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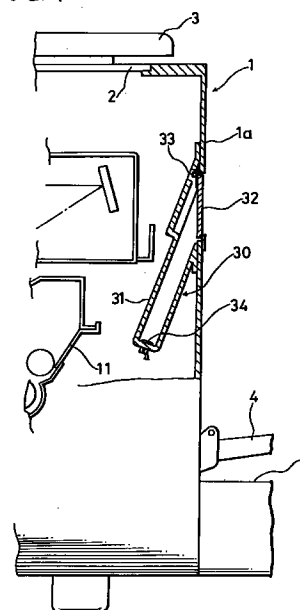
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**(54) Image forming apparatus equipped with a binding function**

(57) An image forming apparatus is provided which has a binding unit (30) provided adjacent to an image forming means (8) located within the copy machine body (1). First and second instructing means (22, 53) are provided for issuing commands for operating the image forming means and the binding means respectively. Control means (60) are adapted to execute either the image forming operation or the binding operation on the basis of the command signals. When one operation is being executed, the control means (60) can prevent execution of the other operation.

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.6)
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 014, no. 549 (M-1055), 6 December 1990 & JP-A-02 233467 (RICOH CO LTD), 17 September 1990, * abstract *	1,8,15, 21	G03G15/00 B42C9/00
A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 010, no. 119 (P-453), 6 May 1986 & JP-A-60 247258 (FUJI XEROX KK), 6 December 1985, * abstract *	1,8,15, 21	
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			G03G B42C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 9 October 1996	Examiner Lipp, G
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>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</p> <p>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 ..... &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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