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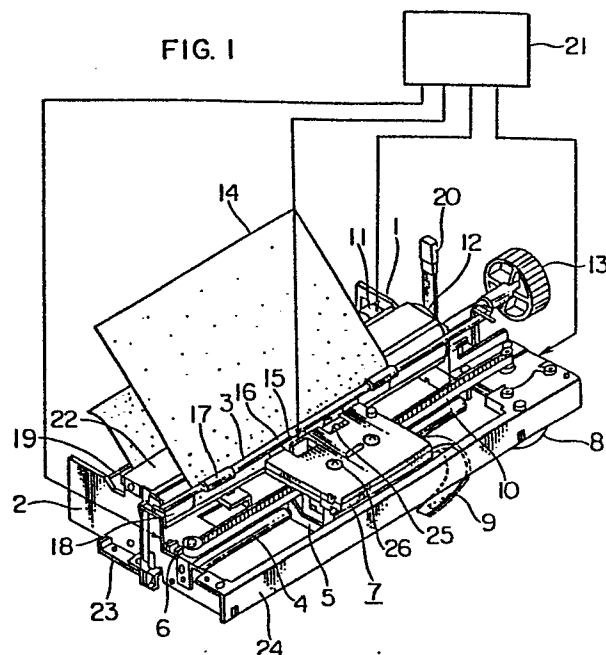
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54 Ink ribbon cassette for a printer.

57 A thermal transfer printer including a platen (1,2), a carriage (5) supported for movement lengthwise of the platen, a ribbon cassette (7) removably mounted to the carriage (5), an inked ribbon (16) held in the ribbon cassette (7) and wound at opposite end portions thereof on two ribbon cores (26, 40), and a thermal head (15) supported by the carriage (5) to force the inked ribbon (16) against a sheet of paper on the platen (14). The inked ribbon has an upper printing zone and a lower printing zone disposed in superposed relation one above the other in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the inked ribbon is moved. The ribbon cassette (7) is turned over after one of the upper and lower printing zones has been used to perform printing of characters, symbols, etc., and mounted to the carriage again to continue the printing by using the other printing zone. The ribbon cassette is provided with a back tension imparting mechanism (33) located between the thermal head (16) and the ribbon core toward which the inked ribbon moves, to apply the predetermined brake to the inked ribbon during its travel.

FIG. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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)
A	DE-A-2 415 265 (F. BÜTTNER) * Whole document *	1,5	B 41 J 32/00 B 41 J 35/08
A	--- EP-A-0 015 142 (EXXON RESEARCH & ENGINEERING) * Page 3, line 21 - page 4, line 30; figures 1-4 * -----	1,2	
			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 28-10-1985	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	