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(72) Inventor: **Pi, Jin Biao**
Daye City, Hubei Province (CN)

(74) Representative: **Parry, Christopher Stephen
Saunders & Dolleymore,
9 Rickmansworth Road
Watford, Herts. WD18 0JU (GB)**

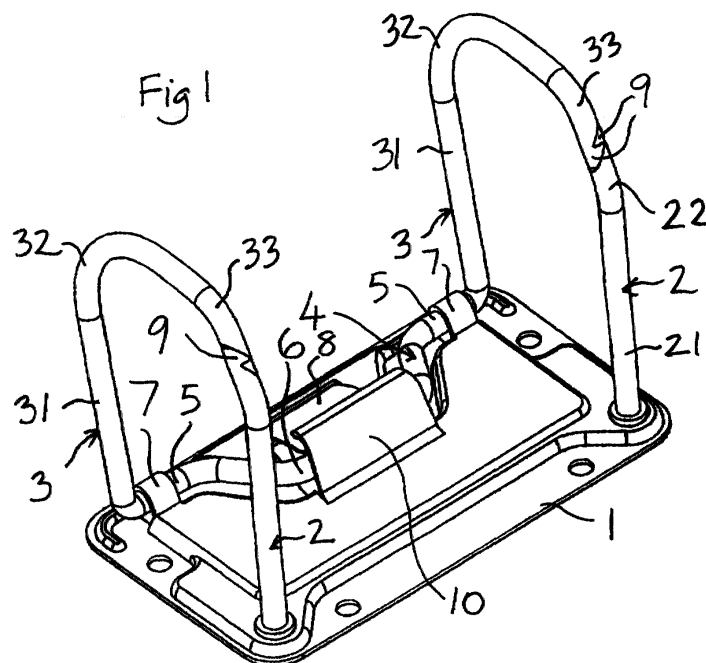
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(71) Applicant: **Leco Stationery Manufacturing Co.
Ltd.
Kwai Chung, New Territories, Hong Kong (CN)**

(54) **Locking mechanism for a lever-arch type file**

(57) A locking mechanism for a lever-arch type file comprises a base plate (1), a pair of first arch elements (2) rigidly fixed to and upstanding from the base plate and a pair of second arch elements (3) pivotally mounted on the base plate for movement relative to the first arch elements between an open position and a closed

position. A leaf (8) spring mounted on the base plate acts permanently to bias the second arch elements (3) towards the open position. Inter-engaging teeth (9) on the first and second arch elements hold the second arch elements (3) in the closed position against the action of the spring (8).





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 7953

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 4 815 882 A (OHMINATO) 28 March 1989 (1989-03-28) * column 1, line 35 - column 2, line 44; figures 1-4 *	1	B42F13/24
A	DE 380 318 C (ASHELM) * the whole document *	1	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B42F
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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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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