



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 718 106 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
10.12.1997 Bulletin 1997/50

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **B41J 2/32, B41J 2/35**

(43) Date of publication A2:
26.06.1996 Bulletin 1996/26

(21) Application number: **95309287.1**

(22) Date of filing: **20.12.1995**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
CH DE FR GB LI

(30) Priority: **22.12.1994 GB 9425895**

(71) Applicant: **NEOPOST LIMITED**
Romford, Essex RM1 2AR (GB)

(72) Inventor: **Lee, Daniel J.**
Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3AH (GB)

(74) Representative:
Loughrey, Richard Vivian Patrick et al
HUGHES CLARK & CO
114-118 Southampton Row
London WC1B 5AA (GB)

(54) Printing method and apparatus

(57) Digital printing apparatus is provided with a sensor (24, 25) to sense the roughness of a surface being printed on and the output of the sensor (24, 25) is utilised to provide a display to enable manual adjustment of power input to a print head (12) or to automatically control the power input to the print head (12) in

dependence upon the surface roughness so as to produce a quality of printing independent of the surface roughness. This is of particular interest in relation to thermal printing and may be used in mailing machines to ensure a good print quality for franking impressions.

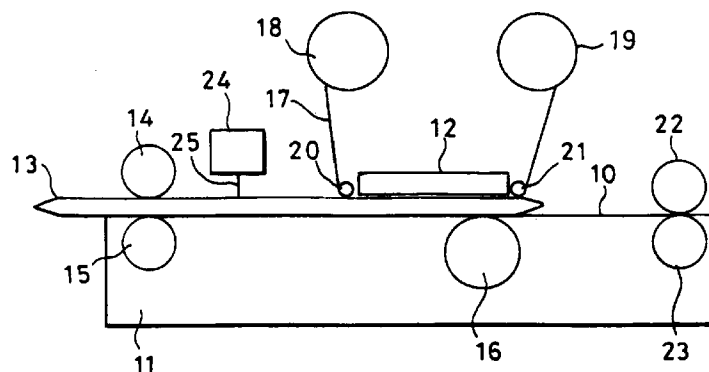


FIG.1

EP 0 718 106 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 30 9287

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	US 5 109 236 A (WATANABE ET AL.)	1-4,15	B41J2/32
Y	* column 1, line 36 - column 3, line 12 *	5-13	B41J2/35
A	* column 3, line 50 - column 6, line 2 *	14	
	* column 9, line 54 - column 12, line 38; figures 1-4,11-15 *		

Y	US 4 897 670 A (HASEGAWA ET AL.)	5-13	
A	* column 5, line 50 - column 7, line 60; figures 6-11 *	1,15	

X	US 4 844 632 A (MINOWA)	2-4,15	
A	* column 2, line 33 - line 36 *	1	
	* column 9, line 33 - column 11, line 64; figures 2A-7 *		

X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 10, no. 130 (M-478), 14 May 1986 & JP 60 255464 A (HITACHI SEISAKUSHO KK), 17 December 1985,	2,15	
A	* abstract *	1	

X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 10, no. 130 (M-478), 14 May 1986 & JP 60 255462 A (FUJITSU KK), 17 December 1985,	2,15	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
A	* abstract *	1	B41J G01B

A	US 5 004 928 A (SUZUKI ET AL.)	1,15	
	* column 2, line 43 - column 3, line 47 *		
	* column 5, line 37 - column 11, line 11; figures 3A-7 *		

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		1 October 1997	Rivero, C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)