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54 Method and apparatus for thermally marking a record medium.

57 The apparatus comprises a thermal print head comprising a row of electrodes 22 embedded in a layer 19 of insulating material sandwiched between two blocks 20, 21 which provides a common return conductor for currents from source 26. Each electrode is individually connectable via switches 25 to the source 26. The transfer ribbon 14 comprises a resistive layer 23 which is electrically contacted by both the electrodes 22 and the return conductor 20 and an inking layer 24 which contacts the record sheet 15. In use the head is moved along the ribbon 14 in the direction of the arrow 28 and the switches 25 selectively actuated to cause thermal transfer of ink from the layer 24 to the record sheet 15. The transfer is caused by heat generated in the layer 23 when local currents are established herein between the electrodes 22 and the return conductor 20.

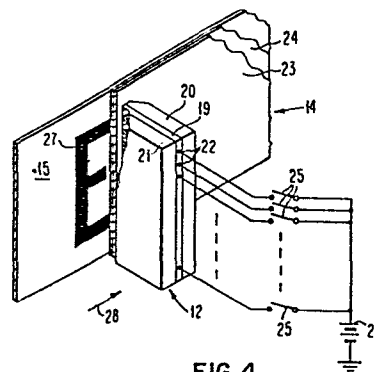


FIG. 4



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. 3)
D,A	US-A-3 744 611 (L. MONTANARI) * the whole document *	1,2	B 41 J 3/20 B 41 M 5/26
D,A	--- US-A-3 989 131 (F. KNIRSCH) * figures 2-6 * -----	3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
			B 41 J B 41 M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 17-09-1982	Examiner VAN DEN MEERSCHAUT G
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			