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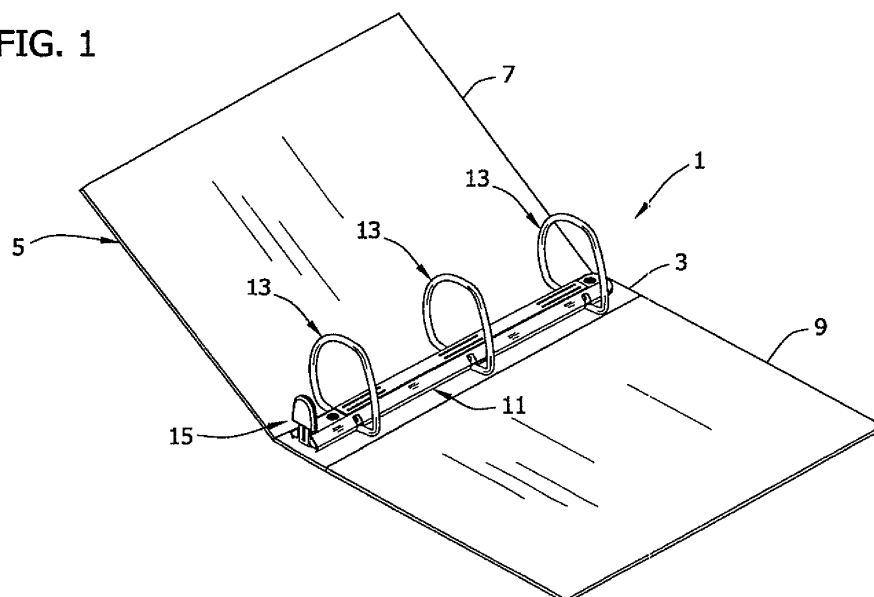
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(54) **Positive lock ring binder mechanism**

(57) A ring binder mechanism for retaining loose-leaf pages. The mechanism has ring members (63) that positively lock together to prevent unintentional openings. The mechanism includes a housing (11) that supports pivoting motion of hinge plates (59,61) for bringing the ring members to either an open position and a closed position. The mechanism also includes a control struc-

ture (15) that can pivot relative to the housing to controllably move the hinge plates to bring the ring members (63) together. In a closed and locked position of the mechanism, the control structure is releasably held behind protrusions of the hinge plates, thereby blocking the hinge plates pivoting motion and positively locking the ring members together.

FIG. 1





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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