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(54) **Widening device for a tubular fabric**

(57) Widening device (10) for a tubular fabric (11) comprising a supporting frame (12), a pair of mobile arms (13) associated with the supporting frame (12), and on which the tubular fabric (11) is inserted and made to advance, and movement members (19, 20, 21, 22, 23) which feed the tubular fabric (11) along the mobile arms (13). On the length of each of the mobile arms (13)

there are three distinct magnetic groups (25, 26, 27), able to exert respective forces of attraction in distinct and separate zones in order to keep the relative mobile arms (13) in a desired position with respect to the supporting frame (12). Each magnetic group (25, 26, 27) includes a pair of mating magnets (29, 30) suitable to exert a force of attraction between relative mobile arm (13) and supporting frame (12).

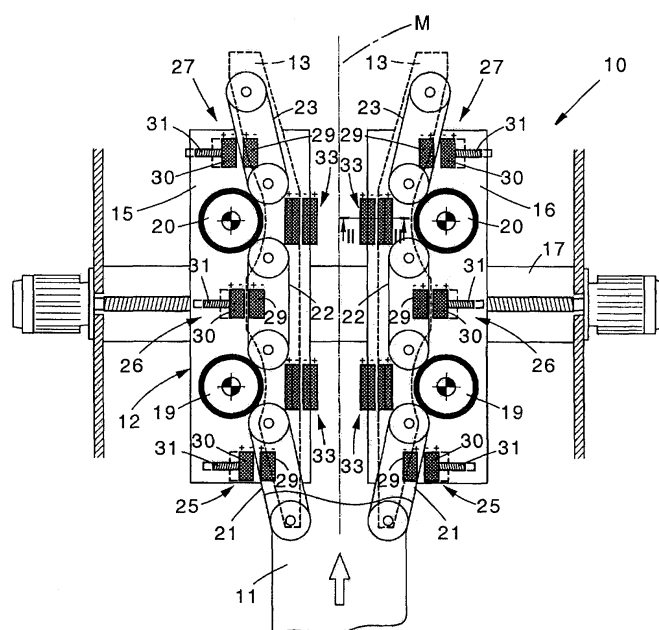


fig. 1



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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| 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) |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                  | D06C                                         |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                  |                                              |
| Place of search                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Date of completion of the search | Examiner                                     |
| The Hague                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 19 August 2005                   | Goodall, C                                   |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br/> Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br/> A : technological background<br/> O : non-written disclosure<br/> P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br/> E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br/> D : document cited in the application<br/> L : document cited for other reasons<br/> .....<br/> &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                  |                                              |

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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

EP 04 10 5027

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
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19-08-2005

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