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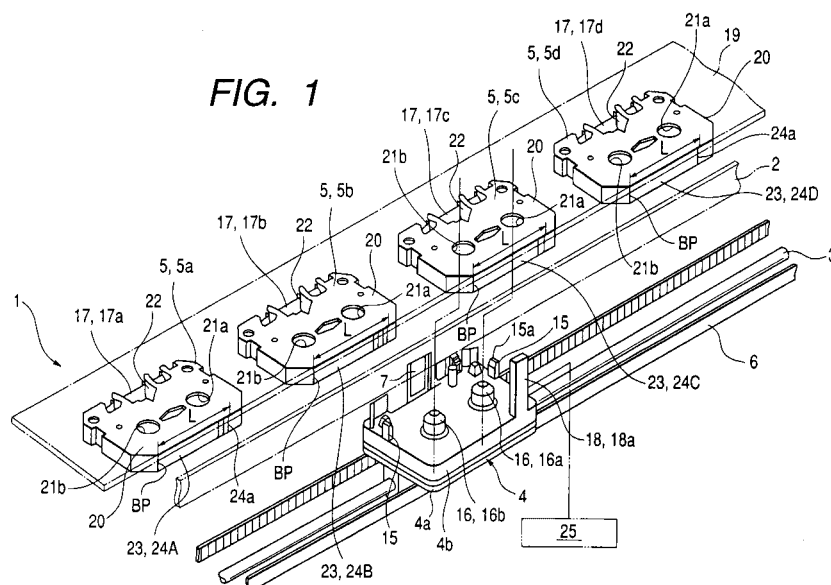
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(54) **Thermal transfer printer**

(57) It is the object of the present invention to provide a thermal transfer printer which can realize a correct transfer even on the portion where the ink is overlaid on the already transferred ink or slightly transferred with the use of durable resin-based ink and a vivid multi-gradation recording.

To achieve this object, the thermal transfer printer according to the present invention is provided with an

ink ribbon (17) comprising a base substance (26), a separating layer (27) laminated on the base substance (26), and a resin-based ink layer (28) laminated on the separating layer (27), and a heat insulation layer (31) formed on a recording paper (29), and a control unit (25) for controlling a time of carrying a current to the thermal head (7) in a plurality of steps according to the gradation of an image to be recorded.





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                      |                                                 |
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| Place of search<br>THE HAGUE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                              | Date of completion of the search<br>22 December 1999 | Examiner<br>Meulemans, J-P                      |
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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                    |                                                             |                                              |
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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