

12

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

Application number: 85102878.7

Int. Cl.⁴: **B 41 J 3/20**
B 41 J 32/00, B 41 J 33/42

Date of filing: 13.03.85

Priority: 13.03.84 JP 46505/84

Date of publication of application:
 18.09.85 Bulletin 85/38

Date of deferred publication of search report: 29.01.86

Designated Contracting States:
 DE FR GB IT

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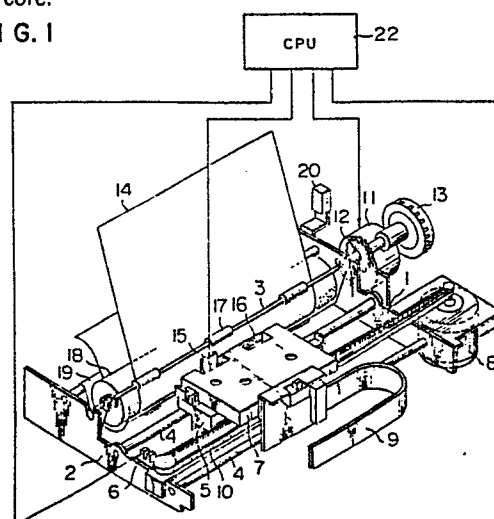
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Thermal transfer printer.

A thermal transfer printer including a platen (18) supporting a printing sheet (14), a carriage (5) mounted for reciprocatory movement axially of the platen, a thermal head (15) supported by the carriage, a plurality of heat generating elements mounted in the thermal head, an inked ribbon cassette (70) detachably attached to the carriage (5), a pair of ribbon cores (35, 36) located in the inked ribbon cassette (7) for rotation, and an inked ribbon (16) wound on the pair of ribbon cores and extending therebetween. Printing of characters, symbols, etc., is performed on the printing sheet (14) on the platen (18) as the thermal head (15) forces the inked ribbon (16) against the printing sheet (14) to transfer ink from the inked ribbon (16) to the printing sheet (14) by heat generated by the heat generating elements. The inked ribbon (16) has a printing zone of a size large enough to accommodate two lines of characters, symbols, etc., one line superposed on the other, whereby one half-portion of the printing zone is used for printing characters, symbols, etc., along one line to the end of the inked ribbon (16) by moving the inked ribbon (16) as it is wound on one of the pair of ribbon cores (35, 36) and the other half-portion of the printing zone is used, after the inked ribbon cassette (7) is turned over following completion of printing on the one half-portion of

the printing zone, for printing characters, symbols, etc., along the other line while reversing the direction of movement of the inked ribbon (16) and winding same on the other ribbon core.

FIG. 1





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0154990
Application Number

EP 85 10 2878

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. 4)
X	DE-A-2 415 265 (F. BÜTTNER) * Whole document * -----	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	B 41 J 3/20 B 41 J 32/00 B 41 J 33/42
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			B 41 J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21-10-1985	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	