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(54) **Method of replacing plate for printing press and apparatus therefor.**

(57) In a plate replacing apparatus for a printing press, a plate lockup opening/closing unit opens/closes leading- and trailing-side plate lockup devices (5, 30) upon pivotal movement of a cam shaft (19). A loader drive unit (84) drives a loader (83) on the plate replacing apparatus between an operation position where a distal end portion of the loader (83) comes close to the plate lockup devices (5, 30) and a storage position where the distal end portion of the loader (83) is separated from the plate lockup devices (5, 30). A plate removal unit grips an old plate (89) released from the plate lockup devices (5, 30) and inserted into the loader (83) upon rotation

of the plate cylinder (1), and moves the old plate (89) into the loader (83). A plate supply unit inserts a new plate (105) loaded in the loader (83) into the leading-side plate lockup device (5). A plate press unit (118) presses the new plate (105) inserted into the leading-side plate lockup device (5) and wound around the circumferential surface of the plate cylinder (1) and inserts the other end of the new plate (105) into the trailing-side plate lockup device (30). A predetermined plate position stop unit pivots the plate cylinder (1) to stop at a plate gripper position. A controller operates the above apparatus and units.

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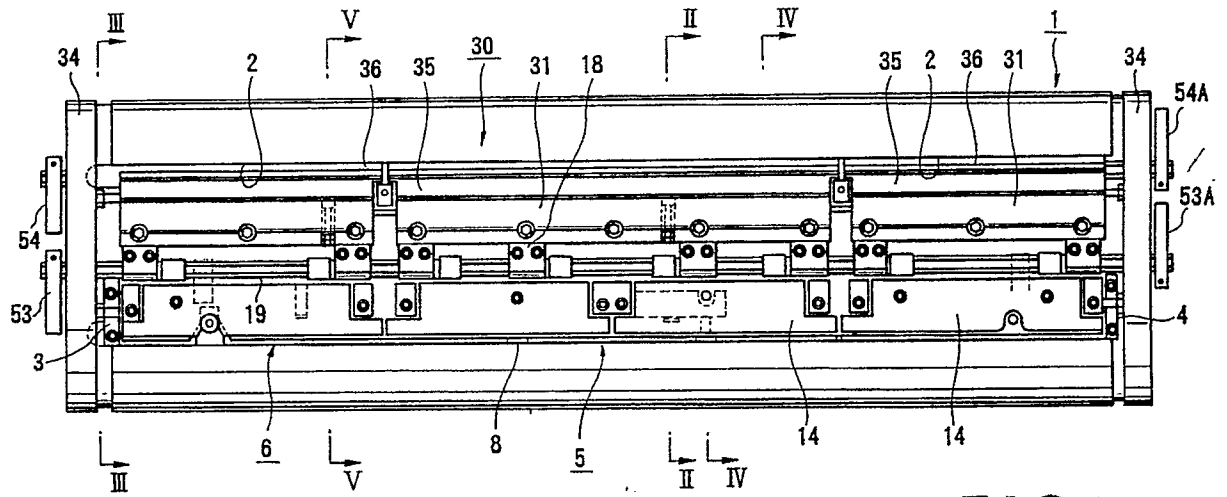


FIG. 1



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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.5)
A	EP-A-0 268 857 (MITSUBISHI JUKOGYO KK.) - - -		B 41 F 27/12
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12, no. 487 (M-778)(3334) December 20, 1988 & JP-A-63 207 649 (AKIYAMA INSATSUKI SEIZO) August 29, 1988 * the whole document * - - -		
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 11, no. 71 (M-567)(2518) March 4, 1987 & JP-A-61 227 057 (TOPPAN MOORE CO. LTD.) October 9, 1986 * the whole document * - - -		
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 4, no. 41 (M-5)(523) March 29, 1980 & JP-A-55 11 874 (TOPPAN INSATSU KK.) January 28, 1980 * the whole document * - - -		
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 11, no. 258 (M-618)(2705) August 21, 1987 & JP-A-62 62 759 (TORAY IND. INC.) March 19, 1987 * the whole document * - - - - -		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 12 July 91	Examiner DIAZ-MAROTO Y MAQUED
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	