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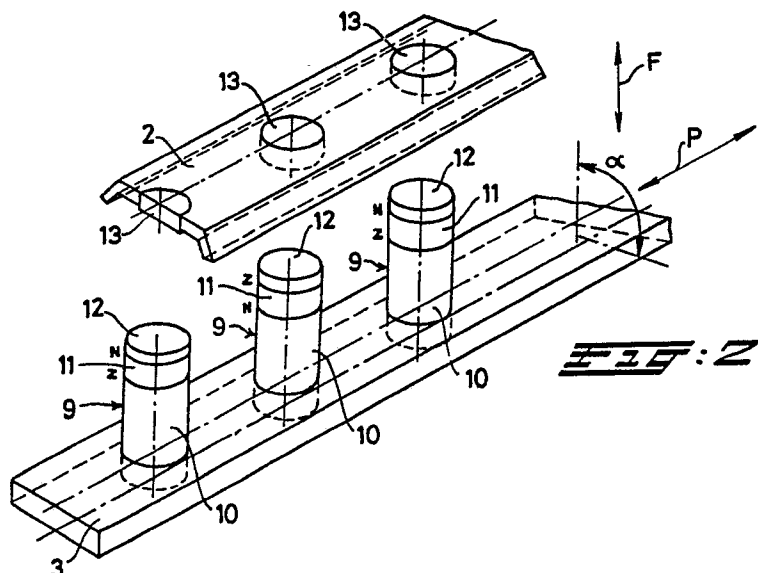
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NL-2509 LP 's-Gravenhage(NL)(54) **Magnetic bar for a roller squeegee of a rotary screen printing device.**

(57) Magnetic bar (1) for a roller squeegee in a rotary screen printing device which, in order to be able to vary the magnetic force for attracting the squeegee, comprises two parts (2, 3) which are displaceable with respect to each other.

The top part (2) is a part of non-magnetically conducting material with elements (13) of magnetically conducting material.

The bottom part (3) is a part comprising permanent magnets (11).

By sliding the bottom part (3) relative to the top part (2) the magnetic force for attracting the roller squeegee can be varied.



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Magnetic bar for a roller squeegee of a rotary screen printing device

The invention relates to a magnetic bar for a roller squeegee of a rotary screen printing device, said bar extending at right angles to the direction of movement of a web of material to be printed and bearing a number of permanent magnets next to each other in the lengthwise direction for the attraction of the roller squeegee.

In such rotary screen printing devices use is generally made of electromagnets, in which a magnetic field is generated by means of coils through which a direct current is passed. Through varying the current intensity, the magnetic force of attraction on the coils for the roller squeegee can be varied.

However, these electromagnets have the disadvantage that they produce a large amount of heat, so that additional facilities have to be provided to discharge this heat, in order to avoid buckling of the bar.

In order to find a solution to the problem of heat development with electromagnets, the use of permanent magnets was thought of, as already proposed in Swiss Patent 426,711. The use of permanent magnets does, however, have the disadvantage that the magnetic force of attraction of said magnets on the roller squeegee cannot be varied.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a magnetic bar for a roller squeegee in which permanent magnets are placed, and in which there is the possibility of varying the magnetic force of attraction on the roller squeegee.

This object is achieved according to the invention in that the magnetic bar comprises two parts which can be displaced relative to each other, i.e. a fixed top part and a bottom part which is displaceable relative thereto, the permanent magnets are disposed in the bottom part, and the top part is a plate of non-magnetically conducting material which is provided locally with elements of magnetically conducting material extending at least over the whole thickness of the plate, while the positioning of the elements relative to each other in the said plate corresponds to the relative positioning of the permanent magnets in the bottom part of the magnetic bar, in such a way that the permanent magnets can be taken together into a conducting connection with the appropriate elements in the top part.

When the two parts of the magnetic bar take up a position relative to each other in which the magnetically conducting elements in the plate are in line with the permanent magnets, a maximum magnetic force of attraction will be exerted on the roller squeegee, since so many possible lines of

force run via the elements through the roller squeegee. Through shifting the two parts of the magnetic bar from this position relative to each other, the force field transmitted via the elements to the roller squeegee is reduced, so that the roller squeegee is attracted with a smaller force.

In a preferably used embodiment of the invention, the bottom part of the magnetic bar is slidable in the lengthwise direction relative to the top part, and the distance between the elements in the top part of the magnetic bar is greater than the diameter of the permanent magnets of the bottom part. The permanent magnets can thus be taken totally out of contact with the elements in the plate. In this position there will, however, be a small residual field present which acts upon the roller squeegee. If the magnetic force of attraction has to be switched off completely, the bottom part is according to the invention displaceable in the vertical direction from the top part.

Through this vertical displacement, the magnetic force of attraction on the roller squeegee can be reduced virtually to zero.

According to the invention, the bottom part of the magnetic bar can carry out a rotation through 90° about a longitudinal axis thereof.

The rotation through 90° of the bottom part bearing the permanent magnets results in the magnetic force of attraction being completely switched off. At the beginning of this rotation there is, however, a risk of the roller squeegee being pulled a little to the side due to the residual field. This is undesirable, since the stencil can be damaged as a result. The risk of damage to the stencil is avoided by first removing the bottom part of the magnetic bar approximately 20 mm from the top part, before the bottom part is rotated through 90°.

The invention will be explained in greater detail with reference to the appended drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic cross-section of a part of the rotary screen printing device through the longitudinal axis of the magnetic bar;

Fig. 2 is a perspective exploded view of the magnetic bar according to the invention; and

Fig. 3 is a view corresponding to that of Fig. 1, showing how the magnetic bar according to the invention works.

As shown in Fig. 1, the magnetic bar 1 comprises a top part 2 and a bottom part 3, the top surface of the top part 2 being provided with a teflon layer 4. A printing blanket 5 of the rotary screen printing device bearing a cloth 6 to be printed glides over this teflon layer, a cylindrical stencil 7 containing a roller squeegee 8 rolling over said cloth 6.

As can be seen more clearly from Fig. 2, the bottom part 3 of the magnetic bar is provided with a number of cylindrical rods 9 which are disposed next to each other with a space between them in the lengthwise direction of the bar, and which each comprise a bottom part 10 fixed to the part 3 of the magnetic bar, a permanent magnet 11, and a top part 12. The permanent magnets 11 are placed in such a way that the polarity of the permanent magnets of the adjacent rods 9 are always alternated. In other words, there is alternately a north pole and a south pole at the top side. The permanent magnets can be of the cobalt/samarium type, or of the neodymium/iron/boron type, which are the currently strongest available types of permanent magnets. The parts 10 and 12 of each of the cylindrical bars are, like the bottom part 3 of the magnetic bar, preferably made of iron.

The top part 2 of the magnetic bar is plate-shaped and made of a non-magnetically conducting material such as, for example, aluminium. Disc-shaped elements 13, made of a magnetically conducting material such as, for example, iron are disposed herein at regular intervals from each other. The elements 13 are circular, with a diameter which corresponds to that of the cylindrical rods 9, and are placed in such a way relative to each other that each element can always be in line with a corresponding rod 9 of the bottom part 3 of the magnetic bar. The top surfaces of the elements 13 are flush with the top surface of the plate 2, while the elements 13 at the bottom side of the plate 2 project slightly beyond it, the bottom surfaces of the elements 13 thus being in contact with the top surfaces of the corresponding bars 9 of the bottom part 3 of the magnetic bar.

As can be seen clearly from Fig. 3, on a displacement of the bottom part 3 of the magnetic bar in the direction of the double arrow P, the elements 13 in the top part 2 of the magnetic bar will no longer lie fully in line with the rods 9. This means that fewer lines of force will run from the permanent magnets via the elements 13 through the roller squeegee, so that said roller squeegee is attracted less strongly by the magnets. When the rods 9 are between the elements 13, and are thus entirely separated from them, hardly any further line of force will run through the elements 13.

In order to ensure that no magnetic force of attraction at all is exerted on the roller squeegee, the bottom part 3 bearing the permanent magnets can be moved away from the top part in the direction of the double arrow F in Fig. 2, following which said bottom part can be tilted through 90° about a longitudinal axis. If this tilting of the bottom part is carried out without moving this part away from the top part first, the roller squeegee will have a tendency, due to a residual field possibly

present, to move sideways at the beginning of the tilting, which can cause damage to the stencil. In general, it is sufficient to move the bottom part approximately 20 mm away from the top part.

This design of the magnetic bar has the advantage that permanent magnets can now be used while retaining the possibility of exerting a variable force of attraction on the roller squeegee. Through the absence of the coils, a considerable weight saving is obtained, on the one hand, while on the other, no heat is developed in the magnetic bar, something which gives rise to problems such as the buckling of the bar.

In the embodiment shown and described, the bottom part of the magnetic bar moves in the lengthwise direction. It is, however, also conceivable for the bottom part to move at right angles to the lengthwise direction of the magnetic bar. In this case the permanent magnets could be placed more closely together.

Claims

1. Magnetic bar (1) for a roller squeegee of a rotary screen printing device, said bar extending at right angles to the direction of movement of a web of material to be printed and bearing a number of permanent magnets next to each other in the lengthwise direction for the attraction of the roller squeegee, **characterized in that**

- the magnetic bar (1) comprises two parts which can be displaced relative to each other, i.e. a fixed top part (2) and a bottom part (3) which is displaceable relative thereto;
- the permanent magnets (11) are disposed in the bottom part (3); and
- the top part (2) is a plate of non-magnetically conducting material which is provided locally with elements (13) of magnetically conducting material extending at least over the whole thickness of the plate, while the positioning of the elements (13) relative to each other in the said plate corresponds to the relative positioning of the permanent magnets (11) in the bottom part of the magnetic bar (1), in such a way that the permanent magnets (11) can be taken together into a conducting connection with the appropriate elements in the top part (2).

2. Magnetic bar according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the bottom part (3) of the magnetic bar (1) is slidable in the lengthwise direction relative to the top part (2), and the distance between the elements (13) in the top part of the magnetic bar (1) is greater than the diameter of the permanent magnets (11) in the bottom part (3).

3. Magnetic bar according to Claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the bottom part (3) is displaceable in the vertical direction away from the

top part (2).

4. Magnetic bar according to the preceding Claims 1 - 3, **characterized in that** the bottom part (3) can carry out a rotation through 90° about a longitudinal axis thereof.

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5. Magnetic bar according to the preceding Claims 1 - 4, **characterized in that** the permanent magnets (11) are accommodated in vertical rods (9) of a magnetically conducting material.

6. Magnetic bar according to the preceding Claims 1 - 5, **characterized in that** the elements of magnetically conducting material project a little beyond the bottom side of the plate.

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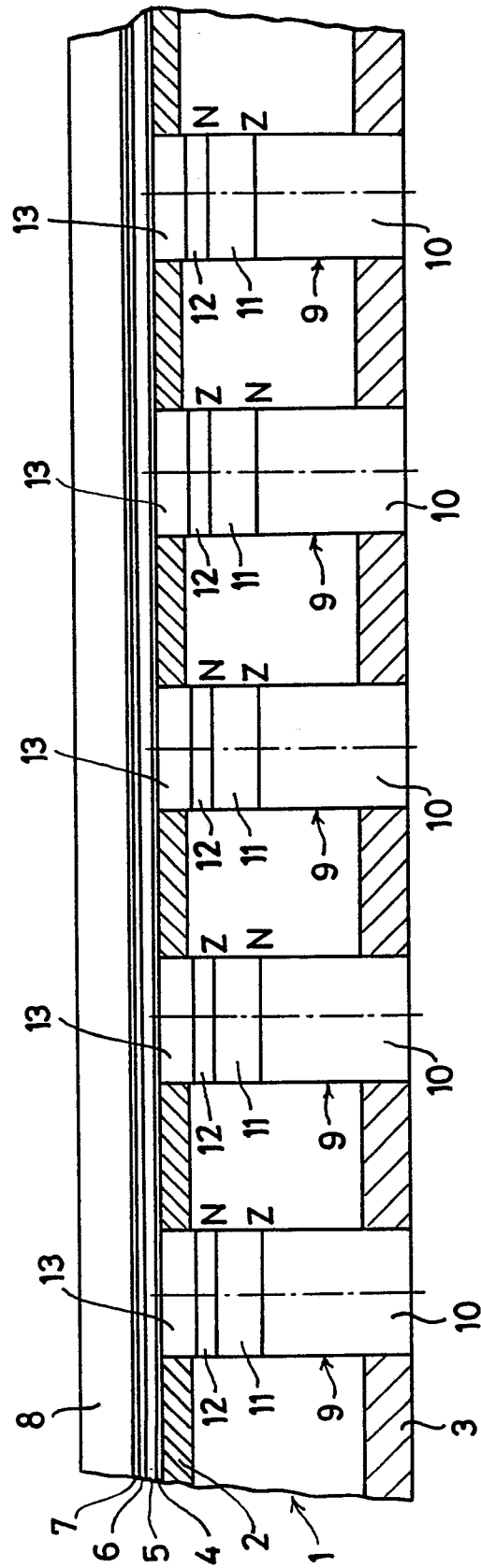


Fig. 2.

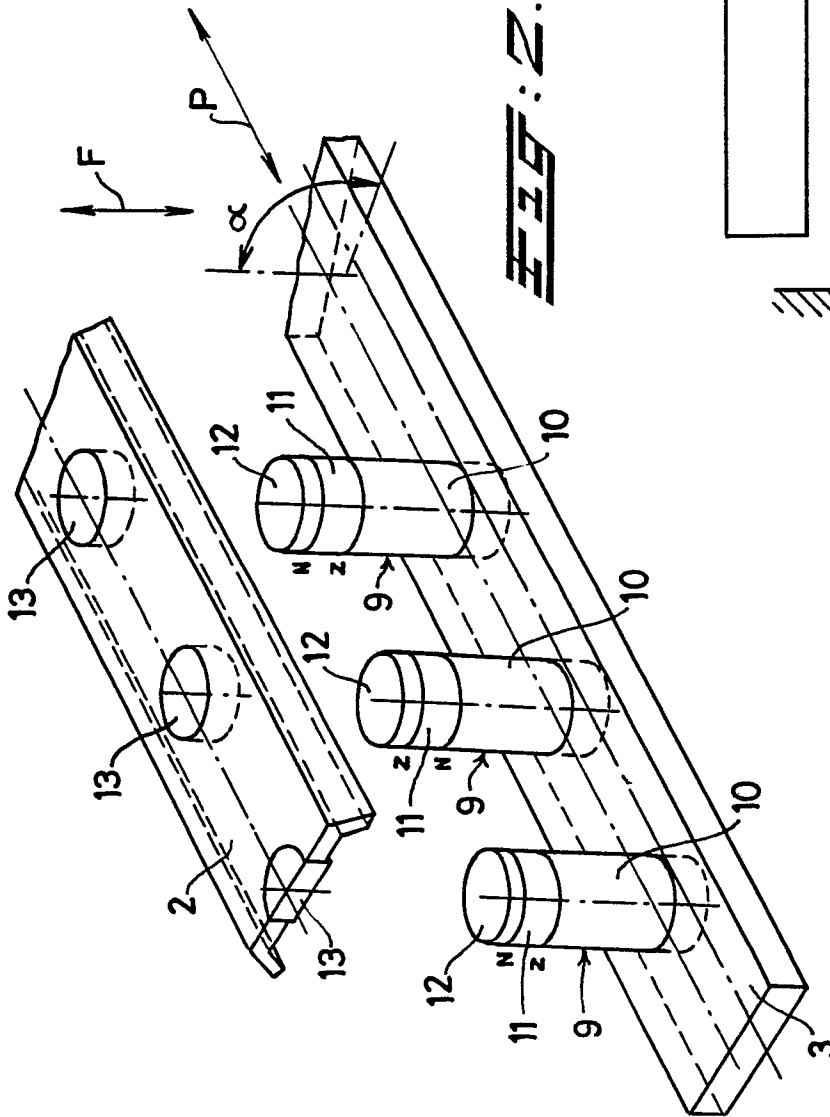


Fig. 2.

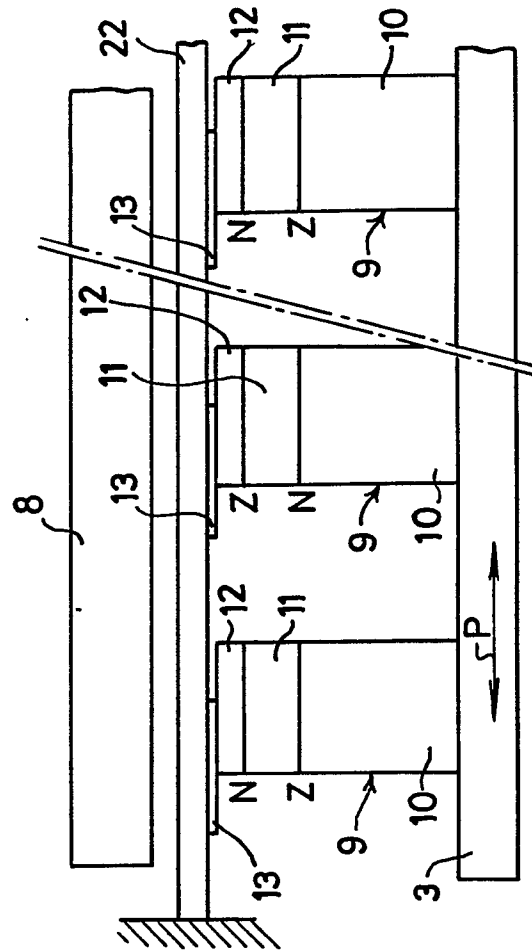


Fig. 3.



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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.5)
D, Y	CH-A-426711 (ASTON MARTIN) * the whole document *	1	B41F15/44
Y	NL-A-71981 (JAMES NEILL) * column 2, line 19 - column 4, line 34; figures 1, 4 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B41F H01F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 FEBRUARY 1990	Examiner LONCKE J.W.
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>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</div> <div>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</div>			