



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
26.09.2007 Bulletin 2007/39

(51) Int Cl.:
B42F 13/26^(2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
12.09.2007 Bulletin 2007/37

(21) Application number: **07108894.2**

(22) Date of filing: **17.11.2005**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
 Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK YU

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(30) Priority: **22.03.2005 US 664125 P**
27.07.2005 US 190328

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(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
05110903.1 / 1 705 032

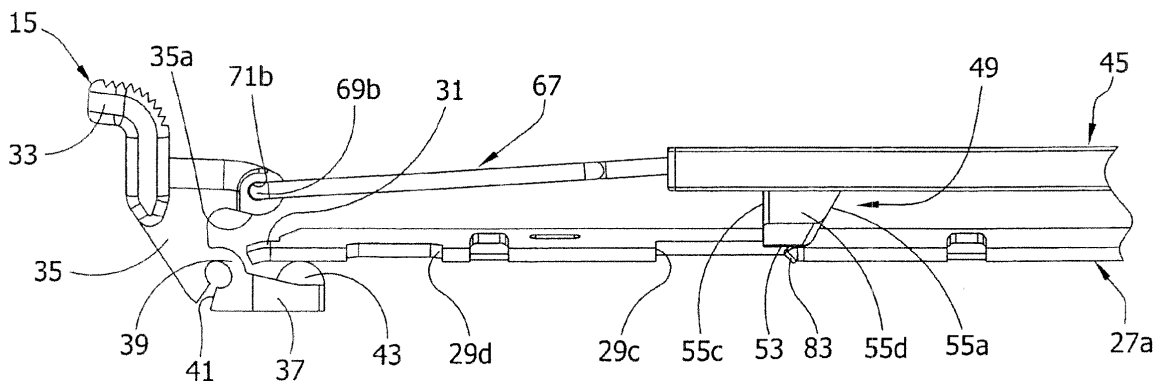
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(54) **A lever for a ring binder mechanism**

(57) A ring mechanism (1) for retaining loose-leaf pages comprises a housing (11) and ring members (13) for holding loose-leaf pages that are moveable relative to the housing between an open and closed position. An actuation system (15) moves the ring members (13) and includes hinge plates (27a,27b) pivotally mounted on the housing and a lever actuating pivoting movement of the hinge plates in at least one direction (e.g., moving the

hinge plates and ring members to the open position). The lever (15) is connected to a travel bar (45) that moves lengthwise of the housing (11) between a position blocking pivoting movement of the hinge plates and a position allowing pivoting movement of the hinge plates. At least one of the lever and the hinge plates deforms when the lever moves to delay pivoting movement of the hinge plates so that the lever may move the travel bar so that it does not block movement of the hinge plates.

FIG. 7





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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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B42F
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		1 August 2007	Louvion, Bernard
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	

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04/C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 07 10 8894

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.

01-08-2007

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82