

Title (en)  
Method and device for feeding pieces of clothes to a processing apparatus

Title (de)  
Verfahren zum Zuführen von Wäschestücken zu einem Bearbeitungsgerät sowie Zuführvorrichtung

Title (fr)  
Procédé et dispositif pour amener des pièces de linge à un appareil de traitement

Publication  
**EP 0794279 B1 20001206 (DE)**

Application  
**EP 97103439 A 19970303**

Priority  
CH 61096 A 19960308

Abstract (en)  
[origin: EP0794279A1] A process is claimed for feeding washing items to a processing appliance by means of a conveyer and a spreader device (12) located ahead of the conveyer which has at least one pair (13a, 13b) of clamps (14, 14') which shift over a section at right angles to the feed direction. Two neighbouring corners of an item are gripped each by a clamp in a start position, the clamps being run from each other on the shift section to spread a leading edge of the item. Finally the item is freed by opening the clamps and laid on the conveyer in an area next to the leading edge. Before freeing the item the conveyer occupancy is automatically examined. The breadth of the item to be washed in the shift direction is established and a search is made for a gap in the occupancy which at least matches the breadth of the item, and the clamps are shifted so the item is positioned inside the gap. Also claimed is the apparatus for feeding washing items in accordance with the above process. The clamps are moved by a drive device and the position of a first clamp (14) is monitored by a position measuring system. The spreader (12) has a synchronisation sensor (20a, 20b) for monitoring the position of the second clamp (14') which is unattached to the drive in order to determine whether the clamp is displaced from its original position or not.

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**D06F 67/04**

IPC 8 full level  
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CPC (source: EP US)  
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Cited by  
EP1905884A1; CN114275513A; EP4089228A1; CN102180370A; FR2792008A1; CN109368371A; CN110342209A; CN111820685A; US7448152B2; US8234801B2; US7412789B2; US8438761B2; WO2008141649A1; EP3636825B1

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