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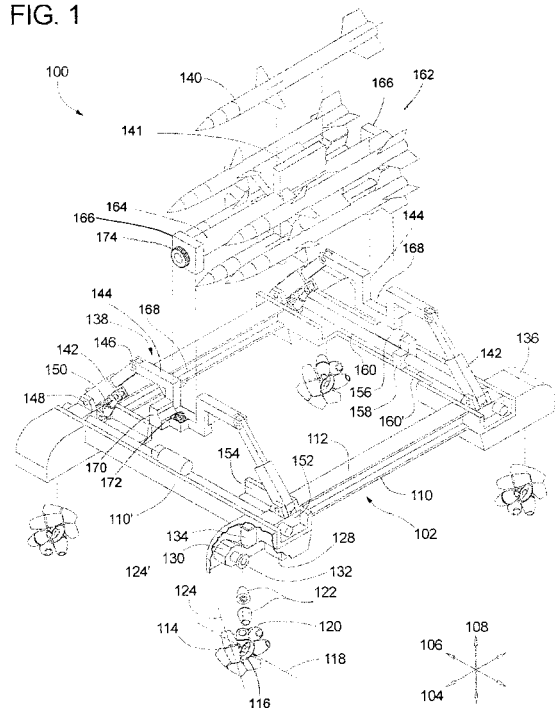
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(54) **Advanced weapons loader**

(57) A weapon handler (100) for transporting weapons and loading weapons onto aircraft or other vehicles is disclosed. The weapons handler (100) comprises a moveable base (102) having longitudinal (104), lateral (106) and vertical (108) axes, an articulated cradle (138) comprising one or more cradle members, and a weapons carousel rotatable about the longitudinal axis and adapted to hold a plurality of weapons, and a plurality of articulating members connecting the moveable base to the one or more cradle members. The articulating members are adapted to translate the articulated cradle (138) relative to moveable base along the lateral (106), longitudinal (104), and vertical (108) axes. According to another embodiment, a weapon gripper (400) for a weapon handling system is disclosed. The weapon gripper (400) comprises at least three contact surfaces, and a moveable linkage adapted to selectively move at least one of the at least three contact surfaces from a first position in which the at least three contact surfaces geometrically enclose a weapon, to a second position in which the at least three contact surfaces geometrically release the weapon.

FIG. 1



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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- 1 - 38
- The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-38

weapons handler for transporting and loading weapons

2. claims: 39-45

weapon gripper for a weapon handling system

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 05 47 2003

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82