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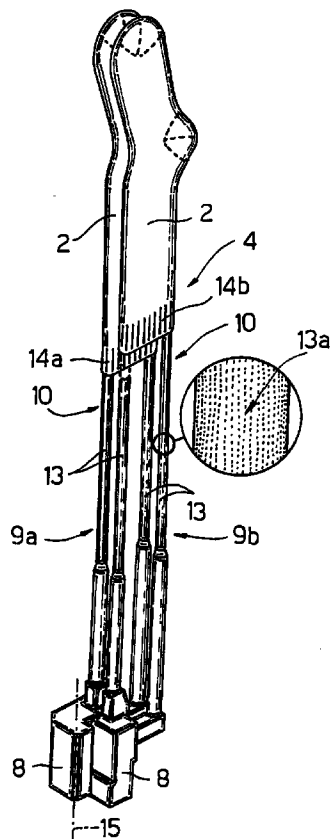
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**(54) Method and device for pairing socks**

(57) A method and device for pairing socks, in particular men's socks, whereby two socks (2) to be paired are fitted onto respective side by side forms (9) defined by respective externally rough, tubular elements (10) bent into a U, and, prior to being fixed and pressed, are engaged by a twin-gripper device (42), which grips and moves the longer sock (2) to bring the rib (14a) on a level with the rib (14b) of the shorter sock (2), grips the shorter sock (2), and pulls both socks (2) simultaneously to set the respective ribs (14a, 14b) to an identical common position in which the ribs (14a, 14b) are retained by the respective forms (9) by friction.

Fig.5



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 10 8107

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 0 652 319 A (C.A.CORTESE) * column 5, line 45 - column 6, line 23; figure 1 * * column 7, line 4 - line 27 * ---	1,7	D06C5/00
A	GB 2 096 196 A (INTECH CORPORATION) * page 1, line 8 - line 88 * * page 4, line 40 - line 118; figures 1-5 * -----	1,7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			D06C D06H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 22 April 1997	Examiner Goodall, C
<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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