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(72) Inventor: **Sakaida, Atsuo,**  
**c/o Brother Kogyo K.K.**  
**Nagoya-shi,**  
**Aichi 467-8562 (JP)**

(74) Representative: **Smith, Samuel Leonard**  
**J.A. Kemp & Co.**  
**14 South Square**  
**Gray's Inn**  
**London WC1R 5JJ (GB)**

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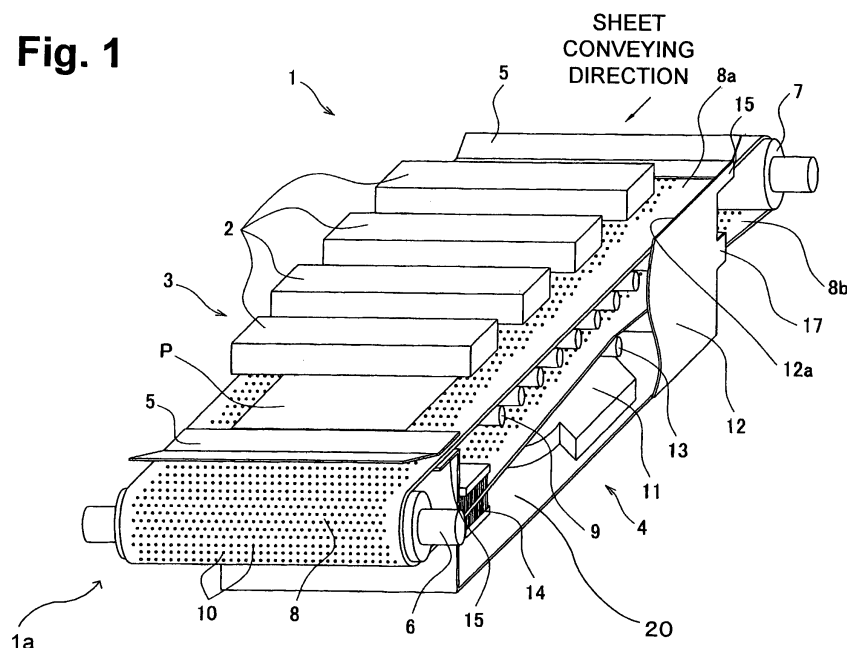
(71) Applicant: **Brother Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha**  
**Nagoya-shi, Aichi-ken 467-8561 (JP)**

(54) **Sheet conveying device**

(57) A sheet conveying device (3) includes a belt (8) having a plurality of throughholes (10), a fan (11) disposed so as to interpose a portion of the belt placed in a return run position (8b) between the fan and a portion of the belt placed in the forward run position (8a), and a case (12) that defines a chamber (20) with a portion of the belt placed in the forward run position. The fan (11) creates a negative pressure within the chamber (20) by

drawing air through the throughholes of the endless belt, thereby removing dust and other unwanted particles and debris from the endless belt. In one or more examples, a brush (14) may also be included to provide further removal of unwanted dust and particles. Further, in one or more configurations, the sheet conveying device may also include belt rollers (6,7) and/or supporting members (9).

**Fig. 1**





## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 07 25 3771

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 4 August 2009	Examiner Athanasiadis, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 ..... &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 (03.02 (P04C01))

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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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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