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(54) **Sheet stacking device**

(57) The invention relates to a stacking device for incoming sheets, comprising a receiving plane (21), a rotatably arranged element (22), comprising a slot (26) at its circumferential edge for accepting at least a portion of a sheet to be stacked, where, in a first rotation zone (I), the rotatably arranged element may accept the sheet to be stacked and, in a second rotation zone (II), the accepted sheet is conveyed onto the receiving plane, drive mechanisms for driving the rotatably arranged element, a stop (30), a closed-loop shaped friction element

(28) mounted at the circumferential edge of the rotatably arranged element, which, in operation, transfers a force onto the upper side of the sheet emerging from the slot during at least part of one revolution of the rotatably arranged element, this force having a component directed towards the stop, characterised in that the closed-loop shaped friction element has been positioned such that, in operation, it does not obstruct the movement of a sheet whilst the latter is accepted into the slot in the first rotation zone.

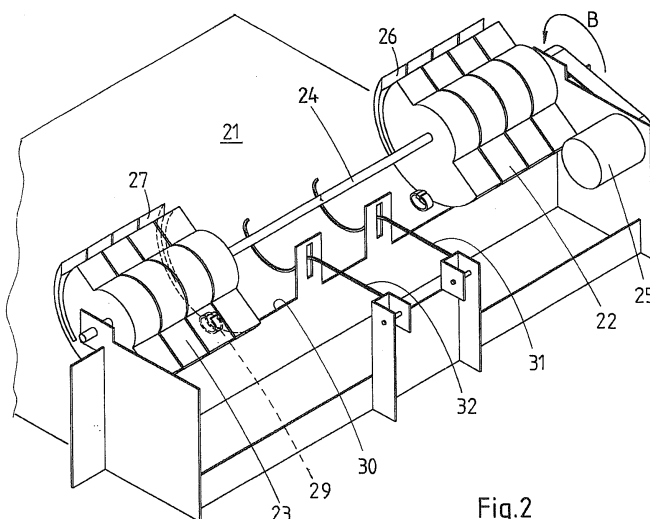


Fig.2



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 06 11 9759

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)	
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X	----- WO 2005/023691 A (EASTMAN KODAK CO [US]; DOBRINDT DIRK [DE]) 17 March 2005 (2005-03-17) * page 4, line 19 - page 5, line 2; figures *	10		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims				
Place of search <b>The Hague</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>19 November 2007</b>	Examiner <b>Thibaut, Emile</b>	
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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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



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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:
- ☐ The present supplementary 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 (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



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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: 1-9

Stacking device for incoming sheets  
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2. claims: 10,11

Sheet edge retention hook  
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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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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19-11-2007

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