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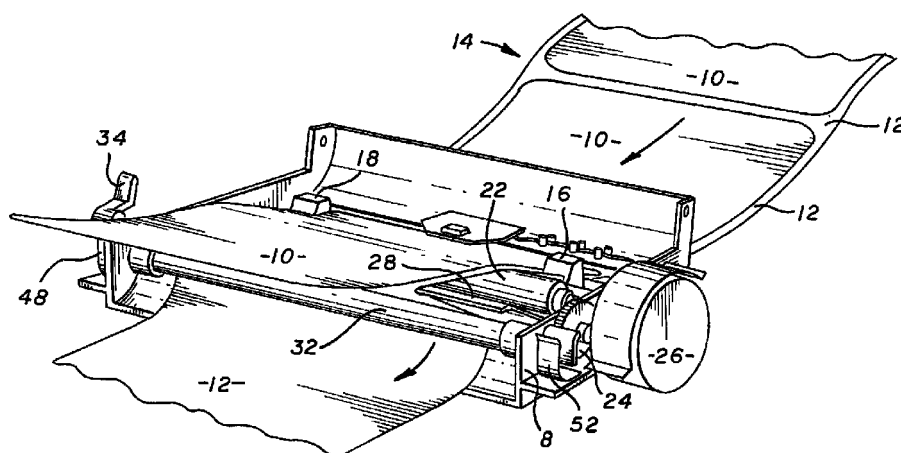
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(54) **Label printer**

(57) An imaging forming device for separating a printable medium (10) from a protective backing of a continuous strip (12) attached thereto, the imaging forming device includes a stepped stripper roller shaft (38) encircled by a roller sleeve (42) adapted to press a platen (22) of the device wherein the imaging forming device causes the continuous strip (12) to pass over a

stripper bar (28) and directs the protective backing to move under the stripper bar (28) and between the platen and the roller sleeve while the printable medium continuously moves outward of the device from over the stripper bar.

*FIG. 1*



**EP 0 972 711 A3**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 20 2303

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.7)
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A	US 3 425 346 A (VOIGT WILHELM ET AL) 4 February 1969 (1969-02-04)		
A	EP 0 416 802 A (TOKYO ELECTRIC CO LTD) 13 March 1991 (1991-03-13)		
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A	US 5 401 352 A (MATSUSHITA IZUMI ET AL) 28 March 1995 (1995-03-28)		
A	US 4 737 223 A (KOCH ULF) 12 April 1988 (1988-04-12)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B65C
-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>29 October 1999</b>	Examiner <b>MARTINEZ NAVAR</b>
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)



European Patent  
Office

Application Number  
EP 99 20 2303

### 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:

1-14



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B**

Application Number  
EP 99 20 2303

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: 1-14

Imagen forming device including a roller comprising a stepped roller shaft and a sleeve.

2. Claims: 15,16

Apparatus for separating self-adhesive labels including a stripper bar disposed at an upward angle of approximately 40 degrees.

3. Claims: 17,18

Method for separating self-adhesive labels.

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

EP 99 20 2303

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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29-10-1999

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