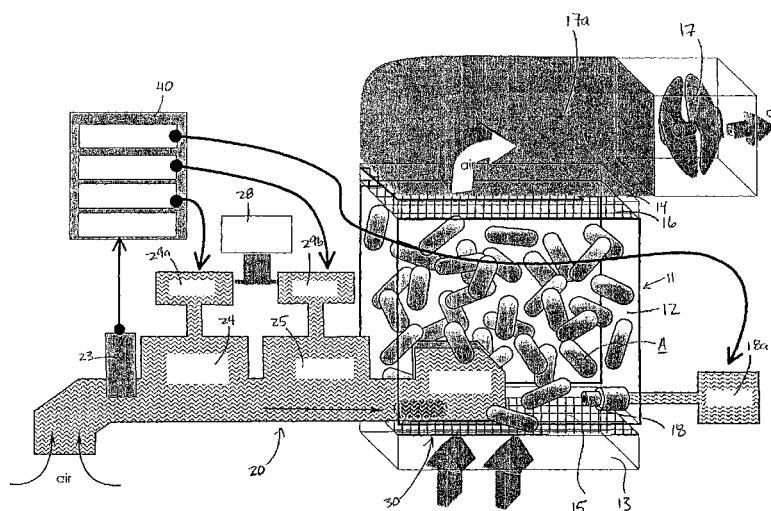
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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DEVICE TO COUNT AND DISPENSE ARTICLES



(57) Abstract: A singulating and counting device (10) includes a bulk housing (11) for storing a plurality of substantially identical articles (A), an exit channel (20), and in the exit channel, forwardly (26a, 26b)- and rearwardly (27) directed jet apertures, each of which is fluidly connected to a positive pressure source (28). A forwardly-directed jet generated by the positive pressure source through the forward jet aperture (26a, 26b) can accelerate singulated articles in the exit channel, thereby increasing the interval between individual articles and rendering them more easily and accurately counted. A rearwardly-directed jet generated by the positive pressure source through the rearwardly-directed jet aperture (27) can cause articles in the exit channel to return to the housing. A controller (40) operatively connected with the pressure source(s) selectively controls the application of positive pressure to the aforementioned apertures to induce or halt singulation of the articles; the controller may be operatively associated with a sensor (23) that detects and counts articles passing through the exit channel.



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Published:

— with international search report

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