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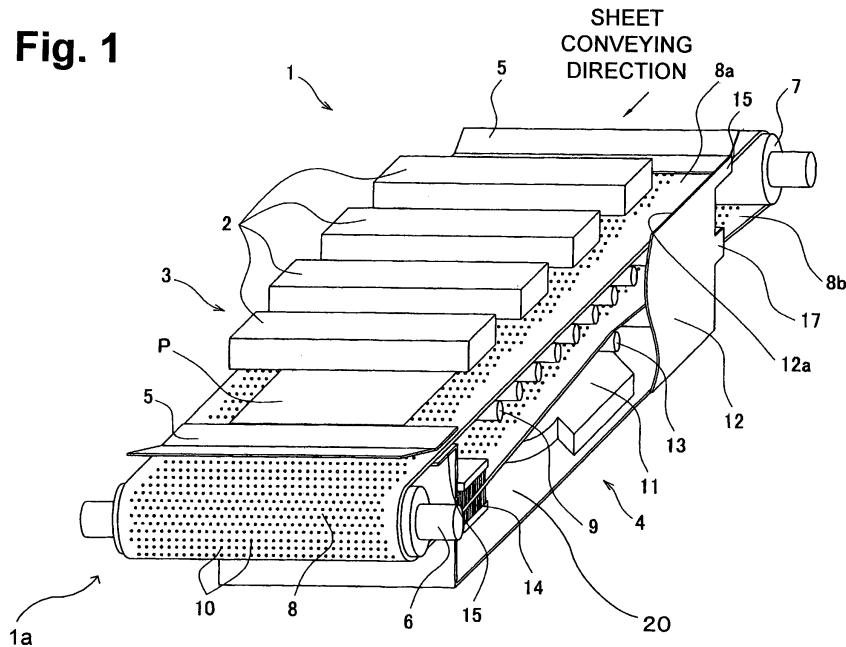
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(54) Sheet conveying device

(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

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EP 07 25 3771

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
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| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| 1 | Place of search | Date of completion of the search | Examiner |
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| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | 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 | |
| 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 | | | |

**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. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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