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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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### (54) A punching apparatus

(57) A punching apparatus comprises a feed section (4) for supplying sheets to a punch section (6) and a reception section (8) for receiving punched sheets from the punch section. In one embodiment, the apparatus includes a picker device for separating a pile of sheets from a stock of sheets supplied by the feed section so that the pile of sheets can be transported through the punch section. The picker device comprises a wedge which is reciprocated horizontally a lift arm which reciprocates with the wedge to move an end thereof into the stack of sheets and a cam mechanism for causing the end of the lift arm to move first generally horizontally and then upwards. In another embodiment, at least two of the punch, feed and reception sections have at least one sheet aligner, the position of which is adjustable within the section and a common manual drive is provided for adjusting the positions of the sheet aligners.

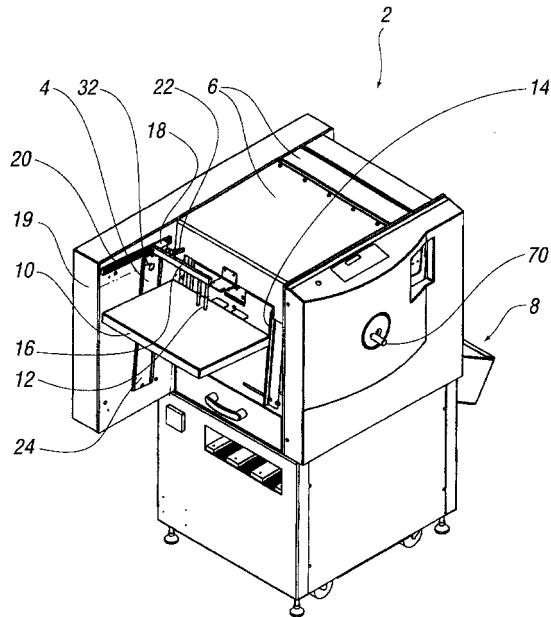


FIG. 1



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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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	16 April 2002		Pussemier, B
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		T : theory or principle underlying the invention	
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A : technological background		D : document cited in the application	
O : non-written disclosure		L : document cited for other reasons	
P : intermediate document		S : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**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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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 01 30 3519

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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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	16 April 2002	Pussemier, B	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			



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: 1-6,10-13

A punching apparatus comprising feed, punch and reception sections with a picker device having a wedge, a lift arm and a cam mechanism for moving the lift arm.

2. Claims: 7-13

A punching apparatus comprising feed, punch and reception sections with sheet aligners having a common manual drive for adjusting their positions.

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

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