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(54) **Sheet convey apparatus**

(57) A sheet convey apparatus includes a pile board (111), sheet air blowers (116) and a leveling foot (117), and first, second, and third suction ports (112, 113, 121). A plurality of sheets are to be stacked on the pile board. The sheet air blowers (116) and the leveling foot (117) supply air between first and second sheets which are the first and second when counted from an uppermost one of the sheets stacked on the pile board, to separate the first sheet from the second sheet. The first suction ports (112) are supported to be movable in a direction of sheet thickness, and chuck and hold a trailing edge of the separated first sheet to lift upward the separated first sheet. The second suction ports (113) are supported to be movable in a sheet back-and-forth direction, and chuck and hold a more sheet leading edge side than a portion chucked by the first suction ports of the first sheet transferred from the first suction ports, and convey the first sheet forward. The third suction ports (121) are supported to be movable in the sheet back-and-forth direction, and chuck and hold the trailing edge of the first sheet transferred from the first suction ports, and convey the first sheet forward.

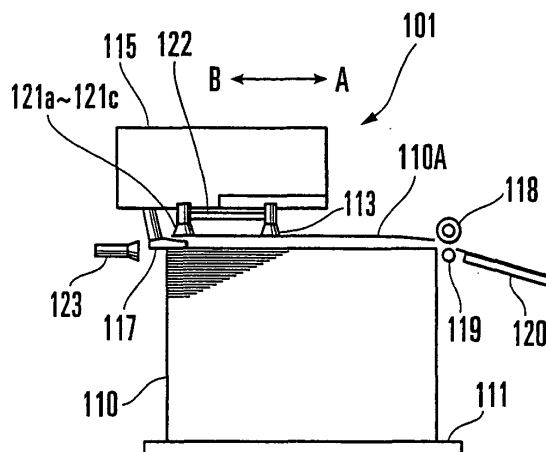


FIG. 1A

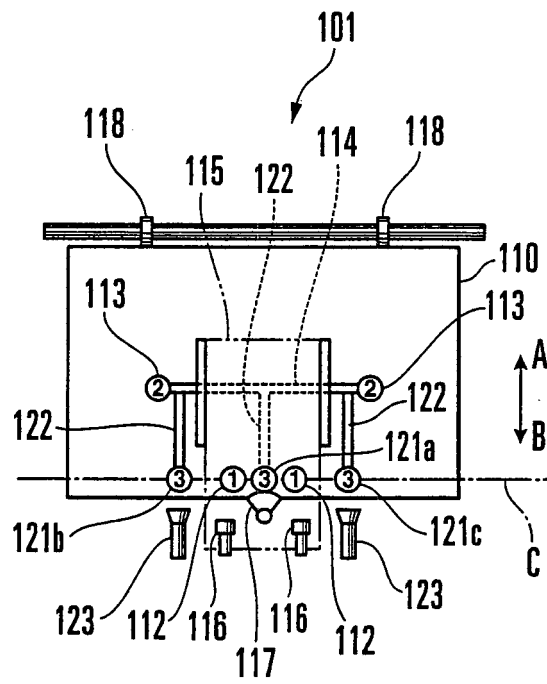


FIG. 1 B



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 00 1324

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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 29 May 2007	Examiner Thibaut, Emile
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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