



(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:  
24.01.2018 Bulletin 2018/04

(51) Int Cl.:  
G03G 15/00 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:  
25.10.2017 Bulletin 2017/43

(21) Application number: 17160237.8

(22) Date of filing: 10.03.2017

<div>(84) Designated Contracting States: AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR Designated Extension States: BA ME Designated Validation States: MA MD</div> <div>(30) Priority: 21.04.2016 JP 2016085198</div> <div>(71) Applicants:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kabushiki Kaisha Toshiba Tokyo 105-8001 (JP)</li> </ul> </div>	<div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toshiba TEC Kabushiki Kaisha Tokyo 141-0032 (JP)</li> </ul> </div> <div>(72) Inventor: IGUCHI, Ken Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-8562 (JP)</div> <div>(74) Representative: Takeuchi, Maya et al Fédit-Loriot 38, avenue Hoche 75008 Paris (FR)</div>
---	---

(54)

SHEET POST-PROCESSING APPARATUS AND SHEET BINDING PROCESSING METHOD

(57)

A sheet post-processing apparatus includes a first sensor, a second sensor and a controller. The first sensor detects whether or not a staple for performing a binding processing is prepared in a stapler. The second sensor detects that an amount of the staples held by the stapler has become not more than a prescribed amount. The controller judges whether or not to transfer an operation mode of the sheet post-processing apparatus to a first operation mode to perform the binding processing by the stapler to the sheets to be manually fed, based on a detection result of the second sensor, and judges whether or not to perform the binding processing by the stapler, based on a detection result of the first sensor, after having transferred the operation mode to the first operation mode.

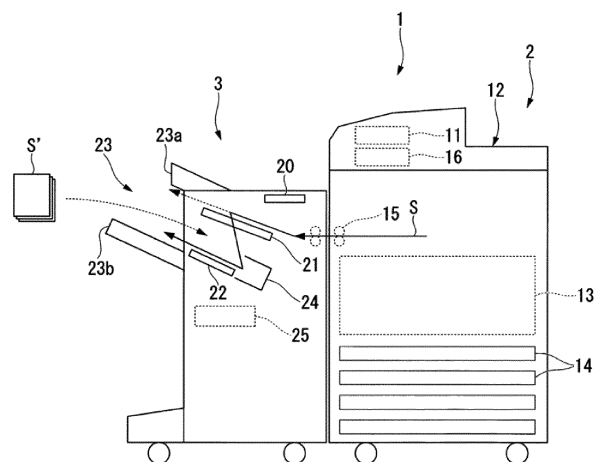


Fig.1

**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.  
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of  
subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 17 16 0237

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 5 762 329 A (NAKAZATO TAKASHI [JP] ET AL) 9 June 1998 (1998-06-09) * column 12, lines 31-36; figures 5, 35 * * column 15, lines 5-46 * * column 14, lines 29-36 * * column 22, lines 18-64 * * column 23, lines 1-20 * -----	1,3-15	INV. G03G15/00
A	US 5 573 233 A (HIRAI KATSUAKI [JP] ET AL) 12 November 1996 (1996-11-12) * the whole document * -----	1,3-15	
A	US 5 187 534 A (IWATA YASUHIRO [JP] ET AL) 16 February 1993 (1993-02-16) * the whole document * -----	1,3-15	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G03G
<b>INCOMPLETE SEARCH</b>			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search: see sheet C</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		13 December 2017	Mandreoli, Lorenzo
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04E07)



**INCOMPLETE SEARCH  
SHEET C**

Application Number  
EP 17 16 0237

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

Claim(s) completely searchable:  
1, 3-15

Claim(s) not searched:  
2

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Claim 2 do not comply with R.43(2) EPC

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

EP 17 16 0237

5 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.

13-12-2017

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5762329 A	09-06-1998	JP 2965497 B2	18-10-1999
		JP H09160321 A	20-06-1997
		US 5762329 A	09-06-1998
US 5573233 A	12-11-1996	JP 2980515 B2	22-11-1999
		JP H07306549 A	21-11-1995
		US 5573233 A	12-11-1996
US 5187534 A	16-02-1993	JP H0435994 A	06-02-1992
		US 5187534 A	16-02-1993