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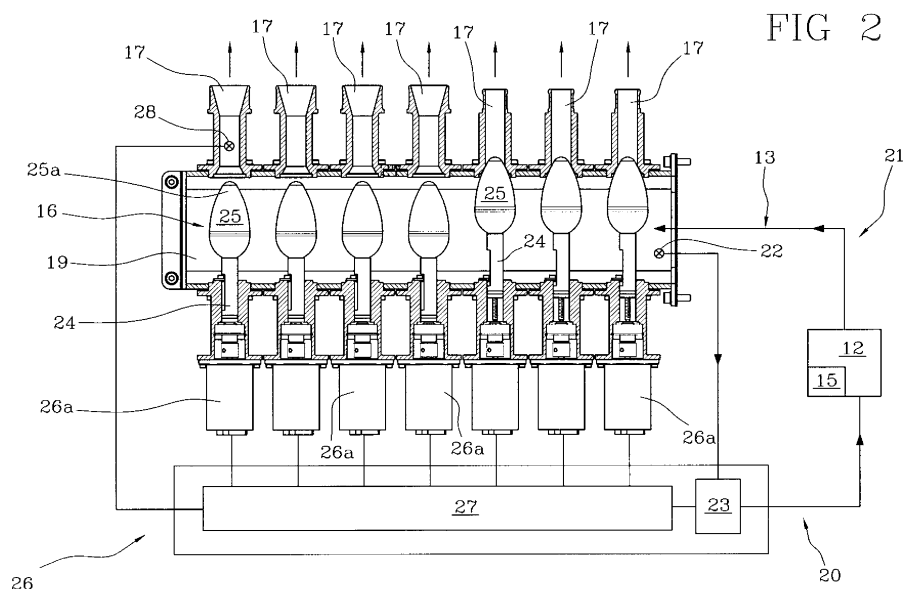
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(54) **A blower device for expanding continuous webs of filter material**

(57) Compacted filter tow is drawn out initially into continuous webs (7) and then expanded by a blower device (1) comprising at least one blower unit (12) connected by way of an air delivery duct (13) to an air flow control system (14) equipped with at least two open/close valves

(16) controlling relative air outlet ducts (17); also forming part of the air flow control system (14) is a plenum chamber (19), operating in conjunction with a pressure control circuit (20) in such a way as to maintain a steady equalizing pressure internally of the chamber (19).





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 10 6035

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	GB 2 018 309 A (HAUNI WERKE KOERBER & CO KG) 17 October 1979 (1979-10-17) * page 2, line 94 - page 3, line 6; figures 1,3 * * page 3, lines 94-128 * -----	1-5, 7-20,22	INV. A24D3/00 D02J1/18
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A24D D02J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 8 November 2007	Examiner VAN BEURDEN, S
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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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82