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(71) Applicant: **NORDSON CORPORATION**
Westlake, OH 44145 (US)

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(72) Inventor: **Allen, Martin A.**
Gainesville, GA 30503 (US)

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
99911359.0 / 1 062 051

(74) Representative: **Findlay, Alice Rosemary**
Lloyd Wise
Commonwealth House,
1-19 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1LW (GB)

(54) **Segmented die for applying hot melt adhesives or other polymer melts**

(57) A segmented die assembly (10) comprising a plurality of side-by-side and separate units (15). Each die unit, includes a manifold segment (11) and a die module (12) mounted thereon. The manifold segments (11) are interconnected and function to deliver process air and polymer melt to the modules (12). Each module

(12) including a nozzle (13) through which the polymer melt is extruded forming a row of filament(s) (14). The filaments (14) from the array of modules (12) are deposited on a substrate or collector. The die assembly is preferably used to apply a hot melt adhesive to a substrate, but also may be used to produce meltblown webs.

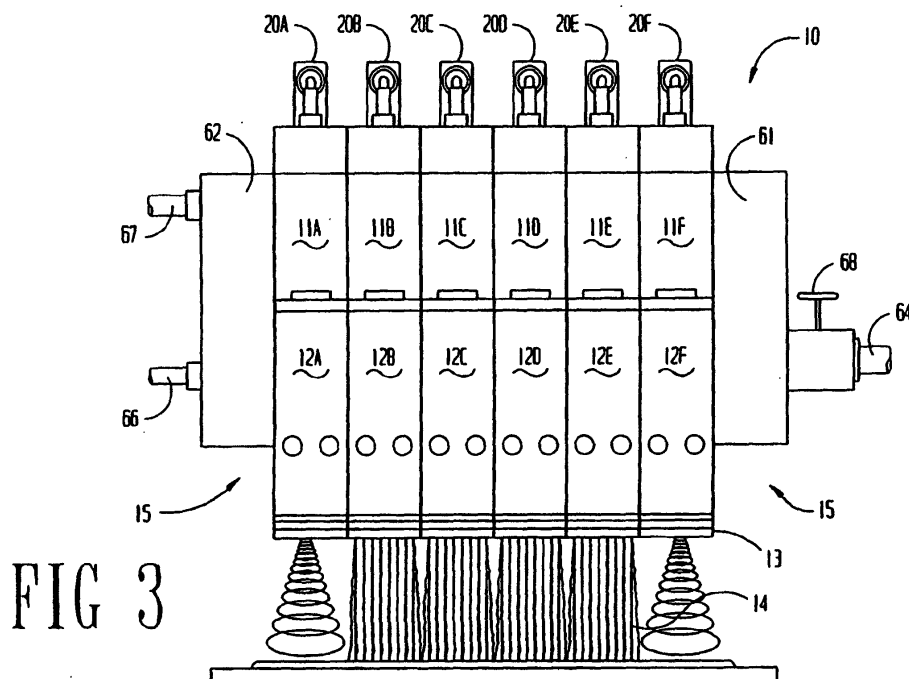


FIG 3



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 07 9172

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Y	US 5 605 720 A (FETCKO JOHN T ET AL) 25 February 1997 (1997-02-25) * column 9, line 62 - column 10, line 4 * -----	1,3-6	B05C5/02 B05B7/08 D01D4/02 D01D5/098
Y	US 4 051 861 A (ELLISON JOHN E ET AL) 4 October 1977 (1977-10-04) * claim 1 * -----	1,3-6	
A	US 3 985 481 A (BRACKMANN WARREN A ET AL) 12 October 1976 (1976-10-12) * column 3, line 32 - line 33 * * column 2, line 65 - column 3, line 9 * -----	2	
A	US 4 079 864 A (COX JAMES R) 21 March 1978 (1978-03-21) * column 4, line 13 - line 15 * -----	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B05B B05C D01D
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		12 July 2004	Juguet, J
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	

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-6



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-6

Assemblage of at least two dispensing units each comprising a manifold connected to the manifold of the adjacent unit by fasteners.

2. claims: 7-10

Die unit comprising a manifold block having two sections (for fluid passageway and air passageway respectively). A thermal isolator is positioned between the two sections.

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

EP 03 07 9172

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
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12-07-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5605720	A	25-02-1997	NONE	
US 4051861	A	04-10-1977	NONE	
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82