



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 896 946 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
13.10.1999 Bulletin 1999/41

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **B65H 39/02, B42C 19/04**

(43) Date of publication A2:
17.02.1999 Bulletin 1999/07

(21) Application number: **98202681.7**

(22) Date of filing: **10.08.1998**

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

MC NL PI SE

Designated Extension States:

AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 11.08.1997 IT MI971927
24.11.1997 IT MI972611

(71) Applicant: MECCANOTECNICA S.p.A.
I-24025 Gazzaniga - Bergamo (IT)

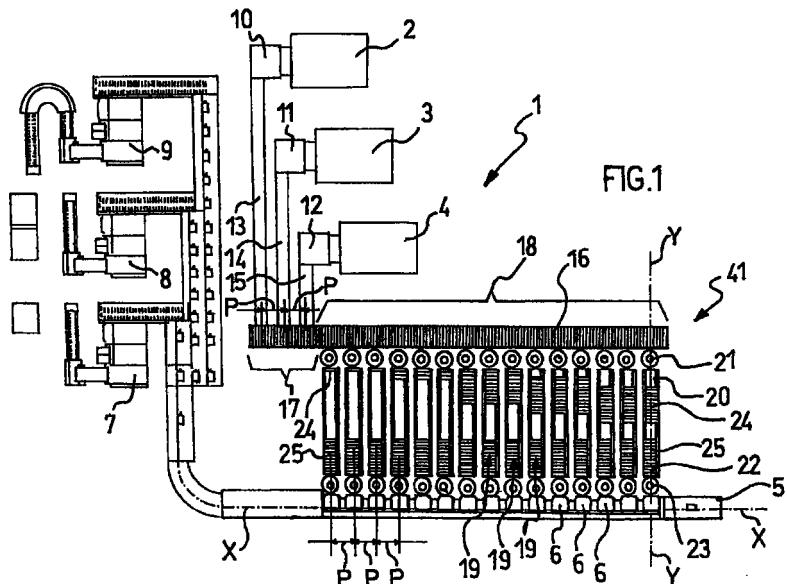
(72) Inventor: **Meratti, Gianattilio
Baska (HR)**

(74) Representative:
De Nova, Roberto et al
c/o JACOBACCI & PERANI S.p.A.
Via Visconti di Modrone 7
20122 Milano (IT)

(54) **Apparatus for feeding a signature collator**

(57) An apparatus (41, 62) for feeding sets of signatures, supplied by signature stacking machines (10, 11, 12), to a signature collator (5) having a predetermined large number of compartments (6), in such a way that automatic book production can be achieved, comprises, for each compartment (6) of the collator (5), two trains of boxes (24, 25) movable along a forward travel line (26), the boxes (31, 32) of each train of boxes (24, 25) being capable of being positioned initially at a first end of the

forward travel line (26), in synchronization with a first manipulator (21), to receive sets of signatures, and being capable of being positioned subsequently at a second end of the forward travel line (26), in synchronization with a second manipulator (23), to transfer the sets of signatures to the compartment (6) of the collator (5).



EP 0 896 946 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 98 20 2681

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	EP 0 771 754 A (FERAG AG) 7 May 1997 (1997-05-07) * the whole document * ---	1-6	B65H39/02 B42C19/04
A	DE 22 37 222 A (MECCANOTECNICA SPA) 31 October 1973 (1973-10-31) * page 12, line 2 - page 14, line 12; figures 1-4 * ---	1-6	
A	EP 0 218 872 A (FERAG AG) 22 April 1987 (1987-04-22) * the whole document * -----	1-6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B65H B42C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	19 August 1999	Henningsen, O	
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			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 20 2681

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

19-08-1999

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 0771754	A	07-05-1997	AU	702313 B	18-02-1999
			AU	6792296 A	08-05-1997
			CA	2188989 A	04-05-1997
			JP	9165137 A	24-06-1997
			US	5765823 A	16-06-1998
DE 2237222	A	31-10-1973	IT	954764 B	15-09-1973
			CH	545202 A	31-01-1974
EP 0218872	A	22-04-1987	CH	668245 A	15-12-1988
			AT	96123 T	15-11-1993
			AU	577487 B	22-09-1988
			AU	6313986 A	02-04-1987
			CA	1267167 A	27-03-1990
			DE	3689189 D	25-11-1993
			FI	863876 A, B,	28-03-1987
			JP	2105835 C	06-11-1996
			JP	8018739 B	28-02-1996
			JP	62083971 A	17-04-1987
			US	4706951 A	17-11-1987