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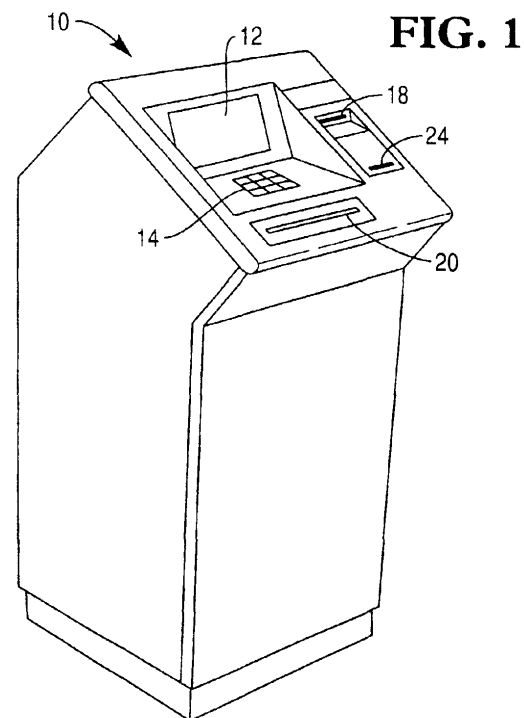
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(54) **An apparatus for validating sheets**

(57) A self-service deposit terminal (10) is arranged to validate deposited bank notes. Each note (38) is individually transported past an interferometer (36) which is connected to a control unit (46). The output of the control unit (46) is input into a data processing means (26) which generates a value indicative of the surface roughness of the bank note. The value of roughness is compared with at least one stored reference value for genuine notes. The data processing means determines either solely on this comparison, or in conjunction with the output from a further validation means, whether the tested note is invalid.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 5397

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)
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A	* claim 1; figures 2,3 * ---	7-9	
Y	US 4 837 840 A (GOLDMAN ROBERT N) 6 June 1989 (1989-06-06)	1-6	
A	* claim 1; figure 1 * ---	7-9	
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	* claim 1; figure 1 * ---		
A	US 4 883 183 A (GOTO MASAO ET AL) 28 November 1989 (1989-11-28)	7-9	
	* claim 1; figure 1 * -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G07D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		23 November 1999	Kirsten, K
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
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 30 5397

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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