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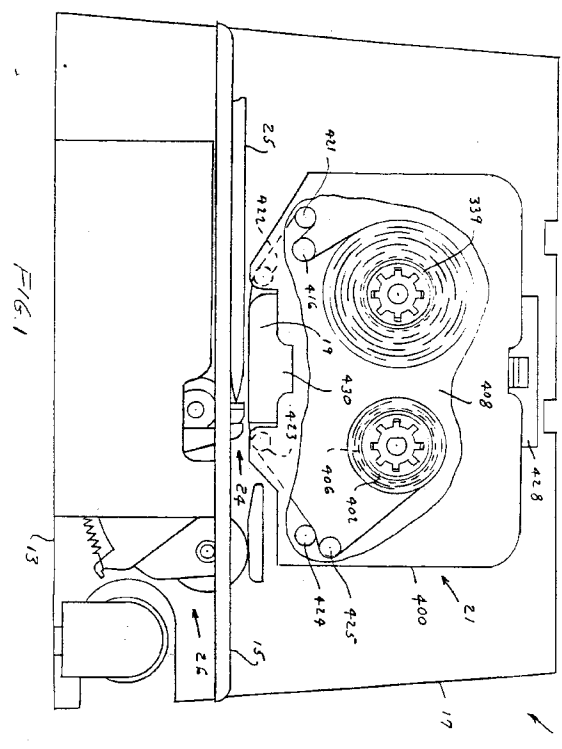
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(54) **Envelope position sensing assembly for a thermal postage meter.**

(57) The position sensing assembly is employed in combination with a thermal printing postage meter having a base supporting a registration wall and a deck, and a thermal print head fixably mounted to the registration wall above a portion of the deck to define a print station for printing a postage indicia on an envelope. A position sensing lever is mounted to a positioning support arrangement for providing supporting the position sensing lever support in a first position such that the position sensing lever has a home position where in a portion extending generally perpendicular to the deck to encounter the leading edge of the envelope positioned on the deck. The position lever encounters the envelope leading edge such that the leading edge deflects the position sensing lever when positioned in the print station and for repositioning the position sensing lever in a second position which removes the position sensing lever from encountering the leading edge of the envelope. A microcontroller is in communication with a sensor acted upon by position sensing lever for causing the positioning support arrangement to position the position sensing lever in the second position when encountering the envelope leading edge and, as a result thereof, initial of a meter print cycle. After the print cycle is completed the position sensing lever is returned to the home position.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 30 7582

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-0 189 269 (FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA GMBH) * claim 1; figure 2 * ---	1,2	G07B17/00
A	EP-A-0 376 481 (PITNEY BOWES INC) * claim 1; figure 5 * ---	1,2	
A	EP-A-0 132 471 (PA CONSULTING SERVICES LTD) * claim 1; figures 1,4 * ---	1,2	
A	WO-A-91 14238 (ASCOM AUTELCA AG POSTBEARBEITUNG UND MESSTECHNIK) * claim 1; figure 3 * -----	1,2	
			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 21 October 1994	Examiner Kirsten, K
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			

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