

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

Application number: **89312243.2**

Int. Cl.⁵: **G07B 17/00**

Date of filing: **24.11.89**

Priority: **28.12.88 US 291478**

Date of publication of application:
04.07.90 Bulletin 90/27

Designated Contracting States:
BE CH DE FR GB IT LI NL SE

Date of deferred publication of the search report:
19.09.90 Bulletin 90/38

Applicant: **PITNEY BOWES, INC.**
World Headquarters One Elmcroft
Stamford Connecticut 06926-0700(US)

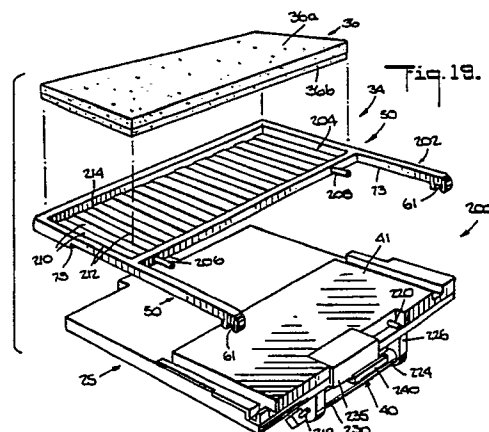
Inventor: **Buan, Danilo P.**
29 Hall Road
Easton CT 06612(US)
Inventor: **Terry, Betty R.**
7 Spring Valley Road
Weston CT 06883(US)
Inventor: **Jackson, Jerome E.**
6 Roosevelt Drive
Newtown CT 06470(US)

Representative: **Cook, Anthony John et al**
D. YOUNG & CO. 10, Staple Inn
London, WC1V 7RD(GB)

Ink tray.

An inker module (25) for a high speed mailing machine is disclosed. The inker module (25) includes an ink pad (36) and an ink chamber (204) in which the ink pad (36) is at least partially disposed to sorb ink therefrom. The ink pad device may also comprise an ink reservoir (41) and/or a pump (40) for pumping ink from the reservoir (41) to the ink chamber (204). The inker module (25) is attachable to a drive (32) for moving the ink pad horizontally and vertically from a horizontal home position to a horizontal inking position in which the ink pad (36) is tamped against a printing device (38) which imprints postage indicia. The ink pump (40) comprises a deformable chamber (230) which is compressed to pump ink from the reservoir (41) to the ink chamber (204). In one embodiment, the ink pad (36) and the ink chamber (204) are provided as a disposable, non-replenishable, non-refillable unit containing a limited amount of ink for limited use. In another embodiment, the ink chamber (204), the ink pad (36), the reservoir (41) and the pump (41) form a unit in which ink is replenished from the reservoir (41) to the ink chamber (204). In that embodiment, the en-

tire unit may be made disposable and may be moved by the drive (32) to the inking position. In still another embodiment, the ink pad (36) and the ink chamber (204) form a disposable, replenishable unit, and the reservoir (41) is replaceable. In that embodiment, only the ink pad (36) and the ink chamber (204) are movable by the drive (32) to the inking position.



EP 0 376 476 A3



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.5)
X Y A	FR-A-2004842 (FEINMECHANIK UND APPARATEBAU) * page 1, line 38 - page 5, line 11; figures * ---	1, 2, 6, 9, 10 3-5 12, 13	G07B17/00 B41K3/56
X A	US-A-3646907 (DUDLEY) * column 2, line 18 - column 4, line 32; figures * ---	1, 6, 7, 9, 10 2, 4, 12, 13, 15	
Y A	US-A-3961337 (JUNG ET AL) * column 3, line 53 - column 5, line 8; figures * ---	3-5 2, 8	
A	EP-A-0273533 (KORTHOFAH) * page 2, column 2, line 15 - page 3, column 3, line 35; figures * ---	1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 13	
A	GB-A-1422234 (MAROZZI ET AL) * page 2, line 110 - page 3, line 81; figures * -----	1, 2, 4, 6, 12, 13	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) G07B B41K B41F B41J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13 JULY 1990	Examiner RAKOTON DRAJAONA C.
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	