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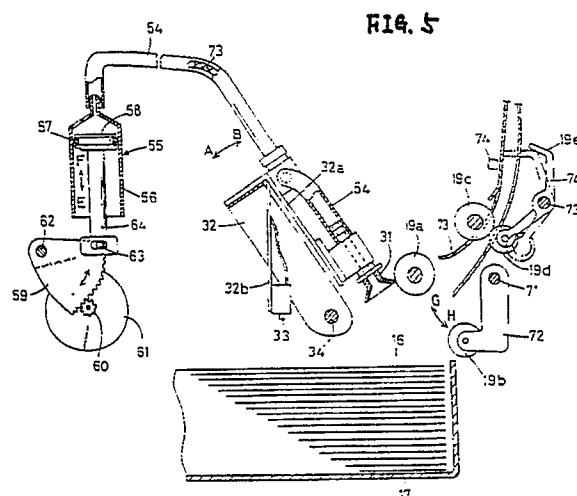
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(54) **Sheet feeding mechanism having dust preventing means and method for cleaning the sheet feeding mechanism.**

(57) A sheet feeding mechanism having dust preventing means. The sheet feeding mechanism includes a suction cup (31) contactable with a sheet, evacuating means (55) for generating negative pressure within the suction cups and tube means (54) connected between the evacuating means and the suction cups. The dust preventing means includes a filter member (73) disposed within the tube means. The evacuating means includes a cylinder (56) and a piston (58). The cylinder extends in vertical direction or in horizontal direction. In the latter case, one side end of the cylinder is connected to the tube means and another side end is closed for preventing dusts from being entered therein, and the cylinder wall is formed with a small bore at lower portion thereof and adjacent the other side. For cleaning the sheet feeding mechanism, positive air stream is generated within the mechanism during idling state thereof.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 30 0808

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)														
Y,A	US-A-1 861 605 (MAASS) * the whole document * - - -	1-5,9,11	B 65 H 3/08														
Y	US-A-3 220 723 (CONTROL DATA) * column 2, lines 3 - 30; figures 1, 2 * - - -	1-5															
Y	GB-A-1 448 388 (GLORY KOGYO) * page 3, lines 1 - 26; figure 3 * - - - - -	1,2,4,5															
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)														
			B 65 H														
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims																	
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 27 November 90	Examiner LONCKE J.W.														
<table border="0"><tr><td>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</td><td>E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</td></tr><tr><td>X: particularly relevant if taken alone</td><td>D: document cited in the application</td></tr><tr><td>Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</td><td>L: document cited for other reasons</td></tr><tr><td>A: technological background</td><td>.....</td></tr><tr><td>O: non-written disclosure</td><td>&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</td></tr><tr><td>P: intermediate document</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>T: theory or principle underlying the invention</td><td></td></tr></table>				CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS	E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	X: particularly relevant if taken alone	D: document cited in the application	Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	L: document cited for other reasons	A: technological background	O: non-written disclosure	&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document	P: intermediate document		T: theory or principle underlying the invention	
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