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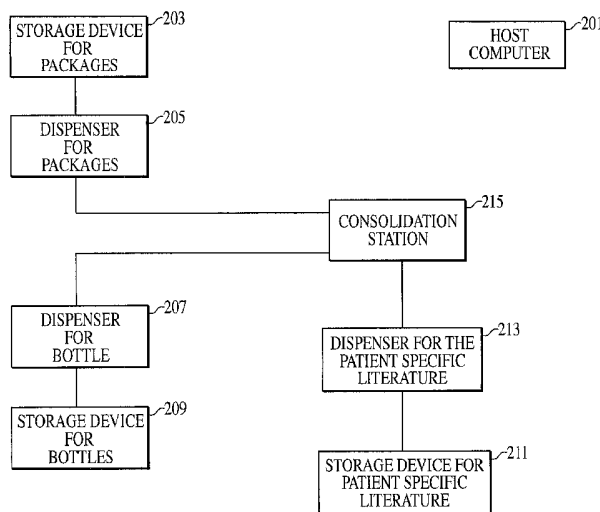
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AUTOMATED ORDER FILLING SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: Computer assisted systems, methods and mediums for filling one or more orders. One embodiment of the present invention is a system that includes an order consolidation station configured to receive at least one bottle containing pills individually counted and/or at least one package containing pharmaceutical products without having been designated for any of the orders when the package was created and/or at least one literature pack optionally including patient specific information. The order consolidation station is further configured to combine automatically the received bottle and/or package and/or literature pack into a container to be sent to a recipient including, for example, mail order pharmacies, wholesalers and/or central fill dealers for subsequent distribution or sale including retailer distribution or sale. The bottle is specifically designated for the order, and the order generally includes at least one prescription for the package.

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DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat. Application No

PCT/US 03/24687

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A61J7/00 B65G1/137

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 A61J B65G B65B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6 370 841 B1 (CHUDY DUANE S ET AL) 16 April 2002 (2002-04-16) the whole document	1-8, 10-19, 21-34, 36-46, 48-54, 57-77, 79-88, 90,91

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 January 2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US 03/24687

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 771 657 A (RICE DENNIS WAYNE ET AL) 30 June 1998 (1998-06-30) cited in the application the whole document ---	1-8, 10-19, 21-34, 36-46, 48-54, 57-77, 79-88, 90,91
A	EP 1 186 285 A (NEXTRX CORP) 13 March 2002 (2002-03-13) abstract; figure 1 ---	55
A	WO 00 34925 A (SCRIPTPRO LLC) 15 June 2000 (2000-06-15) page 2, line 10 -page 3, line 12; figure 1 ---	13,24, 38,51, 53,57, 70,82
A	US 5 713 485 A (LIFF HAROLD J ET AL) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) the whole document -----	13,24, 38,51, 53,57, 70,82

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 03/24687

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-23,28-52,57-69

system and method for filling orders comprising the consolidation of bottles and packages

2. Claims: 24-27,53,54,70-91

system and method for filling orders comprising the consolidation of packages and literature packs

3. Claims: 55,56

bottle storage apparatus

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intern	Application No
PCT/US 03/24687	

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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