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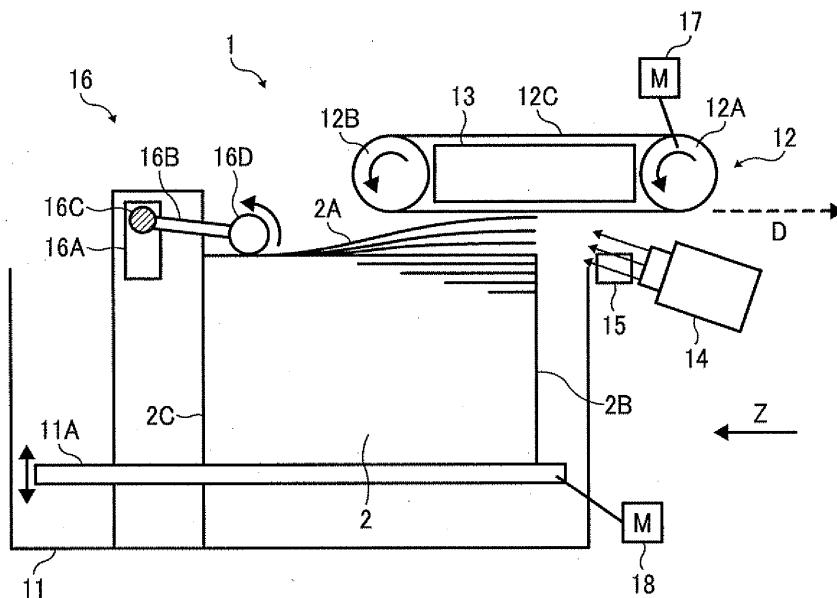
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(54) Sheet conveying device and image forming apparatus incorporating same

(57) A sheet conveying device (1) includes a controller (19) that detects the uppermost sheet (2A), lifts and stops the sheet stack (2) at a reference position, and detects and stores the position. The controller (19) attracts and conveys the uppermost sheet (2A) for a given number of times with the second detector (16) contacting it at the reference position, and calculates a variation

amount of the detected angle to convert to a thickness of M sheets, and stores the result. Then, the controller (19) retracts the driven contact roller (16D) to a non-detecting position, and, each time the uppermost sheet (2A) is attracted by N sheets, lifts the sheet stack (2) based on the thickness of M sheets under $N \geq XM$ ("M" and "N" represent positive integers and "X" represents a positive integer equal to or greater than 1).

FIG. 7





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 10 19 2388

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B65H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
3	Place of search The Hague	Date of completion of the search 4 June 2013	Examiner Henningesen, Ole
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			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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