

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P12312PC00	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2019/068088	International filing date (day/month/year) 05.07.2019	Priority date (day/month/year)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. A47K10/38			
Applicant Essity Hygiene and Health Aktiebolag			
1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>7</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. 3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>18</u> sheets, as follows: ☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority, unless those sheets were superseded or cancelled, and any accompanying letters (see Rules 46.5, 66.8, 70.16, 91.2, and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). ☐ sheets containing rectifications, where the decision was made by this Authority not to take them into account because they were not authorized by or notified to this Authority at the time when this Authority began to draw up this report, and any accompanying letters (Rules 66.4bis, 70.2(e), 70.16 and 91.2). ☐ superseded sheets and any accompanying letters, where this Authority either considers that the superseding sheets contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, or the superseding sheets were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box (see Rule 70.16(b)). b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing, in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see paragraph 3ter of Annex C of the Administrative Instructions).			
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: ☒ Box No. I Basis of the report ☐ Box No. II Priority ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application			
Date of submission of the demand 04.05.2021		Date of completion of this report 07.10.2021	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized officer Boyer, Olivier Telephone No. +31 70 340-8422	



Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on
- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a) and (b))
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-14 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-23 filed in electronic form on 04-05-2021

Drawings, Sheets

1/10-10/10 as originally filed

- ☐ a sequence listing - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since either they are considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, or they were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rules 70.2(c) and (c-bis)):
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
5. ☐ This report has been established:
- ☐ taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rules 66.1(d-bis) and 70.2(e)).
 - ☐ without taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91(Rules 66.4bis and 70.2(e)).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2019/068088

6. ☒ With regard to top-up searches (Rules 66.1 *ter* and 70.2(f)):
- ☒ A top-up search was carried out by this Authority on 07.09.2021 (all discovered documents are listed in the Supplemental Box Relating to Top-up Search).
 - ☐ Additional relevant documents have been discovered during the top-up search.
 - ☐ No top-up search was carried out by this Authority because it would serve no useful purpose.
7. ☐ Supplementary international search report(s) from Authority(ies) has/have been received and taken into account in establishing this report (Rule 45bis.8(b) and (c)).

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded".

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-16, 18-23</u>
	No: Claims	<u>17</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-16, 18-23</u>
	No: Claims	<u>17</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-23</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1 JP H07 7588 U Sada Nishiura (1995-02-03)
- D2 US 3 637 276 A (BUMP EDWARD L) (1972-01-25)
- D3 US 4 034 924 A (CARLISLE EDWARD F) (1977-07-12)
- D4 US 3 184 176 A (TUCKER COUNCIL A ET AL) (1965-05-18)

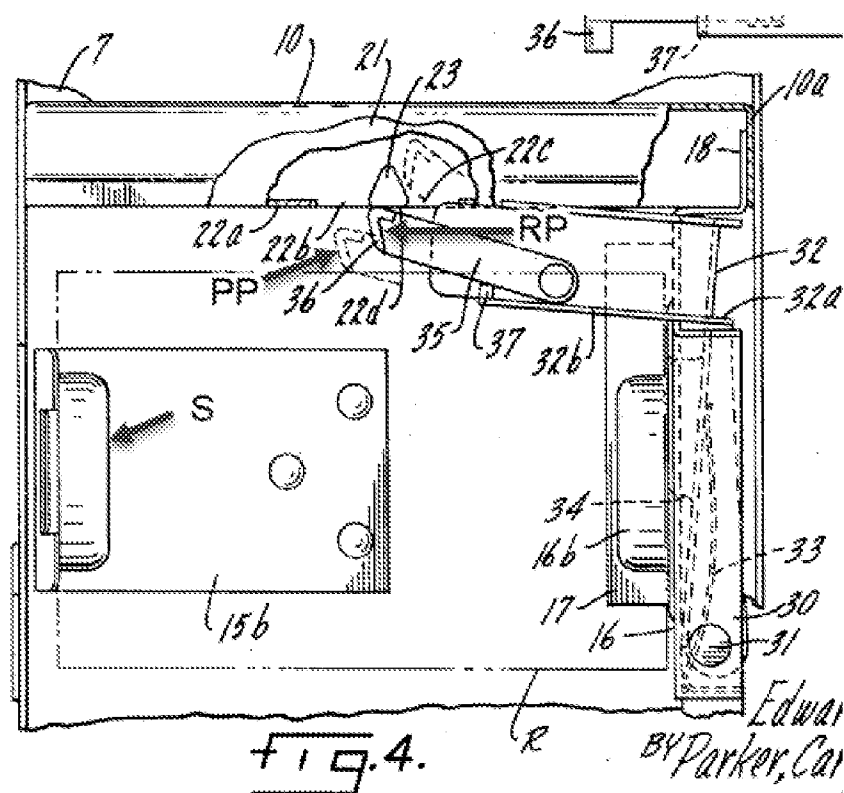
2 Independent claim 17

Document D2 discloses the following features in figures 1-3 and 4 below:

Dispenser *for dispensing web material from a roll*, the dispenser comprising:

- a housing (1,7) and a front cover (21) having an opened and a closed state,
- a spindle (S) *intended to rotatably support a roll of web material (P)* during dispensing, said spindle being movable between a loading position (15a flexed outwards to load P) and a dispensing position (fig. 3),
- a deflecting member (34 via 35) resiliently movable between a retracted position (fig. 4 below, (RP)) in which the deflecting member is retracted in the housing and a protruding position (PP) in which the deflecting member is protruding towards the interior of the dispenser,

wherein the front cover in its closed state is blocked from interaction with the housing when the deflecting member is in retracted position (col. 2, lines 13-27, "The segment 22d supports an abutment...being indicated at 23").



The subject-matter of claim 17 is not novel and does therefore not meet the criteria of Articles 33 (1) and (2) PCT.

3 Claims 1-16 and 18-23

3.1 With the prior art currently at hand, the subject-matter of independent amended claim 1 and claims 18 appears to involve an inventive step and to satisfy the criterion set forth in Articles 33 (1) and (3) PCT.

3.1.1 The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore appears to differ from this known dispenser in that:

- the housing comprises an **engagement slot** (application, fig. 4-5B, (20)),
- said front cover comprises an engagement member (24) arranged to interact with **said engagement slot** when the front cover in closed state,
- and said movement of the deflecting member translates into movement of the **blocking member** (15) in and out of **said engagement slot** in the dispenser housing.

- 3.1.2 The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as how to modify the dispenser and its front cover to allow the service personnel to correct a faulty roll position (see application, page 4, lines 11-22)?
- 3.1.3 If the skilled person would combine features of D1, D3 or D4 in the invention of D2, he would not arrive at the subject-matter of claim 1, because D1, D3 or D4 do also not disclose that the housing comprises an engagement slot (see D1, fig. 2, (blind hole 41) and D4, fig. 10-11, (blind hole 134)).
- Document D3 discloses a housing (fig. 1-7, (10,22)) comprising a slot (fig. 6, (14)) for finger 86. The skilled person would not combine features of D3 in the invention of D2, because D3 solves an other problem (see D3, col.1, lines 10-33, "to prevent replacement of the new roll until it is substantially consumed"). In addition the finger 86 is not a blocking member, because finger 86 contacts the roll 88 to detect if it is depleted before replacement by a new one. Moreover the front cover (fig. 2, (36)) of D3 doesn't comprise any engagement member arranged to interact with said engagement slot (fig. 6, (14 for 86)) when the front cover (36) in closed state.
- 3.1.4 A similar observation applies to claim 21, wherein the subject-matter therefore appears to differ from this known dispenser in that the movement of the deflecting member translates into movement of a blocking member into a blocking position, allowing the deflecting member to flex back into protruding position once the spindle is in dispensing position in order to move said blocking member out of said blocking position.
- 3.2 A similar observation applies to their dependent claims 2-16, 19-20, 22 and 23.

Re Item VII

4 Certain defects in the international application

- 4.1 Independent claims 1, 17, 18 and 21 are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT.
- 4.2 Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in D2 is not mentioned in the description.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

- 5 The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claims 1, 17, 18 are not clear.
- 5.1 Claim 18: the terminology must be consistent throughout the application. This requirement is not met in view of the use of the following expressions having similar concepts with different wording: "the front cover in its closed state is blocked from interaction with the housing when the deflecting member is in retracted position" in claim 17 and " the movement of the deflecting member translates into moving a blocking member into said engagement slot in order to hinder interaction between said engagement member and said engagement slot" in claim 18. (see PCT G.L ISPE II, 4.22 last sentence).
- 5.2 Claim 18 comprises all the features of claim 1 and is therefore not appropriately formulated as a claim not dependent on the latter (Rule 6.4 PCT).
- 6 Observation: as an anticipation of the requirement of the Rule 43(2) EPC in the European regional phase, it is to be observed that the independent claims 1, 17 and 18 are in the same category, and do not fulfill one of the exceptions a, b, c of Rule 43(2) EPC.

Date May 04, 2021
Essity reference P12312PC00



European Patent Office
D-80298 MUNICH
Germany

International PCT Application No. PCT/EP2019/068088

Applicant: Essity Hygiene and Health Aktiebolag

Dear Sirs,

A Demand for Preliminary Examination of the above-referenced International PCT application is filed and the prerequisite fee is paid today via the EPO online facilities.

The following constitutes the comments of the Applicant to the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority.

Amended claims

Please find enclosed new claims 1 to 23 to replace the claims originally filed.

New independent claim 1 is based original claim 1, with features added from original claims 6 and 8. As regards the dependency of original claim 8 on original claim 7, it is understood that this reference relates to the front cover (23) only. That "*the dispenser (11) comprises a housing (12) and a front cover (23) having an opened and a closed state*" has support throughout the application, as expressed for example in original claim 19.

New claims 2 to 5 correspond to original claims 2 to 5.

New claim 6 corresponds to the original claim 7, with the omission of the *front cover (23)* which is now present already in new claim 1.

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Date May 04, 2021
Essity reference P12312PC00



New claims 7 to 23 correspond to original claims 9 to 25.

Original claims 6 and 8 are deleted.

In view of the above, the new claims 1 to 23 fulfil the requirements for support in the application as filed.

Novelty and Inventive Step

Claim 1

New claim 1 reads:

Dispenser (11) for dispensing web material from a roll, the dispenser (11) comprising:

- a housing (12) comprising an engagement slot (20),
- a front cover (23); wherein said front cover (23) has a closed and opened state, said front cover (23) comprises an engagement member (24) arranged to interact with said engagement slot (20) when the front cover (23) is in closed state
- a spindle (13a, 13b) intended to rotatably support a roll of web material during dispensing, said spindle (13a, 13b) being movable between a loading position and a dispensing position,
- a deflecting member (14) being movable between a protruding position protruding towards said spindle (13a, 13b) in dispensing position and a retracted position retracted into the housing (12) away from the spindle (13a) in dispensing position; and wherein the deflecting member (14) is connected to a blocking member (15) moving in response to the movement of the deflecting member (14);

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wherein said movement of the deflecting member (14) translates into movement of the blocking member (15) in and out of said engagement slot (20) in the dispenser housing (12), and wherein said blocking member (15) blocks the engagement slot (20) when the deflecting member (14) is in its retracted position.

Thus, in the claimed dispenser, a blocking member (15) is arranged which, when the deflecting member (14) is in its retracted position, blocks the engagement slot (20) in the dispenser housing (12), meaning that the engagement member (24) is hindered from interacting with said engagement slot (20) and the front cover (23) is hindered from being closed. (See e.g page 4, lines 12 to 22).

The retracted position of the deflecting member (14) thus corresponds to the blocking member (15) hindering the front cover (23) from being closed. The retracted position, as illustrated in Fig. 3b, is reached when a force is applied towards the deflecting member (14), such as if a roll is incorrectly positioned on the spindle (13a). For example, in the example of Fig. 3B, if a roll without indentation (29) is positioned on the spindle (13a), or if the roll illustrated with dotted lines in Fig. 3B were positioned on the spindle (13a) in an incorrect direction, then the deflecting member (14) would be pushed to the retracted position. Accordingly, in the dispenser as claimed, the front cover (23) may be hindered from being closed if the roll (30) is positioned in the wrong direction on the spindle, or if a roll not designated for the dispenser is positioned on the spindle.

In contrast, if no roll at all is present on the spindle (13a), the deflecting member (14) assumes its protruding position (as illustrated in Fig. 3A), the blocking member (15) will not block the engagement slot, and the front cover (23) may assume the closed position.

Accordingly, with the dispenser as defined by claim 1, a user is warned about a faulty positioned roll in the dispenser by the cover (23) being unable to reach the closed

position.

In the Written Opinion, reference is made to the following documents:

D1: JP H07 7588 U

D2: US 3 637 276 A

D3: US 4 034 924 A

D4: US 3 184 176 A

Neither D1, D3 or D4 concerns the interaction between a housing and a front cover. Accordingly, there is no disclosure of a blocking member blocking the engagement slot (for interaction with a front cover) when the deflecting member is in its retracted position. The subject-matter of claim 1 presents novelty and inventive step in view of D1, D3 and D4 alone or in combination.

D2 comprises a door, and is therefore considered to be the closest prior art.

D2 is concerned with the problem of providing a dispenser for at least two rolls of paper, having a door automatically movable from a position enclosing one of the rolls, and exposing the other of the rolls to a position exposing said one roll and losing the compartment previously occupied by the other of the rolls. (Col. 1, lines 1 to 10).

Fig. 4 illustrates a mechanism for controlling the door. As explained in Col. 3, lines 41 to 51, the intention is that as the paper is removed from a roll in the compartment 12 such that the roll shrinks to a predetermined minimum thickness, the door panel 21 is released to fall down under the influence of gravity, closing compartment 12 and exposing compartment 11 with the reserve of a fresh roll of paper. A control member 32 is arranged to control a latch holding the door panel 21 in a locked position covering the compartment 11, as seen in Figs. 4-5. As explained in Col. 2, lines 28 to 41, the control member 32, 33,35 is in turn controlled by a finger portion 34, which extends towards the side of the roll present in the compartment 12. It is understood how the finger portion 34 is to extend

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radially along at least the inner windings of the paper roll, with the exception of the inner most portion toward the boss 16b, where a conventional core of a paper roll may be mounted.

Together with Col. 3, lines 41 to 51 it is thus understood, that when a roll in the compartment 12 is depleted, the finger portion 34 moves towards the interior of the compartment 12, i.e. to a protruding position in the terms of pending claim 1.

This movement of the finger portion 34 to a protruding position releases the latch holding the door 12 such that the door 12 falls down to cover the roll compartment 12.

D2 does not comprise a front cover comprising an engagement member arranged to interact with an engagement slot (of the housing) when the front cover is in closed state. In other words, there is no lock (slot + member) for locking the front cover in the closed position. In contrast, in D2 there is a latch for hindering the door panel 21 from falling down to a position closing compartment 12. Accordingly, in D2 the interaction between the door panel 21 and the housing is allowed (the latch locks the door panel in its initial position) when the finger portion 34 is in a retracted position visavi the interior of the compartment 12. When the roll in the compartment 12 is depleted, the finger portion 34 moves to a protruding position in which the interaction between the door panel 21 and the housing is released. The door panel 21 will fall down, but it is not locked in the lowermost position.

The dispenser disclosed in D2 thus differs from the dispenser as defined by pending claim 1 at least when it comes to the interaction between the door panel and the housing.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is thus novel in view of D2.

Further, the interaction between the front cover and the housing as achieved by the dispenser in accordance with claim 1 provides the advantage of enabling the detection of

a faulty or incorrectly positioned roll in the dispenser. If a faulty or incorrectly positioned roll is positioned in the dispenser, the front cover cannot be locked to a closed position. This allows the service personnel to notice their mistake and exchange the faulty roll or change its orientation on the spindle (page 4, lines 11 to 22).

Accordingly, the dispenser as defined by claim 1 provides a solution to the problem of facilitating correct loading of rolls (page 1, lines 20 -27).

D2 is not concerned with the correct loading of rolls, and provides no solution which indicates to a user if a faulty or incorrectly positioned roll is positioned in the dispenser. D2 is only concerned with the controlling the dispensing in a dispenser comprising a plurality of rolls, such that a first roll is depleted before a second roll. To this end, D2 proposes a solution involving detecting if a roll is depleted. This provides no hint to the person skilled in the art regarding how to facilitate correct loading of rolls in a dispenser. Correct loading implies that there is indeed a full roll loaded into the dispenser, not that the roll is depleted.

In view of the above, the subject-matter of claim 1 also presents an inventive step in view of D2.

Independent claim 17

New independent claim 17 corresponds to original claim 19 and reads:

17. Dispenser (11) for dispensing web material from a roll, the dispenser (11) comprising:

- a housing (12) and a front cover (23) having an opened and a closed state,
- a spindle (13a, 13b) intended to rotatably support a roll of web material during dispensing, said spindle (13a, 13b) being movable between a loading position and a dispensing position,

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- a deflecting member (14) resiliently movable between a retracted position in which the deflecting member (14) is retracted in the housing (12) and a protruding position in which the deflecting member (14) is protruding towards the interior of the dispenser (11),

wherein the front cover (23) in its closed state is blocked from interaction with the housing (12) when the deflecting member (14) is in retracted position.

As set out in relation to claim 1, in D2, the lid interacts with the housing when the deflecting member is in retracted position, being the opposite to what is claimed in claim 17.

Accordingly, the reasoning in the above regarding claim 1 applies similarly to claim 17.

Claim 18

New independent claim 18 corresponds to original claim 20 and reads:

Dispenser (11) for dispensing web material from a roll, the dispenser (11) comprising:

- a housing (12) comprising an engagement slot (20) and a front cover (23) having a closed state and an opened state, said front cover (23) comprising an engagement member (24) arranged to interact with the engagement slot (20) in closed position,

- a spindle (13a, 13b) rotatably supporting a roll (30) of web material, said spindle (13a, 13b) being movable between a loading position and a dispensing position,

- a deflecting member (14) resiliently movable between a protruding position in which the deflecting member (14) is protruding towards said

spindle dispensing position and a retracted position in which the deflecting member (14) is retracted into the housing (12) away from the spindle dispensing position, and wherein said deflecting member (14) being adapted to be moved into a retracted position by a first side (31) of said roll (30) when the spindle (13a, 13b) is moved from loading position to dispensing position, wherein the movement of the deflecting member (14) translates into moving a blocking member (15) into said engagement slot (20) in order to hinder interaction between said engagement member (24) and said engagement slot (20).

As set out in relation to claim 1, in D2, the lid interacts with the housing when the deflecting member is in retracted position, being the opposite to what is claimed in claim 18.

Accordingly, the reasoning in the above regarding claim 1 applies similarly to claim 18.

Claim 21

New independent claim 21 corresponds to original claim 23 and reads:

21. Method of loading a dispenser (11) for dispensing web material from a roll, the dispenser (11) comprising a housing (12) and a front cover (24), a spindle (13a, 13b) adapted to rotatably support a roll (30) of web material during dispensing, said spindle (13a, 13b) having a dispensing position and a loading position, a deflecting member (14) having a shape and being movable between a protruding position protruding towards said spindle dispensing position and a retracted position retracted into the housing away from said spindle dispensing position,

wherein the method comprises:

- placing a roll (30) comprising an indentation (29) complementary to the shape of the deflecting member (14) on said spindle (13a, 13b) in loading

position,

- moving said spindle (13a, 13b) from said loading position towards said dispensing position,
- allowing a first side (31) of said roll (30), comprising the indentation (29), to push against said deflecting member (14) in order to move it from said protruding position to said retracted position, wherein the movement of the deflecting member (14) translates into movement of a blocking member (15) into a blocking position,
- allowing the deflecting member (14) to flex back into protruding position once the spindle (13a, 13b) is in dispensing position in order to move said blocking member (15) out of said blocking position,
- moving the front cover (23) to a closed state.

In the Written Opinion, it is alleged that the subject matter of new claim 21 is anticipated by D4, the embodiment of Figs. 10 and 11.

D4 is related to dispensers comprising a plurality of rolls (Col. 1, lines 9 to 12), and an object of the invention therein is said to be to ensure that while a plurality of rolls is made available, only one of the rolls is maintained in dispensing condition while the other of the rolls is maintained in reserve condition (Col. 1, lines 30 to 39).

In the embodiment of Figs. 10 and 11, a reserve roll detent means 130 comprises a cylindrical dent bar 132 which is adapted to be received in a corresponding bore 134 in the reserve roll 136. When the dent bar 132 is positioned in the bore 134, the rotation of the reserve roll 136 is hindered, and thus, dispensing from reserve roll 136 is hindered. Instead it is intended that dispensing shall take place from the use roll to the right of reserve roll 136 in Fig. 10. The dispenser comprise a reserve roll detent means 130 towards which the use roll press when in use. Once the use

roll is depleted, the pressure towards the detent means 130 is removed, meaning that the dent bar 132 may be removed from the bore 134, and dispensing from the reserve roll 136 is allowed.

Thus, D4 does at least not describe the steps of:

- Moving said spindle from said loading position towards said dispensing position
- Allowing a first side of said roll, comprising the indentation, to push against said deflecting member in order to move it from said protruding position to said retracted position
- allowing the deflecting member (14) to flex back into protruding position once the spindle (13a, 13b) is in dispensing position in order to move said blocking member (15) out of said blocking position.

Nothing in D4 indicates that the reserve roll 136 could be arranged over a spindle in this manner. Initially, it is unclear whether the spindle in D4 is moved from a loading position to a dispensing position at all. Rather, it seems that the spindle – the bar 20, remains in a fixed position and that the rolls are arranged on the bar 20 from each outer side thereof.

Further, the shape of the roll detent means 130 as illustrated in Fig. 10, as well as the form and shape of the alternative roll detent means in the other embodiments, is such that the reserve roll must be brought to position over the spindle by translational movement in a direction parallel to the spindle.

In D4, it seems the use roll will initially be arranged on the bar 20, whereafter the reserve roll 134 will be arranged.

If studying the reserve compartment in D4, and assuming that the reserve roll is arranged therein, a side of the reserve roll comprising the indentation may push against the roll detent means 130. Arguably, the dent bar 132 may

be said to move from a protruding position to a retracted position, provided the entire roll detent means 130 is pushed towards the right in Fig. 10. However, this movement of the dent bar 132 does not translate into any movement of a blocking member into a blocking position as required by pending claim 21. The roll detent means 130 will meet the end of the use roll to the right in Fig. 10, but it will not perform any blocking action. Instead, the only blocking action performed is the dent bar 132 itself blocking the rotation of the reserve roll 136.

Accordingly, the steps of claim 21 cannot be performed in a dispenser as described in D4, and the subject-matter of claim 21 is novel in view of D4.

Further, D4 does not disclose any solution to the problem of indicating a faulty or incorrectly positioned roll inserted into the dispenser.

In accordance with claim 21, the spindle is movable between a loading position and a dispensing position. From the steps as cited in the above, it is understood that the deflecting member and blocking member may be used to indicate when the spindle has reached the dispensing position when moved from the loading position.

This is not disclosed or suggested in D4.

In view of the above, the subject-matter of claim 21 presents an inventive step in view of D4.

Further, the subject-matter of claim 21 presents novelty and inventive step in view of D1-D3, alone or in combination.

In summary, none of the cited documents D1 to D4 disclose or suggest a solution as defined by the pending independent claims.

In view of the above, the subject-matter of the new independent claims presents novelty and an inventive step in view of the cited documents D1 to D4, alone or in any

Date May 04, 2021
Essity reference P12312PC00



combination.

Clarity

In the Written Opinion, claim 18 (original 20) is objected to for not being clear, with the motivation that it could be dependent on claim 17 (original 19).

However, it should be observed that the wording of claims 17 and 18 are not identical when it comes to the interaction between the front cover and the housing. Claim 17 states that "the front cover in its closed state is blocked from interaction with the housing when the deflecting member is in retracted position", whereas claim 18 explains the interaction by referring to the movement of the deflecting member and the blocking member.

Accordingly, although conceptually a similar result is intended by the wording of the two claims, their wording are not identical and maintaining the two claims as independent is motivated.

The objection to claim 23 (original 25) is not understood. The claim adds the feature of locking the front cover in a closed state, and seems to be proper as a dependent claim to both claim 21 and 22, since claim 23 only mentions moving the front cover to the closed state.

In view of the above, it is believed that the new claims fulfil the requirements for clarity.

Accordingly, a positive International Preliminary Report of Patentability (IPRP) is kindly requested. Should, for any reason, the Examiner be unable to issue a positive IPRP, it is kindly requested that a new Written Opinion is issued.

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Date May 04, 2021
Essity reference P12312PC00



Yours Sincerely,
Essity IP Department

Maria Mellgren

On behalf of Association No. 850

Encl:

New claims 1 to 23 (amendments marked)
New claims 1 to 23 (clean copy)

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CLAIMS

1. Dispenser (11) for dispensing web material from a roll, the dispenser (11) comprising:

- a housing (12) comprising an engagement slot (20),
- a front cover (23); wherein said front cover (23) has a closed and opened state, said front cover (23) comprises an engagement member (24) arranged to interact with said engagement slot (20) when the front cover (23) in closed state
- a spindle (13a, 13b) intended to rotatably support a roll of web material during dispensing, said spindle (13a, 13b) being movable between a loading position and a dispensing position,
- a deflecting member (14) being movable between a protruding position protruding towards said spindle (13a, 13b) in dispensing position and a retracted position retracted into the housing (12) away from the spindle (13a) in dispensing position; and wherein the deflecting member (14) is connected to a blocking member (15) moving in response to the movement of the deflecting member (14);

wherein said movement of the deflecting member (14) translates into movement of the blocking member (15) in and out of said engagement slot (20) in the dispenser housing (12), and wherein said blocking member (15) blocks the engagement slot (20) when the deflecting member (14) is in its retracted position.

2. Dispenser (11) according to claim 1, wherein the deflecting member (14) interacts with a resilient member (16) arranged to allow the deflecting member (14) to flex back into protruding position from retracted position.

3. Dispenser (11) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the deflecting member (14) is arranged in the housing (12) in order to receive a first end (17) of the spindle (13a, 13b) when the spindle (13a, 13b) is in dispensing position.

4. Dispenser (11) according to claim 3, wherein the deflecting member (14) in protruding position engages said first end (17) of said spindle (13a).

5. Dispenser (11) according to claim 3 or 4, wherein said deflecting member (14) comprises a guiding groove (18) adapted to receive said first end (17) of the spindle (13) and guide it into an engaged position when the spindle (13a) is in dispensing position.

6. Dispenser (11) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the housing (12) comprises a top wall (21), side walls (221, 222, 223)..
7. Dispenser (11) according to the claim 6, wherein the engagement slot (20) is arranged in the top wall (21) of the dispenser housing (12).
8. Dispenser (11) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said blocking member (15) is movable in a direction perpendicular to the movement of the deflecting member (14).
9. Dispenser (11) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the deflecting member (14) is connected to the blocking member (15) by a rod (19) translating a horizontal movement of the deflecting member (14) into vertical movement of the blocking member (15).
10. Dispenser (11) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said dispenser (11) further comprises an indication window (25) and an indication (26) being visible in the indication window (25) when the blocking member (15) is in the engagement slot (20).
11. Dispenser (11) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said spindle (13a, 13b) is attached perpendicular to an arm (26a, 26b), said arm (26a, 26b) being hinged at a hinge point (27) to a support member (28a, 28b), said arm (26a, 26b) being allowed to pivot about said hinge point (27), and said arm (26a, 26b) has a spindle dispensing position in which the spindle (13a, 13b) is arranged within the housing (12) of the dispenser (11), said arm (26a, 26b) is pivotable between a first position in which said spindle (13a, 13b) is arranged in a dispensing position within the housing (12) of the dispenser (11), and a second position in which said spindle (13a, 13b) is arranged in a loading position outside the housing (12) of the dispenser (11) in order to allow loading of a roll onto said spindle (13a, 13b).
12. Dispenser (11) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said deflecting member (14) has a shape adapted to fit in an indentation (29) in a side of a roll (30) arranged on the spindle (13a, 13b).
13. Dispenser (11) according to claim 12, wherein said deflecting member (14) being adapted to be pushed into said retracted position in said dispenser (11) housing (12) when coming into contact with said side of a roll (30) comprising an indentation (29) complementary to the shape of the deflecting member (14) as said spindle (13a, 13b) is moved into dispensing position, and said deflecting member (14) being adapted to flex back into protruding position when the spindle (13a, 13b) reaches dispensing position.

14. Dispenser (11) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said deflecting member (14) is at least partly frustoconical.

15. Dispenser (11) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the dispenser (11) is a dual dispenser comprising two spindles (13a, 13b) intended to hold a roll respectively, and wherein the two spindles (13a, 13b) are movable between loading position and dispensing position independently from each other.

16. Dispenser (11) according to claim 15, wherein the housing (12) of the dual dispenser (11) comprises a central side wall (222) arranged between the two spindles (13a, 13b), the deflecting member (14) being arranged in the central side wall (222) protruding from the central side wall (222) towards a first of said spindles (13a) in dispensing position in its protruding position and the deflecting member (14) retracted into the central side wall (222) away from said first spindle (13a) in dispensing position in its retracted position.

17. Dispenser (11) for dispensing web material from a roll, the dispenser (11) comprising:

- a housing (12) and a front cover (23) having an opened and a closed state,
- a spindle (13a, 13b) intended to rotatably support a roll of web material during dispensing, said spindle (13a, 13b) being movable between a loading position and a dispensing position,
- a deflecting member (14) resiliently movable between a retracted position in which the deflecting member (14) is retracted in the housing (12) and a protruding position in which the deflecting member (14) is protruding towards the interior of the dispenser (11),

wherein the front cover (23) in its closed state is blocked from interaction with the housing (12) when the deflecting member (14) is in retracted position.

18. Dispenser (11) for dispensing web material from a roll, the dispenser (11) comprising:

- a housing (12) comprising an engagement slot (20) and a front cover (23) having a closed state and an opened state, said front cover (23) comprising an engagement member (24) arranged to interact with the engagement slot (20) in closed position,
- a spindle (13a, 13b) rotatably supporting a roll (30) of web material, said spindle (13a, 13b) being movable between a loading position and a dispensing position,

- a deflecting member (14) resiliently movable between a protruding position in which the deflecting member (14) is protruding towards said spindle dispensing position and a retracted position in which the deflecting member (14) is retracted into the housing (12) away from the spindle dispensing position, and wherein said deflecting member (14) being adapted to be moved into a retracted position by a first side (31) of said roll (30) when the spindle (13a, 13b) is moved from loading position to dispensing position, wherein the movement of the deflecting member (14) translates into moving a blocking member (15) into said engagement slot (20) in order to hinder interaction between said engagement member (24) and said engagement slot (20).

19. Dispenser (11) according to claim 18, wherein said first side (31) of said roll (30) facing the deflecting member (14) is provided with an indentation (29) complementary to the shape of the deflecting member (14) such that said blocking member (15) moves out of the engagement slot (20), and said deflecting member (14) is allowed to move back into protruding position.

20. Dispenser (11) according to any of the claims 18-19, wherein the roll (30) is a coreless roll.

21. Method of loading a dispenser (11) for dispensing web material from a roll, the dispenser (11) comprising a housing (12) and a front cover (24), a spindle (13a, 13b) adapted to rotatably support a roll (30) of web material during dispensing, said spindle (13a, 13b) having a dispensing position and a loading position, a deflecting member (14) having a shape and being movable between a protruding position protruding towards said spindle dispensing position and a retracted position retracted into the housing away from said spindle dispensing position,

wherein the method comprises:

- placing a roll (30) comprising an indentation (29) complementary to the shape of the deflecting member (14) on said spindle (13a, 13b) in loading position,
- moving said spindle (13a, 13b) from said loading position towards said dispensing position,
- allowing a first side (31) of said roll (30), comprising the indentation (29), to push against said deflecting member (14) in order to move it from said protruding position to said retracted position, wherein the movement of the deflecting member (14) translates into movement of a blocking member (15) into a blocking position,

- allowing the deflecting member (14) to flex back into protruding position once the spindle (13a, 13b) is in dispensing position in order to move said blocking member (15) out of said blocking position,

- moving the front cover (23) to a closed state.

22. Method of loading a dispenser (11) according to claim 21, wherein the blocking position of the blocking member (15) blocks an engagement slot (20) arranged in the housing (12) of the dispenser (11).

23. Method of loading a dispenser (11) according to any of the claims 21-22, wherein the method further includes:

- locking the front cover (23) in closed state by allowing an engagement member (24) arranged on the front cover (23) to interact with said engagement slot (20).