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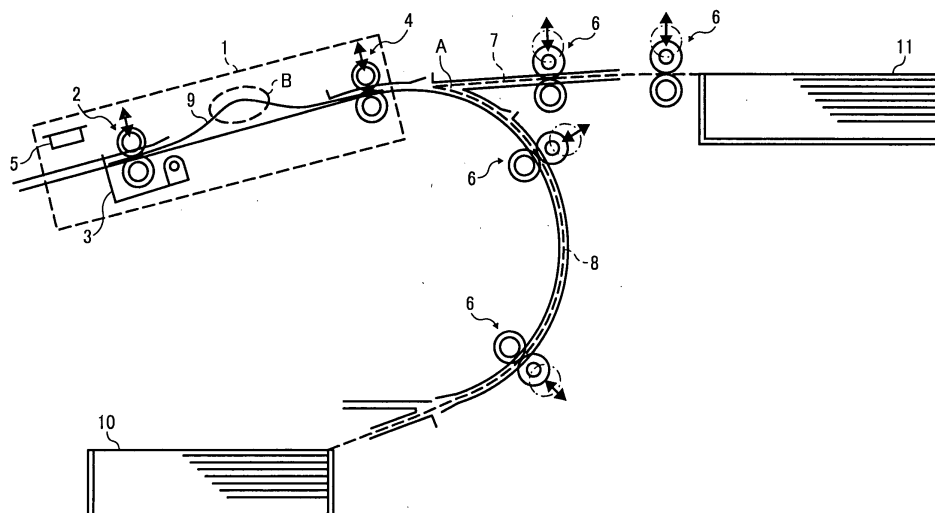
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(54) **Sheet aligning device and image forming apparatus using the same**

(57) In a sheet aligning device (1), a pair of first rollers (2) provided upstream of a stopper unit (3) moves a sheet in an axial direction thereof after a pair of second rollers

(4) provided upstream of the first rollers is separated, and is returned to its home position just after the sheet passes therethrough.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 25 1387

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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P,X	EP 1 870 358 A (RICOH KK [JP]) 26 December 2007 (2007-12-26) * the whole document *	7-10	
A	US 2002/076250 A1 (JOHNSON BRUCE G [US] ET AL) 20 June 2002 (2002-06-20) * the whole document *	1,7	
A	JP 2005 022820 A (SHARP CORP [JP]) 27 January 2005 (2005-01-27) * abstract; figures 1-7 *	1,7	
A	US 5 219 159 A (MALACHOWSKI MICHAEL A [US] ET AL) 15 June 1993 (1993-06-15) * abstract; figure 1 *	1,7	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B65H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 16 November 2009	Examiner Athanasiadis, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04/C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-6,10

Sheet aligning device with a stopper unit, a first and a second conveying unit located upstream from the stopper unit and a lateral moving (registration) unit.

2. claims: 7-10

Sheet aligning device with a lateral registration unit and a conveying unit.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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16-11-2009

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