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(54) Mailing machine including printing drum control system.

(57) A mailing machine base (12) has a postage meter (14) mounted thereon. The meter (14) includes a postage printing drum (64) having a home position. The base (12) comprising, structure for moving the drum (64), a d.c. motor (110) for driving the drum (64) moving structure, a microprocessor (122), a power switch connected between the d.c. motor (110) and microprocessor (122), a comparator (125) connected between the microprocessor (122) and d.c. motor (110) for receiving therefrom a signal (126) corresponding to the back e.m.f. voltage of the d.c. motor (110) and providing a comparison signal to the microprocessor (122). The microprocessor (122) is programmed for: providing a reference voltage signal (127) for the comparator (125) corresponding to a desired back e.m.f. voltage (126) for causing the d.c. motor (110) to drive the postage printing drum (64) at the desired constant velocity, energizing the power switch (120) with a first signal for causing the d.c. motor (110) to accelerate the drum (64) at a substantially constant rate to substantially the desired constant velocity from the home position thereof during a first predetermined time interval, determining whether the back e.m.f. (126) is greater than the reference voltage (127), energizing the power switch (120) with the first signal for a second predetermined time interval if the back e.m.f. voltage (126) is not greater than the reference voltage (127), and energizing the power switch (125) with a second signal for a third predetermined time interval if the back e.m.f. voltage (126) is greater than the reference voltage (127) and delaying energizing with the second signal if the back e.m.f. voltage is (126) not greater than the reference voltage (127), thereby causing the d.c. motor (110) to continue driving the drum (64) at substantially the desired constant velocity.

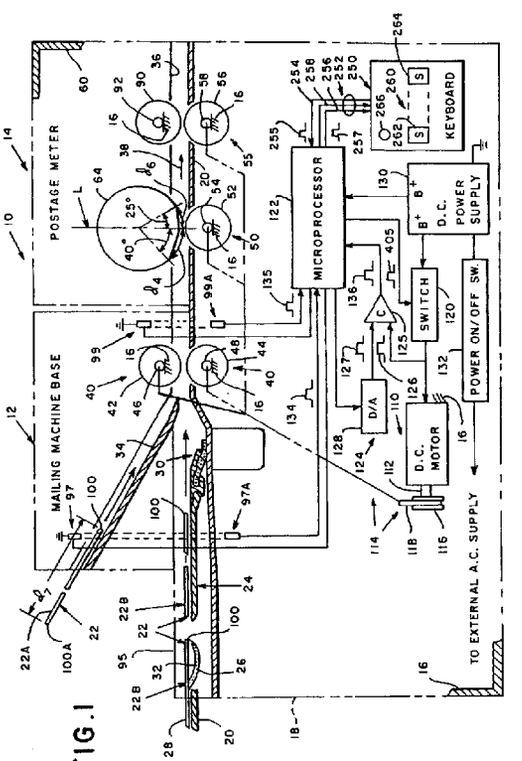

FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 92 31 1664

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-0 177 057 (PITNEY BOWES INC) * page 7, line 17 - page 8, line 20; claim 1; figure 1 *	1	G07B17/00 G07B17/02
A	US-A-4 636 959 (SALAZAR ET AL) * column 4, line 43 - column 5, line 32; claim 1; figure 1 *	1-22	
A	US-A-4 630 210 (SALAZAR ET AL) * column 4, line 43 - column 5, line 32; claim 1; figure 1 *	1-22	
A	US-A-4 774 446 (SALAZAR ET AL) * claim 1; figure 1 *	1-22	
A	US-A-4 643 089 (SALAZAR ET AL) * claim 1; figure 1 *	1-22	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)

G07B
G07C

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	26 January 1995	Kirsten, K

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
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E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
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