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(54) **Imaging apparatus and lead screw drive.**

(57) An imaging system comprising a source of light (286) movable with respect to a writing element and projectable thereon to generate an image, a focusing means is provided for focusing a light source which generates a first beam of light of a wavelength selected to be actinic with respect to the writing element. At least a portion of the first beam of light is absorbed by the writing element. The apparatus comprises means to automatically supply donor sheets and receiver sheets independently to a writing platen or drum (18), and to selectively load and unload the donor sheets from superposition with the receiver sheet without disturbing the registration of the receiver sheet. The apparatus also comprises a translator member (210) including a lead screw (284) having a drive end and a thrust end mounted in and extending through a bearing at each end thereof (292), a flexible coupling (298) at a drive end connecting the lead screw (284) to a drive motor (282) and wobble rod (310) at the thrust end of the lead screw (284) to axially locate the lead screw. Also included are components which contribute to the quality of the images generated, such as relatively inexpensive, low jitter transports and drives for the writing head and imaging drum.

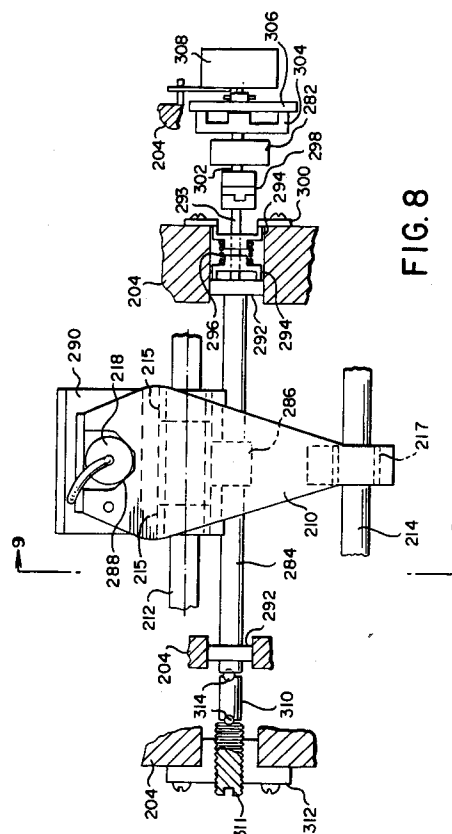


FIG. 8

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 11 4402

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 A	WO-A-9 108 905 (EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY) * page 4; figures 1,8 * ---	1 6	B41J29/02
Y A	US-A-4 457 738 (GROSS ET AL.) * column 2, line 54 - column 4, line 65; figures 1,2 * ---	1 6	
A	GB-A-2 193 779 (RICHARD CASWALL ROLT) * abstract; figures * ---	2,3,6	
P,A	EP-A-0 444 654 (CANON) * page 10, line 47 - page 11, line 35; figure 8 * -----	1,6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B41J B41F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 22 MARCH 1993	Examiner DE GROOT R.K.
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			