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(54) Title: VIBRATION SIEVE MECHANISM

(57) Abstract:

DESCRIPTION

VIBRATED SIEVE MECHANISM

The Related Art

The invention relates to vibration driven sieves used in various sectors for sieving, separation and filtering.

The invention particularly relates to vibration sieves of increased efficiency used in mining, ceramic, coal, sand, gravel, chemical, food, plastic sectors for purpose of sieving, separation, removal of dust, dehydration, removal of sludge and filtering.

Background of the Related Art

Various vibration sieve embodiments have been developed for use in mines, ceramic, coal, sand, gravel, chemical, food, plastic sectors for purpose of sieving, separation, removal of dust, dehydration, removal of sludge and filtering wherein raw materials are processed and made ready for use or for next process. The action of sieving the material put on the said vibration sieves is provided by means of giving vibration to the sieve whereon the material to be sieved is located. It is possible to produce vibrated sieves in different shapes and working techniques. Particularly, some developments have been tried to increase the actions such as sieving.

One of such developments is the Kroosher system developed by "Kroosh Technologies Ltd", which is sieve surface supported chassis consisting of multi-frequency adapters made of steel and elastomeric materials. Non-linear vibration is produced in axial direction by use of non-linear characteristics of shear stress/strain curves of elastomers of multi-frequency adapters. The said Kroosher system of Kroosh Technologies makes impact on the sieve surface from the bottom (impact mode) and impacting movement is transferred to multi-frequency vibrated sieve surface. This extreme impact motion shortens life of sieve surface/surfaces and sieve surface support chassis and despite the fact that other characteristics are very good, removes its economical feature.

In Kroosher system, although multi-frequency adapters are isblated from sieve machine body by means of elastomer parts, sieve surface (sieve eyelet) is fixed to sieve machine from starting and ending points. Forcing the Kroosher system isolated from sieve machine body together with sieve surface fixed to the body and forcing motion of 3-10 mm

- limits the motion/vibration of Kroosher,
- destroys sieve surface and sieve surface support chassis in a short time period and
- the energy required to given to the material to be sieved is wasted since the energy of multi-frequency adapters is absorbed by fixed edges, and thus energy consumption is increased too much and energy efficiency decreases.

The feeding and discharging sides of the sieve surfaces of Kroosh Technologies vibrate with single frequency too low vibration. For that reason, feed and discharge problems occur.

During operation, problems such as losing characteristics due to heating arising from vibration frequency and amplitude of adapter elastomeric materials may occur in some embodiments. Due to efficiency loss arising from heating, operating frequency can be limited to upper limit of 51-52 Hz and amplitude to maximum 6 mm, and thus desired operating is provided.

Another similar machine/mechanism type is disclosed in utility model application no. TR 200103007 by "MUZER MAKiNE SANAYi VE TiCARET - ZOZEF MUZMUZ". The said invention is a scrapping sieve system. The invention is scraping sieve system providing small field of operation by combining scraping band and following dust sieve features within its body, providing sieve of dust remained between leaves upon partial opening of komatya conveyed through scraping sieve as a result of staying in vibration frequency for long time and providing decrease in rate of cracks that might occur in komatya opening machine, subjecting tobacco to two sieving operation along sieve length because of 2 phased operation, providing sieve of scrapped komatya on clean sieve surface by help of roof system and preventing stocking of komatya which might occur due to height of komatya to increase cumulatively, and thus providing the most effective

dust sieving operation and minimizing dust level within the rofl formed at the end of the operation by help of dust conveying system to dust chamber via side ducts.

The disadvantages of the former related art and utility model or patent developments in the related are can be listed as follows.

- > Non-sieved raw material mixes with the product under the sieve during sieving.
- > Energy consumption is too much and energy cannot be used effectively.
- > Effective adjustment cannot be made when it is required to achieve optimum capacity and efficiency relations for sieve of some metals.
- > Change of sieve surfaces takes too much workmanship.
- > Cracks and breaking occur on the body due to too much vibration on machine body. In addition, such problem of the body also causes noise pollution.
- > Gravity cooling becomes necessary due to heating of the machine engine.

The structural and characteristics features of the invention and all advantages will be understood better in detailed descriptions with the figures given below and with reference to the figures, and therefore, the assessment should be made taking into account the said figures and detailed explanations.

Purpose of the Invention

From the existing status of the related art the purpose of the invention is to eliminate the existing disadvantages by means of improvements achieved in various vibrated sieve mechanisms used for the purpose of sieving, separation, dust removing, dehydration, removal of sludge of various metals.

A purpose of the invention is to disclose a vibrated sieve mechanism providing a decrease of about 80% in consumed energy while vibrated sieve mechanism is in operation for operations such as vibrated sieve body and slope adjustment and sieving.

Another purpose of the invention is to disclose a vibrated sieve mechanism providing replacement of sieve surface even when the vibrated sieve mechanism is working, by help of fixing magnets on sieve body sides of the sieve surface.

Another purpose of the invention is to disclose a vibrated sieve mechanism providing conduct of slope adjustment even when the vibrated sieve mechanism is working, by help of slope adjustment apparatus.

A further purpose of the invention is to disclose a vibrated sieve mechanism providing decrease in vibration effect on the body and thus increase in life of operation of the machine by use of springs located under the sieve body.

Another purpose of the invention is to disclose a vibrated sieve mechanism (free floating mode) preventing mixture of sieved product with non-sieved raw material by use of pool areas of U form.

A further purpose of the invention is to disclose a vibrated sieve mechanism preventing mixture of non-sieved raw material into chamber by use of rubber sealing member located on side edges of the sieve.

A further purpose of the invention is to disclose a vibrated sieve mechanism providing decrease in friction arising from vibration by use of isolation disk made of elastomeric material located on the adapters producing vibration.

Another purpose of the invention is to disclose a vibrated sieve mechanism providing no need for gravity cooler as overheating is not generated by help of decrease in friction by use of isolation disk.

The invention developed in order to achieve the above mentioned purposes relates to a vibrated sieve mechanism consisting of at least one sieve for sieving, separation, dehydration, dust-removal, sludge removal of various metals, one vibration engine, at least one sieve body where the said sieve is fixed and chassis supporting the said sieve body and chassis feet and it is characterized in that it consists of

- at least one vibration spindle connected to the rear side of the said sieve in order to provide multi-frequency irregular vibration only to the sieve without need for the said chassis and sieve body be subject to vibration,

- in order to provide the said vibration spindle to transfer the vibration to the said sieve, a sieve frame located at specified intervals between the said vibration spindle and sieve,
- at least one adapter where the said vibration spindle is fixed,
- at least one isolation disk made of rubber/elastomeric stroke damping material located on the said adapter.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the said vibration sieve mechanism consists of pool side on the pool area located on the sieve body to provide accumulation of waste raw materials.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the said vibration sieve mechanism consists of pool area of U shape in the pool area of the sieve body in order to provide accumulation of waste raw materials.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the said vibration sieve mechanism consists of at least one magnet to fix the said sieve at pool sides of the pool area.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the said vibration sieve mechanism consists of a slope adjustment mechanism between sieve body and chassis connection on the said chassis feet.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the said slope adjustment mechanism consists of at least one slope adjustment perpetual screw to provide increasing and decreasing of a desired edge of the sieve body, and at least one slope fixing screw fixing the said slope adjustment perpetual screw.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the said vibration sieve mechanism consists of at least one spring located between the said sieve body and the said chassis foot and providing isolation.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the said vibration sieve mechanism consists of at least one spring located between the said sieve body and each foot of the said chassis and providing vibration isolation and corresponding to each chassis foot.

The structural and characteristics features of the invention and all advantages will be understood better in detailed descriptions with the figures given below and with reference to the figures, and therefore, the assessment should be made taking into account the said figures and detailed explanations.

Description of Figures

Figure 1 is a perspective front view of the vibrated sieve mechanism of the said invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of slope adjustment mechanism of the vibrated sieve mechanism of the said invention.

Figure 3 is a perspective front view indicating sieve body and sieve frame of the vibrated sieve mechanism of the said invention.

Figure 3a is a perspective front view of the adapter located under the sieve frame of the vibrated sieve mechanism of the said invention.

Figure 3b is a perspective front view indicating U shape pool area embodied on the inner part of the wing of the sieve body of the vibrated sieve mechanism of the said invention.

Figure 3c is a view of rubber sealing member inserted onto the sieve and side edges of the sieve of the vibrated sieve mechanism of the said invention.

Reference Numbers

1. Vibration Sieve Mechanism
10. Vibration engine
11. Engine connection bridge
12. Sieve body
121 . Body clamps
13. Sieve frame
131 . Vibration spindle
132. Adapter
133. Isolation disk
14. Rubber sealing member
15. Pool surface
151 . Pool edges

152. U shape pool area
16. Sieve
17. Magnet
18. Spring
19. Slope adjustment mechanism
191. Slope adjustment perpetual screw
192. Slope fixing screw
20. Chassis
201. Chassis connection
202. Chassis foot
21. Chamber

Detailed Description of the Invention

The invention particularly relates to vibration sieve mechanisms (1) of increased efficiency used in mine, ceramic, coal, sand, gravel, chemical, food, plastic sectors for purpose of sieving, separation, removal of dust, dehydration, removal of sludge and filtering.

Figure 1 is a perspective front view of the vibrated sieve mechanism (1) of the said invention. The said vibration sieve mechanism (1) consists of chassis (20), chassis feet (202) and a sieve body (12) connected onto the said chassis (20) by springs (18) from the chassis connection (201) parts and located on the said springs (18). Sieve frame (13) is located on the upper surface of the said sieve body (12). The sieve body (12) is connected to wings (121) located on side parts and connected to upper port of the sieve body (12) by engine connection bridge (11). Vibration engines (10) are located on the said engine connection bridge (11). A pool area (15) is located on the said sieve frame (13) where the sieve (16) is located. The U-shape pool area (152) and pool edges (151) are located in the inner part of the wings (121) located on side parts of the sieve body (12). In some cases, rubber sealing member (14) is located in parallel and in stripes on the said pool edges (151). The said sieve (16), preferably in the form of wire meshes, is fixed to the pool edges (151) by means of magnets (17). A chamber (21) where the sieved raw material is collected, is located in a manner it is under the sieve body (12) particularly under the sieve (16).

Figure 2 is a perspective view of slope adjustment mechanism (19) of the vibrated sieve mechanism (1) of the said invention. The said slope adjustment mechanism (19) is located on both chassis feet (202) corresponding to the edge so as to raise the sieve body (12) from this edge. Slope adjustment mechanism (19) consists of slope adjustment perpetual screw (191) and slope fixing screw (192). The said slope adjustment perpetual screw (191) is located between the chassis connection (201) and chassis foot (202).

Figure 3 is a perspective front view indicating sieve body (12) and sieve frame (13) of the vibrated sieve mechanism (1) of the said invention. Adapters (132) are located in lower parts of the said sieve frame (13) to transmit vibration and oscillation to some areas. The said adapters (132) contains a vibration spindle (131) in the centre and an isolation disk (133) in upper part.

The vibration generated when the vibration engine (10) indicated in figure 1 runs is transmitted to the sieve body (12) by engine connection bridge (11). The vibration generated by the vibration engine (10) is in the form of multi-directional oscillations. Spring (18) is located onto chassis connections (201) where the sieve body (12) of the chassis (20) is connected, that is on each chassis foot (202). Transmission of the generated vibration to chassis (20) is prevented by the said springs (18). Thus the springs (18) absorb the vibration and increases life of vibration sieve mechanism (1). The cracks and breaking occurring on the said chassis (20) by effect of constant vibration are eliminated. In addition, having this vibration absorbing system containing springs (18) provides obtaining the desired vibration on the sieve body (12) with the least energy consumption. Besides, vibration absorbing system containing springs (18) located between each chassis foot (202) and sieve body (12) located on the said chassis feet (202) provides silent operation of the vibration sieve mechanism (1). The vibration and oscillation motions transferred by the vibration engine (10) by means of engine connection bridge (11) provides sieving the raw material or material located on the sieve (16) in the desired size.

The sieve (16) is selected according to the size of the raw material intended to be obtained. The selected sieve (16) is located on the sieve frame (13) located on the upper surface of the sieve body (12). After the said sieve (16) is located in this manner,

the sieve body. (12) is fixed to the pool edges (151) from edge parts by means of magnets (17). The magnets (17) allow replacement of sieve (16) as per material type even when the vibration engines (10) in operating position. The said sieve frame (13) consists of vibration spindles (131) adapters (132) containing vibration spindles (131) and isolation disks (133) onto which the adapters (132) are fixed. The driving power received from the vibration engine (10) is transmitted to vibration spindles (131) by help of the said adapters (132). The vibration spindles (131) distribute the received vibration and oscillation homogenously onto all sieve frames (13). While the vibration sieve mechanism (1) produces expected non-linear, irregular, chaotic, multi-frequency vibration, it also prevents blocking in sieve (16) eyelets to which the vibration is transmitted as well as adherence of materials onto the surfaces. Meanwhile, the isolation disks (133) decrease the occurring friction as they are made of elastomeric material. Thus, overheating does not occur since the friction between sieve frame (13) and adapters (132) has decreased. Therefore, gravity cooling is not needed. In this way, extra cooling energy cost is eliminated.

Pool edges (151) and U-shape U pool areas (152) are located in the inner surface of the wings (121) of the sieve body (12). Not sieved materials are collected in this U pool areas (152). In addition, the sieve (16) is fixed to this pool edges (151) on the sieve body (12) by means of the magnets (17). The sieve (16) used here can be of wire mesh made of polyester or metal material. When the sieve (16) made of polyester material is not used, rubber sealing member (14) is mounted to the pool edges (151).

The sieved raw material or material is accumulated in a chamber (21) located under the sieve frame (13). The materials remaining after sieving are accumulated in the said U pool area (152). The said rubber sealing member (14) as understood from its name, prevents pouring of the raw materials of the size not sieved at the sieve (16) into the chamber (21) from the pool area (15). Slope of the desired angle depending on the type of the material to be sieved can be provided for the sieve body (12). In order to provide this slope, slope adjustment mechanism (19) located on both upper chassis feet (202) is used. Functioning as a lever jack, the slope adjustment mechanism (19) can lower and raise the sieve body (12) from one edge. The desired slope is provided by lowering or elevating the slope adjustment perpetual screw (191) to perform this action and then it is passed through the slope fixing screw (192) to fix it. Thus, sieving efficiency, raw

material capacity and sieving quality of the vibration sieve mechanism (1) can be increased.

The spring (18) suspension mechanism performing isolation function between the said sieve body (12) and chassis foot (202) is a steel spring, vulkollan, elastomeric material and similar stroke absorbing member.

The protection area of this application has been specified under claims and cannot be limited to the descriptions only given as sampling above. It is clear that any innovation can be provided by a person skilled in the related art by use of the similar embodiments and/or can also apply this embodiment in other areas for similar purposes used in the related art. Therefore, it is also clear that such embodiments lack of innovation criteria.

CLAIMS

1. The invention relates to a vibrated sieve mechanism (1) consisting of one sieve (16) for sieving, separation, dehydration, dust-removal, sludge removal of metals brought to various sizes by cracking, one vibration engine (10), one sieve body (12) where the said sieve (16) is fixed and chassis (20) supporting the said sieve body (12) and chassis feet (202) and it is characterized in that it consists of
   - at least one vibration spindle (131) connected to the rear side of the said sieve (16) in order to provide multi-frequency irregular vibration only to the sieve (16) without need for the said chassis (20) and the sieve body (12) be subject to vibration.
   - in order to provide the said vibration spindle (131) to transfer the vibration to the said sieve (16), a sieve frame (13) located at specified intervals between the said vibration spindle (131) and the sieve (16).
   - at least one adapter (132) where the said vibration spindle (131) is fixed.
   - at least one isolation disk (133) made of rubber/elastomehc stroke damping material located on the said adapter (132).

2. A vibration sieve mechanism (1) according to claim 1 and it is characterized in that the said sieve body (12) consists of one pool edge (151) in order to provide accumulation of waste raw material on at least one wing (121) of the pool area (15).

3. A vibration sieve mechanism (1) according to claim 1 and claim 2 and it is characterized in that the said sieve body (12) consists of one U pool area (152) in order to provide accumulation of not-sieved material in pool area (15).

4. A vibration sieve mechanism (1) according to any one of the above claims and it is characterized in that the said pool area (15) consists of at least one magnet (17) in order to fix the said sieve (16) at pool edges (151).

5. A vibration sieve mechanism (1) according to claim 1 and it is characterized in that the said it consists of one slope adjustment mechanism (19) on the said chassis feet (202) between the sieve body (12) and chassis connection (201).

6. A vibration sieve mechanism (1) according to claims 1 and 5 and it is characterized in that the said slope adjustment mechanism (19) consists of at least one slope adjustment perpetual screw (191) to elevate and lower a desired edge of the sieve body (12), and at least one slope fixing screw (192) fixing the said slope adjustment perpetual screw (191).

7. A vibration sieve mechanism (1) according to claim 1 and it is characterized in that it consists of at least one spring (18) located between the said sieve body (12) and the said chassis foot (202) and functioning as vibration isolation.

8. A vibration sieve mechanism (1) according to claim 1 and it is characterized in that it consists of at least one spring (18) located between the said sieve body (12) and each of the said chassis foot (202) and functioning as vibration isolation and corresponding to each chassis foot (202).

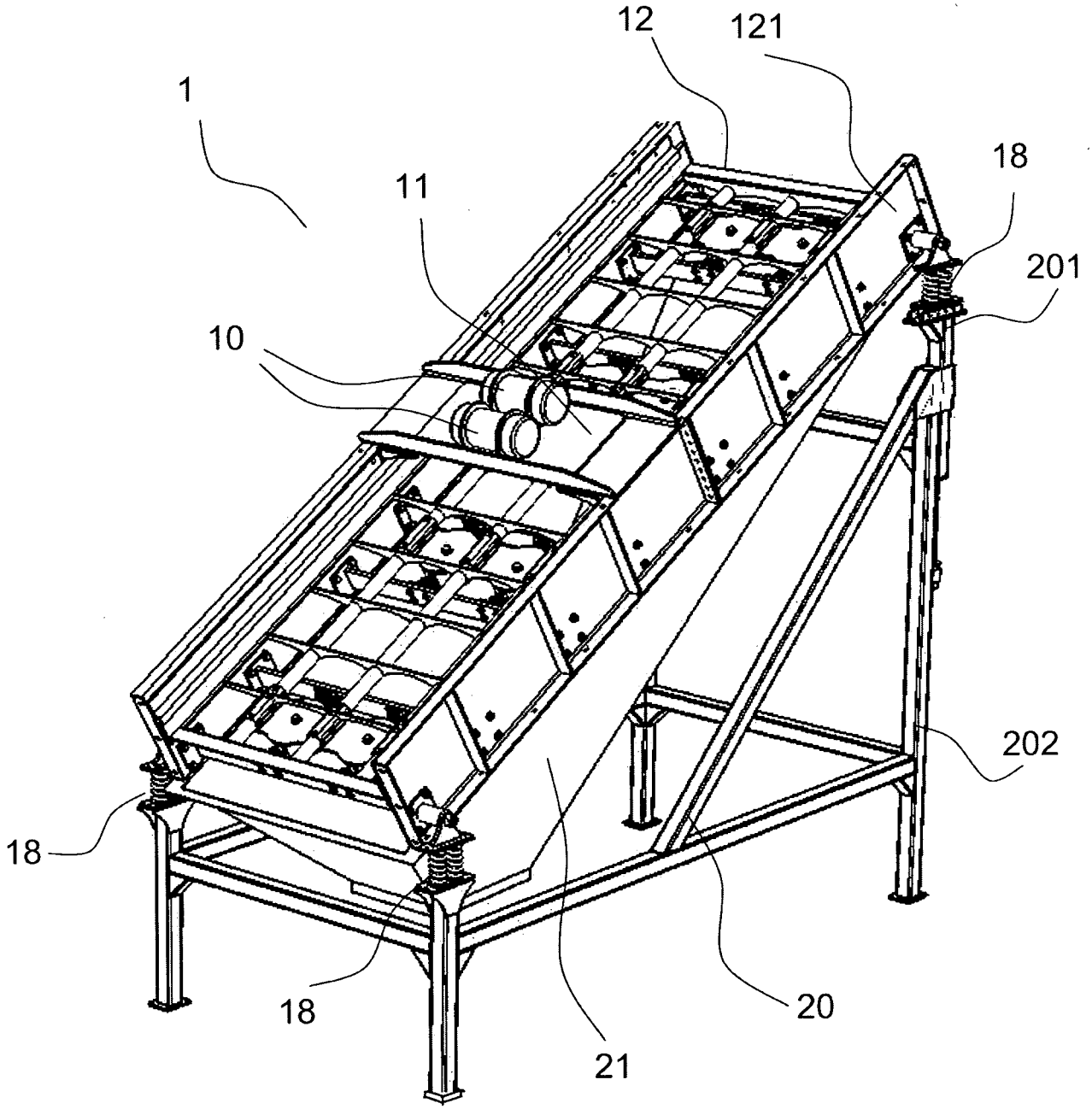

Figure-1

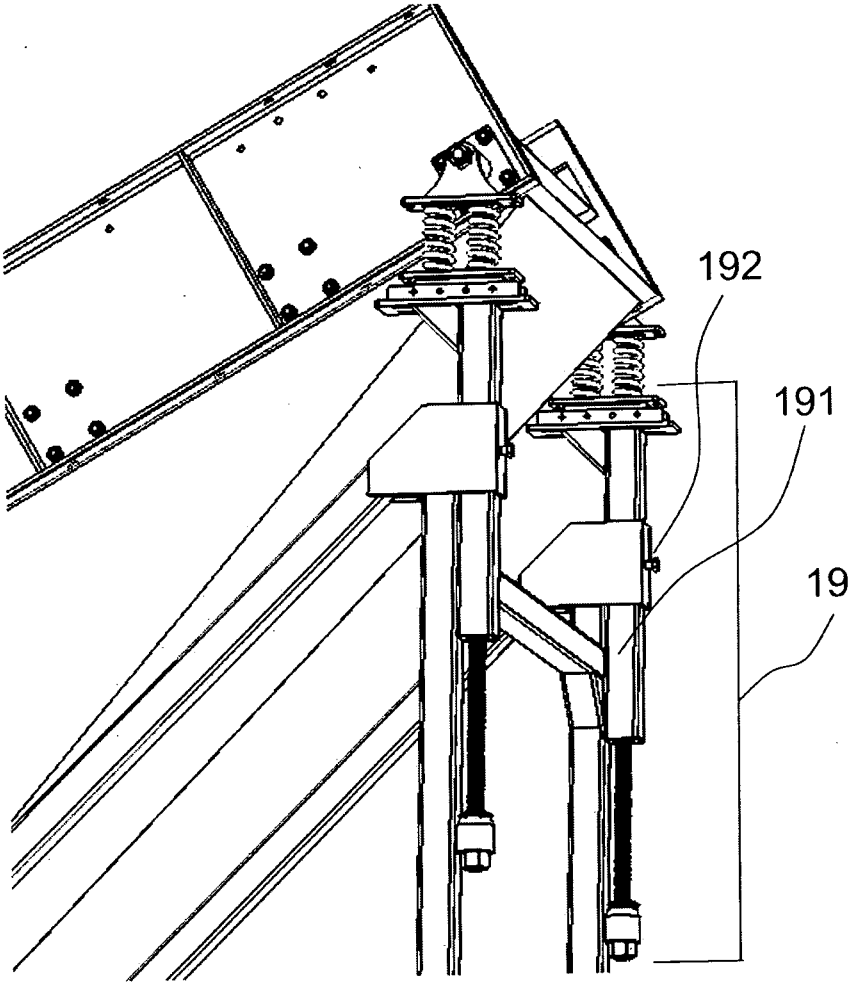

Figure-2

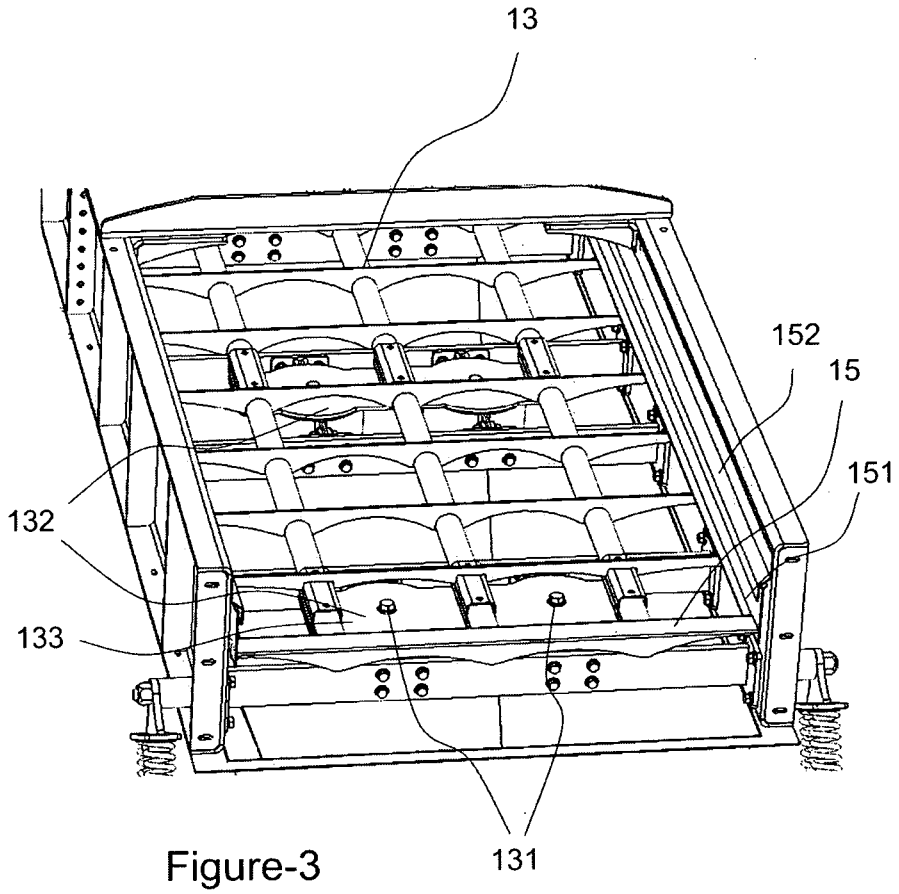

Figure-3

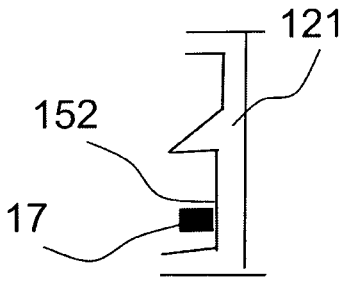

Figure-3b

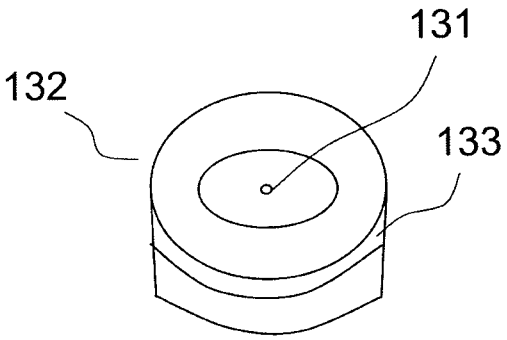

Figure-3a

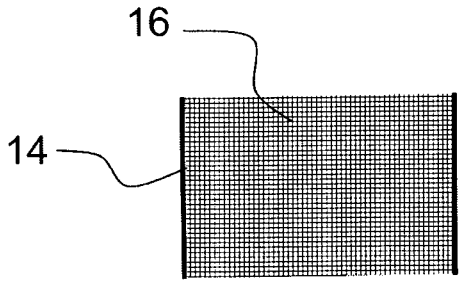

Figure-3c

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

DECLARATION OF NON-ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 17(2)(a), Rules 13ter.1 (c) and Rule 39)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	IMPORTANT DECLARATION	Date of mailing (day/month/year)
PY2009 - 00040		11/03/2010
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority date (day/month/year)
PCT/TR2009/000058	11/05/2009	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		
INV B07B1/36, B07B1/42		
Applicant		
ATALAY MAKINA INSAAT ITHALAT IHRACAAT SANAYI . . .		

This International Searching Authority hereby declares, according to Article 17(2)(a), that **no international search report will be established** on the international application for the reasons indicated below

1. ☐ The subject matter of the international application relates to:
   - a. ☐ scientific theories
   - b. ☐ mathematical theories
   - c. ☐ plant varieties
   - d. ☐ animal varieties
   - e. ☐ essentially biological processes for the production of plants and animals, other than microbiological processes and the products of such processes
   - f. ☐ schemes, rules or methods of doing business
   - g. ☐ schemes, rules or methods of performing purely mental acts
   - h. ☐ schemes, rules or methods of playing games
   - i. ☐ methods for treatment of the human body by surgery or therapy
   - j. ☐ methods for treatment of the animal body by surgery or therapy
   - k. ☐ diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body
   - l. ☐ mere presentations of information
   - m. ☐ computer programs for which this International Searching Authority is not equipped to search prior art

2. [x] The failure of the following parts of the international application to comply with prescribed requirements prevents a meaningful search from being carried out:
   ☐ the description [x] the claims ☐ the drawings

3. ☐ A meaningful search could not be carried out without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:
   - ☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
   - ☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
   - ☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rule 13fer1(a) or (b).

4. ☐ A meaningful search could not be carried out without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-Ws of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

5. Further comments:

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Jose Mendo Perez

Form PCT/ISA/203 (April 2005)

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 203

The subject-matter of claims 1 to 8 is not searchable, because the claims as a whole, but in particular claim 1, are unclear, contrary to Article 6 PCT.

It has to be noted that, when the description and the drawings are taken into account to interpret the technical meaning of claim 1, the subject-matter of the independent claim still remains unclear.

Since neither the claims nor the description nor the drawings are adapted to depict the construction and/or the function of the claimed subject-matter, no search has been carried out under Article 17 (1) (2) (a) (ii) PCT. It is submitted that claim 1 defines a vibration engine (10) which - having regard to Fig. 1 of the application - apparently imparts vibration to the sieve body (12) via the engine connection bridge which is mounted on a pair of wings (121) connected to said sieve body (12); see Fig. 1 and page 7, lines 20 to 26.

According to claim 1, the sieve (16) itself is fixed to the sieve body. These explanations undoubtedly suggest that any vibration produced by the vibration engine is transmitted via the engine connection bridge (11), the wings (121) and the sieve body (12) to the sieve (16) itself. The characterising portion of claim 1, however, indicates that this shall not be the case. In fact, the sieve body (12) shall not be subject to vibration. This shall be accomplished by a vibration spindle connected to the rear side of the sieve (16) in order to provide multi-frequency irregular vibration only to the sieve (16). It is not derivable from the whole content of the application how a so-called vibration spindle could impart vibration only to the sieve and not to the sieve body. It would appear that the spindle(s) is (or are) mounted on a sieve frame. This sieve frame clearly forms part of the sieve body and, therefore, undergoes the same vibration as the sieve body. This fact, again, makes it again totally unclear how the sieve can be vibrated and not the sieve body. There exist in the art dampening mechanisms between the sieve frame and the sieve as such. These mechanisms normally include elastomeric cushioning parts or different types of springs and are adapted to impart a secondary vibrational movement to the sieve in addition to the vibration produced by the vibration engine and transmitted to the sieve body. It is, however, strongly believed that such a mechanism is not envisaged in the present application, because any vibration shall only be transmitted to the sieve as such and because it is absolutely unclear how such a secondary vibration could be transmitted to the sieve by a spindle. A spindle can be an axis, a screw, a bolt, a drilling tool or anything else which is rotatable around its own longitudinal axis. It is, however, totally unclear and moreover not explained anywhere in the present application, how a rotatable tool or part or device can transmit any vibrational movement to the sieve which is fixedly mounted to the sieve body. When consulting the drawings (see in particular Fig. 3 and 3a), the problems indicated above are even more prominent, because it is in no way clear from these figures how the "spindle" should be constructed, how it should be fastened to the sieve and how any rotation of the "spindle" should impart any movement to the sieve which is - moreover - fixed to the sieve body (for example by magnets) and is, therefore, not free to move. The drawings do also not give any indication which item in the arrangement of the parts (131, 132 and 133) should be rotatable in order to act as a vibration spindle and how this item should be connected to the sieve to create at least a secondary vibration. Even when assuming that the vibration given to the sieve shall be a secondary vibration, it is still not clear how this could be done with the

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arrangement (131, 132, 133) and where exactly the rotation of one of the items shall take place. It has been set out above that the only necessary feature of a spindle as such is its ability to rotate. In order to transmit vibration by rotation, the spindle has also to be brought into rotation by something. There is, however, no explanation included in the application documents how such a rotation could be obtained. It is further not clear and not derivable from the description and/or the drawings how the rubber/elastomeric stroke dampening material is arranged with respect to the spindle and to the sieve. Hence, it is not clear from the application documents which kind of stroke shall be dampened. It is further submitted that it is also not clear from the claims, the description and the drawings how the pool edges and the U pool area are arranged with respect to the sieve body (12), the sieve frame (13) and the sieve (16). Thus, the form and function of the pool edge and pool area are also totally unclear.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.