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(54) **Brush making apparatus for assembling tufts and method therefor.**

(57) Picker elements (111) are advanced a first distance (X) into contact with the ends (115) of parallel filaments (113) in a stock box (100) and then stopped (movement from FIG. 1 to FIG. 2). A flap (106) is vibrated by a vibrator (117) and this positions some of the filaments (118) ready to slide into the mouths (112) of the picker elements (111), which are then advanced a second distance (Y) in order to scoop up the aligned filaments in order to form tufts

of filaments (movement from FIG. 2 to FIG. 3). The vibrator (117) is then turned off and the picker elements (111) retracted a third distance (Z) in order to remove the tufts from the stock box (100) (movement from FIG. 3 to FIG. 4). The stopping and vibrating during the forward stroke ensures that the filaments do not become misaligned or forced out of the stock box (100) by the picker elements (111).

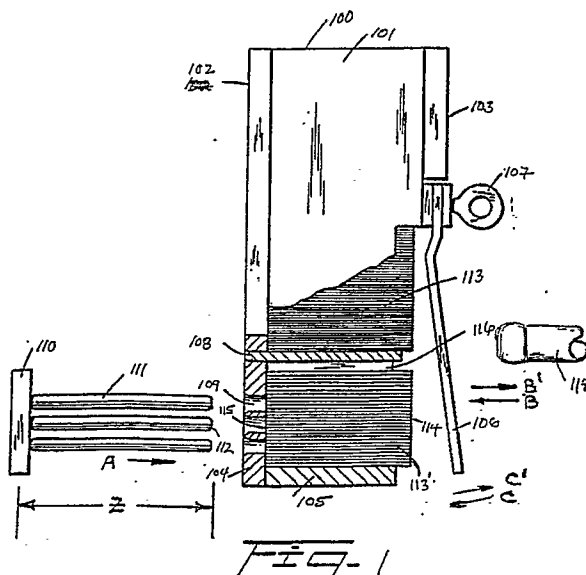


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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)
A,D	US-A-4 772 073 (LEWIS) * Column 4, lines 55-68; column 5, lines 1-14 * -----	1,5	A 46 D 1/08
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			A 46 D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 05 July 91	Examiner LOKERE H.P.
<div><div>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</div><div>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</div></div>			