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(54) **Apparatus and method for processing a sheet material**

(57) A sheet material processing apparatus comprises a second sorting section (12, 13) configured to allow the sheet which is processed by a processing section (10) to be sorted in a third or a fourth direction based on processing information of the processing section (10), a stacking section (15, 16) configured to allow the sheet which is sorted by the second sorting section (12, 13) in the third direction to be stacked thereon, a second con-

veying path (18) configured to allow the sheet which is sorted by the second sorting section (12, 13) in the fourth direction to be conveyed, a meeting site (19) where the first and second conveying paths (8, 18) meet, and a discharge stacking section (20) configured to allow the sheet which is conveyed along the first or the second conveying paths (8, 18) and passed through the meeting site (19) to be stacked thereon.

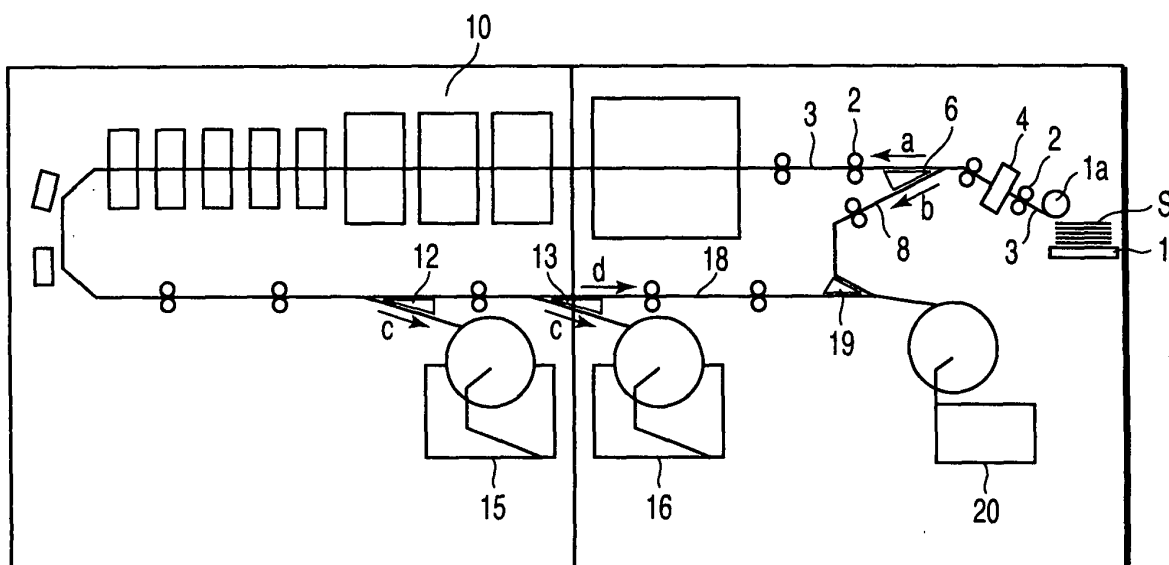


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 02 9735

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 29 January 2007	Examiner Fachin, Fabiano
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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