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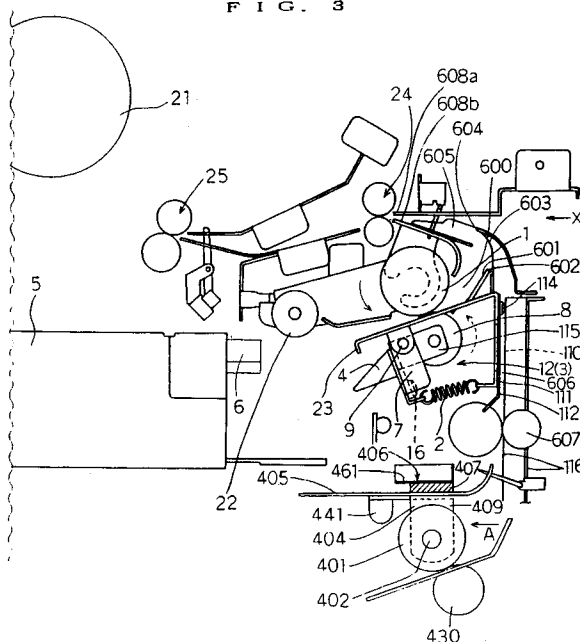
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(54) **Sheet feeding mechanism for feeding sheets and sheet guiding equipment for conveying sheets.**

(57) A sheet feeding roller (1) for feeding sheets, an advance preventive member (8) which is abutable on the sheet feeding roller by a spring (2) and is for preventing multiple feeding of sheets are provided, and the advance preventive member has a first acted part, and while a sheet feeding cassette (5) is

pulled out, a first acting part provided to the sheet feeding cassette acts on the first acted part of the advance preventive member, and thereby the advance preventive member is separated from the sheet feeding roller against an urging force of the spring.

FIG. 3



EP 0 529 294 A3



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 11 2374

Page 1

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| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 18 MARCH 1993 | Examiner MEULEMANS J.P. |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | | |
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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid,
namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

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

namely:

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



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 11 2374

Page 2

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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 18 MARCH 1993 | Examiner MEULEMANS J.P. |
| 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 | | | |



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 11 2374

Page 3

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| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 18 MARCH 1993 | Examiner MEULEMANS J.P. |
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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION A PRIORI

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

1. Claims 1-11,22:

Shut feeding mechanism comprising a shut feeding roller and an advance preventing member abutable on said shut feeding roller, said advance preventing member being separated from said feeding roller when a sheet cassette is pulled out from the machine, in which the mechanism is used

2. Claims 12,13,14:

A sheet feeding mechanism comprising pad means urged to abut on a sheet feeding roller, the pad means being removably mounted to a guide plate

3. Claims 15,16,17:

A sheet guide equipment

4. Claims 18-21:

A sheet feeding roller holding mechanism