



**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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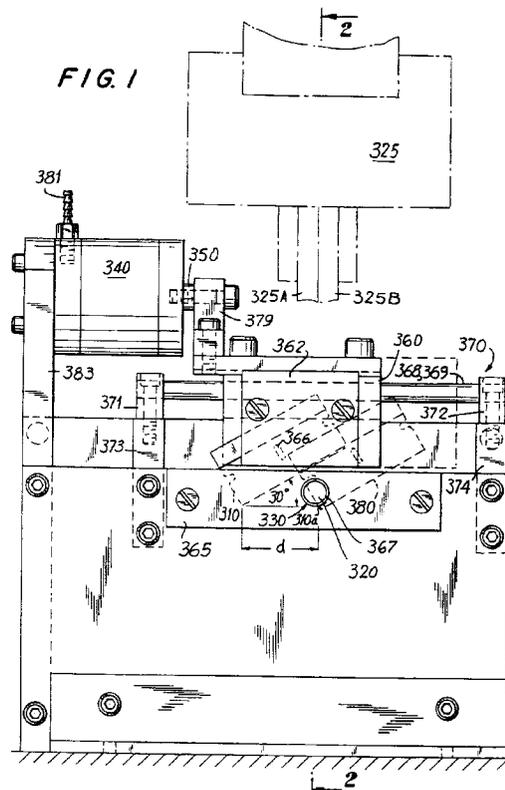
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**Apparatus and method for cutting a cigarette.**

An automated method and apparatus for cutting a smoking article, such as a cigarette into sections and removing a component, such as the filter section from the article is discharged. A mechanical arm of a robot 325 having opposing gripping members 325A, B is used to grip and insert the article 320 into the cutting apparatus whereupon a piston rod 350 causes a blade 310 to sever the article just above the filter. After the robot removes the filter from the apparatus, the filter is then ready to be subjected to characterization tests.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 30 1286

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	US-A-3 404 688 (J.R. PINKHAM ET AL) * column 3, line 1 - column 8, line 63; figures 1-8 *	1,11	A24C5/28 A24C5/32
A	DE-C-722 932 (W.O.E. KRAUSE) * the whole document *	1,3-5,7, 11,15	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			A24C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	30 AUGUST 1993	RAVEN P.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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