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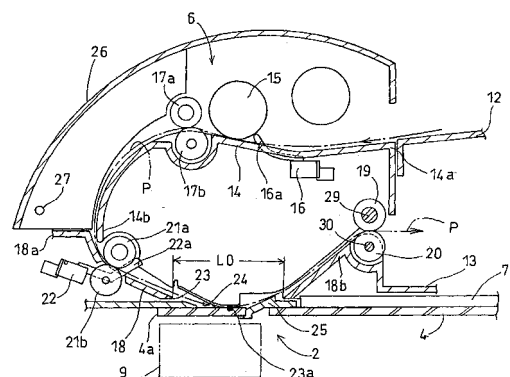
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(54) **Sheet feeder in image reading apparatus**

(57) A sheet feeder includes a plurality of roller pairs (19,20), which are drive roller segments and driven roller segments that press against the drive roller segments, disposed in pairs at a downstream side of a reading point. At least an outer layer of each of the drive roller segments is constructed of a material, such as a rubber, having a high coefficient of friction relative to a document sheet and at least an outer layer of each of the driven roller segments is made from a material having a low coefficient of friction relative to the document sheet. The drive roller segments are disposed on an axis (30) perpendicular to a sheet feed direction, whereas the driven roller segments are disposed on axes (29) inclined to the sheet feed direction symmetrically about a centerline of a width of the document sheet. Further, the axes of the driven roller segments are inclined such that the end of each of the segment's axis furthest from the centerline is on one of an upstream or downstream side of a sheet feed direction and an end closest to the centerline is on one of a downstream or upstream side of the sheet feed direction opposite that of the other end.

FIG.3





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B65H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 16 October 2007	Examiner De Rijck, Freddy
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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