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54 **Thermal marking printer system.**

57 A thermal marking printer system includes an image fusing station (34) following the thermal transfer station (16). At the thermal transfer station (16) an ink transfer ribbon (18), which carries a heat sensitive ink layer, is brought into contact with a recording sheet (10). The printhead (30) comprises an array of individually addressable resistive elements. Energisation of selected elements causes a desired image to be transferred to the recording sheet. In one embodiment, the fusing step is implemented by reheating the transferred image as it emerges from the thermal transfer station. This reheating step causes the transferred image to penetrate further into the recording sheet providing an improved, matte-type finish and reducing the transferred image gloss thereby lessening subsequent handling problems.

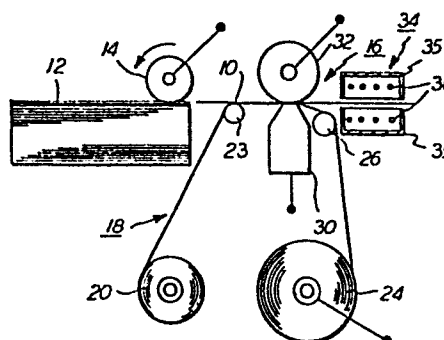


FIG. 1



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)
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X	--- XEROX DISCLOSURE JOURNAL, vol. 2, no. 3, May/June 1977, page 35, Stamford, Connecticut, US; W.L. GOFFE: "Radiant thermal biasing for laser induced thermal marking" * Whole article *	1, 5	
A	--- DE-A-3 018 342 (FUJI) * Page 18, line 11 - page 19, line 2; claim 1 *	1	B 41 M 5/26 B 41 M 7/00
A	--- US-A-3 904 875 (J.D. REES) * Claim 1 *	1	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28-08-1985	Examiner RASSCHAERT A.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			Page 2
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
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