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

(74) Representative: **Findlay, Alice Rosemary**
Lloyd Wise, Tregear & Co.,
Commonwealth House,
1-19 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1LW (GB)

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(71) Applicant: **WORLD WIDE STATIONERY
MANUFACTURING CO. LTD.**
Kwai Chung, New Territories (HK)

(54) A ring binder mechanism

(57) A ring binder mechanism (10) is disclosed as including wires/tabs for supporting two plates (12) for relative pivotal movement, in which pairs of half-rings (14A, 14B) are mounted to the plates which are pivotably movable relative to each other between a first configuration in which the half-ring members are closed and the angle between the upper surfaces of the plates is less than 180°, and a second configuration in which the half-

ring members are open and the angle between the upper surfaces of the plates (12) is more than 180°, in which the wires/tabs are engaged with the plate members, and the plates (12) are retained by the wires/tabs in a position in which the inner edges of the plates constantly abut each other, and a majority of the upper surfaces of the plates is allowed to be exposed to the environment.

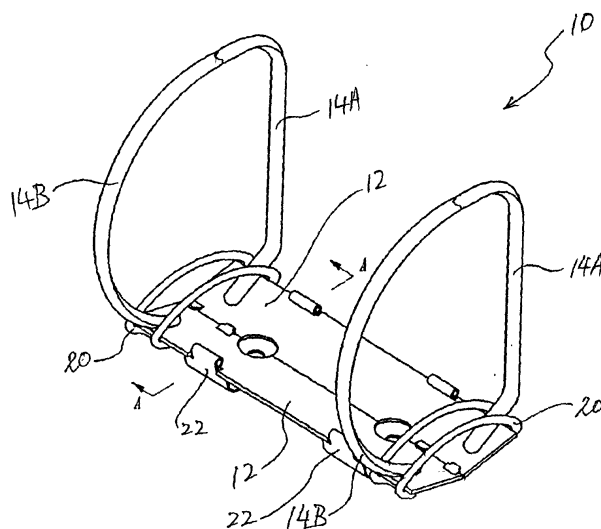


Fig. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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.6)
X	US 2 377 179 A (PITT) 29 May 1945 (1945-05-29) * page 1, column 2, line 43 - page 3, column 1, line 46; figure 14 *	1,5,7,10	B42F13/26
A	FR 2 215 812 A (ASSANT) 23 August 1974 (1974-08-23) * page 2, line 20 - page 5, line 6; figure 1 *	1,10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B42F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 January 2000	Examiner Evans, 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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82