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- Bosboom, Jereon
Orange, California 92669 (US)
- Holcomb, Gregory W.
Orange, California 92665 (US)

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(71) Applicant: Holcomb, Gregory W.
Orange, CA 92665 (US)

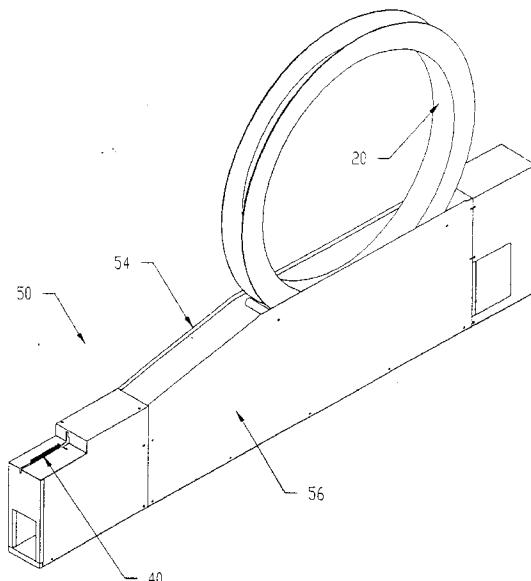
(72) Inventors:
• Scott, W. Klimczak
West Covina, California 91791 (US)

(74) Representative: Robson, Aidan John
Reddie & Grose
16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL (GB)

(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

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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	US 4 672 735 A (TAMANO MICHIO ET AL) 16 June 1987 ---		H01R43/20
A	US 4 961 527 A (SAKAMOTO TERUO) 9 October 1990 ---		
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 310 (E-1380), 14 June 1993 & JP 05 029058 A (KEL CORP), 5 February 1993, * abstract * ---		
A	US 4 763 400 A (DECKERS WILLY) 16 August 1988 ---		
A	DE 38 10 975 A (SIEMENS AG) 12 October 1989 -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H01R
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	16 June 1997	Horak, A	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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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