(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) **EP 1 952 996 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
12.12.2012 Bulletin 2012/50

(43) Date of publication A2:
06.08.2008 Bulletin 2008/32

(21) Application number: **08001907.8**

(22) Date of filing: **01.02.2008**

(51) Int Cl.:
B41J 3/60 *(2006.01)* ***B41J 11/00*** *(2006.01)*
B41J 13/00 *(2006.01)* ***B65H 29/58*** *(2006.01)*

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL NO PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA MK RS

(30) Priority: **05.02.2007 US 899558 P**
30.03.2007 US 731298

(71) Applicant: **Pitney Bowes, Inc.**
Stamford, CT 06926-0700 (US)

(72) Inventors:
- **Smith, Aaron D.**
Beacon Falls, Connecticut 06403 (US)
- **Allen, Robert J.**
Shelton, Connecticut 06484 (US)
- **Fairweather, James A.**
Milford, Connecticut 06460 (US)
- **Baldino, Neil F.**
Sandy Hook, Connecticut 06482 (US)
- **Lyga, Thomas M.**
Southbury, Connecticut 06488 (US)

(74) Representative: **HOFFMANN EITLE**
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4
81925 München (DE)

(54) **Multi-function low profile print interface for a sheet handling device**

(57) A print interface system (50) includes a printer (52) integrated in combination with a sheet handling system such as a mailpiece inserter (10). The print interface system (50) facilitates the handling of sheet material (12) in various operating modes, including conventional printing, duplex printing, and mailpiece creation modes. The system includes an interface module having upper and lower housing segments defining first and second feed paths (FFP,SFP). A first feed path (FFP) directs sheet material to a stacking surface of the upper housing segment and a second feed path (SFP) directs sheet material to a downstream module of the sheet handling device. A repositionable diverter bifurcates the path exiting the printer (52) to direct sheet material (12) to one of the two feed paths (FFP,SFP). Furthermore, the upper housing segment is pivotally mounted to the lower housing segment to provide internal access to one of the first and second feed paths (FFP,SFP).

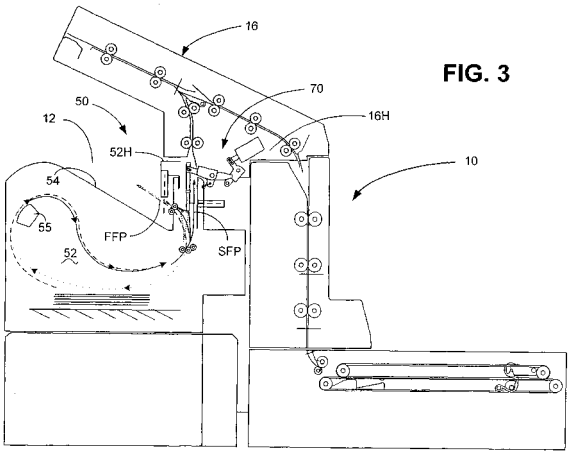

FIG. 3

EP 1 952 996 A3

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 00 1907

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Y	JP 2002 120955 A (RICOH KK) 23 April 2002 (2002-04-23) * paragraph [0016]; figure 2 * -----	1	INV. B41J3/60 B41J11/00 B41J13/00
Y	US 2004/251609 A1 (TANIGUCHI SUSUMU [JP]) 16 December 2004 (2004-12-16) * paragraph [0035] - paragraph [0037] * -----	1	B65H29/58
A	US 2004/256790 A1 (SAITO MANABU [JP] ET AL) 23 December 2004 (2004-12-23) * paragraph [0091] - paragraph [0097]; figure 9 * -----	1	
A	US 5 337 134 A (SATO KAZUYASU [JP] ET AL) 9 August 1994 (1994-08-09) * column 8, line 30 - line 44; figure 5 * -----	1	
A	JP 2002 037541 A (CANON KK) 6 February 2002 (2002-02-06) * abstract * -----	1	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)

B65H
B41J

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague	6 November 2012	Diaz-Maroto, V

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

1

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 08 00 1907

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.

06-11-2012

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 2002120955 A	23-04-2002	JP 3935313 B2	20-06-2007
		JP 2002120955 A	23-04-2002
US 2004251609 A1	16-12-2004	US 2004251609 A1	16-12-2004
		US 2007205552 A1	06-09-2007
		US 2009022534 A1	22-01-2009
US 2004256790 A1	23-12-2004	CN 1550921 A	01-12-2004
		JP 4224687 B2	18-02-2009
		JP 2004331359 A	25-11-2004
		US 2004256790 A1	23-12-2004
US 5337134 A	09-08-1994	NONE	
JP 2002037541 A	06-02-2002	JP 4669599 B2	13-04-2011
		JP 2002037541 A	06-02-2002

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82