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(71) Applicant: World Wide Stationery Manufacturing Company,

Limited

New Territories, Hong Kong (CN)

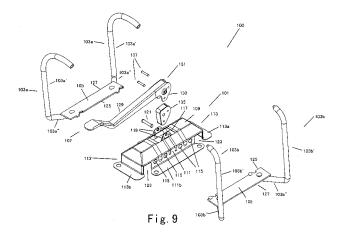
(72) Inventor: Cheng, Hung Yu Siu Lek Yuen Shatin N.T. (CN)

(74) Representative: Schmitt, Armand et al Office Ernest T. Freylinger S.A., B.P. 48 8001 Strassen (LU)

## (54) Ring binder mechanism

(57) A ring binder mechanism (100) for retaining loose-leaf pages, comprising: a housing (101); hinge plates (105) supported by the housing (101) for pivoting motion; a plurality of rings each comprising two ring members, at least one of two ring members being mounted to the corresponding hinge plate and moveable with pivoting motion of the corresponding hinge plate relative to the other ring member between a closed position and an open position; and a rotatably mounted control means; wherein each of the ring members comprises a ring section for retaining loose-leaf pages and a ring section for mounting to the hinge plates (105) or the housing (101), and the ring sections for mounting to the hinge plate (105)

or the housing (101) of the two ring members of at least one of two rings mounted near the longitudinal ends of the housing form respectively an inside angle of no more than 90° with respect to a plane on which the ring sections for retaining loose-leaf pages of the two ring members locate. Furthermore, two hinge plates have different widths. According to the invention, the raw materials used for producing the ring binder mechanism may be decreased remarkably, thereby lowering the cost for production, package and shipment. The opening between the free ends of the two ring members is also enough to facilitate adding or removing loose-leaf pages from the rings.





### **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number EP 07 10 3932

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

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