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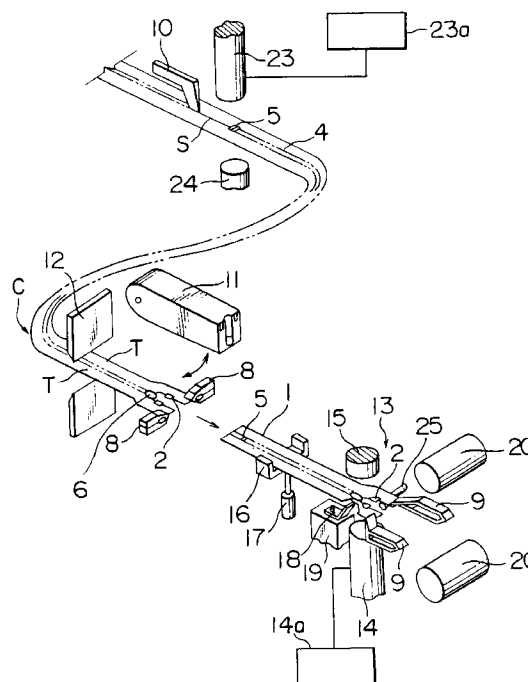
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(54) **Apparatus for inspecting top end stops of slide fastener**

(57) An apparatus (13) for automatically inspecting top end stops (2) of a slide fastener (1) while the slide fastener (1) is fed by pulling it by grippers (9) toward a discharge station, with a slider (6) having a pull tab (7) and a bottom end stop (5) attached to the slide fastener (1), wherein an image sensor or camera (14) is disposed adjacent to the feed path on an upstream side of the discharge station to read an image of the top end stops (2) for inspecting an attached condition of the top end stops (2) effected on data of the image read by the camera (14) using an image-processing technique, and a fastener support unit (16) is disposed in the feed path upstream of the camera (14) for supporting a portion of the slide fastener (1) in the vicinity of the bottom end stop (5) to keep the slide fastener (1) stable while the image of the top end stops (2) is read by the camera (14).

**FIG. 1**



**EP 0 641 529 A3**



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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.6)
A	EP-A-0 111 305 (YOSHIDA KOGYO) * page 5, line 13 - page 6, line 1; figure 1 *	1,2	A44B19/60
A	EP-A-0 414 553 (YOSHIDA KOGYO) * column 2, line 43 * * column 6, line 23 - line 41; figures 5,6 *	1	
A	EP-A-0 269 912 (YOSHIDA KOGYO) * column 4, line 20 - line 53; figure 2 *	1,3,4	
A	EP-A-0 109 643 (YOSHIDA KOGYO) * page 20, line 14 - line 18; figure 1 *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			<b>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)</b>  A44B A41H D05B
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		28 February 1996	Monné, E
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> 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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