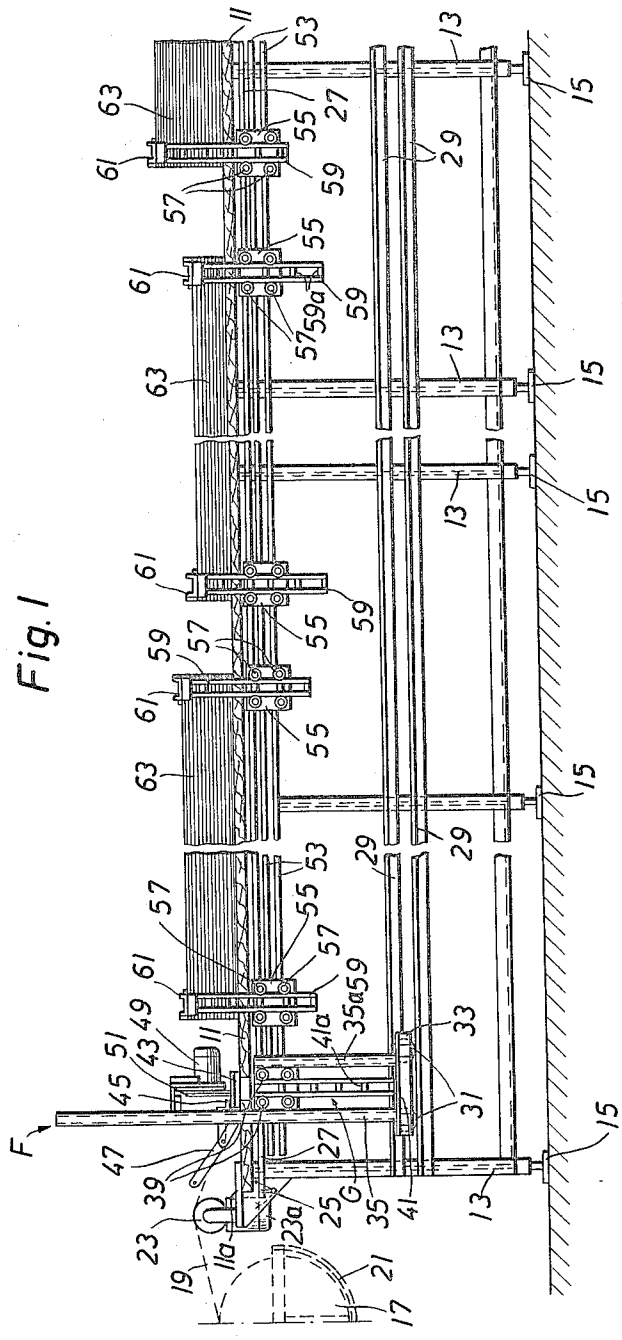
Dec. 27, 1966 E. HABICHT 3,293,965

APPARATUS FOR SUBDIVIDING AND STACKING WEBS OF TEXTILE MATERIALS OR THE LIKE

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Fig. 1



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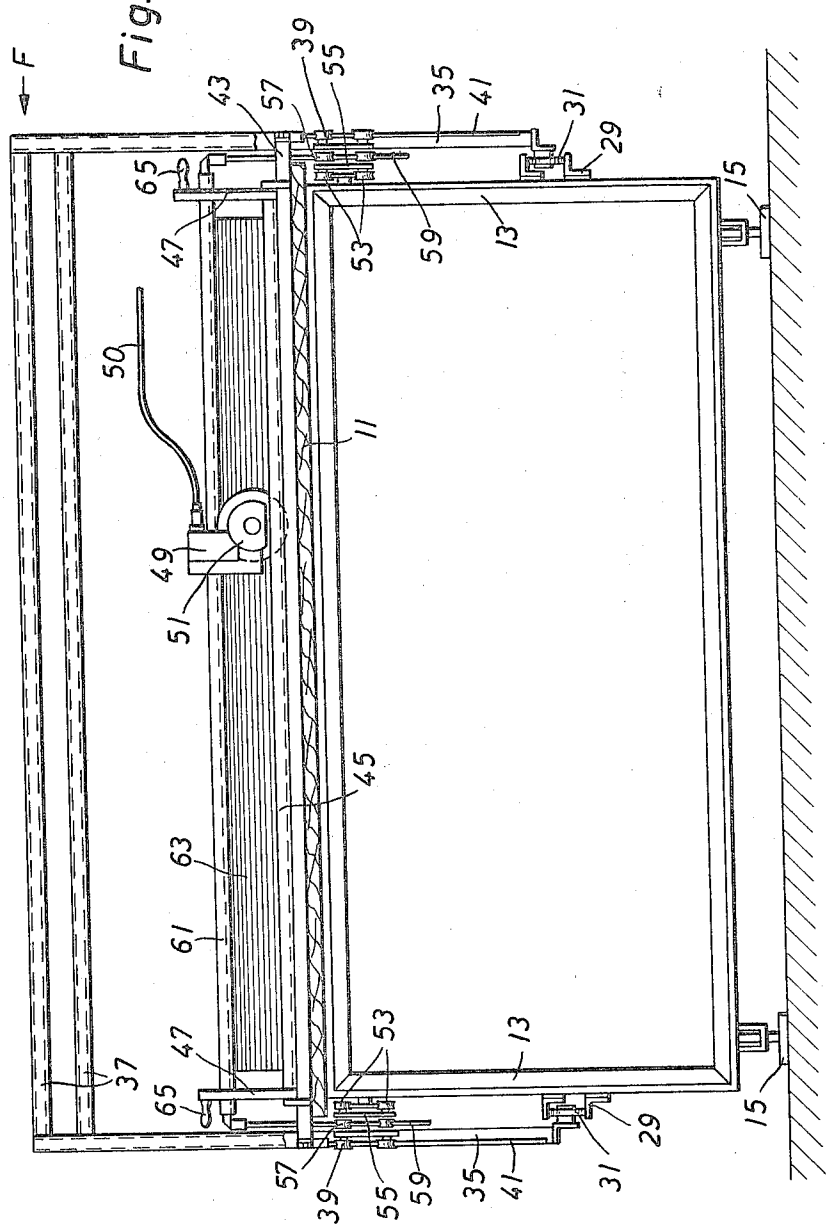
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APPARATUS FOR SUBDIVIDING AND STACKING
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Fig. 2



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APPARATUS FOR SUBDIVIDING AND STACKING WEBS OF TEXTILE MATERIALS OR THE LIKE

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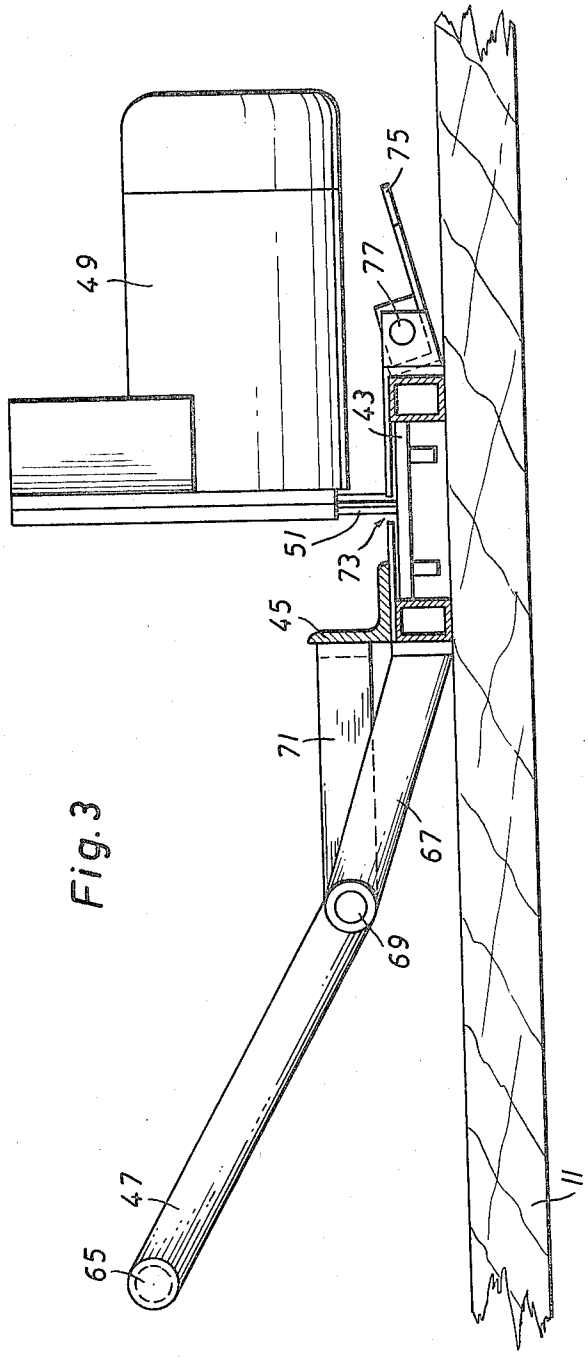


Fig. 3

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APPARATUS FOR SUBDIVIDING AND STACKING
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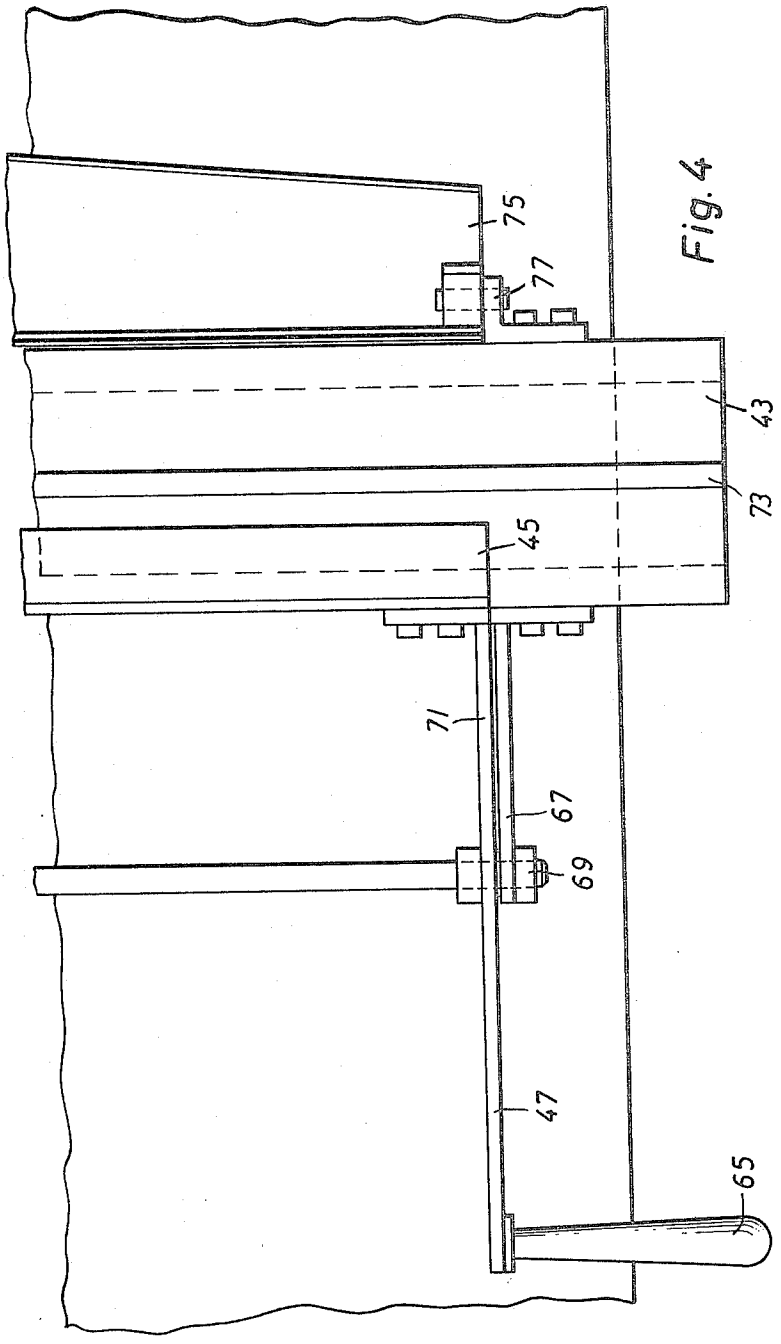


Fig. 4

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United States Patent Office 3,293,965 Patented Dec. 27, 1966

3,293,965

APPARATUS FOR SUBDIVIDING AND STACKING WEBS OF TEXTILE MATERIALS OR THE LIKE

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Filed Aug. 24, 1965, Ser. No. 482,154
17 Claims. (Cl. 83—87)

The present invention relates to an apparatus for subdividing and stacking webs consisting of textile, paper, plastic or similar material. More particularly, the invention relates to improvements in apparatus wherein sheets constituting sections of webs are piled up on top of each other to form one or more stacks such as may be used for mass processing in garment industry, in paper industry or in any other industry where such stacks may be further processed or put to immediate use.

Conventional apparatus of this general character are normally provided with a cutting device which is installed at one end of the table and serves to subdivide a web which is drawn from a supply of convoluted stock. A serious drawback of such apparatus is that the sections which are separated from the web must be transported independenly of the cutting device and that the apparatus are too complicated and too expensive. Also, conventional apparatus do not allow for assembly of a series of stacks each of which comprises a different number of sheets or consist of sheets having different lengths. Finally, conventional apparatus cannot be used for selectively adding sheets to any one of a series of stacks which are assembled on the top face of the work supporting table.

Accordingly, it is an important object of the present invention to provide a very simple, rugged and inexpensive but highly versatile apparatus which may be used for subdividing one or more webs into sections of desired length, for accumulating such sections into stacks of desired height, and of selectively adding one or more sections to any one of a series of stacks on the table.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apparatus of the just outlined characteristics which is constructed and assembled in such a way that all of its component parts may be manipulated by a single operator who can be positioned at any desired point along the table and who can manipulate the apparatus with a minimum of effort.

A further object of the invention is to provide an apparatus for subdividing and stacking sections of webs of textile material or the like and to construct the apparatus in such a way that it can accumulate stacks each of which consists of a different material, all of which consists of the same material, or wherein each stack may be assembled of sheets or sections consisting of two or more different materials.

An additional object of the invention is to provide an apparatus of the above outlined type wherein each freshly separated section of the web is automatically smoothed to eliminate eventual folds, pleats or other unevennesses so that each section of each stack lies flat against the adjoining section or sections.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apparatus for accumulating stacks of identical or different length and to provide the apparatus with a travelling cutting device so that each section may be severed from the web after it has been moved into requisite position with reference to the table and after it has been properly retained in such position.

A further object of the instant invention is to provide an apparatus wherein the sections of the web are smoothed in automatic response to shifting of the cutting device to requisite position for a severing or subdividing operation.

An additional object of my invention is to provide an apparatus which may be used for accumulation and storage of any desired number of stacks and wherein such stacks may be assembled at any desired distance from each other, in any desired sequence, and to any desired height.

Briefly stated, one feature of my present invention resides in the provision of an apparatus for subdividing webs consisting of textile or similar material which is normally furnished in large rolls. The apparatus comprises an enlongated supporting table, a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of the table and including at least one supply of web stock, a plurality of preferably gantry-shaped pressing units which are movable in the longitudinal direction of the table and each of which includes a vertically movable presser member or bar extending transversely across the top face of the table so that it may rest on one longitudinal end of a stack of sheets which are obtained on subdivision of the stock, a holder or crosshead extending transverely across the top face of the table and arranged to support a suitable cutting device which can be moved transversely across the stock, guide means preferably including two rails or two groups of rails and an inverted U-shaped carriage arranged to support the holder in such a way that the holder can travel above and past the presser members in directions toward and away from the feed, and clamping means associated with the holder and arranged to releasably attach the leading end of the stock to the holder so that the stock then shares the movement of the holder.

Due to the fact that the holder and its cutting device may bypass the presser members, the operator can move the holder above and past any one of several stacks of web sections which are supported on the top face of the table. Once the leading end of the web stock is moved into registery with the forward end of a selected stack, the operator releases the clamping device and moves the holder in opposite direction until the cutting device registers with the rear end of the selected stack. The cutting device is then moved transversely across the web to sever a sheet therefrom, and the ends of the thus separated section or sheet are tucked under the respective presser members to keep them in requisite position.

The novel features which are considered as characteristic of the invention are set forth in particular in the appended claims. The improved apparatus itself, however, both as to its construction and its mode of operation, together with additional features and advantages thereof, will be best understood upon perusal of the following detailed description of a specific embodiment with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of the apparatus;

FIG. 2 is an end elevational view of the apparatus as seen from the left-hand side of FIG. 1, with the feed omitted;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged side elevational view of the cutting device, with certain parts shown in vertical section; and

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary top plan view of the structure shown in FIG. 3.

Referring to the drawings in detail, FIG. 1 shows an apparatus for subdividing and stacking webs **19** of textile material, paper, wall paper or the like. The apparatus comprises a preferably horizontal elongated table **11** which is mounted on a frame structure including a series of uprights **13** mounted on vertically adjustable legs **15** serving to select the height and inclination of the rectangular top face of the table. The feed is arranged at the left-hand longitudinal end of the table **11** and comprises a trough-shaped receptacle **21** which accommodates a supply **17** of convoluted web stock. The web **19** is advanced by a horizontal take-off roll **23** which is

mounted on brackets **11***a* supported by the table **11** and is driven by a reversible variable-speed electric motor **23***a*. The motor **23***a* is controlled by a multi-position switch **25** coupled with an elongated actuating member or trip **27** which extends longitudinally along one marginal portion of the table **11** and may adjust the motor **23***a* in a number of ways. Thus, the operator standing in front of the table **11** may shift the trip **27** to a first end position to drive the roll **23** in a counterclockwise direction, as viewed in FIG. 1, to a neutral or central position in which the motor **23***a* is arrested, to a second end position in which the roll **23** is driven in a clockwise direction, and preferably to a number of intermediate positions in which the motor **23***a* is driven in forward or reverse but always at a different speed. If desired, the switch **25** may be provided with a second longitudinally extending trip which is adjacent to the other longitudinally extending marginal portion of the table **11**. This will enable the operator to regulate the operation of the motor **23***a* from either side of the table and regardless of whether the operator stands close to or has moved further away from the roll **23**.

The uprights **13** are provided at both longitudinal sides of the table **11** and each such set of uprights supports a pair of horizontal guideways or rails **29** which are located at a level below the table **11** and extend in paralellism with the trip or trips **27**. The rails **29** serve to guide pairs of wheels **31** which are mounted in small horizontally extending frame members **33** so that the frame members **33** and the corresponding pairs of wheels **31** together form a pair of dollies which are reciprocable in the longitudinal direction of the respective pairs of rails **29**. Each such dolly carries a pair of upwardly extending parallel guide bars including a longer guide bar **35** and a shorter guide bar **35***a*. The upper end portions of the longer guide bars **35** are rigidly connected with each other by one or more horizontal traverses **37** (see FIG. 2) so that the two dollies, the two pairs of guide bars **35**, **35***a* and the traverses **37** together form an inverted U-shaped carriage F which bridges the table **11** and is reciprocable in the longitudinal direction of the rails **29**.

Each pair of guide bars **35**, **35***a* supports two pairs of guide rollers **39** which are disposed between the respective guide bars and serve as guides for vertically reciprocable profiled legs **41**. Each of these legs resembles a ladder and is provided with transversely extending horizontal rungs **41***a* which may be gripped by hand to facilitate movement of such legs with reference to the carriage F. The purpose of the guide rollers **39** is to allow for reciprocation of the legs **41** with a minimum of effort. The upper end portions of the legs **41** are rigidly connected with a holder **43**, hereinafter also called crosshead or cutter bar, which extends transversely across the top face of the table **11**. The parts **41**, **41** and **43** together form a second inverted U-shaped carriage or gantry G which shares all longitudinal movements of the carriage F but is movable up and down with reference thereto. The traverses **37** of the carriage F are provided at a level at least slightly above the topmost sheets of the row of stacks **63** which are supported by the top face of the table **11**, and the crosshead **43** may also be lifted to such a level so that the carriage F and the gantry G may be advanced along the full length of the table **11** despite the fact that the latter supports one or more stacks **63** of superimposed sheets of textile or other material.

The crosshead **43** supports a clamping or retaining member **45** which resembles an L-bar (see particularly FIG. 3) and serves to engage and to clamp the leading end of the web **19** against the top face of the crosshead **43**. The upwardly extending flange of the clamping member **45** is welded or otherwise rigidly connected to one arm **71** of a two-armed manipulating lever **47** which is rockable about the axis of a transverse horizontal shaft **69** and whose longer arm is provided with a handle **65** adapted to be gripped by hand so as to move the clamping member **45** toward or away from the top face of the crosshead **43**. FIG. 2 shows that the clamping member **45** may be connected with two levers **47** each of which is adjacent to one longitudinally extending marginal portion of the table **11** so that the web **19** may be clamped or released by an operator standing at either side of the apparatus. The shaft **69** is mounted at the rear ends of two upwardly inclined bearing brackets **67** which are secured to the crosshead **43** and extend in a direction toward the take-off roll **23**.

The top panel of the crosshead **43** is formed with a transversely extending slot or gap **73** (see FIGS. 3 and 4) for the cutting edge of a disk-shaped knife **51** which is rotatable about a longitudinally extending horizontal axis and forms part of a cutting or severing device **49** mounted on the crosshead **43**. The housing of the cutting device **49** accommodates an electric motor which may be connected to a source of electrical energy by means of a cable **50** best shown in FIG. 2. The entire cutting device **49** is mounted for travel in the longitudinal direction of the slot **73** (i.e., transversely of the table **11**) so that it may sever the web **19** to separate therefrom a sheet which can be placed on top of one of the stacks **63**.

Each set of uprights **13** further supports an additional pair of guideways or rails **53** which may be located at a level close to the underside of the table **11** and support several pairs of horizontally reciprocable slides **55**. Each slide **55** is provided with two pairs of guide rollers **57** for vertical arms **59** each of which is reciprocable up and down. The upper end portions of transversely aligned arms **59** are connected to each other by horizontal presser members or presser bars **61** which rest on and extend transversely across the uppermost sheets or sections of the stacks **63**. Each presser bar **61** forms with the associated pair of arms **59** an additional inverted U-shaped carriage or gantry (hereinafter called pressing unit) which may be shifted longitudinally of the rails **53** and which can also move up and down so as to locate the presser bar **61** at a desired level. FIG. 2 shows that the rails **53** are mounted in the space between the two pairs of guide bars **35**, **35***a* so that the carriage F and the gantry G may be moved along and past the pressing units.

FIGS. 3 and 4 show that the crosshead **43** supports a pivotably mounted smoothing or ironing element **75** which is adjacent to the front side of the crosshead (i.e., opposite the clamping member **45**) and is rockable about the axes of transverse horizontal pivots **77**. The underside of the ironing element **75**, which is preferably crowned or roll-shaped, extends forwardly and upwardly and may be biased to such position of inclination by one or more springs, not shown. If the weight of the clamping member **45** does not suffice to press the leading end of the web **19** against the crosshead **43** with a requisite force, the crosshead may carry one or more springs (not shown) which bias the levers **47** in a clockwise direction, as viewed in FIG. 3. Also, the apparatus of my invention may be equipped with suitable drives which can move the carriage F, the gantry G and/or the pressing units along the respective rails. However, the provision of aforementioned wheels and guide rollers reduces the friction to such an extent that little effort is required to move the parts F, G and **61** in the longitudinal direction of the table **11**.

The apparatus of my invention is operated as follows: The web **19** is to be subdivided into sections or sheets of desired length and such sections must be assembled to form one, two or more stacks **63** each of which is supported by the top face of the table **11**. The operator depresses one of the handles **65** and places the leading end of the web **19** between the top face of the crosshead **43** and the clamping member **45**. Once the handle **65** is released, the clamping member **45** rests on the leading end and clamps the web **19** to insure that the web will advance

with the carriage F. As stated before, the crosshead 43 may carry one or more springs which bias the clamping member 45 against the leading end of the web 19. It is also possible to provide the underside of the clamping member 45 and/or the top face of the crosshead 43 with a roughened surface or with a liner of friction generating material to improve the clamping action. The motor 23*a* is started by the trip 27 in a sense to drive the take-off roll in a clockwise direction, as viewed in FIG. 1, so that the web 19 is advanced in a direction to the right. The operator engages one of the guide bars 35 or 35*a* and pushes the carriage F in a direction to the right. Such movement of the carriage F requires very little effort because the carriage travels on wheels 31 and because the web 19 is being paid out by the roll 23. However, and as also mentioned hereinbefore, the apparatus may comprise a drive which can reciprocate the carriage F along the rails 29. The speed of the roll 23 may be regulated by moving the trip 27 to an intermediate position.

When the carriage F reaches the forward (righthand) end of that stack 63 which is to receive an additional section or sheet, the trip 27 is shifted to neutral position to arrest the motor 23*a* and the operator depresses one of the handles 65 so as to lift the clamping member 45 above and away from the leading end of the web. The operator then grasps the leading end of the web 19 and tucks it under the adjoining presser bar 61. Since the arms 59 are reciprocable between pairs of guide rollers 57, slight lifting of the presser bars 61 requires a minimum of effort. As shown in FIG. 1, the arms 57 may also resemble ladders and can be provided with horizontal rungs 59*a* to facilitate lifting of the coresponding presser bars 61.

The leading end of the web 19 is now properly located with reference to the elected stack 63 so that its front edge registers with the front edges of the sheets therebelow. The operator then pushes the carriage F in a direction to the left, as viewed in FIG. 1, and simultaneously keeps one of the handles 65 in depressed position so that the clamping member 45 is lifted above the web 19. The carriage F is brought to a halt when the slot 73 registers with the lefthand vertical side of the selected stack 63. During such movement of the carriage F in a direction to the left, i.e., in a direction toward the take-off roll 23, the crosshead 43 slides below the web 19 and entrains the cutting device 49 together with the ironing element 75. As a rule, the cutting device 49 is normally shifted to one of its end positions, i.e., laterally of the table 11 or at least laterally of the stacks 53. Once the slot 73 is properly aligned with the rear vertical side of the selected stack 63, the operator starts the motor of the cutting device 49 and moves the cutting device across the web 19 so that the knife 51 forms a transverse cut and separates from the web a section or sheet whose length corresponds to the length of the sheets which are located therebelow. The carriage F is then moved out of the way and the operator tucks the trailing end of the freshly separated section under the adjoining presser bar 61. The latter is preferably lifted to facilitate insertion of the trailing end below. If desired, the presser bars 61 may be biased by springs which urge them into stronger engagement with the topmost sections of the respective stacks 63. However, it normally suffices to use relatively heavy presser bars and to allow them to press the ends of the stacks 63 by their own weight, i.e., without the assistance of springs or similar biasing means.

In order to add a further section on top of the just separated section, the operator proceeds in a manner as outlined above. Thus, the motor 23*a* (which was arrested during movement of the carriage F toward the roll 23) is started again in a sense to rotate the roll 23 in a clockwise direction, as viewed in FIG. 1, and the leading end of the web is clamped between the member 45 and crosshead 43. The operator then advances the carriage F along the rails 29 until the leading end of the web 19 overlies the forward end of the uppermost section in the selected stack. The leading end of the web 19 is then tucked under the adjoining presser bar 61, the motor 23*a* is arrested, the handle 65 is depressed to disengage the clamping member 45, and the carriage F is moved in a direction to the left until the slot 73 overlies the rear edge of the uppermost section.

It will be noted that the clamping member 45 will automatically engage the leading end of the remainder of the web 19 when the knife 51 has separated a fresh section from the web. This will be readily understood since, during cutting, the clamping member 45 automatically descends into engagement with that portion of the web 19 which will constitute the leading end as soon as the knife 51 has been caused to advance all the way across the selected stack 63. In other words, the leading end of the web 19 must be actually inserted between the members 43, 45 only once, namely, when the operator is about to start the cutting or subdividing and stacking operation.

When the carriage F moves in a direction to the left, as viewed in FIG. 1, the ironing element 75 slides along the underside of the front portion of the web 19 and eliminates eventual folds so that, upon separation of a fresh section, the latter lies smoothly on top of the adjoining section. In other words, the ironing element 75 engages the underside of the web 19 prior to severing, and the fact that the element 75 is rockable about the pivots 77 contributes to highly satisfactory smoothing action.

A very important advantage of the improved apparatus is that the operator can select any of several stacks 63 on the table 11 for deposition of one or more additional sections thereon. This is due to the fact that the gantry G may be readily lifed to such an extent that the crosshead 43 will move at a level above the stacks 63, and also because the carriage F and the gantry G can travel along the pressing units. Each stack 63 may contain a series of sections of any desired length, i.e., the length of sections in the various stacks 63 need not be the same. Also, the height of the stacks 63 need not be the same; this is clearly shown in FIG. 1, wherein the height of the rightmost stack exceeds the height of the other two stacks and wherein the height of the median stack is less than that of the leftmost stack. It is further to be noted that the table 11 may have any desired practical length so that it may be used for accumulation of a large number of stacks. For example, the rightmost stack 63 of FIG. 1, may consist of sections whose length may exceed once or more than once the combined length of the remaining stacks.

If the operator wishes to increase the height of the two outer stacks 63 shown in FIG. 1, and to bypass the median stack 63, he simply lifts the gantry G to such a level that the crosshead 43 will be free to travel above the median stack and that the leading end of the web 19 may be advanced all the way to the right-hand end of the rightmost stack. During movement of the carriage F in a direction toward the roll 23, the trip 27 may be adjusted to drive the motor 23*a* in reverse so that the web 19 will be fed back to the receptacle 21 until the clamping member 45 reaches a desired position.

It is further clear that the apparatus of my invention may be provided with two or more sources of convoluted web material so that the sections of each stack 63 may consist of a different material. Still further, each stack may be assembled of sections which are drawn from different sources. It is also possible to provide a second carriage F which will be used for severing of webs which are stored at the righthand end of the table 11, as viewed in FIG. 1.

The arms 57 and the legs 41 may be reciprocated by small servo motors or the like. Also, the gantry G and/or the pressing units may be provided with suitable locking or locating devices which will maintain the crosshead 43 and the presser bars 61 at a selected level above the table 11 but will allow for rapid and convenient adjustment in the vertical position of the parts 43 and 61.

Due to the fact that the pressing units are shiftable in

the longitudinal direction of the rails **53**, the presser bars **61** may be moved to requisite positions to engage the longitudinal ends of relatively short, medium sized or very long sections. Since the presser bars **61** are also movable up and down, they can properly engage the topmost sections of relatively high or relatively low stacks **63**. The rollers **57** reduce the friction to such an extent that practically the entire weight of each presser bar **61** may be put to use to insure proper retention of the sections.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features which fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic and specific aspects of my contribution of the art and, therefore, such adaptations should and are intended to be comprehended within the meaning and range of equivalence of the following claims.

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is:

1. In an apparatus for subdividing webs consisting of textile or similar material, an elongated supporting table having a top face; a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of said table and including a supply of web stock; a plurality of pressing units including presser members extending transversely across said top face; a holder extending transversely across said top face; means for supporting said holder in such a way that the holder can travel above and past said presser members in directions toward and away from said feed; and clamping means associated with said holder and arranged to releasably attach the leading end of the stock to said holder so that the stock shares the movement of said holder.

2. In an apparatus for subdividing webs consisting of textile or similar material, an elongated supporting table having a top face; a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of said table and including a supply of web stock; a plurality of pressing units including presser members extending transversely across said top face; a holder extending transversely across said top face; means for supporting said holder in such a way that the holder can travel above and past said presser members in directions toward and away from said feed; clamping means associated with said holder and arranged to releasably attach the leading end of the stock to said holder so that the stock shares the movement of said holder in a direction away from said feed; and an ironing element associated with said holder and arranged to smooth the stock during movement of said holder in a direction toward said feed subsequent to disengagement of the stock by said clamping means.

3. In an apparatus for subdividing webs consisting of textile or similar material, an elongated supporting table having a top face; a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of said table and including a supply of web stock, said stock having a leading end; a plurality of pressing units including presser members extending transversely across said top face; a carriage including a vertically reciprocable holder extending transversely across said top face; guide means arranged to guide said carriage longitudinally of said table and in such a way that, on vertical adjustment thereof, said holder can travel above and past said presser members; a clamping device connected with said holder and arranged to detachably clamp the leading end of the stock to said holder so that the stock then shares the movement of said carriage in a direction away from said feed; and an ironing element connected with said holder and arranged to smooth the stock during movement of said holder toward said feed subsequent to disengagement of said clamping device from the leading end of the stock.

4. A structure as set forth in claim **3**, wherein said holder is located between said clamping device and said ironing element and said clamping device is nearer to said feed than said ironing element.

5. In an apparatus for subdividing webs consisting of textile or similar material, an elongated supporting table having a top face and a pair of parallel longitudinally extending marginal portions; a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of said table and including a supply of web stock, said stock having a leading end; a plurality of pressing units including presser members extending transversely across said top face; elongated guide rails extending in parallelism with and at a level below said marginal portions; a carriage including wheel-mounted dollies reciprocable along said rails, upwardly extending guide members secured to each of said dollies; and a gantry including a pair of vertically reciprocable legs guided by said guide members and a crosshead extending transversely across said top face, said crosshead being movable above and past said presser members in response to vertical adjustment of said legs and on movement of said dollies along the respective rails; and a clamping device connected with said crosshead and arranged to detachably hold the leading end of the stock against said crosshead so that the stock then shares the movement of said carriage in a direction away from said feed.

6. A structure as set forth in claim **5**, wherein said carriage further comprises guide rollers secured to said guide members and arranged to guide the respective legs for movement up and down along the respective marginal portions of said table.

7. A structure as set forth in claim **5**, further comprising second guide rails extending in parallelism with and at a level above said first named rails, each of said pressing units further comprising a pair of slides reciprocable along said second guide rails and a pair of arms vertically reciprocably supported by the respective slides and connected to the ends of the respective presser bar so that such presser bars are movable toward and away from said top face in response to displacement of said arms with reference to said slides, the distance between said arms being less than the distance between said guide members so that said guide members and said legs can travel along said arms and along said slides.

8. In an apparatus for subdividing webs consisting of textile or similar material, an elongated supporting table having a top face; a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of said table and including a supply of web stock; a plurality of pressing units including presser members extending transversely across said top face; a holder extending transversely across said top face; means for supporting said holder in such a way that the holder can travel above and past said presser members in directions toward and away from said feed; a clamping device; and manually operable manipulating means movably coupling said clamping device to said holder so that the clamping device may releasably attach the leading end of the stock to the holder whereby the stock may share the movement of said holder and said clamping device.

9. In an apparatus for subdividing webs consisting of textile or similar material, an elongated supporting table having a top face; a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of said table and including a supply of web stock; a plurality of pressing units including presser members extending transversely across said top face; a holder extending transversely across said top face; means for supporting said holder in such a way that the holder can travel above and past said presser members in directions toward and away from said feed; clamping means associated with said holder and arranged to releasably attach the leading end of the stock to said holder so that the stock shares the movement of said holder in a direction away from said feed; an ironing element adjacent to said holder, and pivot means coupling said ironing element to said holder for angular movement about an axis which extends transversely of and is substantially parallel to the top face of said table, said ironing element being arranged to smooth the stock from below during movement of said holder

in a direction toward said feed subsequent to disengagement of said clamping means from the stock.

10. In an apparatus for subdividing webs of textile or similar material into sections of desired length and for accumulating such sections into stacks, an elongated supporting table having a top face; a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of the table and including at least one supply of convoluted web stock having a leading end; a plurality of inverted U-shaped pressing units movable in the longitudinal direction of said table and each including a presser bar extending transversely across said top face, each of said presser bars being movable up and down toward and away from said top face; an inverted U-shaped carriage movable in the longitudinal direction of said table and arranged to bypass said pressing units, an inverted U-shaped gantry mounted in said carriage and including a crosshead extending transversely across said top face, said crosshead being movable up and down with reference to said carriage so that it may be lifted to a level above said presser bars during movement of the carriage past said pressing units; a clamping device provided between said crosshead and said feed; means for moving said clamping device away from and toward said crosshead so that the clamping device may attach the leading end of the stock to the crosshead whereby the stock shares the movement of the crosshead away from said feed and its leading end may be tucked under one of said presser bars upon disengagement of said clamping device; and a cutting device mounted on and movable in the longitudinal direction of said crosshead to sever the stock and to thus form a section upon movement of the crosshead back toward said feed so that the trailing end of the thus separated section may be tucked under another one of said presser bars.

11. A structure as set forth in claim 10, wherein said carriage comprises wheels and further comprising elongated guide rails disposed at a level below and extending longitudinally of said table to support and guide said wheels.

12. A structure as set forth in claim 10, wherein said carriage comprises guide rollers and said gantry further comprises legs connected to the ends of said crosshead and slidably guided by said rollers.

13. A structure as set forth in claim 10, wherein said feed further includes a take-off roll extending transversely of said table and engaging the stock, reversible variable-speed motor means drivingly connected with said take-off roll, and elongated actuating means for regulating said motor, said actuating means extending in the longitudinal direction of said table so that the motor may be regulated by remote control.

14. A structure as set forth in claim 10, further comprising elongated guide rails extending at a level below and in parallelism with the longitudinal marginal portions of said table, each of said pressing units comprising a pair of slides each guided by one of said rails and a pair of vertical arms reciprocably guided by said slides and connected with the ends of the respective presser bar so that such presser bars may be lifted or lowered in response to movement of the corresponding arms with reference to said slides.

15. In an apparatus for subdividing webs of textile or similar material into sections of desired length and for accumulating such sections into stacks, an elongated supporting table having a substantially horizontal rectangular top face; means for adjusting the height and inclination of said top face; a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of the table and including at least one supply of convoluted web stock having a leading end; a plurality of inverted U-shaped units movable in the longitudinal direction of said table and each including a presser bar extending transversely across said top face, each of said presser bars being movable up and down toward and away from said top face; an inverted U-shaped carriage movable in the longitudinal direction of said table and arranged to bypass said pressing units; an inverted U-shaped gantry mounted in said carriage and including a crosshead extending transversely across said top face, said crosshead being movable up and down with reference to said carriage so that it may be lifted to a level above said presser bars during movement of the carriage past said pressing units; a clamping device provided between said crosshead and said feed; means for moving said clamping device away from and toward said crosshead so that the clamping device may attach the leading end of the stock to the crosshead whereby the stock shares the movement of the crosshead away from said feed and its leading end may be tucked under one of said presser bars upon disengagement of said clamping device; a cutting device mounted on and movable in the longitudinal direction of said crosshead to sever the stock and to thus form a section upon movement of the crosshead back toward said feed so that the trailing end of the thus separated section may be tucked under another one of said presser bars; and an ironing device connected with said crosshead and arranged to smooth a section from below during movement of said carriage toward said feed.

16. In an apparatus for subdividing webs of textile or similar material, an elongated supporting table having a top face; a plurality of pressing units including presser members extending transversely across said top face; a holder extending transversely across said top face; means for supporting said holder for movement in the longitudinal direction of said table in such a way that the holder can travel above and past said presser members; and a cutting device mounted on and movable longitudinally of said holder transversely across said top face.

17. In an apparatus for subdividing webs consisting of textile or similar material, an elongated supporting table having a top face; a feed adjacent to one longitudinal end of said table and including a supply of web stock; a plurality of pressing units including presser members extending transversely across said top face; a holder extending transversely across said top face; means for supporting said holder in such a way that the holder can travel above and past said presser members in directions toward and away from said feed; a cutting device mounted on said holder for movement transversely across said top face; and clamping means associated with said holder and arranged to releasably attach the leading end of the stock to said holder so that the stock shares the movement of said holder.

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