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STUDIO TORTA Società Semplice
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I-10121 Torino (IT)(54) **A post-sorting machine with holding line.**

(57) A post-sorting machine having an inlet (4) receiving a flow of postal items (7) (letters and post-cards) and an outlet (10) from which the postal items (7) leave. The machine (1) includes a primary conveyor line (17) connecting the inlet (4) to the outlet (10) and a secondary conveyor line (21) as an alternative to the primary line (17) and parallel to this latter. The primary conveyor line (17) is connected

to the secondary line (21) by diverter means (27) which direct the postal items (7) into a plurality of connecting sections (25) along which several holding stations (33) able to receive and retain the postal items (7) are disposed in cascade. After passing through the holding stations (33) the postal items (7) are sent through the secondary line (21) to the outlet (10).

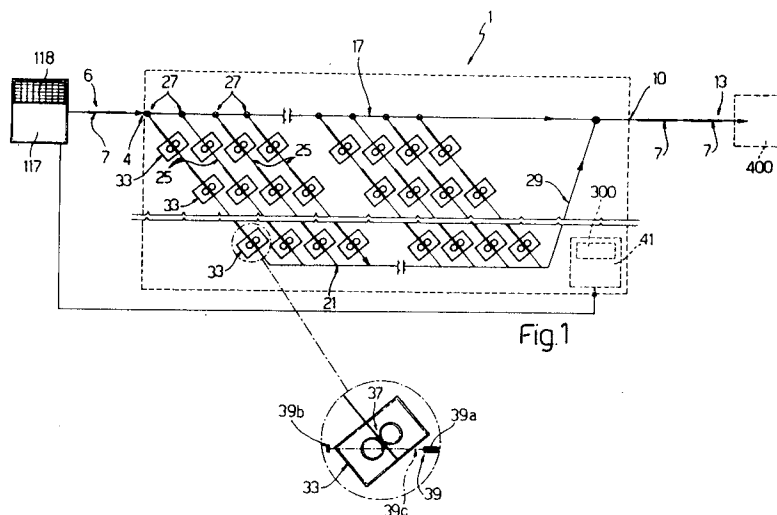


Fig.1

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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)
X	EP-A-0 429 118 (KONINKLIJKE PTT NEDERLAND) * the whole document *	1,3,9-14	B07C3/02
Y		2,4-8, 15,16	
Y	FR-A-2 650 767 (ROUGIER) * the whole document *	2,4,15, 16	
Y	FR-A-2 440 785 (NIPPON ELECTRIC COMPANY) * page 3, line 29 - page 12, line 32; figures 1-5 *	5-8	
A		15,16	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			B07C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 22 December 1993	Examiner Forlen, G
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 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			