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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

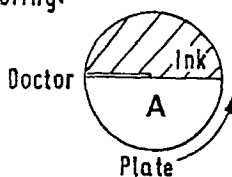
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AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE(86) Date of deferred publication of the search report: **13.08.86**
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Sanderson & Co. 97 High Street
Colchester Essex C01 1TH(GB)(54) **Inking and doctoring process and arrangement for a pad printing machine.**

(57) An ink applying and doctoring part of a pad printing machine for a printing plate disposed within an ink tray, in which the printing plate and a doctor blade are mounted for relative rotational movement to perform doctoring of the plate, either in a stepwise manner each time in the same direction of rotation or in a back-and-forth manner. In the first case, the doctor blade should define a closed area within which the design to be printed may lie, whereas in the second case two doctor blades may be provided either one of which may

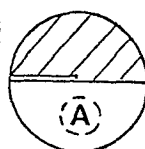
come into contact with the printing plate dependent upon the sense of rotation during the back-and-forth rotational movement. A cover for the ink tray is provided so as to minimise evaporation of ink components and to prevent contamination of the ink, the cover being closed except for a port through which the printing pad may pass to contact the printing plate. Ink within the tray may cover the printing plate so as to obviate the need for a distinct ink applying step.

FIG.8

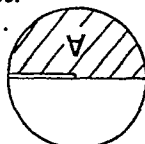
1st process:
Doctoring.



2nd process:
Descent and
ascent of
pad.



3rd process:
Ink refresh.



Rank Xerox

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FIG. 5

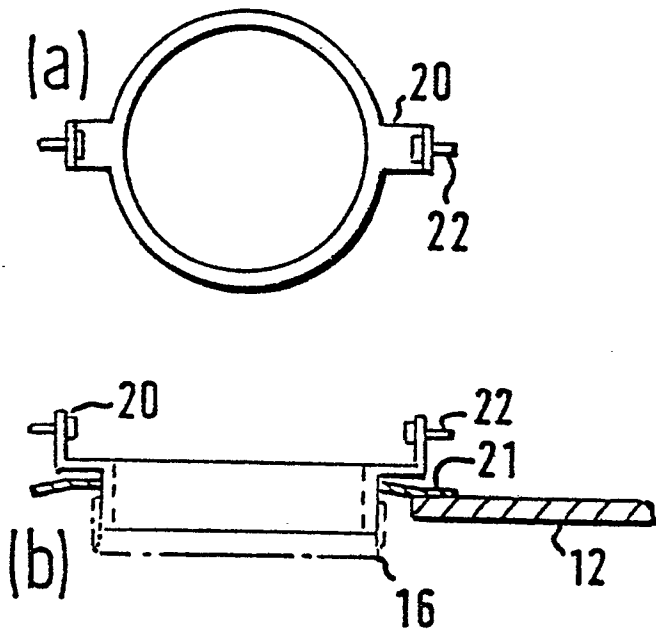


FIG. 8

1st process:
Doctoring.

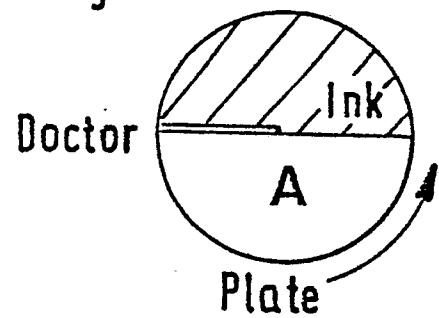
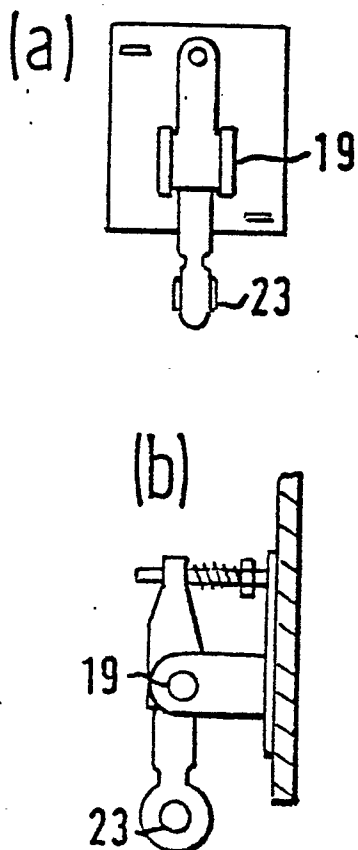
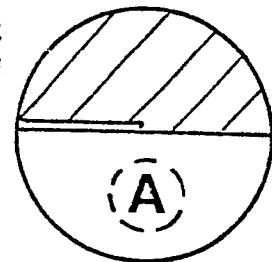


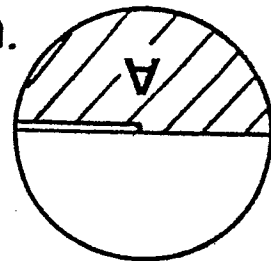
FIG. 6



2nd process:
Descent and
ascent of
pad.



3rd process:
Ink refresh.





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	EP-A-0 012 934 (AGFA-GEVAERT) * Page 10, line 11 - page 15, line 20 *	1,2,4, 6,7	B 41 F 1/16 B 41 F 1/40
A	--- DE-A-2 205 430 (SCHMID) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			B 41 F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24-04-1986	Examiner LONCKE J.W.
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	