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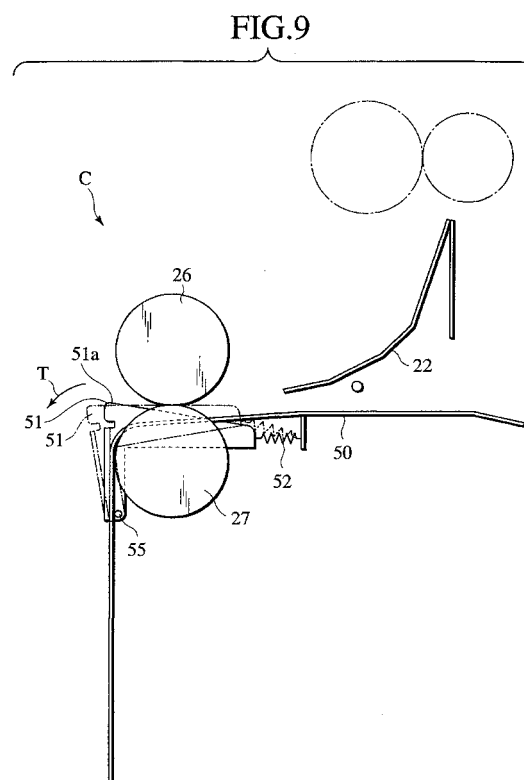
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(54) **Collating apparatus**

(57) The collating apparatus of the present invention comprises a pair of discharged paper attitude forcing trays (51) provided at positions at both sides of a pair of discharge rollers (26,27), respectively, and each having a forcible guide surface (51a) for guiding a lower surface of a collated matter conveyed onto paper discharge guide plate (50), wherein the forcible guide surface (51a) of each of the discharged paper attitude forcing trays (51) is constituted to be positioned upward of a position at which the pair of discharge rollers (26,27) almost press-contact with each other and to allow a height of the forcible guide surface (51a) to be varied. According to the present invention, uneven flight distance does not occur, stable paper alignment is ensured, and paper jamming and paper wrinkle do not occur, irrespectively of degree of firmness of the collated matter.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		3 April 2002	Lemmen, 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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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<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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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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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