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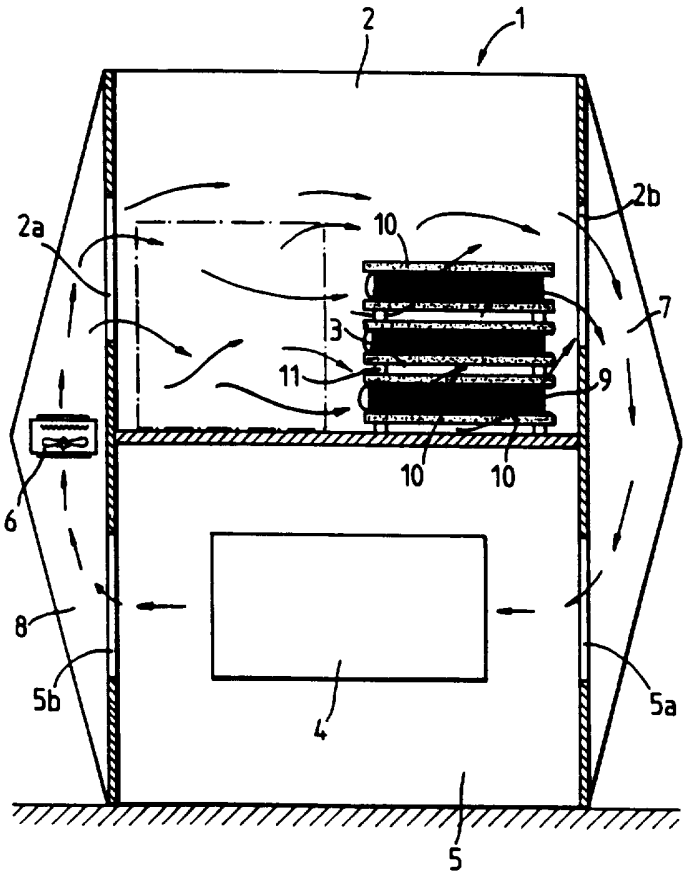
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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
29 May 1992 (29.05.92)

(54) Title: DRYING APPARATUS AND METHOD

(57) Abstract

Apparatus (1) for drying out stacks (3) of documents or books has an upper drying out compartment (2) and a dehumidifier unit (4) housed in lower compartment (5). Fan heater (6) recirculates air through the compartments (4, 5). Layers of moisture absorbing tiles (10) are in close contact with books (9) and firmly pressed thereagainst. Tiles (10) draw moisture from the books and are then dried out by the recirculating air (see Fig. 1). Fig. 3 shows apparatus (101) for drying out individual sheets of paper held in between upper and lower conveyor belts (102, 103). Sheets of paper are conveyed past treatment locations and emerge dried out at an exit end of the apparatus.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/GB 91/01779

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all)[6]

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

Int.Cl.5 F 26 B 3/28 F 26 B 15/18 F 26 B 7/00
B 41 F 23/04

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched[7]

Classification System	Classification Symbols
Int.Cl.5	F 26 B B 41 F

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched[8]

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT[9]

	Category °	Citation of Document,[11] with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages[12]	Relevant to Claim No.[13]
1	Y A	EP,A,0383484 (EASTMAN KODAK CO.) 22 August 1990, see the entire document	1,2,4,5,7 3,6
1	Y A	DE,A,3910163 (KÄSBAUER) 4 October 1990, see the entire document	1,2,4,5,7 3,6
2	A	US,A,4949472 (ARNONE) 21 August 1990, see the entire document	1-7
1	A	EP,A,0080448 (SVECIA SILKSCREEN MASKINER AB) 1 June 1983, see the entire document	1-7
1	A	US,A,3151950 (NEWMAN et al.) 6 October 1964, see the entire document	1-7

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report
09-01-1992	29. 04. 92
International Searching Authority	**Signature of Authorized Officer**
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	Natalie Weinberg

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)

Category °	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
A	US,A,3403456 (SMITH, Jr.) 1 October 1968, see the entire document	1-7
A	GB,A, 266162 (SCHILDE) 17 March 1927, see the entire document	1-7
A	US,A,4501072 (JACOBI, Jr. et al.) 26 February 1985	
A	DE,A,2344227 (ALBERT-SIEBDRUCK GmbH) 13 March 1975	
A	FR,A, 909801 (ANCIENS ETABLISSEMENTS BAIGNOL & FARJON) 20 May 1946	

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

V. ☐ OBSERVATION WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE [1]

This International search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim numbers because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claim numbers because they relate to parts of the International application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claim numbers because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. ☒ OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING [2]

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International search report covers all searchable claims of the International application

2. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the International application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:

3. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:

   1 – 7

4. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. GB 9101779 SA 52045

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 17/04/92
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A- 0383484	22-08-90	AU-A- 5090390	05-09-90
		EP-A- 0458825	04-12-91
		WO-A- 9009621	23-08-90
DE-A- 3910163	04-10-90	DE-A- 3943466	14-08-91
US-A- 4949472	21-08-90	None	
EP-A- 0080448	01-06-83	JP-A- 58134751	11-08-83
		SE-A- 8106875	20-05-83
US-A- 3151950		None	
US-A- 3403456		None	
GB-A- 266162		None	
US-A- 4501072	26-02-85	None	
DE-A- 2344227	13-03-75	None	
FR-A- 909801		None	