

Title (en)  
Apparatus for producing mail pieces

Title (de)  
Vorrichtung zum Herstellen von Poststücken

Title (fr)  
Dispositif de production de plis de courrier

Publication  
**EP 0745435 A2 19961204 (EN)**

Application  
**EP 96108561 A 19960529**

Priority  
• US 45330195 A 19950531  
• US 45331795 A 19950531

Abstract (en)  
A system for producing mail pieces includes a plurality of apparatus (8) each having a first printer (56) for printing documents and a second printer (66) for printing envelopes and a mail finishing unit (64) for receiving the printed documents from the first printer and the envelopes printed with corresponding addresses from the second printer and inserting the documents into the envelope to form and frank a mail piece, and a plurality of user input stations (2). The several apparatus operate under the control of a single stream of job data from a mail center controller (4), where the job data includes a job header (12) defining default mail piece attributes and mail piece records which include document data and address data, and which may include specific mail piece attribute data for each corresponding mail piece. The apparatus control mechanism partitions the data stream and controls the first printer (56) to print the documents while controlling the second printer (66) to separately print the envelopes which are moved along a separate path to an insert station where the mail piece is formed. The system also includes data stores of postal rates and of per item weights of items of materials used to form mail pieces which are used to calculate postage values for mail pieces. <IMAGE>

IPC 1-7  
**B07C 1/00**

IPC 8 full level  
**B07C 1/00** (2006.01); **G07B 17/00** (2006.01)

CPC (source: EP)  
**B07C 1/00** (2013.01); **G07B 17/00362** (2013.01); **G07B 17/00467** (2013.01); **G07B 17/00661** (2013.01); **G07B 2017/00137** (2013.01); **G07B 2017/00161** (2013.01); **G07B 2017/0037** (2013.01); **G07B 2017/00491** (2013.01); **G07B 2017/00677** (2013.01)

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Designated contracting state (EPC)  
DE FR GB

DOCDB simple family (publication)  
**EP 0745435 A2 19961204**; **EP 0745435 A3 19980729**; **EP 0745435 B1 20040218**; CA 2177447 A1 19961201; CA 2177447 C 20070123; DE 69631563 D1 20040325; DE 69631563 T2 20041223

DOCDB simple family (application)  
**EP 96108561 A 19960529**; CA 2177447 A 19960527; DE 69631563 T 19960529