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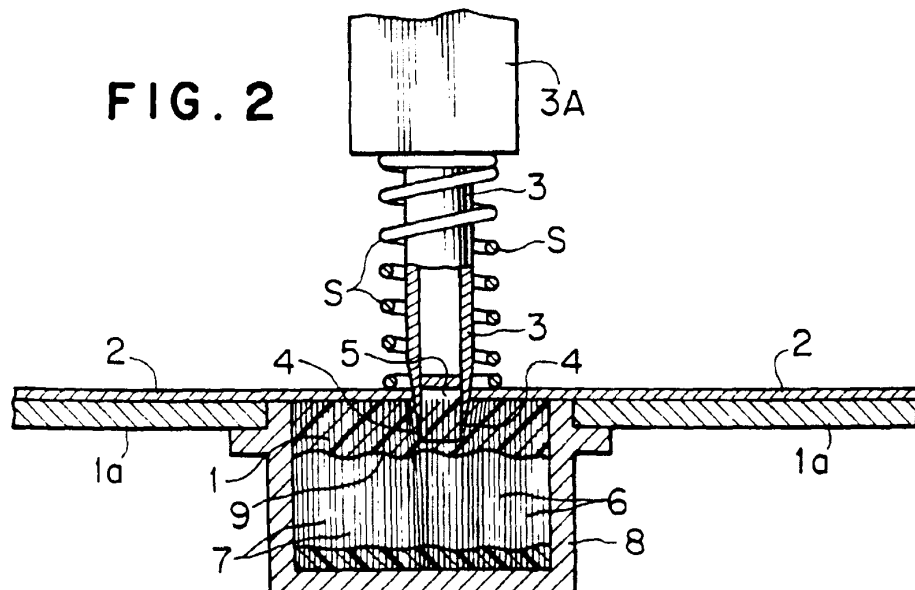
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(54) **Apparatus and method for piercing cloth**

(57) A circular hole (5) can be pierced by bringing a circular edge (4) of a cylindrical rotary piercing punch (3) into rotation-contact with a ground fabric (2) placed on the ground fabric base (1), the ground fabric base (1) comprising a filament bundle (7) densely housed in a container (8) or in a recess provided on a plate (1a), thus providing a rough upper surface to the base (1). A clear-

ly-defined hole (5) with a sharp periphery can thus be pierced in the ground fabric (2) by means of the edge (4) while pressing the ground fabric (2) onto the rough surface of the base (1) by means of the edge (4) which also serves to keep the fabric (2) stationary. The ground fabric base (1) may be hardened by causing an adhesive (9) to penetrate into the upper portion of the filament bundle (7).



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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	* column 3, line 50 - line 60 *		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 3 November 1999	Examiner Vaglianti, G
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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