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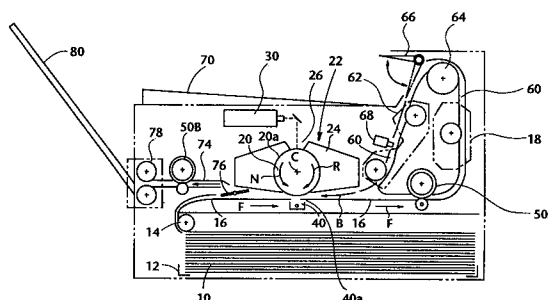
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(54) **Electrophotographic printer capable of printing on both sides of a sheet of paper.**

(57) The invention relates to an electrophotographic printer which can make printing first on the front side of a sheet of paper and then on the back side of the same sheet with conformity between the front and back sides in the head-bottom arrangement of the printed images. The printer has a photocouductive drum (20) which can be rotated both in a normal direction and in the reverse direction, an exposure unit (30) to produce electrostatic latent images on the drum surface, first developing means for developing the latent images with a toner when the drum is rotating in the normal direction, second developing means for developing the latent images with a toner when the drum is rotating in the reverse direction, a transfer unit (40) for transferring the developed images to a sheet of paper, and first and second fixing means (50A, 50B) which are oppositely arranged with respect to the transfer unit. For printing on the front side of the paper sheet, the sheet is passed through the transfer unit (40) in a first direction toward the first fixing means while the drum is rotating in the normal direction. For printing on the back side of the sheet, the sheet is further conveyed by a returning route (60) which turns so as to reverse the sheet and extends to the transfer unit, and, while the drum is rotating in the reverse direction, the reversed and

returned sheet passes through the transfer unit in the opposite second direction toward the second fixing means (50B).

FIG. 1**EP 0 636 951 A3**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 94 11 1881

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.6)
X A	DE-A-42 04 470 (TOSHIBA) * abstract; figures 20,21,24 * * column 32, line 21 - column 34, line 18 * ---	1 5,7	G03G15/23
A	EP-A-0 476 921 (MITA) * column 1, paragraph 1; figure 1 * * column 5, line 24 - column 6, line 47 * ---	1,2,4,5, 7,8,10	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 17, no. 432 (P-1589) 10 August 1993 & JP-A-05 088 588 (RICOH) 9 April 1993 * abstract * ---	1,5	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 5, no. 73 (P-061) 15 May 1981 & JP-A-56 022 455 (RICOH) 3 March 1981 * abstract * ---	1,5	
A	GB-A-1 590 872 (XEROX CORP.) * claim 1; figure 1 * -----	1,5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24 July 1995	Examiner Greiser, N
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 I : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			