

Title (en)
CHARACTER GENERATOR FOR A PRINTER WITH A MATRIX PRINT HEAD

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Application
EP 88121361 A 19881221

Priority
DE 3744263 A 19871224

Abstract (en)
[origin: EP0322727A2] Printers with matrix print heads have at least one character generator in which a multiplicity of type fonts and signs are stored. In known devices, character point patterns are called up from the character generator according to the character code data generated by means of a keyboard or an interface using a microprocessor and are fed via a print control device to the print head in order to generate lettering. Since the character preprocessing occurs in a microprocessor arranged separately from the character generator, a large number of lines are required. In addition, the microprocessor is rather loaded since it also controls all the other functions such as for example carriage drive, paper transport, ink tape drive etc. According to the invention, the efficiency and reliability of the printers with a matrix print head are increased if the character generator (10, 16) contains its own microprocessor (18, 19). Since the preprocessing of the character matrix occurs directly in the character generator, the drive impulses can be sent directly from the latter to the matrix print head (12). The so-called intelligent character generator (10, 16) requires only a small number of lines and relieves the load on the central control unit in such a way that the efficiency and the reliability of the machine are increased. In addition, the character generators (10, 16) which are constructed as replaceable fonts make it possible not to have to determine a specific memory size and/or a specific microprocessor and/or a specific optimisation or preprocessing method. <IMAGE>

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