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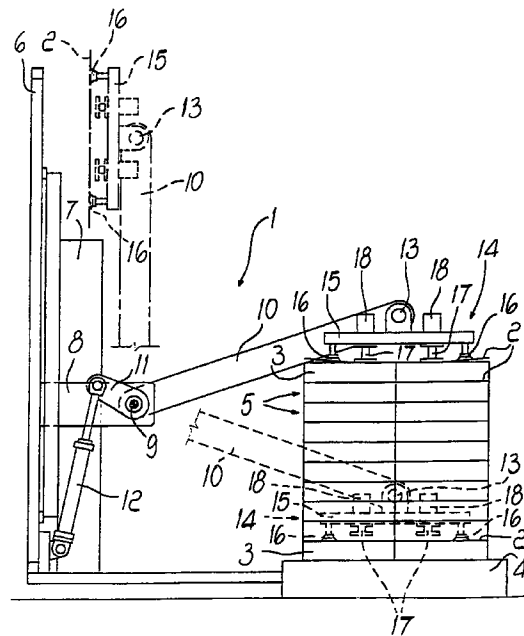
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(54) **Method for extracting intermediate flat supports for stacks of products**

(57) A method for extracting intermediate flat supports (2) of stacks (3) of products wherein a grip element (14) is placed above a flat support (2) to be extracted and presser means (17), carried by the grip element (14), are activated so as to act on the stacks (3) that lie below the flat support (2), with the flat support (2) being interposed; the flat support (2) is then lifted, at its peripheral region, by virtue of a plurality of suckers (16) carried by the grip element (14) and capable of retaining the flat support (2) when the pressers (17) are deactivated; and finally, the grip element (14) is placed at a container (7) for collecting the extracted flat support (2).



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 10 7483

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)	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 11, no. 25 (M-556) [2472] , 23 January 1987 & JP 61 197334 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC), 1 September 1986, * abstract *	1,2	B65H3/08	
X	--- WO 90 04558 A (CIMCORP OY) * page 6, line 8 - page 7, line 19; figures 1,4A-4E *	1,2		
X	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 9, no. 84 (M-371) [1807] , 13 April 1985 & JP 59 212335 A (FUJI SHASHIN FILM), 1 December 1984, * abstract *	1,2		
X	--- EP 0 486 719 A (ALUMINIUM COMPANY OF AMERICA) * column 3, line 25 - column 5, line 44; figures *	1,2		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
X	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 17, no. 324 (M-1433), 21 June 1993 & JP 05 038693 A (FANUC), 19 February 1993, * figure *	1,2		B65H B65G
A	--- EP 0 437 760 A (FOCKE & CO.) * column 4, line 2 - column 8, line 19; figures *	1,2		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims				
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
BERLIN		21 August 1997	Fuchs, H	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS				
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
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