Torque Soft Sheet Path Assembly with Stiffening Member

A sheet path assembly (2) having two mating components (10, 20) which are pivotally attached to one another so that they may be opened in the case of a sheet jam. One of the mating assemblies is a turnover component (10), which is torsionally weak about an axis in the direction of the sheet path. This is done so that the turnover component (10) will conform to the mating component (20) when they close. A stiffening member (30) is mounted to the turnover component (10), such that when the stiffening member (30) is engaged, the turnover component (10) is then torsionally stiff. When the turnover component (10) is conformed to the mating assembly (20), the stiffening member (30) is engaged, locking the turnover component (10) into the conforming position.
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**
- IPC(7): B65H 3/00
- US CL.: 271/264

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.: 271/264, 273, 65, 301, 186

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,236,339 A (NISHIUMI et al.) 17 August 1993 (17.08.1993)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A, P</td>
<td>US 6,206,368 B1 (KOBAYASHI et al.) 27 March 2001 (27.03.2001)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

- * Special categories of cited documents:
  - *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
  - *E* earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
  - *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
  - *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
  - *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- **T** later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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**Date of the actual completion of the international search**
06 February 2002 (06.02.2002)

**Date of mailing of the international search report**
13 MAR 2002

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)