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(71) Applicant: **World Wide Stationery Manufacturing Company, Limited**
New Territories, Hong Kong (CN)

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(72) Inventor: **Cheng, Hung Yu**
Hong Kong (CN)

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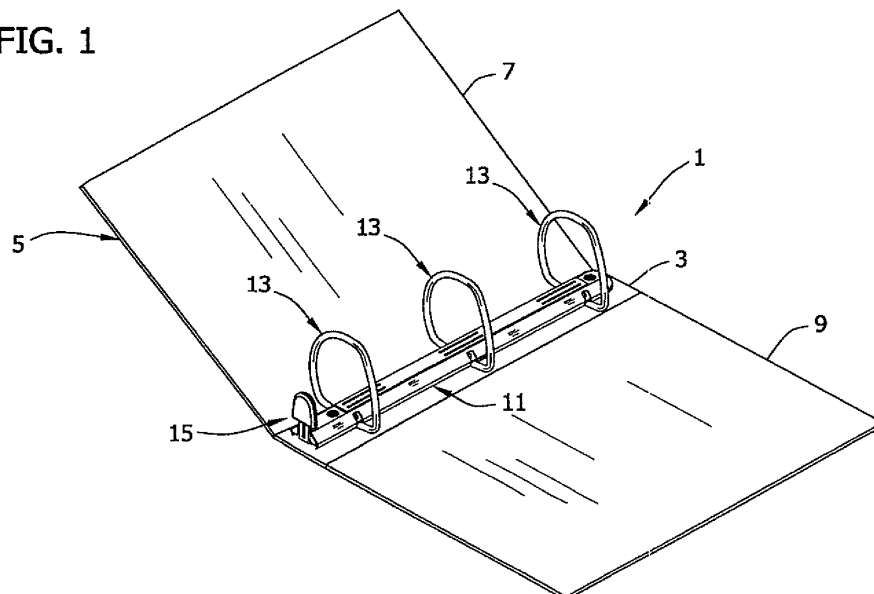
(74) Representative: **Smaggasgale, Gillian Helen W.P. Thompson & Co,**
55 Drury Lane
London WC2B 5SQ (GB)

(54) **Positive lock ring binder mechanism**

(57) A ring binder mechanism for retaining loose-leaf pages. The mechanism has ring members (63) that positively lock together to prevent unintentional openings. The mechanism includes a housing (11) that supports pivoting motion of hinge plates (59,61) for bringing the ring members to either an open position and a closed position. The mechanism also includes a control struc-

ture (15) that can pivot relative to the housing to controllably move the hinge plates to bring the ring members (63) together. In a closed and locked position of the mechanism, the control structure is releasably held behind protrusions of the hinge plates, thereby blocking the hinge plates pivoting motion and positively locking the ring members together.

FIG. 1



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