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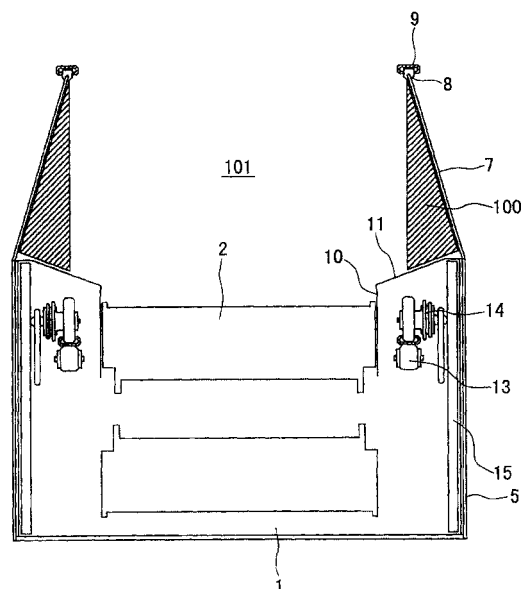
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(54) **Balustrades for an escalator**

(57) In order to provide an escalator having an extended space (100) between the balustrades (7) is provided, balustrades are arranged outside the machine room (1), and a handrail support portion (8) is provided on the side surface of the upper end portion of the balustrade which is arranged so as to, for example, tilt or curve toward the step side from the upper portion of the machine room or so as to vertically stand, and an upper-line track of the handrail is arranged in the top end portion of the support portion. Further, in a mechanism for guiding and moving an endlessly connected handrail (9), the handrail transport roller (13) is arranged in the outer side and the driving unit of the transfer roller is arranged in the step side. By doing so, by making use of a space produced in the machine room, the step tread portion and the riser portion of the step can be extended in the width direction.

FIG.3





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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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A	* abstract; figures 2,6 *	2	
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A	* abstract; figures *	1-5	
X	US 5 601 179 A (WENTE GERALD ET AL) 11 February 1997 (1997-02-11)	6,7	
A	* abstract; figures *	1-5	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B66B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 18 June 2002	Examiner Eckenschwiller, A
<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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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:

1-7



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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. Claims: 1-7

Arrangement for the balustrades on a passenger escalator

2. Claims: 8-10

Return station for the steps and handrails in an passenger escalator including a handrail drive mechanism

3. Claim : 11

Parallel arrangement of passenger escalators

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

EP 00 12 4229

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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