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- **Hashimoto, Haruo**
Tokyo, 143-8555 (JP)
- **Kondo, Kazuyoshi**
Tokyo, 143-8555 (JP)
- **Hagiwara, Genta**
Tokyo, 143-8555 (JP)
- **Tada, Kaoru**
Tokyo, 143-8555 (JP)

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(71) Applicant: **Ricoh Company, Ltd.**
Tokyo 143-8555 (JP)

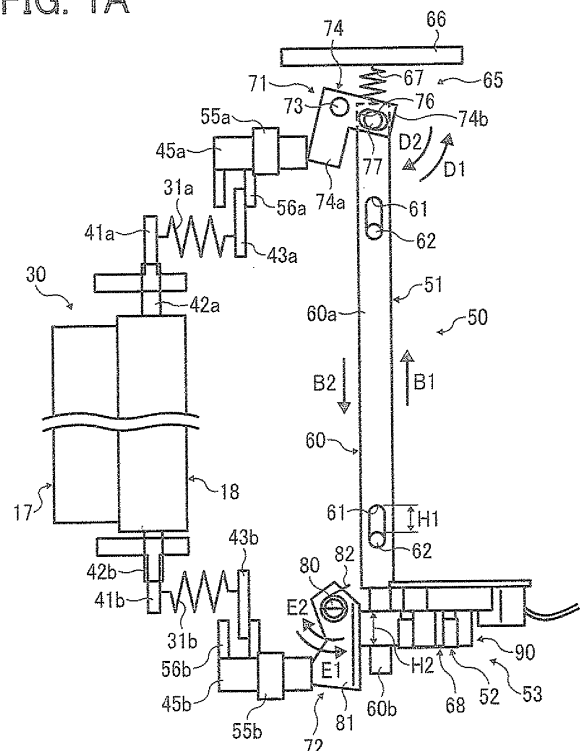
(74) Representative: **Schwabe - Sandmair - Marx**
Patentanwälte Rechtsanwalt
Partnerschaft mbB
Joseph-Wild-Straße 20
81829 München (DE)

(72) Inventors:
• **Takahira, Masafumi**
Tokyo, 143-8555 (JP)

(54) **Fixing device and image forming apparatus employing same**

(57) A fixing device (16) includes a pair of rollers (30) forming a fixing nip (N) therebetween and a nip pressure adjusting unit (50) including a pair of first and second operation levers (45a, 45b) disposed near widthwise ends of the pair of rollers (30) to adjust a nip pressure generated in the fixing nip (N) by moving the pair of first and second operation levers (45a, 45b). The nip pressure adjusting unit (50) further includes a first movement member (51) cooperating with the first operation lever (45a) to perform a first movement, a second movement member (52) cooperating with the second operation lever (45b) to perform a second movement, and a detector (53) to detect both of the first and second movements being performed and generate a turn on signal. The fixing device (16) becomes operable only when the turn on signal is generated by the detector (53).

FIG. 1A





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

 Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 13 February 2017	Examiner Billmann, Frank
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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5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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