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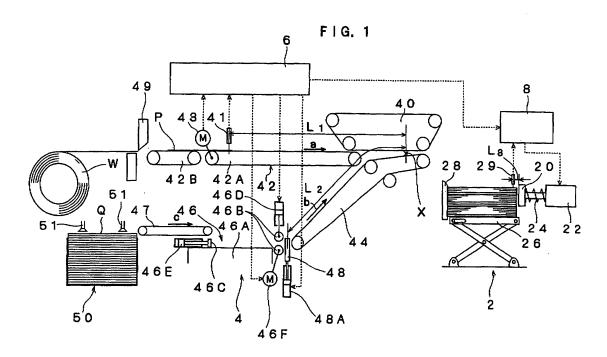
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(54) Sheet accumulating device, sheet accumulating method and sheet feeding device

(57) A sheet accumulating device, a sheet accumulating method and a sheet feeding device are provided. The sheet accumulating device (2) includes a sheet feeding section (4), a front stopper (20), an attenuation section of the front stopper, an accumulating portion in which sheets whose front ends are caught by the front stopper are accumulated, and a damping force controlling section

(8) that controls damping force in the attenuation section based on a mass of the sheets, a speed of feeding the sheets, or a product of the mass of the sheets and the speed of feeding, thereby causing no damage to the sheets even in a case in which two or more types of sheets having the different masses are fed in at a high speed.





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number EP 06 01 0706

	DOCUMENTS CONSID	ERED TO BE RELEVAN	T	
Category	Citation of document with in of relevant pass	ndication, where appropriate, ages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Х	JP 63 134466 A (FUS 7 June 1988 (1988-6 * abstract; figures		1,12	INV. B65H31/36
D,A	JP 63 134465 A (FUG 7 June 1988 (1988-6 * abstract; figures	I PHOTO FILM CO LTD) 66-07)	1,12	
А	JP 10 167550 A (FUS 23 June 1998 (1998-	I PHOTO FILM CO LTD) 06-23) 		
				TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
	The present search report has	'		
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
X : parti Y : parti docu A : tech	The Hague ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS icularly relevant if taken alone cularly relevant if combined with anotiment of the same category nological background written disclosure mediate document	E : earlier pater after the filin her D : document o L : document o	Inciple underlying the int document, but publing date in the application ited for other reasons	shed on, or

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Application Number

EP 06 01 0706

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: 1-15



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: 1-15
Device and method for accumulating sheets
2. claims: 16,17
Sheet feeding device

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

EP 06 01 0706

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 The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

06-06-2007

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