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(54) **Large capacity multiple-format paper tray for an office machine**

(57) A tray (21), for use in an office machine, such as in particular a photocopier (24), prearrangeable for selectively containing reams (22) comprised of a plurality of sheets (23), and having formats corresponding to the format of the sheets comprising them. The tray (21) is provided with a frame (31); a support plate (32), fulcrum-mounted on the frame (31) and upon which each ream (22) is supported, when it is laid in the tray (21); a ream-former (33) sliding along the frame (31) for laterally adapting, depending on the format of each ream (22), the plan dimensions of a seat (51) intended for

accommodating the ream (22); and a regulating device (36), connected to the ream-former (33), capable of automatically regulating, in relation to the position of the latter and thus to the format of the ream (22), an elastic force applied on the support plate to push the ream (22) against a sheet pick-up device (26), fitted on the photocopier (24). Accordingly, the pressure acting between the sheet pick-up device (26) and a front portion of the ream (22) is adapted to the format of the latter.

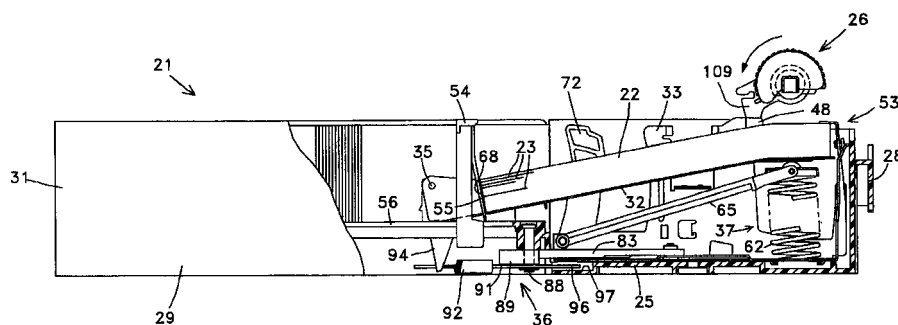


Fig. 3

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 10 6598

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	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 098, no. 005, 30 April 1998 (1998-04-30) & JP 10 007265 A (RICOH CO LTD), 13 January 1998 (1998-01-13) * abstract *	1	B65H1/12 B65H1/26
A	---	2-10, 15-17	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 006, no. 029 (M-113), 20 February 1982 (1982-02-20) & JP 56 145041 A (RICOH CO LTD), 11 November 1981 (1981-11-11) * abstract *	1-10, 15-17	
A	---	1-10, 15-17	
	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 011, no. 048 (M-561), 13 February 1987 (1987-02-13) & JP 61 211239 A (TOP JIMUKI KK), 19 September 1986 (1986-09-19) * abstract *		
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-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			<b>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)</b>  B65H B41J G03G
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>23 February 2000</b>	Examiner <b>HENNINGSSEN, O</b>
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> 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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### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-10, 15-17



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B**

Application Number  
EP 99 10 6598

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

**1. Claims: 1-10,15-17**

Special pressure regulating means for regulating the feeding pressure against the pick-up device according to the sheet ream format.

**2. Claims: 11-14**

Special corner retaining means for insuring separation of the fed sheet from the remaining sheets in the ream

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

EP 99 10 6598

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  
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23-02-2000

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 10007265 A	13-01-1998	NONE	
JP 56145041 A	11-11-1981	NONE	
JP 61211239 A	19-09-1986	NONE	