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(54) Apparatus and method for counting textile articles, such as stockings, socks, Pantyhose articles and the like

(57) APPARATUS FOR COUNTING TEXTILE ARTICLES COMPRISING:

- A BODY (1) HAVING A TUBULAR OR SUBSTANTIALLY TUBULAR STRUCTURE;
- AN ASPIRATOR (AS) TO WHICH SAID BODY (1) IS ASSOCIATED, THE ASPIRATOR (AS) ACTING FOR PRODUCING AN AIR FLOW DIRECTED FROM THE INLET SECTION (I) TO THE OUTLET SECTION (U) OF THE BODY (1);
- A STATION FOR TEMPORARILY STOPPING THE ARTICLES (2) TO BE CONTROLLED WITHIN SAID BODY (1);
- A PLURALITY OF OPTICAL ELEMENTS (3a, 3b, 3n) DISPOSED IN CORRESPONDENCE OF SAID STATION (C).

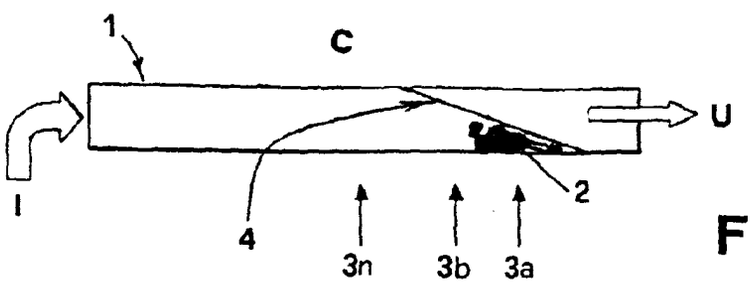


Fig. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 83 0176

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)
X	GB 2 327 032 A (TAKATORI CORPORATION) 13 January 1999 (1999-01-13) * page 33, line 13 - page 34, line 3 * * page 31, line 2 - line 9; figures 8,9 *	1-7	D06H3/16 D05B23/00 G06M1/10
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TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)

D06H
D05B
G06M
B65G

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	30 January 2001	D'Hulster, E

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
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 00 83 0176

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82