



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
10.08.2005 Bulletin 2005/32

(51) Int Cl.7: **B65D 19/44**

(43) Date of publication A2:
29.06.2005 Bulletin 2005/26

(21) Application number: **04027927.5**

(22) Date of filing: **24.11.2004**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IS IT LI LU MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL HR LT LV MK YU

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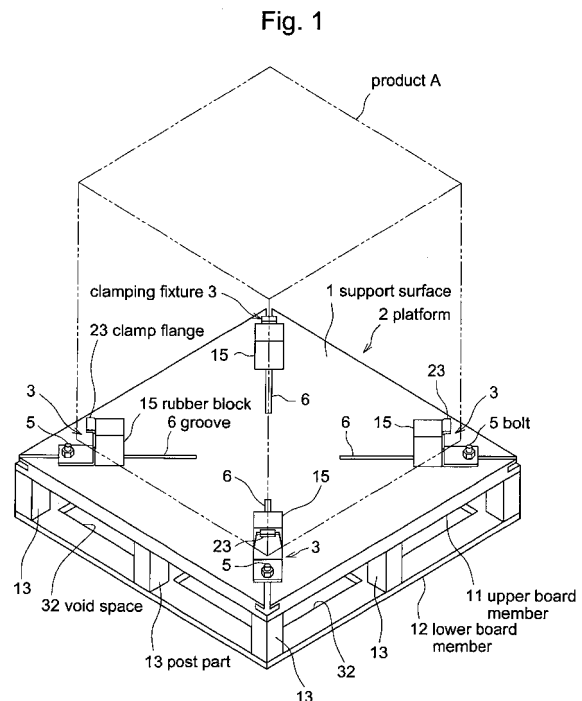
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(30) Priority: **24.12.2003 JP 2003426704**

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(54) **Carrier apparatus**

(57) A carrier apparatus is provided to ship or store products of various sizes and shapes. The carrier apparatus comprises a platform (2). Grooves (6) are formed on the platform on which a product (A) is placed, and fixing members (3) are placed within the grooves to allow the fixing members to be moved to various positions on a support surface (1) of the platform. Moreover, space is provided between the upper board (11) and lower board (12) of the platform to insert a fork part of a freight handling vehicle. Bumpers (15) are inserted between the upper side of upper board member and the lower surface of the product placed on the support surface. The support surface on the upper side of the board member is formed as a planar surface on which casters (31), installed to the bottom of the product, are able to roll. Void spaces are formed within the lower part of board member.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	DE 199 11 481 A1 (HERGETH, WILLIBALD) 5 October 2000 (2000-10-05) * column 2, line 37 - column 3, line 14 * * figures 1-3 *	1	B65D19/44
X	----- US 4 915 033 A (BOND ET AL) 10 April 1990 (1990-04-10) * column 2, line 24 - column 4, line 29 * * figures 1-6 *	1-4	
X	----- DE 44 34 286 C1 (ELRING KLINGER GMBH, 72581 DETTINGEN, DE) 21 March 1996 (1996-03-21) * column 3, line 68 - column 7, line 23 * * figures 1-4 *	1,5-7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		3 March 2005	Fitterer, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04/C01)

**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:

1-7



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: 1-7

A carrier apparatus having adjustable fixing members,
wherein the fixing members are fixable in grooves or holes.

2. claims: 8,9

A carrier apparatus comprising bumpers and specific clamping
means for fixing a product.

3. claims: 10-12

A carrier apparatus being defined by a pallet-like structure
and specific materials.

4. claims: 13-15

A carrier apparatus comprising a cover configured to cover a
product on the apparatus.

5. claims: 16-18

A carrier apparatus comprising a framework configured to
enclose a product on the apparatus.

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

EP 04 02 7927

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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03-03-2005

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