

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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(72) Inventor: **Gilham, Dennis Thomas**
12 Larkin Close
Brentwood, Essex CM13 2SL(GB)
 Inventor: **Herbert, John**
34 Sterling Avenue
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex(GB)

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74 Representative: **Loughrey, Richard Vivian**
Patrick et al
HUGHES CLARK & CO 114-118 Southampton
Row
London WC1B 5AA(GB)

⑦¹ Applicant: **ALCATEL BUSINESS SYSTEMS LIMITED**
P.O. Box 3 South Street

⑤4 Franking machine.

57) A franking machine is disclosed in which accounting data is optically recorded on a tape (19) housed in a removable cassette (50). For each franking operation updated accounting data is recorded and thereby the recorded tape provides an audit trail for a sequence of franking operations. Prior to franking, the recorded data is read and checked for validity. The recording is effected by a laser beam

traversed across the tape either by mechanical movement of the laser source (15) or by an optical deflection system (54, 56). The tape is stepped after each recording or the laser beam may be stepped along the tape. Sensor means (22, 53) are provided to inhibit operation if the cassette (50) is not in position or if there is no tape (19).

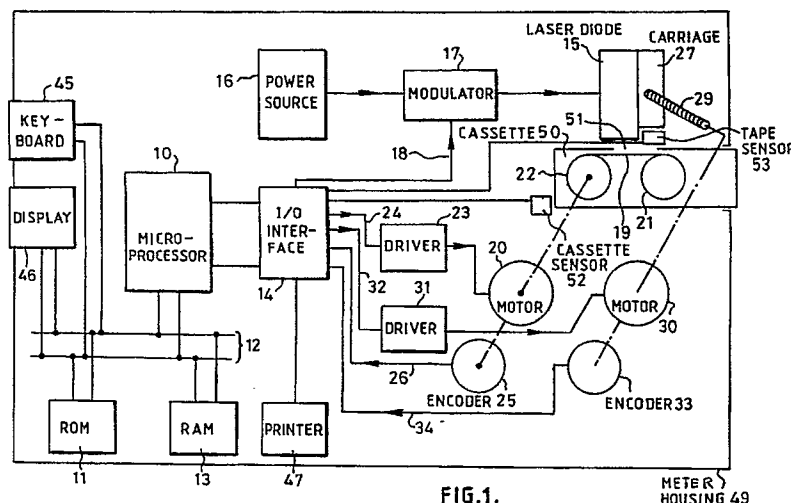


FIG.1.

METER }
HOUSING 49



European
Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 31 2873

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	GB-A-2 197 257 (PITNEY BOWES) - - - -	1-3,5	G 07 B 17/00 G 11 B 7/00
Y	GB-A-2 197 257 (* page 3, line 14 - page 4, line 14; figures *)	9,10	
A	- - - -	10	
Y	FR-A-2 602 364 (MAKSYMOWICZ) - - - -	1-3,5	
Y	FR-A-2 602 364 (* page 6, line 34 - page 11, line 32; figures *)	9,10	
A	- - - -	6-8	
A	US-A-4 567 585 (GELBART) * column 1, line 33 - column 2, line 27; figure 1 ** - - - -	1-6,9,10	
A	US-A-4 524 925 (HADDOCK) * the whole document ** - - - -	1,2,7-11	
A	LU-A-6 618 9 (SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) * page 3, line 29 - page 5, line 20; figures ** - - - -	1-4,9,10	
A	US-A-4 788 129 (BOULDIN ET AL.) - - - - -		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 18 October 91	Examiner RAKOTONDRAJONA C.N.
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</div> <div>D: document cited in the application</div> <div>L: document cited for other reasons</div> <div>&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div> <div>X: particularly relevant if taken alone</div> <div>Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</div> <div>A: technological background</div> <div>O: non-written disclosure</div> <div>P: intermediate document</div> <div>T: theory or principle underlying the invention</div>			