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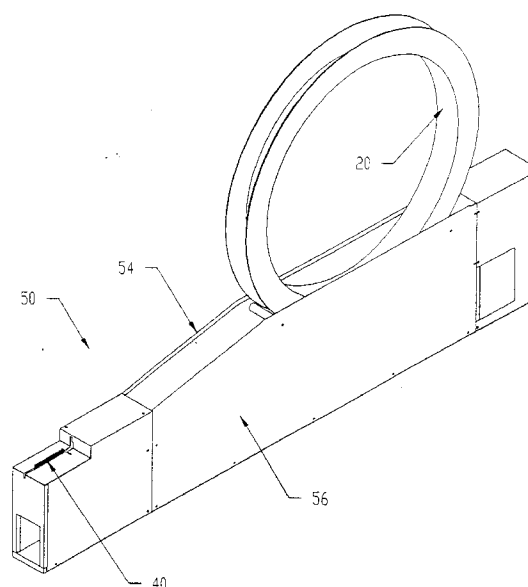
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### (54) Continuous strip pin header feeder

(57) A programmable feeder system for handling a continuous strip of pin header stock. The feeder system responds to controller commands to advance the end of the pin header stock to a pin pulling station, pull a pin identified by the controller at the key position, cut a pin header to a programmed length, and hold the finished pin header at a pickup station for pickup by an insertion system. The feeder system includes a pin header strip drive apparatus including a timing belt having lugs spaced to match the strip pin pitch and engage the pins in the strip. A stepper motor drives the belt to advance the strip under controller command to position the pin to be pulled at a pulling station, and thereafter to advance the strip by a distance needed to provide the programmed header length. A cut/clamp station clamps the advanced strip portion and cuts the receptacle strip to separate the pin header from the continuous strip.

FIG. 1



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 30 5354

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	US 4 672 735 A (TAMANO MICHIO ET AL) 16 June 1987		H01R43/20
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A	US 4 961 527 A (SAKAMOTO TERUO) 9 October 1990		
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A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 310 (E-1380), 14 June 1993 & JP 05 029058 A (KEL CORP), 5 February 1993, * abstract *		
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A	US 4 763 400 A (DECKERS WILLY) 16 August 1988		
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H01R
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 16 June 1997	Examiner Horak, A
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