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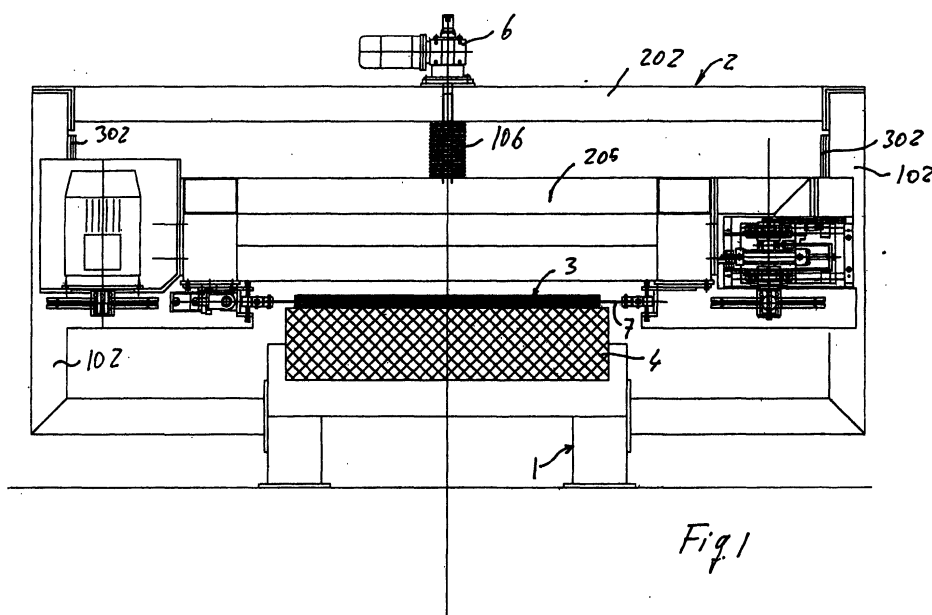
(30) Priority: **30.11.2001 IT SV20010046**

(71) Applicant: **Benetti Impianti S.r.l.**
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(54) **Apparatus for cutting thin slabs or slices from thicker quarry stone slabs, and method for making panels covered with said slices**

(57) The invention relates to an apparatus for cutting stones, such as marbles, granites or the like, and particularly for cutting thin slabs or slices from thicker slabs (3), comprising at least one cutting device (7, 8) having at least one endless flexible diamond impregnated tool (8). In the apparatus of the invention, said cutting device (7, 8) is oriented along a horizontal or substantially horizontal cutting plane, the slab to be cut (3) being

itself oriented along a horizontal plane, and there being provided means (4) for relative displacement of the cutting device (7, 8) and the slab (3) to be sliced in the forward cutting direction into the slab (3). The invention also relates to a method for making laminate panels having at least one substrate layer and at least one covering layer joined together, the covering layer consisting of a thin slab or slice made of a stony material, and fabricated by the apparatus of the invention.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 02 5907

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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 17 June 2003	Examiner Rijks, M
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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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 17 June 2003	Examiner Rijks, M
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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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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**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: 1-25

An apparatus for cutting stones having an endless flexible
diamond impregnated tool

2. Claims: 26-33

A method for making laminate panels

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

EP 02 02 5907

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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