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EP-B- 0 428 163 **US-A- 5 149 217**

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EP 0 807 527 B1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a printer capable of printing on cut-sheet paper and, more particularly, to a point of sale (POS) printer for printing on cut-sheet paper, such as paper slips, bank checks etc..

[0002] Printers that can print on cut-sheet paper, i.e., single sheets of paper, such as a paper voucher, a slip, a bank check or the like, are known. In these printers, a sheet of paper is transferred to a printing area by a first pair of transfer rollers disposed adjacent a paper insertion opening (referred to as insertion rollers hereinafter). The sheet of paper is printed at a printing area and then discharged out of the printer by a second pair of transfer rollers disposed adjacent a paper discharge opening (referred to as discharge rollers hereinafter). For inserting a sheet of paper, the rollers are separated from each other to facilitate the insertion of the paper.

[0003] When printing on relatively large sheet of paper, such as a slip (herein after referred to as slip printing), the paper is inserted through the insertion opening, passed through a paper feed path past the printing area, and discharged through the discharge opening. On the other hand, when printing a few lines in a predetermined area on card-like cut-sheet paper such as a bank check for payment validation (herein after referred to as validation printing), the paper is inserted through the discharge opening and printing is performed while the paper is transferred back toward the discharge opening past the printing area. For the sake of convenience, the term "slip" will be used hereinafter as representative for any kind of cut-sheet paper suitable for slip printing and the term "check" will be used as representative for any kind of cut-sheet paper suitable for validation printing.

[0004] For example, Fig. 9 shows an explanatory view of a conventional printer that is capable of both slip printing and validation printing. Reference numeral 4 denotes a print head for printing on a slip 200 or a check 500 that is transferred to the printing area between print head 4 and a platen 38 by a pair of discharge rollers 19 and 20 and a pair of intermediate rollers 21 and 22, each pair being disposed in a manner that the rollers in each pair can be opened (separated from each other) and closed (brought together). Reference numeral 501 denotes a paper feed path for transferring a slip 200. A slip 200 inserted through an insertion opening on the front side of the printer into the paper feed path 501, it is guided by a paper guide 39 to the printing area, printed by the print head 4 and discharged through a discharge opening on the top. Note that a pair of insertion rollers (not shown) for slips is provided next to the insertion opening. For printing on the check 500, the discharge rollers 19 and 20 and the intermediate rollers 21 and 22 are both separated from each other as shown in the figure, and the check 500 is inserted through the discharge opening down into a groove section 501a. Then, the discharge rollers 19 and 20 and the intermediate rollers 21 and 22 are both brought into pressure contact to pinch

the check 500, and printing by the print head 4 is performed as the check is advanced upwardly back to the discharge opening.

[0005] The above-described printer suffers the following problems. In general, cut-sheet paper ("checks") for validation printing may be provided in a variety of types. For example, there are thick, sturdy sheets of paper, thin, weak sheets of paper, a self-copying paper formed from a plurality of laminated thin sheets of paper and the like. In order to smoothly insert and transfer a check irrespective of the type and properties, the paper feed path is preferably formed along a straight line. In order to form a paper feed path on a straight line, as shown in Fig. 9, a groove section 501a is formed in the prior art for positioning the bottom edge or leading end of the check, in addition to the paper feed path 501 for transferring a slip. When the paper feed path is formed in this manner, if a check is curved, it may not correctly enter the groove section 501a, and may instead enter the paper feed path 501, as shown in broken line in Fig. 9. If printing is started with the check being set at such a wrong position, the initial position of the check is offset from its nominal position, and therefore printing may not be performed at the correct place on the check.

[0006] EP-B-0 428 163 discloses an impact dot matrix POS printer according to the precharacterizing part of claim 1, which differs from the one explained above with reference to Fig. 9 in that only the insertion rollers and the intermediate rollers but not the discharge rollers are provided. The platen and one of the intermediate rollers are supported on a first lever and one of the insertion rollers is supported on a second lever. The first lever is pivotally supported to close or open the intermediate rollers. When the intermediate rollers are open the printing area is also open, i.e., the platen is retracted from its working position opposite the print head. The second lever is also pivotally supported to close or open the insertion rollers. A first plunger is used to drive the first lever and a second plunger is used to drive the second lever. Both plungers are controlled in such a way that the insertion rollers and the intermediate rollers are either both open or both closed.

[0007] The present invention is made to solve the above-described problems of the prior art. It is an object of the present invention to provide a printer capable of printing on a variety of types of cut-sheet paper in which a comparatively simple mechanism is used for ensuring that checks are always correctly positioned.

[0008] This object is achieved with a printer as claimed in claim 1. Preferred embodiments of the invention are subject-matter of the dependent claims.

[0009] According to the present invention part of the paper feed path used for slip printing is used as the paper feed path for validation printing. In other words, the paper feed path for a check used in validation printing has no section, like the groove section in the prior art, which is separate from the paper feed path for a slip used for slip printing. Thus, there is no chance of setting

the check into a wrong paper feed path. The positioning of the check is achieved by stopper means extending into the paper feed path. The stopper means is arranged such that it provides a stop for the leading end of a check inserted through the discharge opening but allows a slip a slip to pass in the direction toward the discharge opening. As a consequence, checks are accurately positioned

[0010] It is preferable that the stopper means be provided immediately following transfer roller means used to transfer a slip through paper feed path. This structure shortens the distance between a position where a slip is pinched by transfer rollers and a position where it engages the stopper. As a result, even slip of a very weak sheet of paper can exert the force required to pass the stopper means without being damaged or hindered.

[0011] In one embodiment, the paper feed path has a straight section contiguous to the discharge opening and a curved section contiguous to the insertion opening. In this case, the stopper means is preferably provided adjacent the area where the straight section connects to the curved section. In this case it is even more preferable to arrange the stopper means next to transfer roller means as mentioned above. As a result, a variety of types of check can be inserted even more smoothly and set in position even more accurately, and slips can be inserted and transferred without any problems, such as paper jamming or the like.

[0012] Preferred embodiments of the invention will be explained below in detail with reference to the drawings, in which

- Fig. 1 schematically shows a cross-sectional view of the internal structure of a printer in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention,
- Fig. 2 shows a front perspective view of the of the printer with a front cover removed,
- Fig. 3 shows a perspective view of a paper transfer section of the printer,
- Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of a roller drive mechanism of the printer,
- Fig. 5 shows a side view of the transfer system in one state,
- Fig. 6 shows a side view of a transfer system in another state,
- Fig. 7 shows a perspective view of a stopper in a one state,
- Fig. 8 shows a perspective view of the stopper in another state, and

Fig. 9 shows a side view of a conventional structure for positioning a sheet for validation printing.

[0013] Figs. 1 and 2 show the overall structure of a printer 1 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 1, the printer 1 has a main case 2 made of, for example, resin or the like. A roll S of paper is disposed in a rear part inside the main case 2. A paper transfer section 3 for transferring paper to be printed is mounted in a front part of the case 2. An ink jet printing section 4 for printing on the paper is disposed in front of the paper transfer section 3. The printing section 4 is covered by a front cover 5 made of resin or the like. The paper roll S, the paper transfer section 3 and the printing section 4 are mounted on a main frame 6 made of metal or the like. As shown in Fig. 2, the printing section 4 is capable of moving between the lateral sides of the main frame 6 along a guide rail 7 fixed to the main frame 6.

[0014] As shown in Fig. 1, an ink jet head 4a of the printing section 4 is disposed opposite a platen section 8 that is provided in the paper transfer section 3. A printing area is defined between the ink jet head 4a and the platen section 8. The paper roll S is rotatably supported on a pair of support rollers 10 and 11 disposed in parallel with a roll core 9. The outer end of the paper roll S is drawn from the lower side of the printer toward the upper side. A paper path for the roll paper from paper roll S is formed in the paper transfer section 3. In other words, the roll paper is guided and transferred by a paper guide 12 and a roller 13 to the platen section 8. After printing on the roll paper by the printing section 4, the roll paper is further transferred by a roller 14 and discharged through a discharge opening 16 defined in an upper cover 15. When cut-sheet paper (described below) is not inserted, the roll paper can be printed.

[0015] As shown in Fig. 1, the upper cover 15 is rotatably mounted about a pivot axis 17. In order to facilitate insertion of the roll paper, the platen section 8 is designed to move closer to and farther from the ink jet head 4a in association with the opening or closing of the upper cover 15. In other words, the platen section 8 and transfer roller 14 are supported on a frame which is rotatable about a shaft of the roller 13. This frame is connected to a lever 46 and is forced by a spring mounted on the lever 46 in a direction in which the platen section 8 and the roller 14 are moved away from the ink jet head 4a. With this mechanism, when the upper cover 15 is closed, a pressure lever 47 fixed to the interior of the upper cover 15 pushes an upper section of the lever 46, and the platen section 8 is moved closer to the ink jet head 4a into a position where printing can be performed. On the other hand, when the upper cover 15 is opened for setting the roll paper, the pressure of the pressure lever 47 is released from the lever 46. As a result, the platen section 8 is moved away from the ink jet head 4a by the resilient force of the spring mounted on the lever

46 and is placed in a retracted position. Consequently, the roll paper is smoothly guided past the printing section to the discharge opening 16.

[0016] The upper cover 15 and the front cover 5 define a discharge opening 18 in the upper central area of the printer for discharging cut-sheet paper (a slip 200 on which slip printing is performed or a check 500 on which validation printing is performed). As described below, the discharge opening 18 also serves as an insertion opening for validation printing. A set of discharge rollers 19 and 20 is disposed adjacent the discharge opening 18. A set of intermediate rollers 21 and 22 is disposed between the set of insertion rollers and the printing section 4, and a set of insertion rollers 23 and 24 is disposed below the printing section 4. These rollers and a pair of guide members 25 and 26 define a paper feed path for transferring a slip 200. As shown in Fig. 2, when slip printing is performed, a slip 200 is inserted into a paper insertion opening 27.

[0017] Figs. 3 and 4 show the paper transfer section 3 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0018] As shown in these figures each of the above mentioned sets of rollers in this embodiment comprises two pairs of rollers, each pair including a drive roller coupled to a drive source and an associated pinch roller. The two drive rollers of a respective set are fixed to the same shaft and the two pinch rollers have the same rotary axis. It is to be noted that the number of pairs of drive and pinch rollers in the respective sets of rollers is not critical to the invention.

[0019] As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the rollers 13 and 14 for transferring roll paper are mounted on a metal support frame 28 substantially U-shaped in cross-section. The support frame 28 is mounted on a metal transfer frame 29 that forms a paper feed path for cut-sheet paper. The roller 13 for transferring roll paper is formed from a material that is not slippery, such as rubber or the like, and has a drive shaft 30 coupled to a drive motor (not shown). The roller 13 and the roller 14 are rotated in the same direction by a gear train (not shown). The support frame 28 is pivotally mounted about the drive shaft 30 of the roller 13.

[0020] As shown in Fig. 3, insertion rollers 23 for transferring a slip 200 are mounted on a shaft 31 that is rotatably mounted on an open/close lever 37. Also, intermediate rollers 21 are mounted on a shaft 100 that is rotatably mounted on the transfer frame 29.

[0021] As shown in Fig. 4, the insertion rollers 23 are driven by a drive pulley 32 that is driven by a motor (not shown), a belt 33 and a pulley 34. The intermediate rollers 21 are driven by a gear 35 that is driven by the above-described motor via a gear 36 that engages the gear 35. The open/close lever 37 is pivotally mounted on the transfer frame 29 about a shaft 32a having the drive pulley 32 mounted on one end thereof and the gear 35 on the other end.

[0022] Referring to Figs. 5 and 6, a cut-sheet transfer

mechanism and its operation in the case of slip printing will be described. It is noted that the roll paper transfer mechanism shown in Fig. 1 is not shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

[0023] The paper insertion opening 27 is defined by the upper and lower guide members 25 and 26 and guides a slip 200. When the slip 200 is inserted, the rollers 23 are separated from the rollers 24 and do not obstruct insertion of the slip 200. At this moment, a tip section 101a of a stopper 101 protrudes from the lower guide member 25 into the paper feed path by the resilient force of a spring 103. When the slip 200 is inserted, its leading end is stopped at a position corresponding to that of the stopper 101. A paper detector 102 is provided generally at the same location as the tip section 101a of the stopper 101. The paper detector 102 detects insertion of the slip 200.

[0024] The detector 102 also detects the trailing end of the slip 200. Therefore, the detector 102 can be used, for example, to control the bottom margin on a slip (the position of the last printing line) that is pre-set prior to printing. As shown in Fig. 5, when the rollers 23 are separated from the rollers 24, the rollers 20 contact the rollers 19 under pressure. Therefore, a slip 200 cannot be inserted through the discharge opening 18 by mistake.

[0025] When the slip 200 stops at the stopper 101, and the paper detector detects that the slip is set in position, a controller section (not shown) activates a plunger 104 so that the armature of the plunger 104 moves in the direction of an arrow A as shown in Fig. 6. By this operation, the rollers 20 are separated from the rollers 19 via levers 105 and 106. At the same time, a spring 107 pushes a pin 37a of the open/close lever 37. As a result, the open/close lever 37 rotates about the shaft 32a in the direction of an arrow C, and the rollers 23 are brought into pressure contact with the rollers 24 with the slip 200 being pinched therebetween. In other words, the rollers 23 are pushed against the rollers 24 by the resilient force of the spring 107.

[0026] At this moment, the stopper 101 rotates against the spring force of the spring 103 in association with the motion of the open/close lever 37 in the direction of the arrow C, and thus the tip section 101a of stopper 101 is lowered below the lower guide member 25.

[0027] Then, the rollers 23, 24 are driven to transfer the slip 200 toward the ink jet head 4a. The rotation of the drive pulley 32 mounted on the shaft 32a is transferred through the belt 33 to the pulley 34 mounted on the same shaft as the rollers 23 so that the rollers 23 are rotated. The tension of the belt 33 is adjustable by finely adjusting the position of an adjusting pulley 37b that is mounted on the open/close lever 37. The tension of the belt 33 is factory-adjusted to an appropriate level.

[0028] As the slip 200 is advanced by the rotation of the rollers 23, 24, it is introduced between the intermediate rollers 21 and 22. The rollers 21 and 22 are always in pressure contact with each other. Rotational force of a drive motor (not shown) is transferred through the drive shaft 32a and the gears 35 and 36 to the rollers

21. The slip 200, that is transferred by the rollers 21, 22, 23 and 24, is introduced between the guide member 39 and the ink jet head 4a and printed. In a preferred embodiment, while the unshown drive motor for driving the rollers is stopped, the ink jet head 4a is moved along the guide rail 7 to print one line of characters. Then, the rollers are driven to move the slip 200 by a predetermined amount (for printing the next line), and then printing is performed by the ink jet head 4a again. These operation steps are repeated.

[0029] After passing the printing area between the guide member 39 and the ink jet head 4a, the slip 200 enters an open space between the rollers 19 and 20. The distance from the position at which the slip 200 abuts the tip section 101a of the stopper 101 to the position at which the slip 200 reaches the open space between the rollers 19 and 20 is known and a corresponding feeding amount is pre-set in the controller section that controls the motor for driving these transfer rollers. Thus, when the slip 200 has been transferred by the pre-set feeding amount, the slip 200 reaches the space between the rollers 19 and 20.

[0030] At this moment, the plunger 104 is activated so that the armature moves in the direction of an arrow B, as shown in Fig. 5, to move the levers 105 and 106. As a result, the rollers 20 are brought into pressure contact with the rollers 19 and the leading end of the slip 200 is pinched by the rollers 19 and 20. Accordingly, the slip 200 can be transferred by the rollers 19 and 20. The pressure force acting between the rollers 19 and 20 is determined by the spring 108. When the armature of the plunger 104 moves in the direction of the arrow B, an abutting section 105a of the lever 105 pushes up the spring 107. As a result, the spring 107 is released from the pin 37a of the lever 37, and the resilient force of the spring 107 that acts to bring the rollers 23 in pressure contact with the rollers 24 is removed. The open/close lever 37 rotates about the shaft 32a in the direction of an arrow D due to the weight of the rollers 23.

[0031] As a result, the pressure contact between the rollers 23 and rollers 24 is released, and the rollers 23 are separated from the rollers 24. In this state, the slip is transferred by the rotation of the two sets of the rollers 19, 20, 21 and 22. Also, at this moment, the spring force of the spring 103 forces the tip section 101a of the stopper 101 to protrude above the lower guide member 25 into the paper feed path. However, since the spring force of the spring 103 is set to be very weak, the tip section 101a cannot push up the slip 200 and does not prevent it from being advanced.

[0032] As described above, when slip printing is performed on a slip 200, the slip is transferred by the rollers 23 and 24 immediately after it is inserted. When the leading end of the slip has passed the rollers 21 and 22, the slip is transferred by the two sets of the rollers 23, 24, 21 and 22. When the leading end of the slip has reached the rollers 19 and 20, the slip is transferred by the two sets of rollers 20, 19, 21 and 22. When the trail-

ing end of the slip has passed the rollers 21 and 22, the slip is transferred only by the rollers 19 and 20. By the paper transfer system described above, even a very short sheet of paper is accurately transferred when it is longer than the distance between the rollers 23 and 24 and the rollers 21 and 22 and longer than the distance between the rollers 21 and 22 and the rollers 19 and 20. The entire surface even of a very short slip can be printed. Furthermore, unless a slip is very long, no more than two sets of the rollers pinch and transfer a slip at a time. As a result, problems, such as wrinkles that may be formed in a sheet of paper by pinching it by too many rollers are not likely to occur and, therefore, the slip is securely transferred.

[0033] Next, a transfer mechanism and an operation for transferring a check for validation printing will be described in detail. Validation printing by a printer in accordance with the present invention is performed in the following manner. While the rollers 19 and 20 are separated, a check 500 is inserted through the discharge opening 18 down to an area adjacent the rollers 21 and 22. After setting the check in position (described in more detail below), the plunger 104 is activated by a corresponding command or key operation to bring the rollers 19 and 20 in pressure contact with each other. After the rollers 19 and 20 pinch the check, the ink jet head 4a is operated to print on the check, and the rollers 19 are driven as required so that the check is transferred back toward the discharge opening while it is being printed.

[0034] In this manner, when a check can be inserted for validation printing, the rollers 23 and 24 are closed, and therefore prevent a check for validation printing from being inserted through the insertion opening 27 by mistake.

[0035] Figs. 7 and 8 show perspective views of an area adjacent the intermediate rollers 21, 22. Fig. 7 shows a state where a check 500 for validation printing is inserted, and Fig. 8 shows a state where a slip 200 for slip printing is inserted.

[0036] A plurality of stoppers 222 are pivotally mounted on the same shaft that mounts the intermediate rollers 22. Each of the stoppers 222 is biased by relatively weak spring force of a spring 223 (a torsion spring in this embodiment) into a stopping position in which a protrusion 222b extends through a window 251 that is defined in the paper guide, into the paper feed path (the contact between the lower window edge and the lower face of the protrusion defines the stopping position)..

[0037] When a check 500 for validation printing is inserted through the discharge opening 18 while the rollers 19 and 20 are opened, the leading end of the check 500 abuts against the upper surface 222a of the protrusions 222b of the stoppers 222 so that the check 500 is set in position, as shown in Fig. 7. At this moment, the leading end of the check 500 does not contact the rollers 21 and 22. Then, the plunger 104 is activated to bring the rollers 20 and 19 into pressure contact with each other, the rollers 20 and 19 are driven as required and

the check 500 is printed.

[0038] On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 8, when a slip 200 for slip printing is fed, its leading end passes the rollers 21 and 22 and pushes up the protrusion 222b of the stoppers 222. As a result, the stoppers 222 rotate in a direction in which the paper feed path is opened. By this operation, the slip 200 can be transferred further upward. In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, the stoppers 222 are provided on the same shaft as the roller 21 or 22. This results in a short distance between the location where a slip 200 is pinched by the rollers 21 and 22 and the location at which the leading end of the slip abuts against the stoppers 222 and has to withstand the reaction force imparted by the stoppers to the slip edge as the stoppers are moved to free the paper feed path for passage of the slip. As a result, even a very weak slip (i.e. paper of relatively low stiffness) can be readily transferred, and slips for slip printing are transferred free of troubles.

[0039] As shown in the figures, the paper feed path for cut-sheet paper between the insertion opening 27 and the discharge opening 18 comprises a first curved section and a second straight or substantially straight section. The curved section extends from the insertion opening up to the intermediate rollers 21, 22 and the straight section extends from the intermediate rollers to the discharge opening 18. The straight section is used in common for slips 220 and checks 500 and includes the printing area. Therefore, thin and weak paper can be as easily inserted as a check as can thick and strong paper. Furthermore, in the preferred embodiment described above, the stoppers 220 which define the lowermost position of the lower (leading) end of a check inserted through the discharge opening 18, extend into the straight section of the paper feed path just above the intermediate rollers 21, 22. Because of this structure a check can be easily positioned and, different from the structure shown in Fig. 9, there is no danger that a check, even if its leading end is curved or bent, unintentionally enters a wrong paper feed path.

[0040] In a preferred embodiment, the plunger is a self-holding type plunger that performs pulling or pushing of its armature by an electrical current applied for only a short period of time. As a result, power consumption by the printer is lowered.

[0041] Preferably, when the roll paper from paper roll S is printed, the rollers 23 and 24 are kept open and the rollers 19 and 20 are kept closed. As a result, when printing on the roll paper, the rollers 19 and 20 are closed, and therefore a check for validation printing cannot be inserted to the printing area. Also, even though the rollers 23 and 24 are opened, the tip section 101a of the stopper 101 protrudes in the paper feed path. As a consequence, a slip for slip printing can also not be inserted into the printing area. In this manner, when printing on the roll paper, the insertion opening 27 and the discharge opening 18 of the paper feed path for cut-sheet paper and the printing area are closed. Therefore, cut-

sheet paper cannot be inserted by mistake while printing on roll paper.

[0042] In the structure in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, the plunger is operated by a respective command or key operation to separate the rollers 19 and 20 from each other or bring the rollers 19 and 20 into pressure contact with each other. As a result, the printing area and a part of the paper feed path for slip printing are also used for validation printing in which a check is inserted through the discharge opening that is used for discharging both slips and checks. Moreover, the structure can accommodate a variety of different modes of usage and different types of paper. Also, during a specified print mode, a sheet of paper for a different print mode cannot be inserted by mistake.

[0043] It should be noted that the present invention is not limited to the embodiment described above, and a variety of modifications may be implemented.

[0044] For example, in the above-described embodiment, the description is made with reference to a printer that incorporates an ink jet head. However, the present invention is not limited to this particular embodiment, and the present invention is also applicable to a printer having any one of various types of print head, such as a dot impact type print head and the like.

[0045] Furthermore, the present invention is not limited to a printer for printing bills or bank checks, but is also applicable to other types of printers. Also, as mentioned previously, the reference to slips and checks in the foregoing description was only for the purpose of convenience and by no means intended to be restrictive. Both slip and check are representative for any kind of cut-sheet paper to which slip printing or validation printing may be applied.

Claims

1. A printer for printing on cut-sheet paper comprising:
 - a first insertion opening (27) for inserting cut-sheet paper (200),
 - a combined discharge/insertion opening (18) for inserting and discharging cut-sheet paper (200, 500),
 - a paper feed path connecting said insertion opening (27) and said discharge/insertion opening (18),
 - a printing area (4a, 8) provided in said paper feed path for printing on cut-sheet paper (200, 500) inserted into said paper feed path through said insertion opening (27) or said discharge/insertion opening (18),
 - means for transporting said cut-sheet paper in said paper feed path through said printing area, and
 - means (222, 222a, 222b) for positioning the leading end of cut-sheet paper (500) inserted

through said discharge/insertion opening (18),

characterized in that said positioning means comprises stopper means (222, 222a, 222b) arranged to allow passage of cut-sheet paper (200) through the paper feed path in a first direction from the insertion opening (27) toward the discharge/insertion opening (18) but to prevent passage of cut-sheet paper (500) in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

2. The printer according to claim 1, wherein said paper feed path is divided at a position between said insertion opening (27) and said discharge/insertion opening (18) into a first substantially straight section on the discharge/insertion opening side and a second curved section on the insertion opening side, the printing area (4a, 8) being in the first section.
3. The printer according to claims 1 and 2, wherein said stopper means (222, 222a, 222b) is positioned at or near said position at which the paper feed path is divided into said first and second sections.
4. The printer according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising transfer roller means (21, 22) for transporting cut-sheet paper (200) along the paper feed path, the transfer roller means being disposed intermediate said insertion opening (27) and said printing area (4a, 8).
5. The printer according to claim 4 and any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said stopper means (222, 222b) is positioned between said transfer roller means (21, 22) and said printing area (4a, 8).
6. The printer according to claim 5, wherein said stopper means (222) is provided immediately next to said transfer roller means (21, 22).
7. The printer according to claim 6, wherein said stopper means comprises one or more stopper members (222) supported on an axis coaxial with a rotary axis of said transfer roller means (21, 22) so as to be turnable between a first and a second position, and biasing means (223) for biasing the one or more stopper members into said first position, each stopper member (222) having a protrusion (222b) extending into the paper feed path in said first position and having an abutment face (222a) for abutment by cut-sheet paper (500) inserted in said second direction, and retracted in said second position so as to allow passage of cut-sheet paper (200) in said first direction, said stopper members and biasing means being arranged such that the stopper members are turnable toward said second position by cut-sheet paper advanced by said transfer roller means (21, 22) in said first direction.

Patentansprüche

1. Drucker zum Drucken auf Papierbögen mit:

einer ersten Eingabeöffnung (27) zum Eingeben von Papierbögen (200),
einer kombinierten Abgabe/Eingabeöffnung (18) zum Eingeben und Abgeben von Papierbögen (200, 500),
einem Papiertransportweg, der die Eingabeöffnung (27) und die Abgabe/Eingabeöffnung (18) verbindet,
einem in dem Papiertransportweg vorgesehenen Druckbereich (4a, 8) zum Drucken auf durch die Eingabeöffnung (27) oder die Abgabe/Eingabeöffnung (18) in den Papiertransportweg eingegebenen Papierbögen (200, 500),
einer Einrichtung zum Transport der Papierbögen in dem Papiertransportweg durch den Druckbereich hindurch, und
einer Einrichtung (222, 222a, 222b) zur Positionierung des vorderen Endes eines durch die Abgabe/Eingabeöffnung (18) eingegebenen Papierbogens,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Positionierungseinrichtung eine Anschlagseinrichtung (222, 222a, 222b) umfaßt, die so ausgebildet ist, daß sie den Durchlauf von Papierbögen (200) durch den Papiertransportweg in einer ersten Richtung von der Eingabeöffnung (27) zur Abgabe/Eingabeöffnung (18) erlaubt, jedoch den Durchgang von Papierbögen in einer zweiten Richtung, entgegengesetzt der ersten Richtung, verhindert.

2. Drucker nach Anspruch 1, bei dem der Papiertransportweg an einer Stelle zwischen der Eingabeöffnung (27) und der Abgabe/Eingabeöffnung (18) unterteilt ist in einen ersten im wesentlichen geraden Abschnitt auf Seiten der Abgabe/Eingabeöffnung und einen zweiten gekrümmten Abschnitt auf Seiten der Eingabeöffnung, wobei der Druckbereich (4a, 8) im ersten Abschnitt liegt.
3. Drucker nach Anspruch 1 und 2, bei dem die Anschlagseinrichtung (222, 222a, 222b) an oder in der Nähe derjenigen Stelle angeordnet ist, an der der Papiertransportweg in den ersten und zweiten Abschnitt unterteilt ist.
4. Drucker nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, ferner umfassend eine Transportwalzenanordnung (21, 22) zum Transport von Papierbögen längs dem Papiertransportweg, wobei die Transportwalzenanordnung zwischen der Eingabeöffnung (27) und dem Druckbereich (4a, 8) angeordnet ist.

5. Drucker nach Anspruch 4 und irgendeinem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, bei dem die Anschlagseinrichtung (222, 222b) zwischen der Transportwalzenanordnung (21, 22) und dem Druckbereich (4a, 8) angeordnet ist. 5
6. Drucker nach Anspruch 5, bei dem die Anschlagseinrichtung (222) unmittelbar neben der Transportwalzenanordnung (21, 22) angeordnet ist. 10
7. Drucker nach Anspruch 6, bei dem die Anschlagseinrichtung eines oder mehrere Anschlagsglieder (222) aufweist, die auf einer Achse coaxial zur Drehachse der Transportwalzenanordnung (21, 22) derartig gelagert sind, daß sie zwischen einer ersten und einer zweiten Position verschwenkbar sind, sowie eine Vorspanneinrichtung (223), die das eine oder die mehreren Anschlagsglieder in die erste Position vorspannt, wobei jedes Anschlagsglied (222) einen Vorsprung (222b) hat, der sich in der ersten Position in den Papiertransportweg erstreckt, und eine Anschlagfläche (222a) für die Anlage eines in der zweiten Richtung eingegebenen Papierbogens (500) hat, und in der zweiten Position zurückgezogen ist, um den Durchlauf eines Papierbogens (200) in der ersten Richtung zu erlauben, wobei die Anschlagsglieder und die Vorspanneinrichtung so angeordnet sind, daß die Anschlagsglieder von einem Papierbogen in die zweite Position verschwenkbar sind, welcher von der Transportwalzenanordnung (21, 22) in der ersten Richtung vorwärts bewegt wird. 15
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Revendications 35

1. Imprimante pour imprimer sur du papier en forme de feuilles découpées comportant 40
 une première ouverture (27) d'insertion pour insérer du papier (200) en forme de feuilles découpées,
 une ouverture (18) combinée de décharge/insertion pour l'insertion et la décharge du papier (200, 500) en forme de feuilles découpées, 45
 un trajet d'alimentation en papier reliant l'ouverture (27) d'insertion et l'ouverture (18) d'insertion/décharge,
 une zone (4a, 8) d'impression disposée dans le trajet d'alimentation en papier pour imprimer 50
 sur du papier (200, 500) en forme de feuilles découpées inséré dans le trajet d'alimentation en papier par l'ouverture (27) d'insertion ou l'ouverture (18) d'insertion/décharge,
 des moyens destinés à transporter le papier en forme de feuilles découpées dans le trajet d'alimentation en papier passant par la zone d'impression, et 55

des moyens (222, 222a, 222b) destinés à positionner l'extrémité d'attaque du papier (500) en forme de feuilles découpées inséré par l'ouverture (18) de décharge/insertion,

caractérisée en ce que les moyens de positionnement comportent des moyens (222, 222a, 222b) d'arrêt disposés pour permettre le passage du papier (200) en forme de feuilles découpées par le trajet d'alimentation en papier suivant une première direction à partir de l'ouverture (27) d'insertion en direction de l'ouverture (18) de décharge/insertion, mais empêcher le passage du papier (500) en forme de feuilles découpées suivant une seconde direction opposée à la première direction.

2. Imprimante suivant la revendication 1, dans laquelle le trajet d'alimentation en papier est divisé à une position entre l'ouverture (27) d'insertion et l'ouverture (18) de décharge/insertion en une première section sensiblement droite sur le côté d'ouverture de décharge/insertion et une seconde section incurvée sur le côté d'ouverture d'insertion, la zone (4a, 8) d'impression étant dans la première section.
3. Imprimante suivant la revendication 1 et 2, dans laquelle les moyens (222, 222a, 222b) d'arrêt sont positionnés à la position à laquelle le trajet d'alimentation en papier est divisé en les première et seconde sections ou à proximité de cette position.
4. Imprimante suivant l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comportant en outre des moyens (21, 22) à galets de transfert, destinés à transporter le papier (200) en forme de feuilles découpées le long du trajet d'alimentation en papier, les moyens à galets de transfert étant disposés intermédiaires entre l'ouverture (27) d'insertion et la zone (4a, 8) d'impression.
5. Imprimante suivant la revendication 4 et l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans laquelle les moyens (222, 222b) d'arrêt sont positionnés entre les moyens (21, 22) à galets de transfert et la zone (4a, 8) d'impression.
6. Imprimante suivant la revendication 5, dans laquelle les moyens (222) d'arrêt sont disposés immédiatement à proximité des moyens (21, 22) à galets de transfert.
7. Imprimante suivant la revendication 6, dans laquelle les moyens d'arrêt comportent un ou plusieurs éléments (222) d'arrêt supportés sur un axe coaxial à un axe de rotation des moyens (21, 22) à galets de transfert, de manière à pouvoir être tournés entre une première et une seconde position, et des moyens (223) de sollicitation destinés à solliciter le-

dit un ou plusieurs éléments d'arrêt en la première position, chaque élément (222) d'arrêt ayant une saillie (222b) s'étendant dans le trajet d'alimentation en papier dans la première position et ayant une face (222a) de butée pour une butée avec le papier (500) en forme de feuilles découpées inséré dans la seconde direction, et qui se rétracte dans la seconde position de manière à laisser le passage du papier (200) en forme de feuilles découpées dans la première direction, les éléments d'arrêt et les moyens de sollicitation étant disposés de sorte que les éléments d'arrêt peuvent être tournés en direction de la seconde position par du papier en forme de feuilles découpées avancé par les moyens (21, 22) à galets de transfert dans la première direction.

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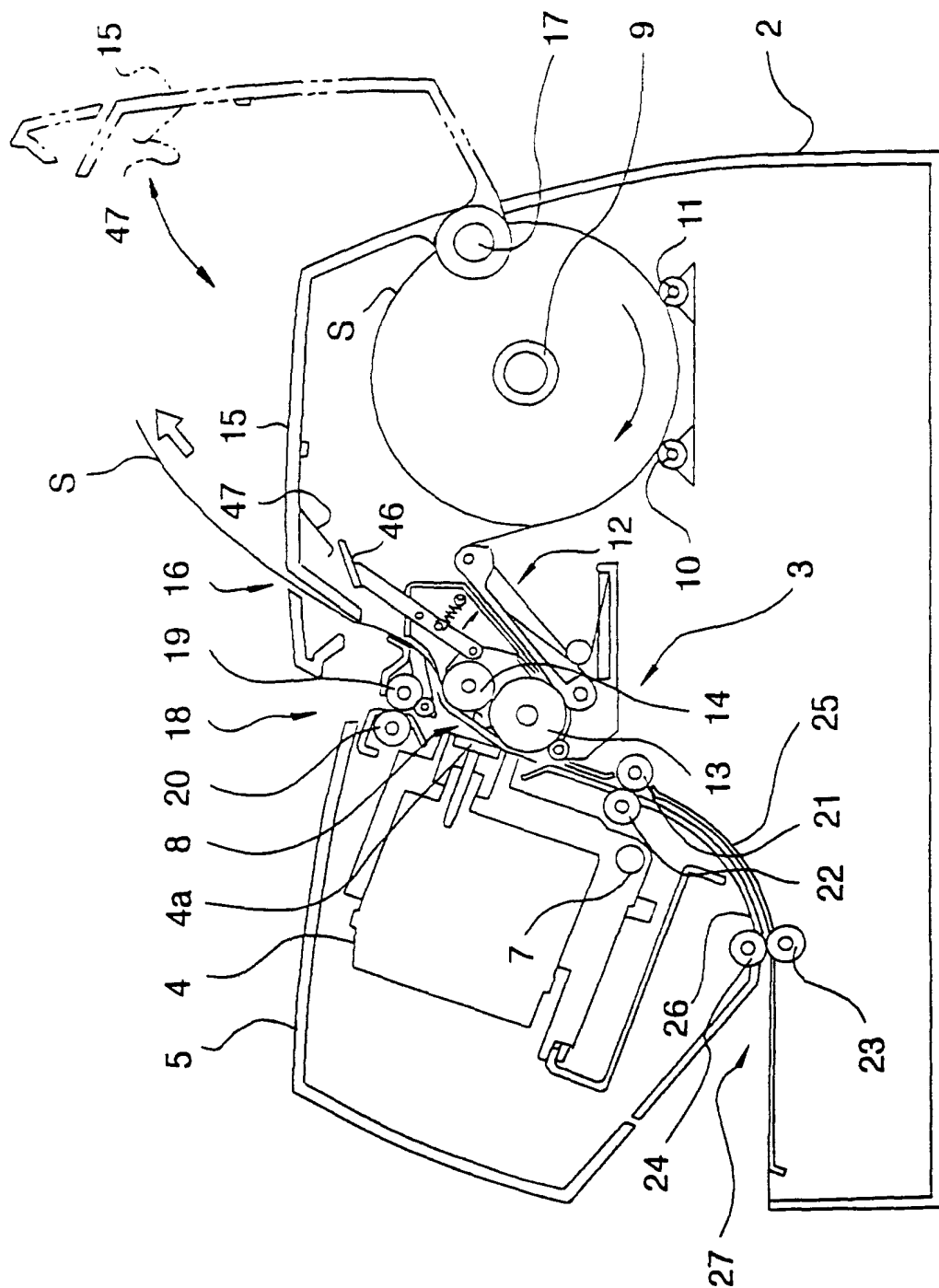


FIG. 1

1

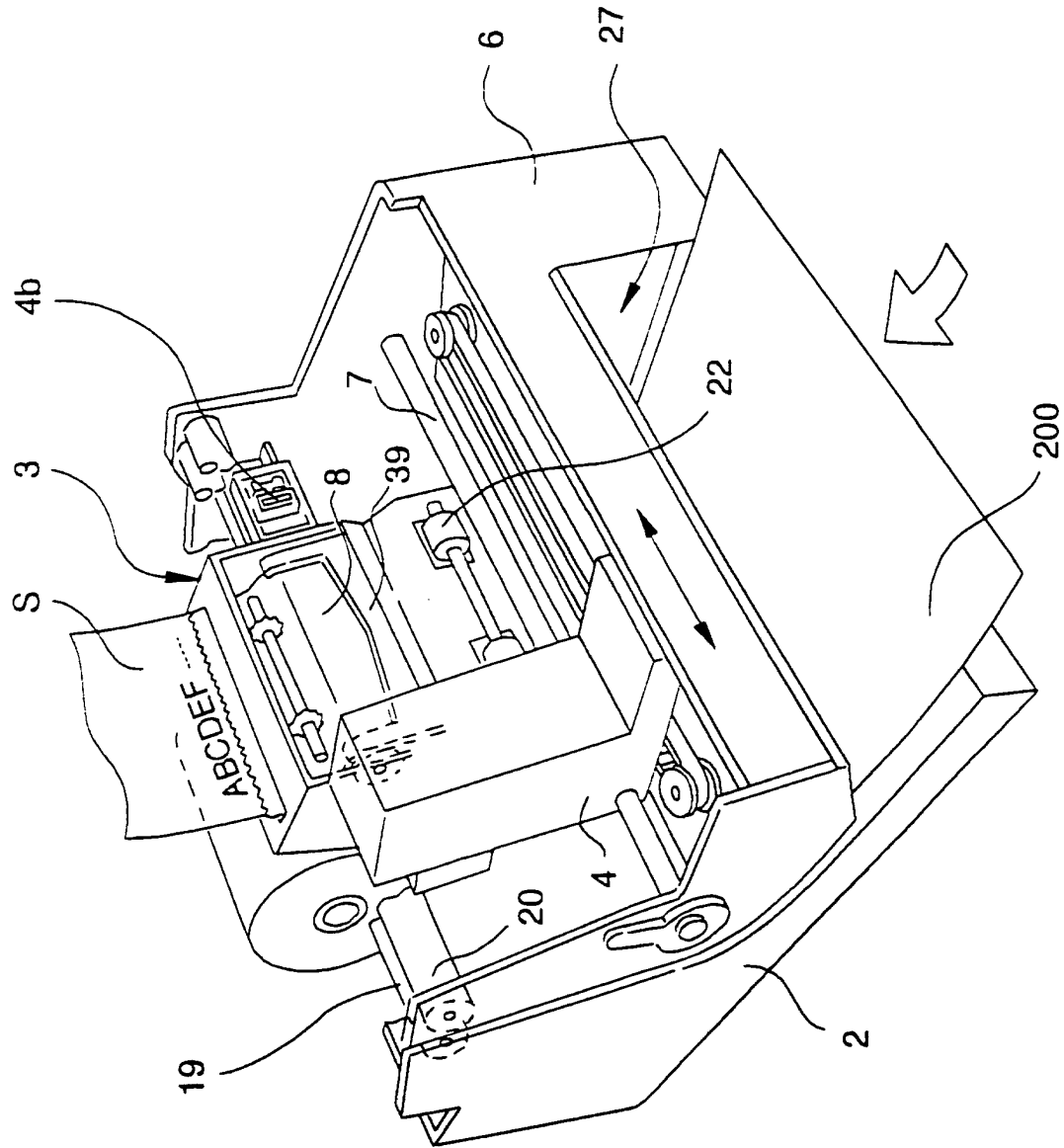


FIG. 2

3

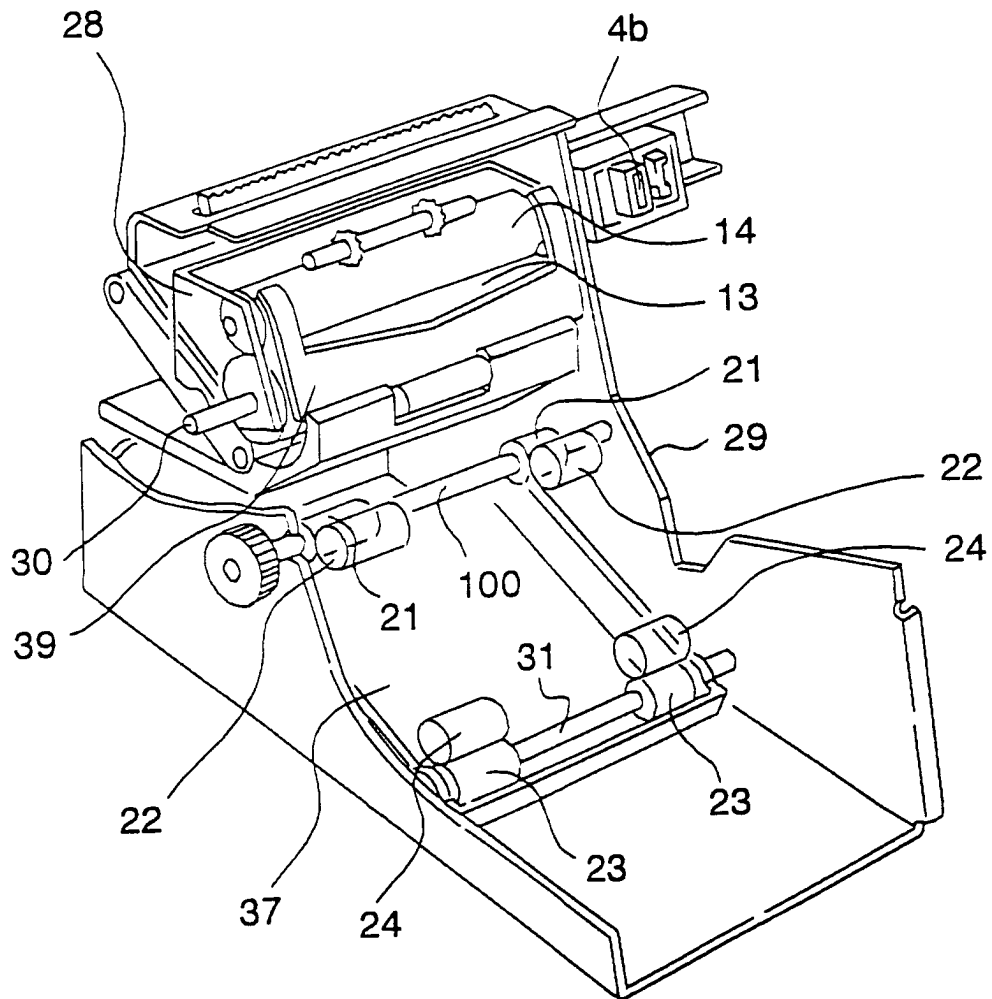


FIG. 3

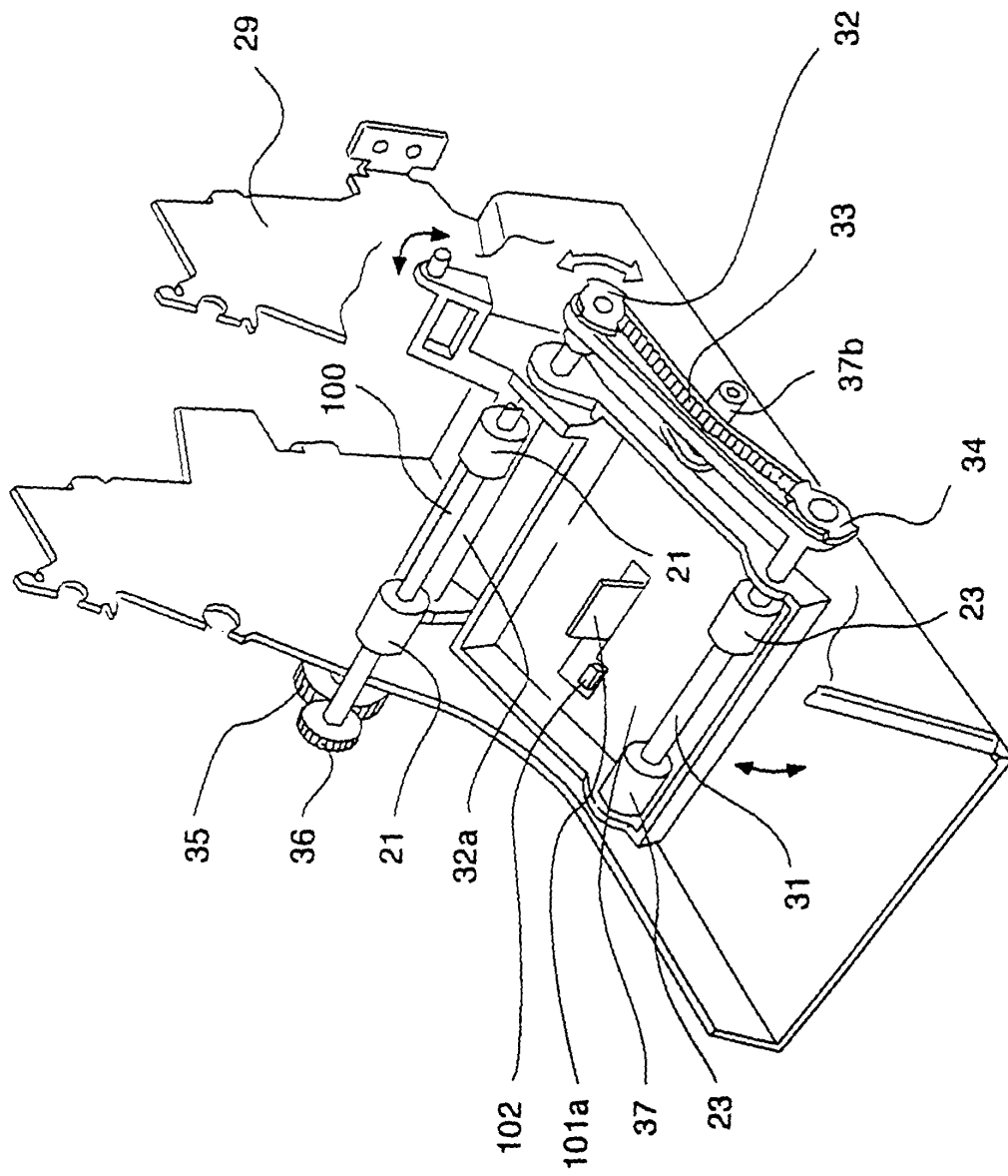


FIG. 4

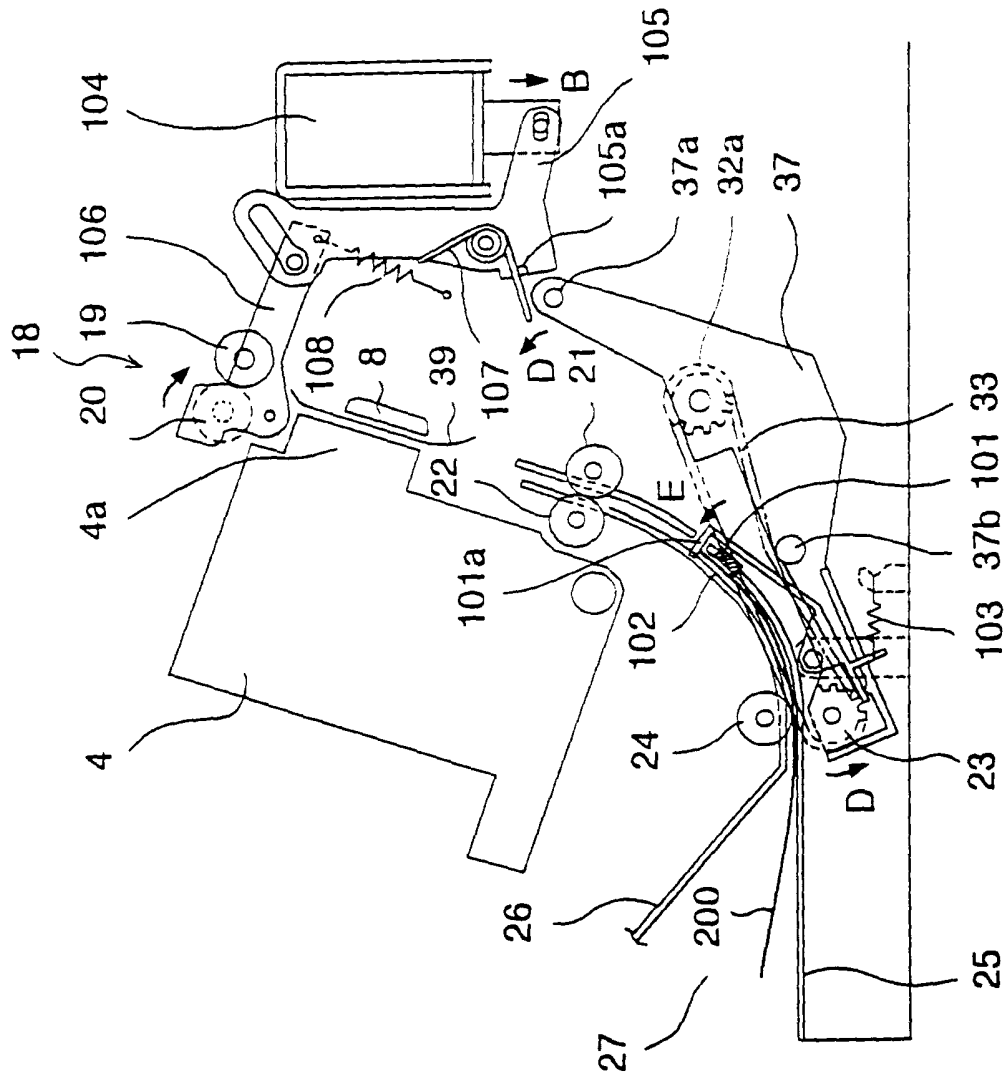


FIG. 5

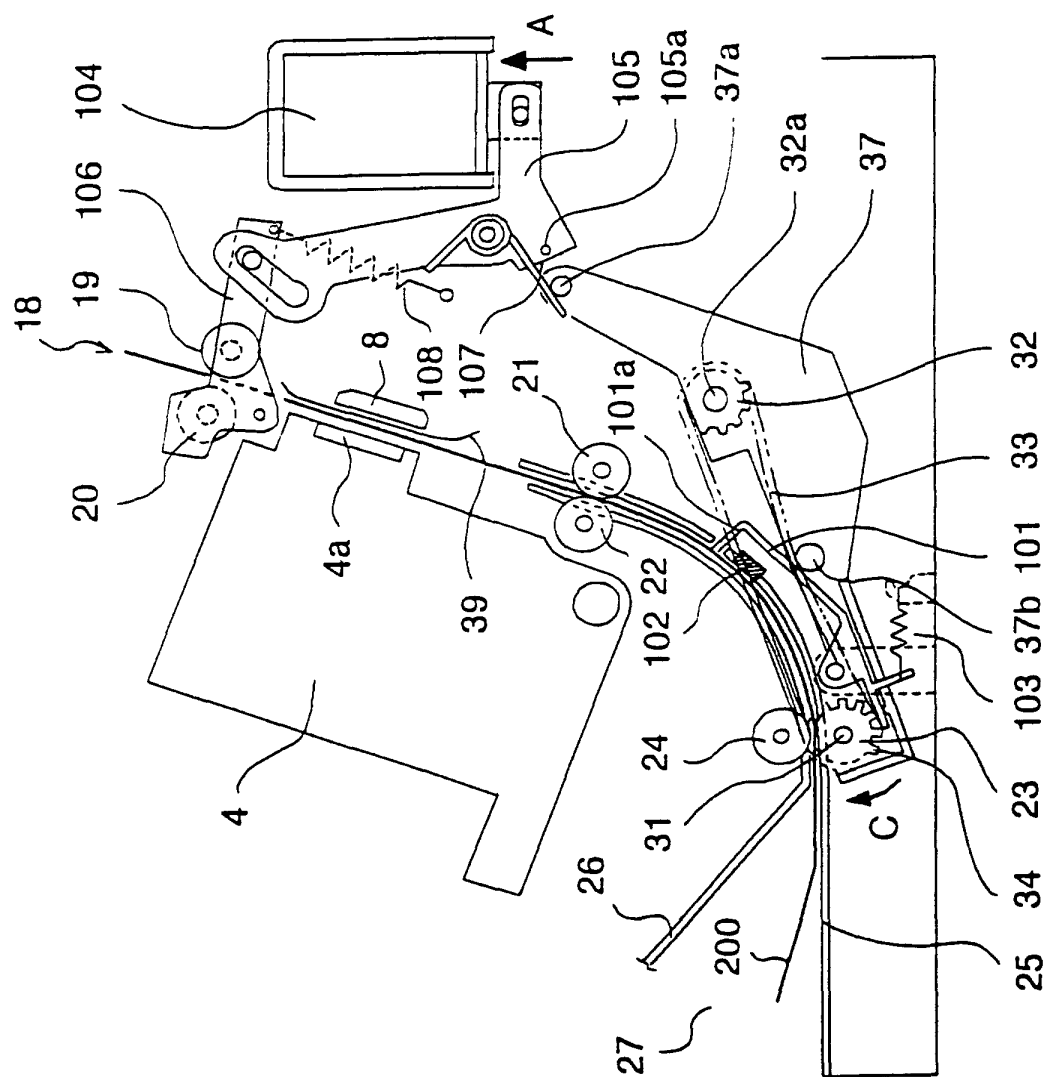


FIG. 6

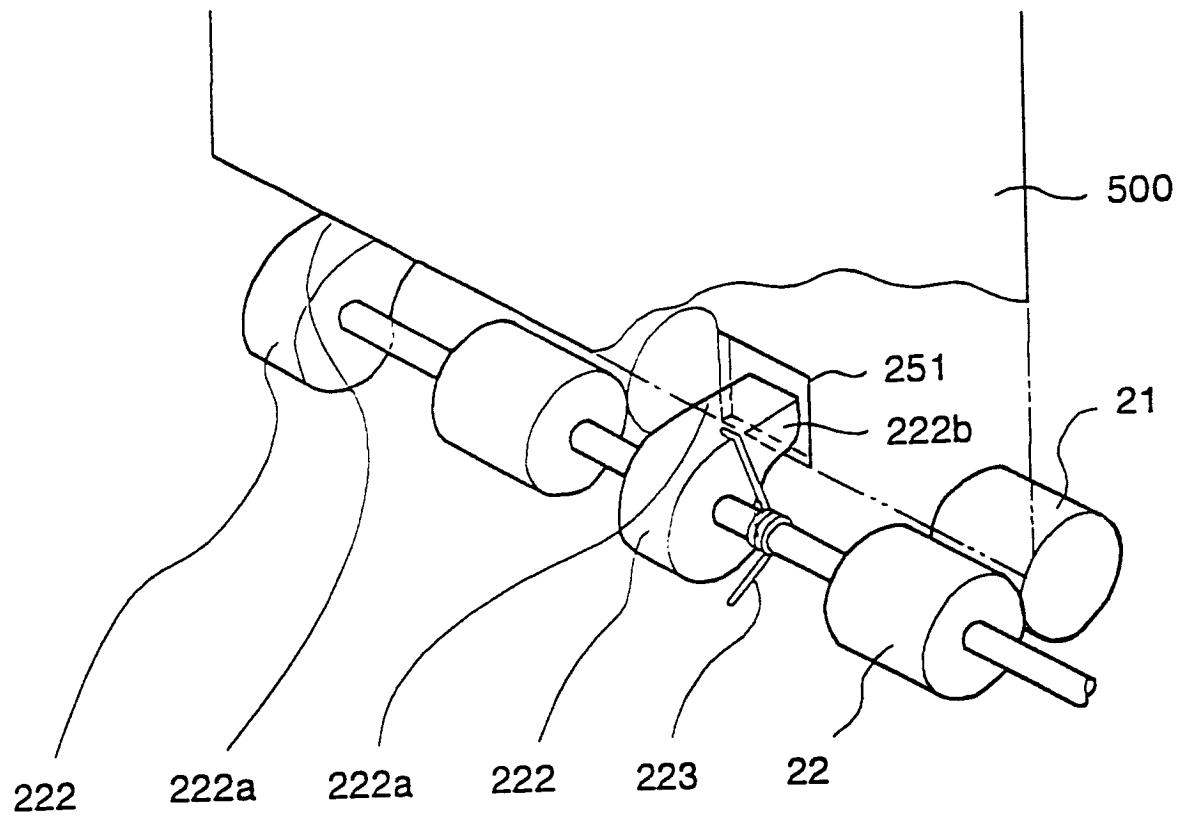


FIG. 7

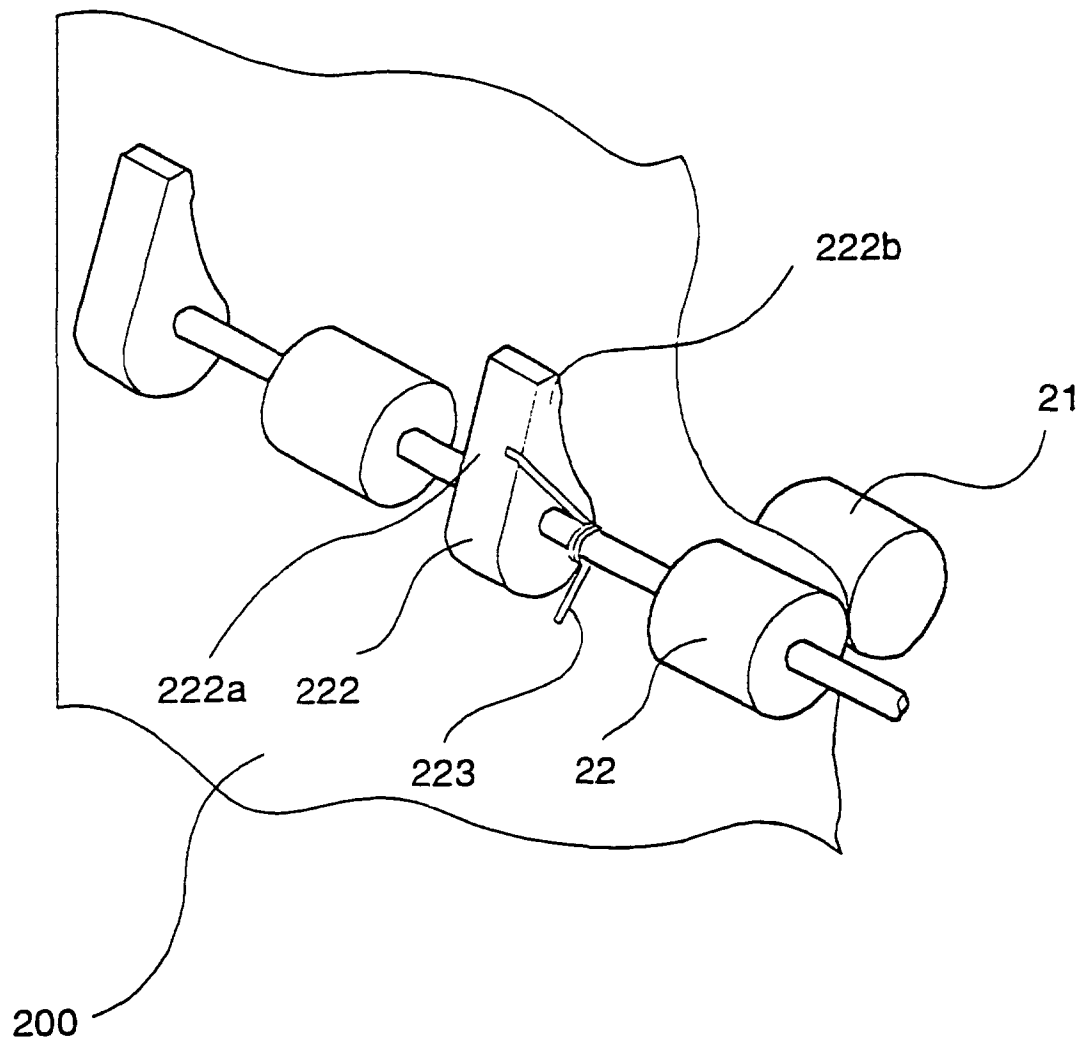


FIG. 8

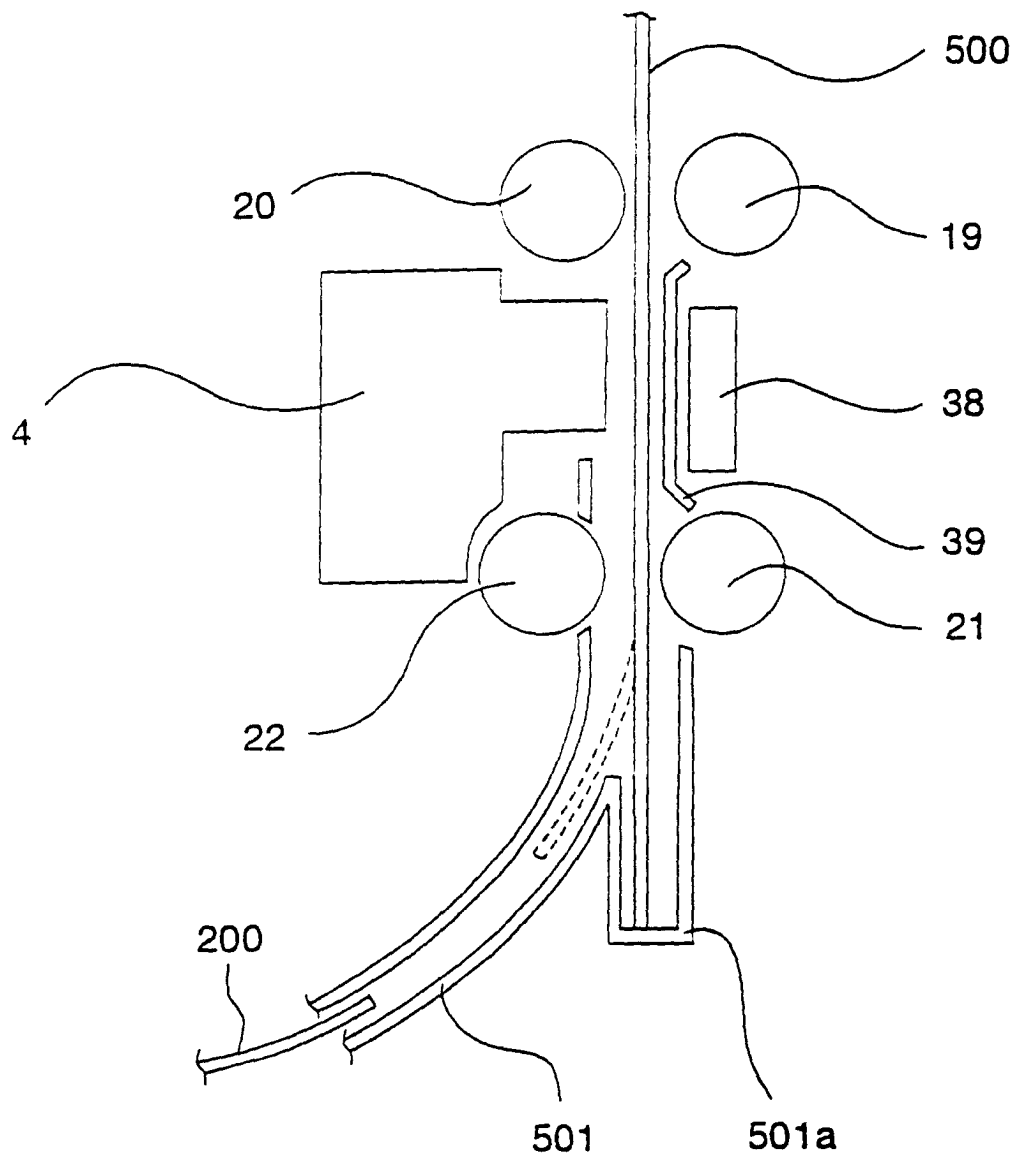


FIG. 9