



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
19.06.2002 Bulletin 2002/25

(51) Int Cl.7: **B42B 4/00**, B42C 19/08,
B42B 2/00

(43) Date of publication A2:
21.11.2001 Bulletin 2001/47

(21) Application number: **01201829.7**

(22) Date of filing: **16.05.2001**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(30) Priority: **18.05.2000 IT IT000198**

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(54) **A book binding system**

(57) A book binding system (100) including a feeding station (110-125) for providing stacks of signatures (130) in sequence, at least one sewing machine of the signatures (135a-135b), a distribution station (140, 145a-145b, 170a-170b, 175a-175b) for distributing the stacks of signatures to each sewing machine, wherein the distribution station includes a friction-type

conveying element (140) for conveying the stacks of signatures from the feeding station to the at least one sewing machine along an open path and, for each sewing machine, stopping means (145a-145b) for stopping a stack of signatures in proximity of the sewing machine and means (170a-170b, 175a-175b) for unloading from the conveying element and providing to the sewing machine the stopped stack of signature.

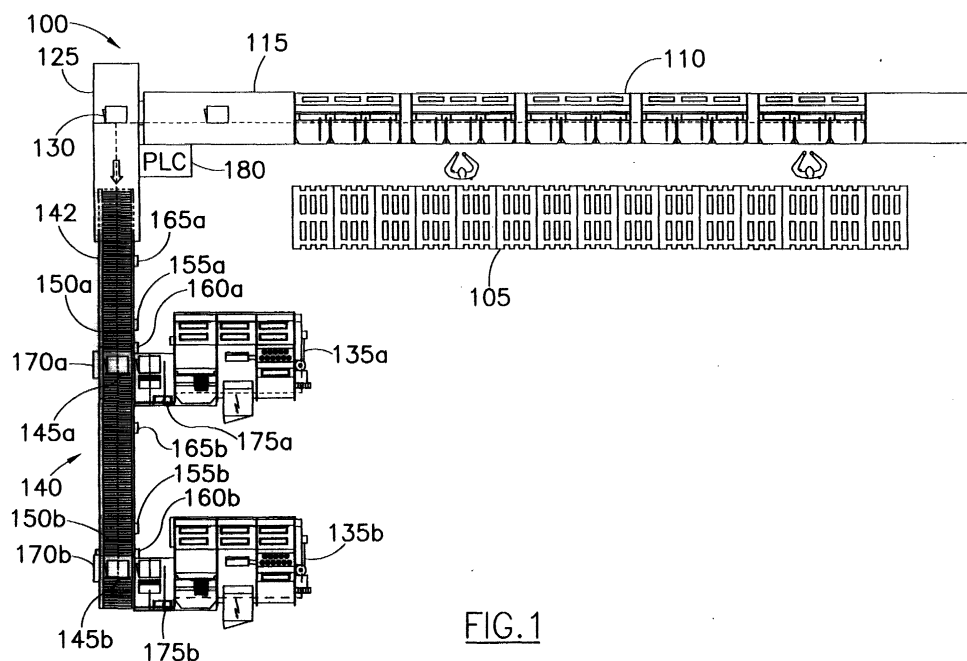


FIG. 1



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 20 1829

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7)
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A	US 4 704 973 A (HORST RATHERT) 10 November 1987 (1987-11-10) * column 2, line 22 - column 4, line 37; figures 1-7 *	1	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 25 April 2002	Examiner Evans, A
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)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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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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