

Title (en)
Packaging machine with thermal imprinter and method.

Title (de)
Verpackungsmachine mit thermischem Drucker und Verfahren.

Title (fr)
Machine d'emballage avec imprimante thermique et méthode.

Publication
EP 0564288 A2 19931006 (EN)

Application
EP 93302583 A 19930401

Priority
US 86158792 A 19920401

Abstract (en)
A thermal transfer printing apparatus for printing an elongate continuous web W of items. The apparatus comprises a frame structure having an imprinter 12 mounted thereon. A plurality of idlers 40,41,42,43,44 supports the web of items and defines a path of travel for the web. A segment of the path of travel is adjacent the imprinter and its print head 25. A rockable arm 50 is connected to the frame structure and contacts the web W along a top surface of the web at two locations 51,52. A first of the locations 51 is upstream of the print head and a second of the locations 52 is downstream of the print head. The arm 50 is connected to the frame structure about a pivot point 54 and rocks about this pivot point during operation of the apparatus in a manner similar to a "teeter-totter" or "seesaw". A stepper motor drives two drive rollers 45,46 thereby advancing the web. When a selected item is in a proper printing position within the segment S of the path of travel adjacent the imprinter, air cylinders 30,31 actuate a nip 24 and the print head 25 against the drive rollers to maintain proper tension within the selected item. The rockable arm 50 then rocks about its pivot point 54 and the stepper motor drives the drive rollers 45,46 to pull the selected item past the print head 25 so that the item may be imprinted.
<IMAGE>

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