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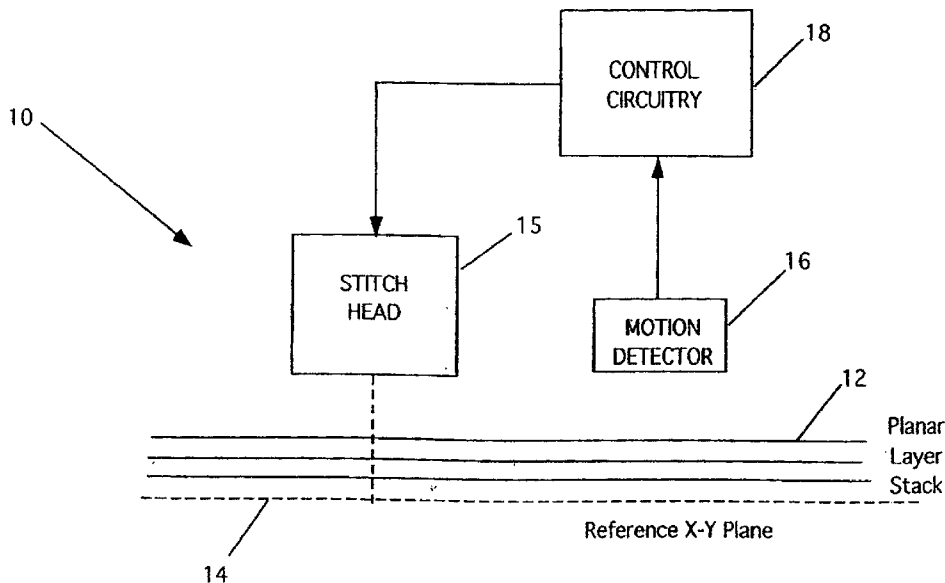
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(54) Title: STITCHING METHOD AND APPARATUS EMPLOYING THREAD PAYOUT DETECTION



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for detecting longitudinal thread (200, 202) motion in a quilting/sewing machine (10) for controlling the actuation of a fixedly located stitch head (15). A preferred detector (16) comprises an optical sensor which directly senses the longitudinal movement of a thread as it moves along a guide path from a supply source toward a stitch head needle (48).

WO 2007/143062 A3

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC: **D05B 51/00**( 2006.01)

USPC: 112/278  
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 U.S. : 112/278, 273, 61.16, 559.4, 559.43

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,810,824 A (DURVILLE) 02 November 2004 (02.11.2004), See entire document.	1-19
A	US 6,863,007 A (FLUCKIGER) 08 March 2005 (08.03.2005) See entire document.	1-19
A	US 6,564,733 A (BUTZEN et al) 20.May 2003 (20.05.2003), See entire column.	1-19
A	US 5,651,324 A (ARNOLD) 28 July 1997 (28.06.1997), See entire document.	1-19
A	US 5,103,750 A (SATO et al) 14 April 1992, (14.04.1992). See entire document.	1-19

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.       See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
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