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(54) **Method and apparatus for partially cutting a sheet, and sheet or strip obtained thereby**

(57) A cutting apparatus (1) is provided for cutting at least one sheet, for example in the form of a strip (8) into two or more partially joined pieces for example in the form of pads, which apparatus comprises support means (2) and cutting means (7). The support means or the cutting means or the support means and the cutting means are provided with at least one recess (4). In use, the strip (8) is positioned between the support means (2) and the cutting means (7) such that a force is applied to the strip (8) causing a portion thereof to be

placed in the or each recess (4) and the strip (8) to be partially cut at the portion contained in the or each recess and to be wholly cut at a portion not contained in the or each recess.

The depth of the or each recess preferably lies in the range 50 to 100 μm , and the width of the or each recess preferably lies in the range 0.5 to 1 mm. The or each recess preferably has a substantially rectangular cross section. The or each recess may be formed by a groove. The cutting means preferably cuts the strip in a direction substantially 90° to the length of the strip.

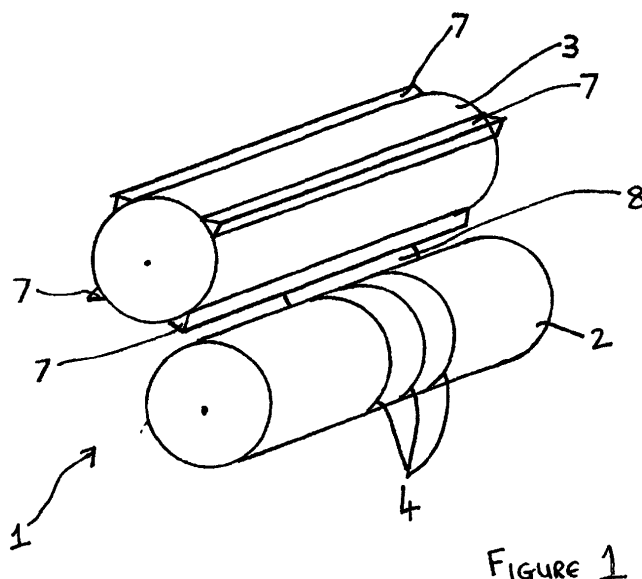


FIGURE 1



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 3 September 2003	Examiner Vaglianti, G
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			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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