

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 86303992.1

(51) Int. Cl.4: **B65H 3/22** , **B65H 3/50** ,
B65H 5/02

(22) Date of filing: 27.05.86

(30) Priority: 28.05.85 GB 8513383

(43) Date of publication of application:
03.12.86 Bulletin 86/49

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT

(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
30.09.87 Bulletin 87/40

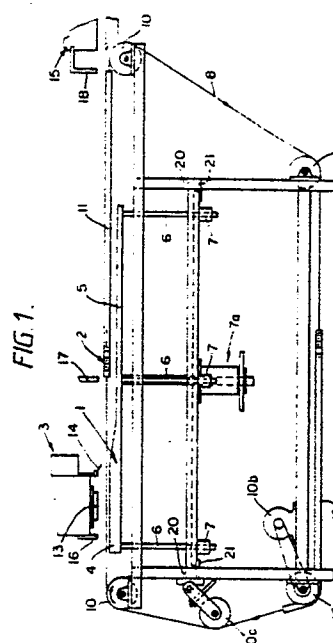
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(54) **Fabric handling apparatus.**

(57) Fabric handling apparatus comprises a table (1) on which layers of fabric may be stacked, the table being vertically movable relative to the upper run of a conveyor (2). A pickup device (3) is mounted above the table for picking up an uppermost one of the fabric layers when the table is raised to engage the stack with the pickup device. The conveyor comprises two spaced chains, and in the pickup position the fabric layers extend through space between the chains. After picking the uppermost layer the table may be lowered and the conveyor is then driven to move a support section (11, 12) of the conveyor below the pickup device and between the layer held thereby and the uppermost fabric layer of the remaining stack. Movement of the support surface completes separation of the picked layer from the stack and transport that layer to a further work station (15).





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.4)
A	FR-A-2 447 882 (C. LIMON et al.) * En entier *	1-3, 5, 9	B 65 H 3/22 B 65 H 3/50 B 65 H 5/02
A	US-A-3 934 754 (DUTRO) * Figure 2 *	4, 5	
A	EP-A-0 161 010 (P. ROULEAU et al.) * Figure 8 *	6	
A	CH-A- 621 993 (CLUETT, PEABODY & CO., INC)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			B 65 H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15-07-1987	Examiner RECHLER W.
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	