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(54) Title: A METHOD AND A DEVICE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF BOOKLETS



**(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

one side edge of the sheaf being connected with the inside of the spine by means of the bead of glue. The method comprises the following steps: a) moving a sheaf of papers (B) by means of a first power operated transport means (3) to a first position, b) moving one of several covers (A) with attached bead of glue, which covers are located adjacent each other, by a second power operated transport means (5), to a second position at a distance from the other covers, c) bringing said sheaf of papers in contact with said cover with bead of glue, such that the sheaf of papers will be enclosed in the cover, said side edge of the sheaf of papers facing the bead of glue, and d) moving the cover containing a sheaf of papers past an activation device (7), which will activate the bead of glue so as to connect said side edge of the sheaf of papers to the inside of the spine. The invention also relates to a device for carrying out the method a cassette (K) containing covers for use in said device, a method for filling the cassette as well as a method and a device for jogging up the sheaf of papers.



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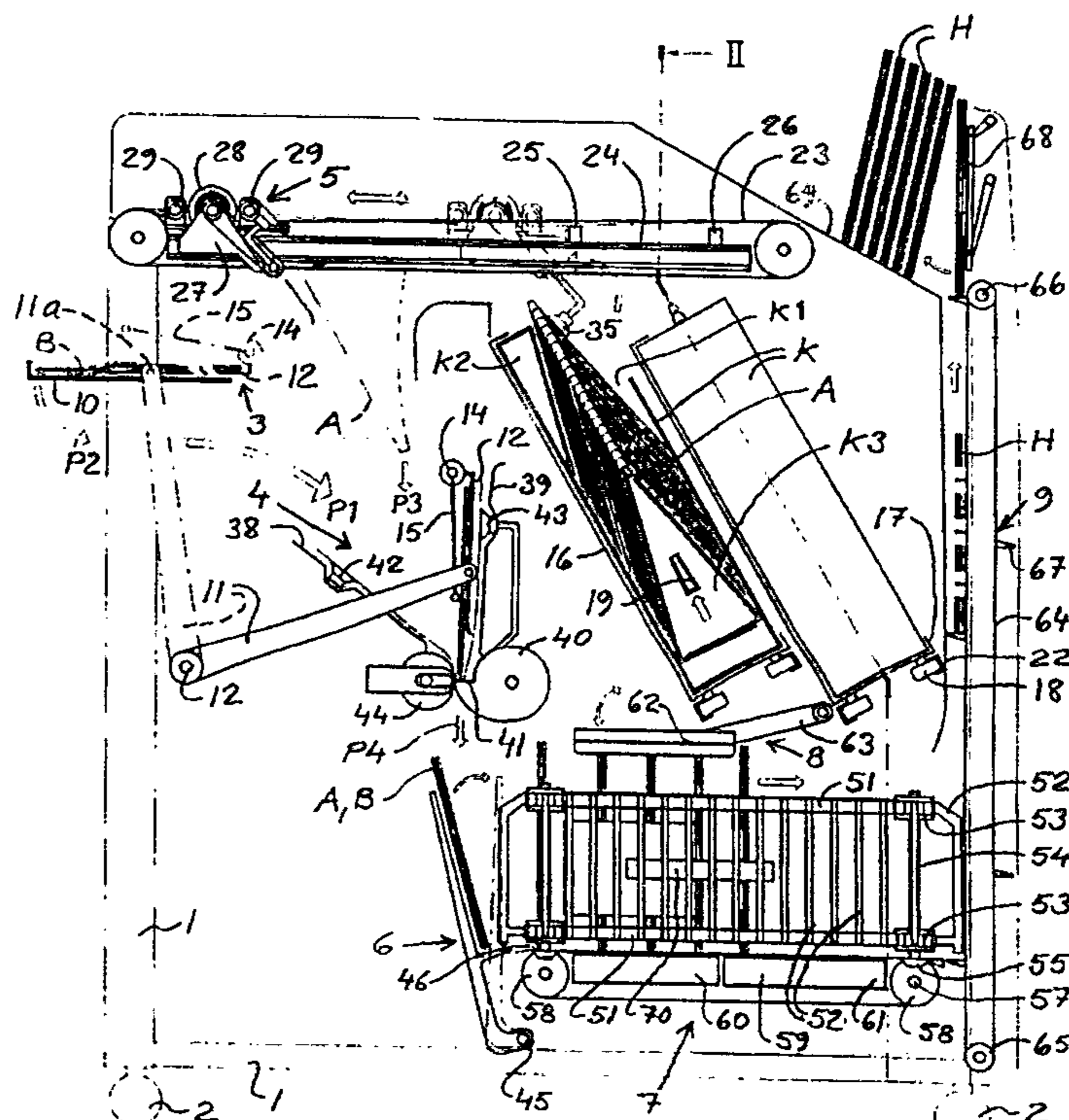
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(54) Title: A METHOD AND A DEVICE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF BOOKLETS

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a method for manufacturing booklets, each booklet comprising a cover made up of two cover sheets and a spine therebetween, a bead of glue attached to the inside of the spine, a sheaf of papers inserted between the two cover sheets, one side edge of the sheaf being connected with the inside of the spine by means of the bead of glue. The method comprises the following steps: a) moving a sheaf of papers (B) by means of a first power operated transport means (3) to a first position, b) moving one of several covers (A) with attached bead of glue, which covers are located adjacent each other, by a second power operated transport means (5), to a second position at a distance from the other covers, c) bringing said sheaf of papers in contact with said cover with bead of glue, such that the sheaf of papers will be enclosed in the cover, said side edge of the sheaf of papers facing the bead of glue, and d) moving the cover containing a sheaf of papers past an activation device (7), which will activate the bead of glue so as to connect said side edge of the sheaf of papers to the inside of the spine. The invention also relates to a device for carrying out the method, a cassette (K) containing covers for use in said device, a method for filling the cassette as well as a method and a device for jogging up the sheaf of papers.



## DESCRIPTION

A METHOD AND A DEVICE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF BOOKLETSTechnical field

The present invention relates to a method and a  
5 device for the manufacture of booklets. More specifically,  
the invention refers to booklets comprising a cover made up  
of two cover sheets, a spine therebetween, and a bead of  
glue attached to the inside of the spine, as well as a sheaf  
of papers inserted between the two cover sheets, one side  
10 edge of the sheaf being connected with the inside of the  
spine by means of the bead of glue.

Background art

Booklets of the kind described above are usually  
15 manufactured in the following way:

A flat sheet of cardboard and/or plastic is folded  
such that it is divided into two cover sheets and a spine  
forming a cover. A bead of melt glue is attached to the  
inside of the spine. This is done by melting the bead and  
20 then letting it solidify on cooling whereby it will adhere  
to the spine. The cover sheets are then folded towards each  
other such as to form a cover, the bead of glue being  
oriented between the cover sheets. When the finished covers  
have been packed and distributed, the user will take a cover  
25 out of the package and insert a sheaf of papers in the cover  
such that the side edge of said sheaf will bear against the  
bead of glue. He will then insert the cover containing the  
sheaf of papers into a binding machine, for example, of the  
kind disclosed in SE-B 434 367, such that the outside of the  
30 spine will get into contact with a heating plate. After a  
certain amount of time the glue will melt and the sheaf of  
papers will sink into it. The user will then remove the  
cover containing the sheaf of papers from the machine and  
the glue will be allowed to cool, the side edges of the  
35 sheaf of papers adhering to the spine.

The above described procedure is complicated and  
time-consuming, especially when a large number of booklets

of the same or similar kind are to be manufactured.

From US-A 5 102 277 there is previously known a method and a machine for binding sheaves of papers into covers of the above described kind. While said method and  
5 said machine represent developments of the manual binding by means of binding devices according to SE-B 434 367, they do not permit sheaves of papers fed out from, for example, a copying machine to be brought together with empty covers inserted in the machine.

10 From US-A 2 549 890 there is previously known a machine for the manufacture of books. Book blocks are provided with glue on their lateral surfaces and are inserted into covers which, one at a time, will fall from a magazine in the machine. Thus, said machine provides products of a  
15 different kind from booklets, each of which consists of a cover connected with a sheaf of papers only at the spine. Further, said machine does not have any activation device for activating a bead of glue so as to connect the sheaf of papers to the spine.

20 From GB-A 1 258 746 there is known a book binding machine for the manufacture of book blocks by applying a melt glue along one edge of the book block. Thus, said machine provides products of a different kind from booklets containing sheaves of papers which are attached to the  
25 spines of the booklets. Further, it does not possess any transport means for moving sheaves of papers or booklets.

From US-A 3 093 396 there is known a book binding machine wherein sheets of paper are interconnected along one of their side edges by means of several adhesive layers so  
30 as to form a book block. Each book block is then brought together with a cover lacking adhesive, and the adhesive layers on the book block are then activated via the backbone of the cover to be connected to the same. Thus, the machine provides products of a different kind from booklets  
35 consisting of covers with beads of glue provided on their spines, which covers are connected with sheaves of papers, the sheets of paper of which are not interconnected before

binding. Further, in the known machine the covers are not brought together in a cassette or the like from which they are conveyed to the book blocks.

5 Summary of the invention

It is an object of the present invention to improve the known methods and devices and to provide a method and a device which will reduce the amount of manual handling, increase the manufacturing speed and improve the quality of  
10 the finished booklets.

This object is achieved by the invention presenting the features disclosed in the characterizing portions of the claims.

15 Brief description of the drawings

Fig. 1 is a schematic side view of the device according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a section along the line II-II in Fig. 1, and

20 Fig. 3 is a side view showing the device of Figs. 1 and 2 on an enlarged scale.

Preferred embodiment

The device according to the invention is built into  
25 a machine provided with a support 1 having wheels 2. The main parts of the machine are a device in the form of a platform 10, receiving a sheaf of papers B, the sheets of paper of which are not interconnected, from a copying machine (not shown) or a (laser)printer, a device 3,  
30 transporting the sheaf of papers to an assembly device 4, a device 5 for taking covers A out of a cassette K and transporting one cover at a time to the device 4, a device 6 for collecting covers containing sheaves of papers, which covers have been fed out from the assembly device 4, a device 7 for  
35 activation of a binding agent on the spine of each cover A, so as to connect the sheaf of papers in the cover with the spine thereof, a device 8 for jogging up the sheaves of

papers in the covers in connection with their passing through the activation device 7, and a device 9 for carrying away booklets H comprising sheaves of papers B bound into the covers A.

5           The transport device 3 for the sheaves of papers B includes a plate 12 which is insertable between the platform 10 and a sheaf of papers B resting thereon, the plate being mounted at 11a on an arm 1 mounted at 12 to which arm a reciprocating pivoting movement is imparted by a driving  
10 device (not shown). Said pivoting movement in one direction (clockwise) is indicated by the arrow P1. A reciprocating pivoting movement is imparted also to the plate 12 on the arm 11 by a driving device (not shown). Said pivoting movement in one direction (counter-clockwise) is indicated by  
15 the arrow P2. On the plate 12 there is mounted, at 14, a holding means 15 to which is imparted, by a driving device (not shown), a pivoting movement between a position in which the holding means presses a sheaf of papers B lying on the plate 12 onto the same, as shown in solid lines in Fig. 1,  
20 and a position in which the holding means is at a distance from the sheaf of papers, as shown in dash dotted lines in Fig. 1.

          The sheaf of papers B usually consists of a sheaf of sheets of paper of the same size (A4) which are not  
25 interconnected. Further, the sheaf of papers B may contain so called index sheets having portions on which letters and/or numbers are printed, which portions project beyond the other sheets of the sheaf of papers. In Fig. 2 there is shown a sheaf of this kind containing 10 index sheets B1  
30 provided with numerals 1 - 10. As is evident from the figure, the index sheets B1 are designed such that no portions of the same project beyond the upper side edge of the sheaf of papers B in the two areas adjacent the two end edges of the sheaf of papers.

35           Each of the covers A consists of a sheet of cardboard and/or plastics material provided with creasing lines along which the sheet is folded and which define two cover

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sheets and a spine therebetween. On the inside of the spine there is attached a binding agent, usually consisting of a bead of glue of a thermoplastic material, which at room temperature is solid but will become plastic when heated.

5 A major number of covers A are packed in containers or cassettes K intended to be inserted into the machine in a manner shown on the drawings and to be described below. Each cassette K consists of a box of cardboard or the like which is closed during storage and transportation. The cassette is  
10 provided with weakenings (not shown) so that a portion of the cassette is easily removable to expose an opening K1, through which the covers A may be taken out of the cassette. Opposite the opening K1, the cassette K has an abutment K2 which, for example, is integral with the cassette and which  
15 centers the covers therein. The cassette K also contains a support means K3, preferably in the form of a cardboard wedge extending between two of the side walls of the cassette, which cardboard wedge is displaceable within the cassette obliquely upwards-downwards as shown in Fig. 1.

20 An empty cassette K is filled with covers A by inserting a stack of covers, which bear against each other and form a V-shape, for example, through the base of the cassette, whereupon the wedge K3 is likewise inserted through the base and into the space in the innermost cover.  
25 The base is then closed. In the filled cassette K the outermost cover A bears against the abutment K2 and against a non-illustrated cap portion of the cassette, identical with the abutment, which portion will later be removed on opening of the cassette so as to form the opening K1. Said cover in  
30 turn bears against another cover such that the binding agent on the spine of the first-mentioned cover is located opposite and in contact with the outside of the spine of the last-mentioned cover or is located at a short distance therefrom. By means of the abutment K1, said portion and the  
35 wedge K3 it is ensured that the covers will be centered and that they will keep their V-shape in the cassette.

On the drawings there are shown two parallel-

epipedic cassettes K, without caps, inserted beside each other in the machine. More specifically, each cassette is detachably inserted in a slider 16 and 17, respectively, which is easily slidable, by means of wheels 18 and expanding bars 22, from a position shown in dash-dotted lines in Fig. 2 outwardly of the machine support 1 to a position inside the machine as shown in solid lines in Figs. 1 and 2.

When one of the sliders 16, 17 containing a cassette K is pushed into the machine, a sword 19 disposed in the machine will penetrate one of the side walls of the cassette and will be inserted in the wedge K3 to the position shown in Fig. 2. The sword 19 will then be displaced upwards by a reversible motor 20 which is connected with the sword by means of a belt 21. Said displacement will cause the wedge K3 to be displaced upwards in the cassette carrying with it the covers A while the sword 19 is cutting a slot in the side wall of the cassette. In order to facilitate said cutting, the side wall may, for example, be perforated. The displacement of the sword, the wedge and the covers will continue until the spine portion of the uppermost (outermost) cover A acts on a photocell means (not shown) disposed above the cassette K which will give an impulse to the motor 20 to stop.

The device 5, which is best shown in Fig. 3, includes a reciprocating endless conveyor belt 23 driven by a reversible motor (not shown). In the space between the upper and lower parts of the conveyor belt 23 there is a rail 24, a vertically slidable projection 25 and a fixed projection 26. A slider 27 is horizontally slidably mounted on the rail 24. The slider 27 carries a wheel 28. Between the wheel 28 and the shaft 28a, on which the wheel is rotatably mounted on the slider, acts a helical spring 30. The belt 23 passes over the wheel 28 and under two rolls 29 rotatably mounted on either side of the wheel in the slider 27. The shaft 28a supports a wheel 31. On the slider 27 there is rotatably mounted a long shaft 34. A wheel 32 is attached to the shaft 34. The wheels 31 and 32 are inter-

connected by means of an endless belt 33. The shaft 34, which is hollow, supports four hollow arms with suction cups 35. The end of shaft 34 which is not mounted in the slider 27 is rotatably mounted on the machine support 1, at 36. A vacuum source (not shown) is connected with the shaft at 36.

When the belt 23 is moved in such a way that its upper part moves towards the right in Figs. 1 and 3, the slider 27 will also be moved in this direction. When a damping means 37 attached to the slider strikes the stop 25, the slider will stop moving, but the belt 23 will continue its movement while turning the wheel 28 clockwise and the spring 30 being stretched. During the turning of the wheel 28, the shaft 28a will be turned, too. As a result of the turning of the wheel 28 and therefore of the wheel 31, also the wheel 32 will be turned via the belt 33, implying that the shaft 34 and therefore the suction cup 35 will be turned clockwise approximately 180°. At the end of this movement the suction cups 35 will strike the uppermost cover A in the left-hand cassette K in Fig. 1 and when the desired vacuum has been achieved an impulse will be given to the drive motor of the belt 23 to change the sense of rotation of the belt. During the return motion of the belt 23, the force in the stretched spring 30 will be released such that the shaft 34 will be turned back towards its initial position shown in Fig. 3, and the suction cups 35 will remove the cover A from the cassette K. When the shaft 34 has reached the initial position the slider 27 will start its return motion towards its initial position shown in Fig 3 and on reaching said position an impulse will be given to said vacuum source to stop the suction in the suction cups 35, whereby the cover will be released and will fall from the position shown in dash dotted lines in Fig. 1 in the direction of the arrow P3.

The stop 25 may be moved from the position in Fig. 1 in order not to prevent the slider 27 from being moved to a position in which it is stopped by the projection 26 above the right-hand cassette K. Said movement takes place on an

impulse from the machine or the machine operator when covers A are to be collected from the right-hand cassette, which should be done when the left-hand cassette is empty or when covers of other size or kind are to be used instead of the covers in the left-hand cassette.

The assembly device 4 comprises a holder or a gap having two side walls 38 and 39 opposing each other at an angle of approximately  $45^\circ$ . The bottom of the gap 38, 39 is defined by a roll 40 rotatable by a non-illustrated motor and having a shoulder 41 as well as by a counter roll 44 driven by a spring, which counter roll is freely rotatably towards the roll 40. The side walls 38 and 39 are provided with a fixed suction cup 42 and a movable suction cup 43, respectively, which are connected to a vacuum source (not shown).

When the device 5 has delivered a cover 5, said cover will fall partially opened into the device 4. The cover is held in this partially opened condition by the activated suction cups 42 and 43. When the spine of the cover A has been brought to bear against the shoulder 41, the arm 11 will be pivoted in the direction of the arrow P1 and the platform in the direction of the arrow P2, so that the sheaf of papers B will be placed in the cover with one side edge of the same bearing against the inside of the spine, as shown in solid lines in Fig. 1. The holding means 15 will then be acted on such that it will let go of the sheaf of papers B, and the arm 11 and platform 10 will then be returned to their positions shown in solid lines in Fig. 1.

The roll 40 will then be rotated counter-clockwise, and the shoulder 41 will get out of contact with the spine of the cover A. The counter roll 44 will then be moved to the right in Fig. 1 and will clamp the cover A containing a sheaf of papers B against the periphery of the roll 40 above the shoulder 41. On continued rotation of the rolls 41, 44, the cover and the sheaf of papers will be fed by said rolls in the direction of the arrow P4 and will fall down into the

inclining collecting device 6.

The device 6 comprises a shelf 46 mounted rotatably around the shaft 45, which shelf is able to support one or more covers A containing sheaves of papers B. When the  
5 device 6 is pivoted clockwise round the shaft 45 to its vertical position shown in Fig. 1 in dash dotted lines, it will deliver the cover or several covers containing a sheaf (sheaves) of papers to the activation device 7.

The activation device 7 comprises a transport  
10 device consisting of two identical, synchronously driven conveyors 50 each consisting of two identical cogged belts 51, which are interconnected by means of yokes 52. The smallest distance between the yokes of the two conveyors 50 is less than the height of a cover A. The two belts 51 in  
15 each conveyor 50 are driven by identical cogged wheels 53 which are interconnected by means of shafts 54. The lower ends of the shafts 54 are provided with bevel gear wheels 55 engaging bevel gear wheels 56 attached to a shaft 57, one of which being rotated by a motor (not shown). Each of the  
20 shafts 57 is provided with a roller 58. Round the rollers 58 extends an endless belt 59 whose speed is synchronous with the speeds of the conveyors 50. Between the two parts of the belts 59 there are disposed a heating means 60 and a cooling means 61.

25 On moving the transport device towards the right in Fig. 1, a cover A or several covers A containing a sheaf (sheaves) of papers B, which are inserted by the device 6 between the conveyors 50, are collected by the yokes 52 and the belt 59. In Fig. 2 there is shown a cover A containing a  
30 sheaf of papers B resting on the belt 59 and located between two pairs of opposing yokes 52. The distance between two adjacent yokes 52 in each conveyor 50 is selected such that there is room between them for several covers A of small spine width and containing sheaves of papers B or such that  
35 there is room between them for one cover of the largest spine width and containing a sheaf of papers.

During the transportation of the covers A con-

taining sheaves of papers B through the device 7, the thermoplastic beads of glue on the inside of the spines are first heated by the device 60 so that the beads of glue will melt and the sheaves of papers will sink into the same. When  
5 this has been done and the covers are being moved further, the bead of glue will be cooled by the device 61, whereby the beads of glue will solidify and the sheaves of papers B will be connected to the inside of the spines. During the transportation of the covers A containing the sheaves of  
10 papers B through the heating portion of the device 7, i.e. over the device 60, they will be jogged up by the device 8.

The jogging up device 8 comprises a plate 62 having two lower side portions 62a, the distance between which is somewhat less than the height of a cover A and a sheaf of  
15 papers B and is somewhat greater than the portions of the index sheets B1 projecting beyond the edge of the sheaf of papers and the cover farthest away from the latter. The plate 62 is connected with two arms 63 mounted on the machine support 1 and is pivoted by a motor (not shown)  
20 between an upper position at a distance from the the covers and the sheaves of papers in the device 7 and a lower position in which the portions 62a press against the two areas of the covers and the sheaves of papers which are located on either side of the index sheets B1. The last-mentioned  
25 position is shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The extension of the plate 62 in the longitudinal direction of the device 7 is greater than the distance between a plurality of yokes 52 in order for several covers and sheaves of papers to be jogged up simultaneously every time the plate 62 is pivoted towards  
30 the same.

A second jogging-up device comprises two spaced apart plates 70 to which is imparted, by non-illustrated drive means, a repeated movement towards and from the vertical side edges of the covers A and the sheaves of papers B  
35 in Fig. 2 so as to ensure that they will be positioned in a respective vertical plane.

On leaving the device 7, the finished booklets H

will be taken care of by the transport device 9.

The transport device 9 comprises two spaced apart endless conveyor belts 64 extending around two rollers 65 and 66, one of which is driven by a motor (not shown). The  
5 belts 64 are provided with a plurality of projecting, equally spaced apart shelves 67. When, on leaving the belt 59 and the yokes 52, one or more finished booklets H are located in the travel path of a shelf 67, which is driven synchronously with the belt 59 and the yokes 52, said book-  
10 let or booklets will be caught by the shelf and will be transported upwards until the shelf is right opposite the roller 66 when a motor driven device 68 working synchronously with the belt 64 will convey the booklet(s) to an inclined plane 69 on the machine support. In said plane 69,  
15 the booklets are available to be removed from the machine.

While only one embodiment of the present invention has been described above and shown on the drawings, it will be understood that the invention is not restricted to said embodiment but only by what is stated in the claims.

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method for manufacturing booklets, each comprising a cover made up of two cover sheets, a spine therebetween, and a bead of glue attached to the inside of the spine, as well as a sheaf of papers inserted between the two cover sheets of the cover, one side edge of the sheaf being connected with the inside of the spine by means of the bead of glue, comprising the following steps:

a) moving a sheaf of papers (B) containing separate sheets of paper by a first power operated transport means (3) to a first position,

b) moving one of several covers (A) with attached bead of glue, which covers are located adjacent each other, by the first transport means or a second power operated transport means (5), to a second position at a distance from the other covers,

c) bringing said sheaf of papers in contact with said cover with bead of glue, such that the sheaf of papers will be enclosed in the cover, said side edge of the sheaf of papers facing the bead of glue, and

d) moving the cover containing a sheaf of papers past an activation device (7), or vice versa, which activation device will activate the bead of glue so as to connect said side edge of the sheaf of papers to the inside of the spine.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the sheaf of papers (B) is fed out from a copying machine or a laser printer to a position at a distance from the latter where the sheaf of papers is available for transportation.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the bead of glue is activated by heating the same such that it will melt, at least partially, and thereafter cooling it such that it will solidify.

4. A method according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the cover (A) is moved to a position (at 4) in which its cover sheets will be spaced apart, the sheaf of papers (B) is moved to a position inside the cover, the cover sheets are moved towards each other such that they will be essentially parallel and are kept in this position during the movement of the cover and the sheaf of papers relative to the activation device (7).

5. A method according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the cover (A) containing a sheaf of papers (B) is moved to a holding position (at 6) before being moved alone or together with further covers containing sheaves of papers present in the holding position, by a transport device (50-59) past the activation device (7) or vice versa.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the sheaf of papers (B) is jogged up after having been brought together with the cover (A).

7. A method according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein a plurality of covers (A) with attached bead of glue is fed out one at a time from a cassette (K), and wherein the covers (A) are kept at an essentially equal distance from each other, whereupon they are transported further by the second transport means (5).

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein, after a cover (A) or several covers have been fed out from the cassette (K), the subsequent covers are moved to essentially the same position as the first-mentioned cover(s) were in when it (they) were fed out from the cassette.

9. A method according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein all of the covers (A) are moved by a transfer device (19-21) directly or via a support means (K3) for the covers.

10. A device for manufacturing booklets, each booklet comprising a cover (A) made up of two cover sheets, a spine therebetween, and a bead of glue attached to the inside of the spine, as well as a sheaf of papers (B) inserted between the two cover sheets of the cover, one side edge of the sheaf being connected with the inside of the spine by means of a bead of glue, comprising

a) a first power operated transport means (3) for moving a sheaf of papers (B) containing separate sheets of paper to a first position,

b) a second power operated transport means (5) for moving a cover (A) with attached bead of glue to a second position at a distance from a plurality of covers with attached bead of glue positioned adjacent each other,

c) an assembly device (4) for bringing said sheaf of papers together with said cover with bead of glue,

d) a transport device (50-59) for collecting the cover containing bead of glue and sheaf of papers, said side edge of the sheaf of papers bearing on the bead of glue, and

e) an activation device (7) for activation of the bead of glue during the movement of the transport device or the activation device so that said side edge of the sheaf of papers will be connected to the inside of the spine.

11. A device according to claim 10, wherein the activation device (7) includes a heating means (60).

12. A device according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the second power operated transport means (5) includes at least one reciprocating suction means (35).

13. A device according to any one of claims 10-12, wherein the assembly device (4) includes a holder (38, 39) in which a cover (A) is held with the cover sheets forming an acute angle with each other while a sheaf of papers is inserted therein, and means

(40, 41, 42) for transportation of the cover containing a sheaf of papers towards the activation device (7).

14. A device according to any one of claims 10-13, comprising a collecting device (6) for several booklets (A) containing sheaves of papers (B), which collecting device may be acted on for moving one or more booklets containing a sheaf of papers or sheaves of papers to the transport device (50-59).

15. A device according to any one of claims 10-14, comprising a jogging-up device (8) for jogging up the sheaf of papers (B) after it has been brought together with the cover (A) with bead of glue.

16. A device according to any one of claims 10-15, wherein the covers are brought together in a cassette (K) and are acted on by a transfer device (19-21) for moving the covers towards the second transport means (5).

17. A device according to claim 16, wherein the transfer device (19-21) comprises an element (19) which is in contact with at least one of the covers (A) in the cassette or is located at a distance from the covers in the cassette (K), which distance is bridged by a support means (K3) for the covers (A).

18. A device according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the transfer device (19-21) is arranged to move the covers (A) in the cassette (K) via a slot in the latter.

19. A cassette (K) for use in a device for manufacturing booklets, each booklet comprising a cover (A) made up of two cover sheets and a spine therebetween, a sheaf of papers (B) inserted between the two cover sheets of the cover, one side edge of the sheaf being connected with the inside of the spine by

means of a binding agent, which device is provided with means (3-5) for bringing together a cover fed out from the cassette with a sheaf of papers as well as with an activation means (7) for connecting one side edge of the sheaf of papers to the inside of the spine, wherein it contains a stack of covers (A) all of which are brought together such that the inside of the spine of a cover is located opposite the outside of the spine of an adjacent cover, and wherein it is provided with a first opening (K1) through which the covers may be fed out, and a support means (K3) holding the stack of covers in a selected position in the cassette.

20. A cassette according to claim 19, wherein it is detachably insertable in said device for interaction with the transport means (5) for moving a cover (A) at a time to a position at a distance from the cassette.

21. A cassette according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the covers (A) form a V-shape and bear against each other.

22. A cassette according to any one of claims 19-21, wherein it is provided with at least a second opening, through which the stack of covers (A) is available for being moved within the cassette.

23. A cassette according to any one of claims 19-22, wherein the support means is formed as a wedge (K3) bearing on the covers situated farthest away from the first opening (K1) and that the support means may be acted on for moving the stack of covers (A) towards said opening.

24. A cassette according to any one of claims 19-23, wherein it is provided with a removable cap for exposing the first opening (K1) and with a wall which is or will be provided with a slot by

an actuation means (19-21) for acting on the support means (K3) and therefore for moving the stack of covers (A).

25. A cassette according to any one of claims 19-24, wherein the first opening (K1) is delimited by an abutment (K2) for locating the stack of covers (A) in the cassette.

26. A cassette according to claim 11 wherein the activation device includes a cooling means (61) provided downstream of the heating means (60).

27. A cassette according to claim 25 wherein said abutment centers the stack of covers (A) in the cassette.

28. A cassette according to claim 22 wherein said second opening is formed as a slot.

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Patent Agents

*Fig. 1*

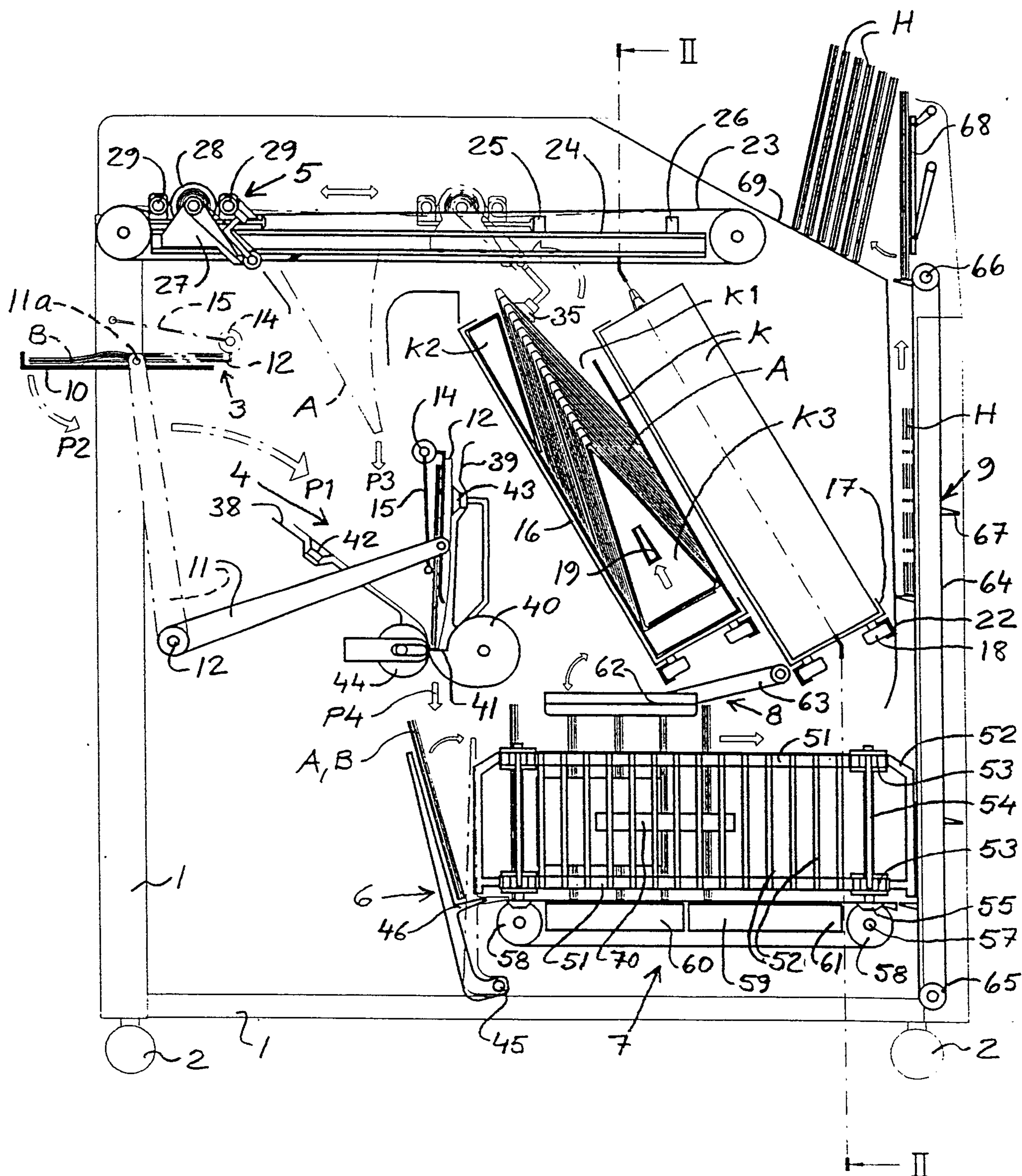


Fig. 2

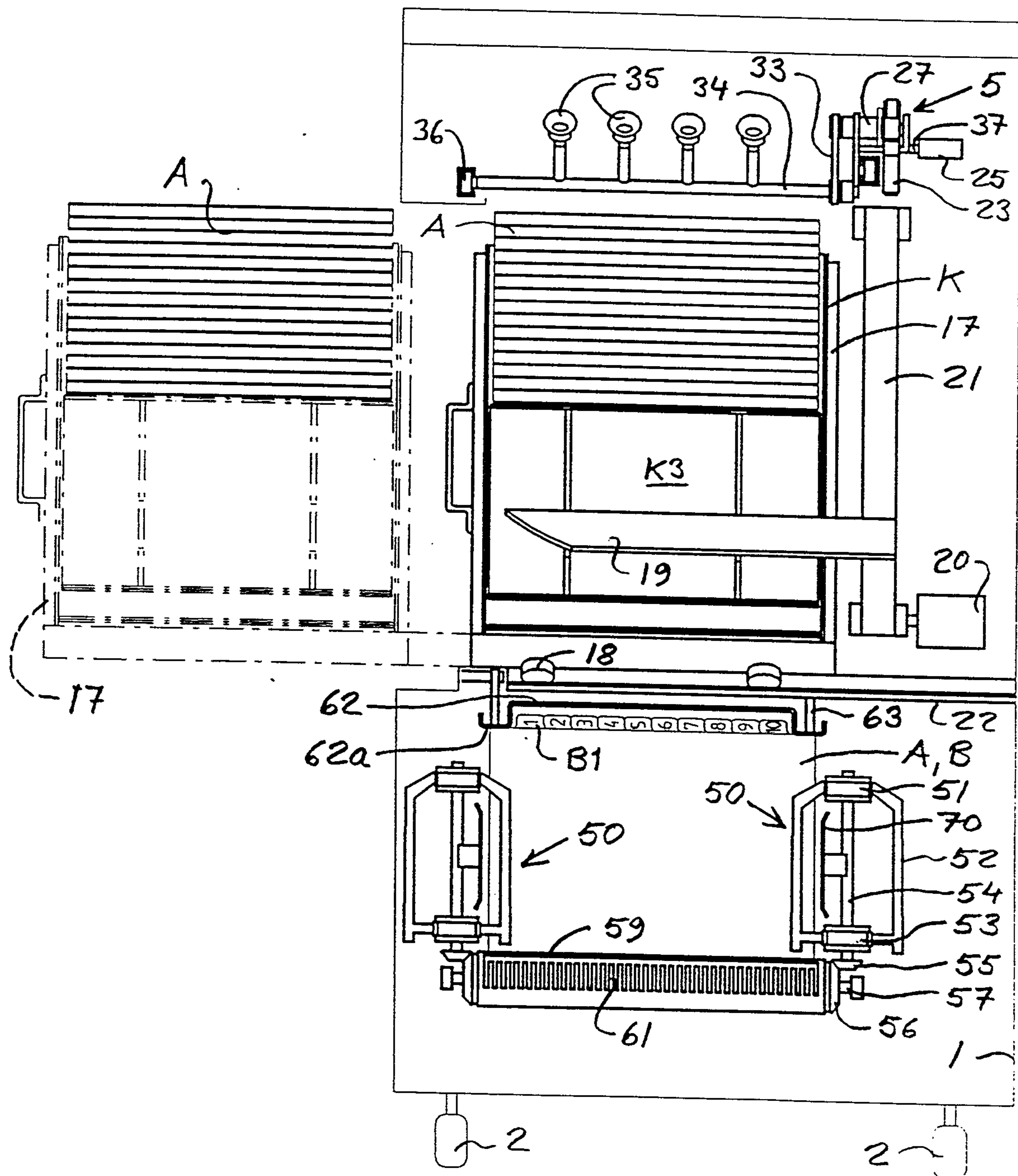


Fig. 3

