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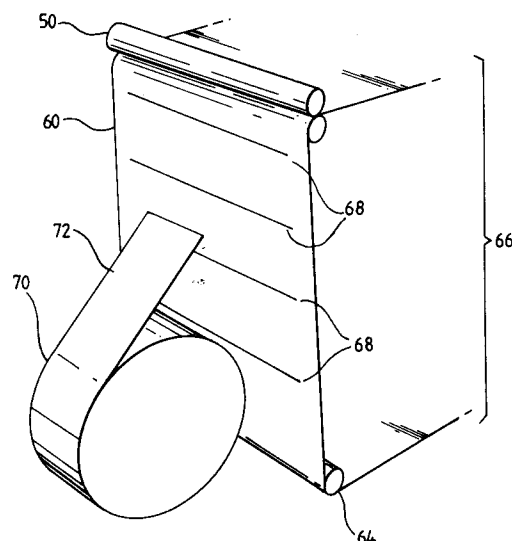
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(54) **Photographic processing apparatus.**

(57) It is known to use continuous belts for transporting photographic material through large multi-stranded photographic processing machines so that the material is pulled and guided through each of the processing stages in the machine. The belt is arranged to run on one side of the material path and special spring clips are used to attach the material to the belt. However, the spring clips tend to damage the belt and reduce its operational life. Described herein is a belt arrangement for which clips are not required. A continuous belt (60) having a plurality of slots (68) formed therein is arranged to travel in the material processing path, the belt extending across substantially the entire width of the processing path. Material (70, 72) to be processed is threaded through one of the slots (68) in the belt (60) and folded over. This belt arrangement allows unstable chemistries, such as redox amplification chemistry, to be used in large processing machines by reducing the volumes of processing solutions required.

**FIG.2.****EP 0 603 952 A3**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 20 3549

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	US-A-3 462 054 (S.W.FOOR) * column 4, line 70-75 - column 5, line 1-16; figures 1-6 *	1,2	G03D3/12
X	WO-A-90 04809 (CAISSE REGIONALE DE CREDIT AGRICOLE MUTUEL DE L'YONNE) * page 1 - page 12; figure 1 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			G03D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 14 April 1994	Examiner BOEYKENS, J
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 I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

See sheet -B-

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims: 1-3



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION A POSTERIORI

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1-3 : Transport belt in processing apparatus.
2. Claim 4 : Unstable chemistry.