

Title (en)
PACKAGING MACHINE WITH THERMAL IMPRINTER AND METHOD

Publication
EP 0564288 A3 19931229 (EN)

Application
EP 93302583 A 19930401

Priority
US 86158792 A 19920401

Abstract (en)
[origin: EP0564288A2] 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>

IPC 1-7
B65B 61/26

IPC 8 full level
B41J 15/06 (2006.01); **B65B 61/02** (2006.01)

CPC (source: EP)
B41J 15/06 (2013.01); **B65B 61/025** (2013.01)

Citation (search report)
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• [A] EP 0311981 A2 19890419 - TOKYO ELECTRIC CO LTD [JP]
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Designated contracting state (EPC)
DE ES FR GB IT SE

DOCDB simple family (publication)
EP 0564288 A2 19931006; EP 0564288 A3 19931229; EP 0564288 B1 19961113; CA 2092377 A1 19931002; CA 2092377 C 20000801; DE 69305898 D1 19961219; DE 69305898 T2 19970306; ES 2096204 T3 19970301; MX 9301856 A 19940228

DOCDB simple family (application)
EP 93302583 A 19930401; CA 2092377 A 19930324; DE 69305898 T 19930401; ES 93302583 T 19930401; MX 9301856 A 19930331