(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) EP 1 148 144 A3

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
19.12.2001 Bulletin 2001/51

(43) Date of publication A2:
24.10.2001 Bulletin 2001/43

(21) Application number: **01109619.5**

(22) Date of filing: **18.04.2001**

(51) Int Cl.[7]: **C14B 1/40**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **19.04.2000 IT VI000071**

(71) Applicant: **OFFICINE DI CARTIGLIANO S.P.A.**
36050 Cartigliano (Vicenza) (IT)

(72) Inventor: **Polato, Antonio**
36065 Mussolente (Vicenza) (IT)

(74) Representative: **Vannini, Mario**
Maroscia & Associati SRL, 42, Corso Palladio
36100 Vicenza (IT)

(54) Leather perching machine

(57) An improved perching machine, in particular for softening and stretching industrial hides or the like, comprises at least one first section (5) and at least one second section (5') operationally coupled and located downstream of the first section; each section (5; 5') is formed by at least one pair of mutually facing conveyor belts (6, 7; 6', 7') for retaining and conveying the hides (P) and by at least one pair of plates (10, 12; 11, 13; 10', 12'; 11', 13') substantially parallel to the belts (6, 7; 6', 7') and acting on opposite sides thereof for softening and stretching the hides. The pair of conveyor belts (6', 7') of the downstream section has a feed speed (V') greater than that (V) of the pair of belts (6, 7) of the upstream section (5). Each section (5; 5') comprises independent motors (20, 20') operating a respective pair of conveyor belts (6, 7; 6', 7') so as to impart varied speeds (V', V) thereto. The ratio (V'/V) between the feed speed of the pair of belts of the downstream section and the speed of the pair of conveyor belts of the upstream section is between 1 and 4 and preferably equal to about 1.2. The advantage of exerting a greater stretching force on the hides in the longitudinal direction when passing from one section to the next one is obtained.

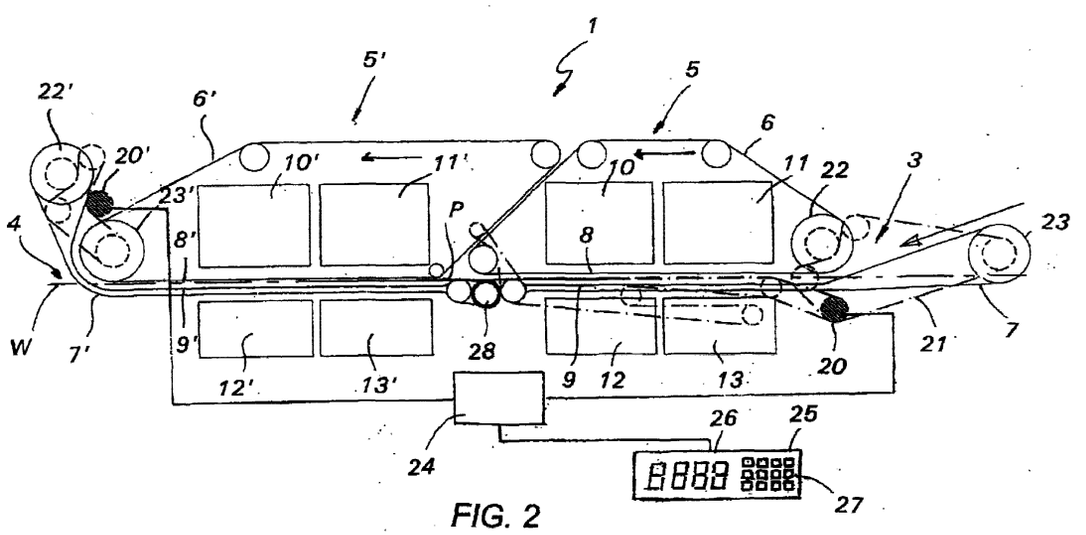


FIG. 2

EP 1 148 144 A3

European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 10 9619

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)
A	WO 97 17472 A (BUTTAZZI EMILIO ;ZANETTE MICHELE (IT)) 15 May 1997 (1997-05-15) * page 5 - page 8; figures *	1	C14B1/40
D,P, A	WO 00 68438 A (CARTIGLIANO OFF SPA ;POLATO ANTONIO (IT)) 16 November 2000 (2000-11-16) * page 9, line 23 - page 10, line 8; figure 4 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			C14B

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	26 October 2001	Helpiö, T.

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
D : document cited in the application
L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 01 10 9619

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-10-2001

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9717472 A	15-05-1997	IT VI950173 A1	06-05-1997
		AU 1368397 A	29-05-1997
		BR 9611290 A	28-12-1999
		CZ 9801352 A3	15-07-1998
		DE 69614890 D1	04-10-2001
		WO 9717472 A1	15-05-1997
		EP 0958384 A1	24-11-1999
		TR 9800804 T2	21-07-1998
		US 6112559 A	05-09-2000
WO 0068438 A	16-11-2000	AU 4308700 A	21-11-2000
		WO 0068438 A1	16-11-2000

EPO FORM P0459

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