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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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### (54) Mail sorting system

(57) The invention relates to a mail sorting system and a method for handling mail matter, comprising a set of sorting compartments (1) consisting of one or more sorting compartments (2), an indicating means (11) arranged in each compartment (2) indicating the compartment, a control device (12) controlling the indicating means (11). The invention is characterized in that the mail sorting system and method are intended for sorting unaddressed mail matter in which address data is not readable on a mail piece, whereby the sorting data is arranged in the control means (12), and the mail sorting system and method are intended for collecting pre-sorted bundles (3) of mail matter according to delivery order from the compartments (2) of the set of sorting compartments (1), whereby the mail collecting order is arranged in the control device (12).

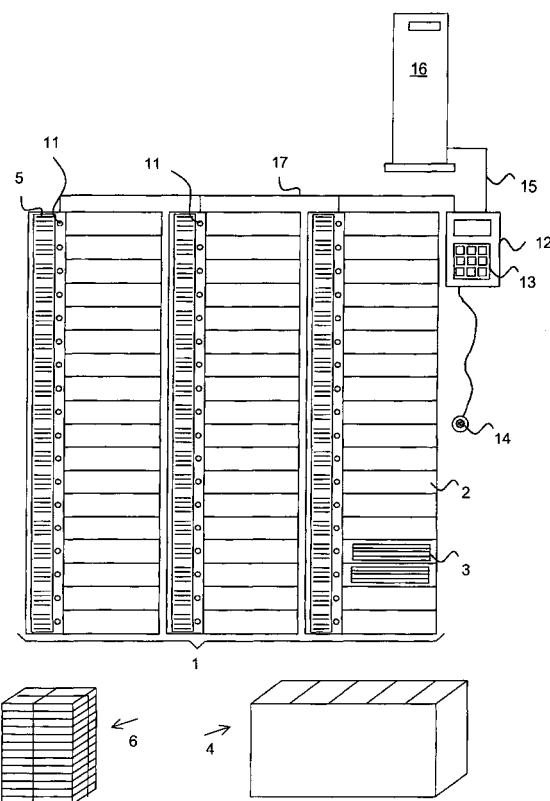


FIG.1

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 66 0122

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)
Y	US 4 181 948 A (JACKSON WILLIAM A ET AL) 1 January 1980 (1980-01-01) * abstract *	1-5	B07C3/10 B07C7/02 B07C7/00
Y	US 5 794 789 A (PAYSON JOHN B ET AL) 18 August 1998 (1998-08-18) * abstract *	1-5	
X	DE 22 30 235 A (DAIMLER BENZ AG) 10 January 1974 (1974-01-10)	6,7	
Y	* page 10, line 4 - page 11, paragraph 1 *	1-5	
P,Y	EP 0 928 641 A (NEOPOST IND) 14 July 1999 (1999-07-14) * abstract *	1-5	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B07C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 21 April 2004	Examiner Wich, R
<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)



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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:



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**  
**SHEET B**

Application Number  
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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. claim: 6

Method for sorting unaddressed mail into compartments.

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2. claim: 7

Method for collecting mail bundles from compartments in the collection order.

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

EP 00 66 0122

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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21-04-2004

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