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㉔ **Apparatus and method for loading a dye donor in a thermal printer.**

㉕ An apparatus and method are provided for loading a dye donor web (12) in a thermal printer. The apparatus includes a take-up spool and a dye donor web (12) having a leader with adhesive material thereon, top and bottom surfaces, and first and second parallel longitudinal edges. The take-up spool has a body and first and second alignment lines positioned on the body to receive the web with the parallel edges aligned with the alignment lines and secured with the adhesive. The method comprises swinging open a door of the printer and providing access to first and second spaced apart guiding support members (18,38), and to third and fourth

spaced apart guiding support members one of which has a color indicia thereon. The method includes inserting a dye donor web take-up spool between the third and fourth guiding support members, inserting a supply spool (24) having a dye donor web (12) wound thereon between the first and second guiding support members (18,38) so that an insertion label on the supply spool (24) is adjacent the color indicia, and unwinding a portion of the dye donor web (13) and positioning a donor web leader on the take-up spool with parallel edges of the leader aligned with alignment lines on the take-up spool.

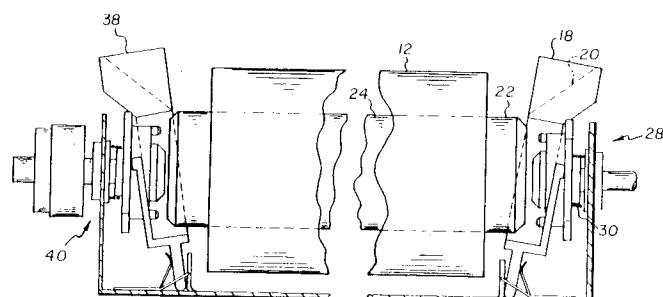


FIG. 2

EP 0 595 265 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 11 7346

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	DE-A-1 611 482 (SOCIETE INDUSTRIELLE BULL-GENERAL ELECTRIC) * claims 2-5 * ---	1	B 41 J 31/10
A	GB-A-1 167 396 (COLUMBIA RIBBON AND CARBON MANUFACTURING CO.) * figures 1-4 * ---	2,3,4	
A	DE-A-2 435 363 (BEROLINA EDV SYSTEM-SERVICE GMBH) * claims 2,3; figures 1,2 * ---	2,4	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 11, no. 54 (M-563) 1987; & JP - A - 61215078 (SHINKO ELECTRIC CO.) * abstract * ---	1,2	
A	EP-A-0 098 033 (KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA) * abstract; figures 3,6 * ---	5,10	
A	DE-A-3 720 154 (MINOLTA CAMERA K.K.) * figures 1-5 * ---	10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
A	DE-A-2 163 802 (OLYMPIA WERKE AG) * figures 1,2 * -----	10	B 41 J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
BERLIN	22-04-1994	ZOPF K H M	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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