



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
**13.01.1999 Bulletin 1999/02**

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>: **B65H 39/10, B65H 39/11**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**22.07.1998 Bulletin 1998/30**

(21) Application number: **97113269.1**

(22) Date of filing: **31.07.1997**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC  
NL PT SE**

(72) Inventor: **Fuentes, Baldemar  
Meridian, Idaho 83642 (US)**

(30) Priority: **21.01.1997 US 792912**

(74) Representative:  
**Schoppe, Fritz, Dipl.-Ing.  
Schoppe & Zimmermann  
Patentanwälte  
Postfach 71 08 67  
81458 München (DE)**

(71) Applicant:  
**Hewlett-Packard Company  
Palo Alto, California 94304 (US)**

(54) **Rotary paper diverter**

(57) A printer (11) or other sheet media handling equipment is provided with an output diverter (51) which is pivoted with respect to the printer (11) in order to discharge the sheet media (15) to selected ones of a plurality of output bins (19). The pivoting maintains a relative alignment between an output paper path of the printer (11) and the selected bin (19) by shifting the sheet media path at the diverter (51). In order to main-

tain registration of the diverter (51) with the printer's output (17), a funnel-shaped input consisting of a pair of panels extending across a width of the printer's output are used to guide the paper to the diverter (51). The funnel shape permits the diverter (51) to pivot and remain within registration of the printer's output (17).

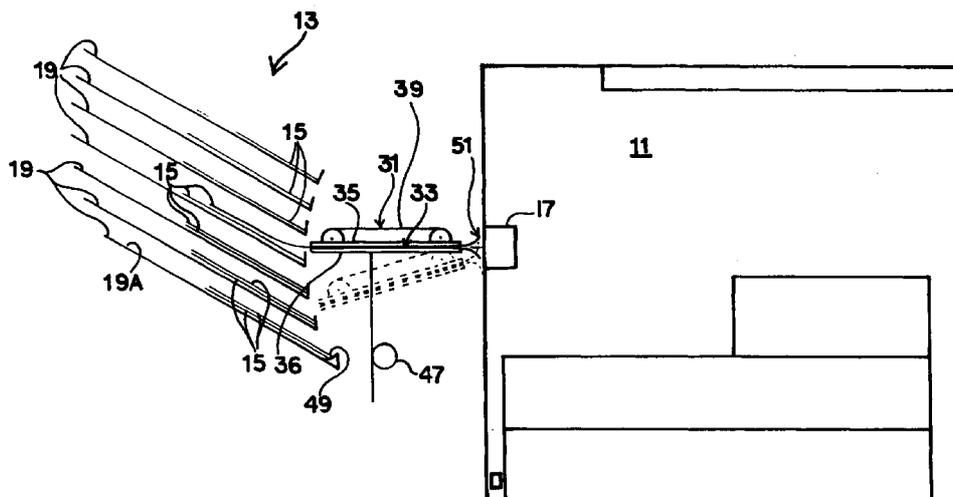


FIG. 1



European Patent  
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 11 3269

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)
X	EP 0 399 565 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP) 28 November 1990 * the whole document * ---	1, 3-5, 9, 10	B65H39/10 B65H39/11
X	FR 2 601 936 A (SINDO RICOH CO LTD) 29 January 1988 * the whole document * ---	1-4	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 005, no. 043 (M-060), 23 March 1981 -& JP 55 165855 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 24 December 1980 * abstract * ---	1-4, 9, 10	
X	LAP J: "PIVOTING GATE SORTER" XEROX DISCLOSURE JOURNAL, vol. 19, no. 6, 1 November 1994, page 501/502 XP000484377 * the whole document * ---	1, 4, 5, 7, 8	
X	J.EMMELOT: "FIXED BIN SORTER WITH RIGID FEEDER GUIDE" XEROX DISCLOSURE JOURNAL., vol. 10, no. 2, April 1985, pages 71-72, XP002083763 STAMFORD, CONN US * the whole document * ---	2, 5-10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) B65H
X	J.M. BEVIL; J. FLORENCE: "REMOVABLE COLLATOR BINS" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 19, no. 7, December 1976, pages 2442-2443, XP002083764 NEW YORK US * the whole document * -----	2, 6	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>10 November 1998</b>	Examiner <b>Thibaut, E</b>
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	
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)