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54 **Printing device and ribbon cartridge.**

57 In a machine for reading and writing information, a scanning reading device (10) converts the information on a document on a bed (2) into digital electrical signals. Those signals are passed to a device for printing on plain paper for locally reproducing the original document and/or passed over a telephone cable to transmit the information to a remote receiving station. The printing device comprises a thermal printer (34) and a replaceable cartridge (48) obtaining a reel (50) for feeding the ribbon (42) which is covered with thermally transferable ink. The ribbon is as wide as a sheet of normal paper and is disposed in superposed relationship therewith on a rotatable platen roller (38) for printing information by means of a thermal print head (34). To ensure a high level of quality and uniformity of printing, the inked ribbon must be disposed in perfectly superposed relationship and without wrinkles on the sheet of paper to be printed. That is achieved by means of a curved wall (70) of the cartridge, which extends over the entire width of the inked ribbon. The wall holds the ribbon (42) in a taut condition, eliminating any wrinkles and folds which may be present in the supply reel (50).

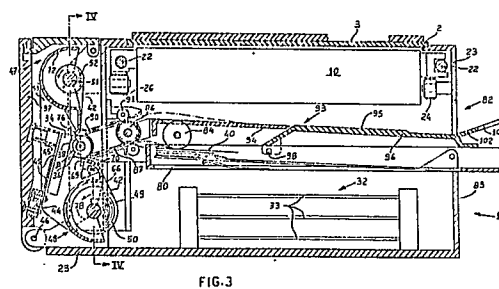


FIG. 3



EP 89 30 1648

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	US-A-4 687 358 (SAITOU) * Column 1, lines 54-60; column 6, line 54 - column 7, line 14; figures 3,8,18 *	1,6	B 41 J 17/32
A	---	2,3	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 10, no. 357 (M-540)[2414], 2nd December 1986; & JP-A-61 154 966 (FUJITSU LTD) 14-07-1986 * Abstract *	1,2,5,6	
A	IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 27, no. 2, July 1984, pages 1337-1338, New York, US; L. FISCHER et al.: "Ribbon guide" * Whole document *	1,6	
A	US-A-4 622 563 (WATANABE) -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			B 41 J
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 08-09-1989	Examiner ADAM E.M.P.
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			