

# APPARATUS WITH GRIPPING STATION, CUTTING STATION AND LIBRARY FOR CONTROL OF MEDICATION PACK PACKING

## ABSTRACT

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A primary embodiment of the invention is a medication packing apparatus comprising:  
(a) a loading station capable of holding a plurality of magazines, wherein each  
magazine is capable of holding a plurality of medication packs **11** and each medication  
pack **11** has a plurality of medication units; (b) a first vision station **10** capable of  
10 taking a first image of any medication pack **11**; (c) a gripper station **5** including a  
gripper **12** capable of holding any medication pack **11** and an orientation platform for  
moving the gripper **12**; (d) a cutting station **6** for precision cutting of any medication  
pack **11** held by the gripper **12**, wherein each medication pack **11** is moved into  
position by the gripper **12** station **5** prior to cutting; and (e) a controller unit including a  
15 library, a microprocessor and a data bus that is in electrical communication with the  
gripper station **5**, the first vision station **10** and the cutting station **6**. The library  
includes a plurality of medication parameter sets, each medication parameter set  
comprising a sample image, a datum point and a medication pack **11** code. The  
controller unit is capable of determining the medication pack **11** code of each  
20 medication pack **11** by matching the first image with at least one sample image in the  
library. And the controller unit is capable of designating a cutting path for any  
medication pack **11** by controlling the movement of the orientation platform with  
respect to the cutting station **6** according to a cutting plan.

25 FIG. 1A