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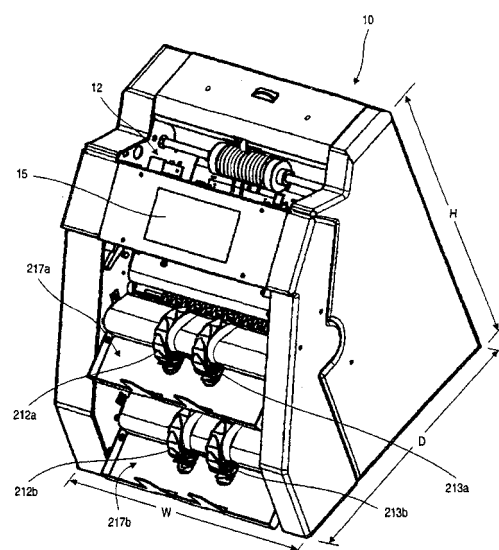
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(54) **Method and apparatus for document processing**

(57) A currency evaluation device (10) for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack. The device comprises an input receptacle (12) and a plurality of output receptacles (217a, 217b) for receiving the bills after they have been evaluated. A transport mechanism transports the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path. A discriminating unit (247) including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles evaluates the bills. The discriminating unit determines the denomination of the bills and detects the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions. The evaluation device also comprises an interface (15) that permits a user of the evaluation device to specify how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled.



**FIG. 1**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                           |                                              |
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| Category                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages                                                                                                                              | Relevant to claim                                         | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7) |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                           |                                              |
| Place of search<br><b>THE HAGUE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Date of completion of the search<br><b>7 October 2002</b> | Examiner<br><b>Kirsten, K</b>                |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS<br>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document<br>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                           |                                              |

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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