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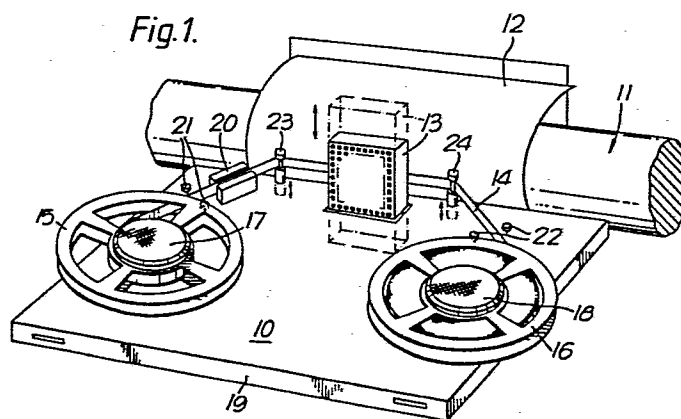
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(54) **Print ribbon feed mechanism for printers.**

(57) A printer is provided with a print feed mechanism comprising supply and take-up spools 15 and 16 which have associated rotary motor induction coils which are energised with alternating currents in such measure as to effect spooling and tensioning of the ribbon 14 during its transport past the printing head 13. A device 20 is provided for incrementally advancing the ribbon 14 in discrete steps. The device 20 comprises two pairs of ribbon-engaging elements, each pair defining a respective nip through which the ribbon passes, with one element of each pair being movable along the path of the ribbon relative to the other to advance the ribbon. The two movable elements are mounted on a common support member and have associated therewith respective coils which cause the movements of the support member. Printing takes place along successive bands of the ribbon which extend along the ribbon and are disposed in side-by-side relation across the ribbon width. When the ribbon is fully advanced in one direction, the direction of ribbon transport is reversed and printing then takes place with the next band. The alternating currents are regulated according to the relative quality of ribbon on the two spools.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. ³)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	DE - A - 2 652 109 (PRECISA A.G. RECHENMASCHINENFABRIK) * the whole document * ---	1,6	B 41 J 33/34 33/32 33/28
	DE - A - 2 742 974 (SIEMENS AG) * the whole document * ---	10	
	DE - A - 2 123 172 (ANKER-WERKE) * claims; figures 1-3 * ---	4-5	
	CH - A - 444 607 (KALLE AG) * column 5, line 18 to column 6, line 46; figures 1-3 * -----		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³) B 41 J
			CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS
			X: particularly relevant A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: conflicting application D: document cited in the application L: citation for other reasons
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 09-03-1981	Examiner VAN DEN MEERSCHAUT