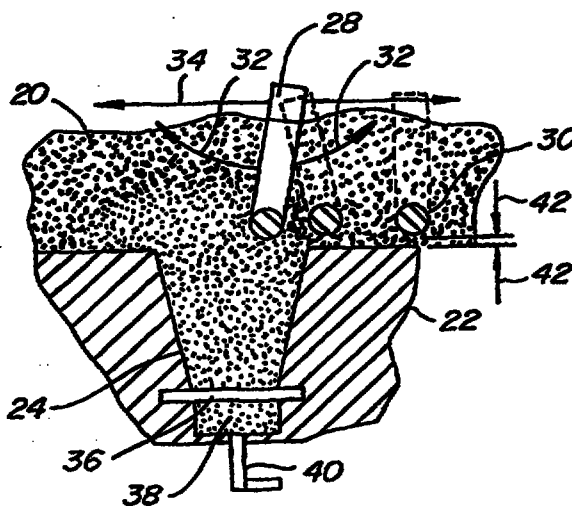


INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B65B 1/36	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/19215 (43) International Publication Date: 22 April 1999 (22.04.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/21059 (22) International Filing Date: 6 October 1998 (06.10.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/949,047 10 October 1997 (10.10.97) US (71) Applicant: INHALE THERAPEUTIC SYSTEMS [US/US]; 150 Industrial Road, San Carlos, CA 94070 (US). (72) Inventors: STOUT, Gordon; 401 Evelyn #27, Albany, CA 94706 (US). PHAM, Xuyen; 114 Lurene Drive, Fremont, CA 94541 (US). ROCCHIO, Michael, J.; 2542 Jacob Street, Hayward, CA 94541 (US). NAYDO, Kyle, A.; 902 Rockefeller Drive, 3A, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (US). PARKS, Derrick, J.; 1535 White Oak Way, San Carlos, CA 94070 (US). REICH, Patrick; 1555 W. Hillsdale Boulevard #110, San Mateo, CA 94402 (US). (74) Agents: HESLIN, James, M. et al.; Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP, 8th floor, Two Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111 (US).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>	

(54) Title: POWDER FILLING APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract

The invention provides methods, systems and apparatus for the metered transport of fine powders into receptacles. According to one exemplary embodiment, an apparatus is provided which comprises a hopper (12) having an opening. The hopper is adapted to receive a bed of fine powder (20). At least one chamber (24), which is moveable to allow the chamber to be placed in close proximity to the opening, is also provided. An element (28) having a proximal end and a distal end is positioned within the hopper such that the distal end is near the opening. A vibrator motor is provided to vibrate the element when within the fine powder.