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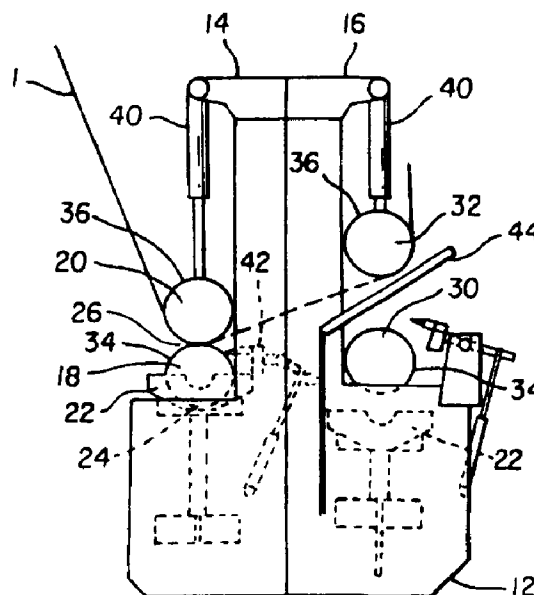
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### (54) Continuous gravure printing machine

(57) A gravure printing machine (10) has first and second printing means (14,16) arranged in a frame (12) and capable of continuous printing without having to terminate the operation. A retractable impression roller (20,32), when retracted, from either the first or second machine (14,16) enables a web (1) to follow a travel path between the image transfer nip (26,28) of one printing machine (14,16) and the impression roller (20,32), the latter serving as an idler roller. A controller means (64,74) is used to reposition the retracted impression roller (20,32) into contact and alignment with a print roller (18,30), and for sequentially retracting the retractable impression roller (20,32) from the other printing machine (14,16) so as to accommodate printing by the other machine (14,16).



**FIG. 1**

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 20 3223

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	DE 34 20 304 A (FRAVER S. A.)	1,2	B41F9/00
Y	* page 10, line 6 - page 11, line 19; claims 1,6-9; figure 1 *	3-10	B41F9/02
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Y	US 2 746 386 A (A. P. BAMFORD)	4-10	B41F13/40
	* column 2, line 18 - column 7, line 62; figures 1-4,5B,13,14 *		
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Y	US 3 789 757 A (JOHN C. MOTTER ET AL.)	3	
	* column 1, line 7 - column 2, line 62; figures 1-3 *		
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A,D	US 5 069 125 A (VITO SCHIAVI)	1-10	
	* column 1, line 1 - column 3, line 53; figure 1 *		
	---		
A	DE 599 732 C (MASCHINENFABRIK WINKLER, FALLERT & CO. AG)	1-10	
	see whole document		
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B41F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH		24 October 1997	Greiner, E
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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