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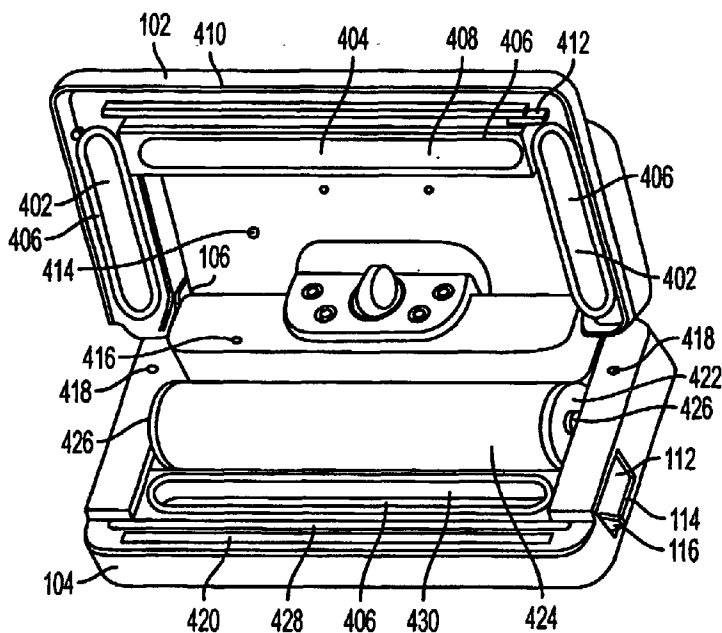
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(54) Title: VACUUM PACKAGING APPLIANCE WITH REMOVABLE TROUGH



(57) Abstract: An appliance (100) for storing articles within flexible and non-flexible containers under vacuum. The appliance comprises a lid (102) adapted to define a vacuum chamber when it is moved to a closed position relative to a trough in the base (104) of the appliance. The trough is slidably removable from the base of the appliance. The appliance is further adapted for connection to vacuum sealing attachments for various containers whereby the containers can be selectively evacuated. The appliance includes a thermal sealing mechanism for sealing a flexible container as well as a cutting mechanism for cutting the flexible container to a desired size. The appliance includes a control panel for selectively operating the vacuuming and sealing process.

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