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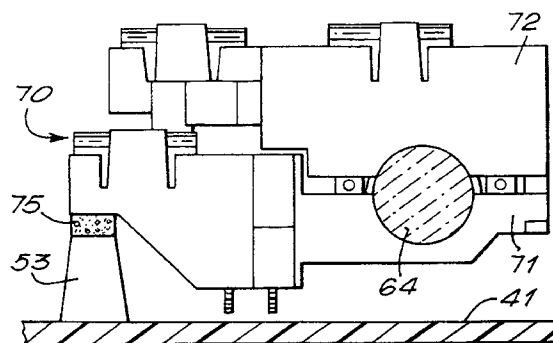
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(54) **A postage meter.**

(57) A postage meter (1) has a rotatable print drum (63) for franking an article. The print drum (63) includes settable value-denoting elements (631) and is mounted on a drum shaft (64) for rotation therewith. A series of motors (81, 83, 86, 87, 88) are each connected to drive a respective one of the value-denoting elements (631) via an intervening drive train (73, 74, 82, 84, 861, 871, 881). There is a gearbox housing (71, 72) within which the drive trains (73, 74, 82, 84, 861, 871, 881) are housed. The gearbox housing (71, 72) is split into two portions (71, 72) which are shaped so that they together encircle and are supported by the drum shaft (64). This provides a compact and easily assembled postage meter (1).

FIG.20.





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 30 8288

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	EP-A-0 177 050 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 20, line 9 - page 23, line 7 * * page 33, line 17 - page 36, line 12; figures *	8	G07B17/00
A	---	1-3,6,7	
A	GB-A-2 102 346 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 2, line 90 - page 4, line 3; figures * ---	1,3,6-8	
A	GB-A-2 166 389 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 3, line 24 - page 4, line 2; figures * ---	1-3,6,8	
A	EP-A-0 177 049 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 14, line 2 - page 19, line 18; figures * ---	1-3,6,8	
A	US-A-4 398 458 (DENZIN ET AL.) * column 3, line 10 - column 5, line 30; figures * -----	1,2,6-8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			G07B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 MAY 1992	Examiner RAKOTON DRAJAOA C.
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>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</p> <p>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  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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