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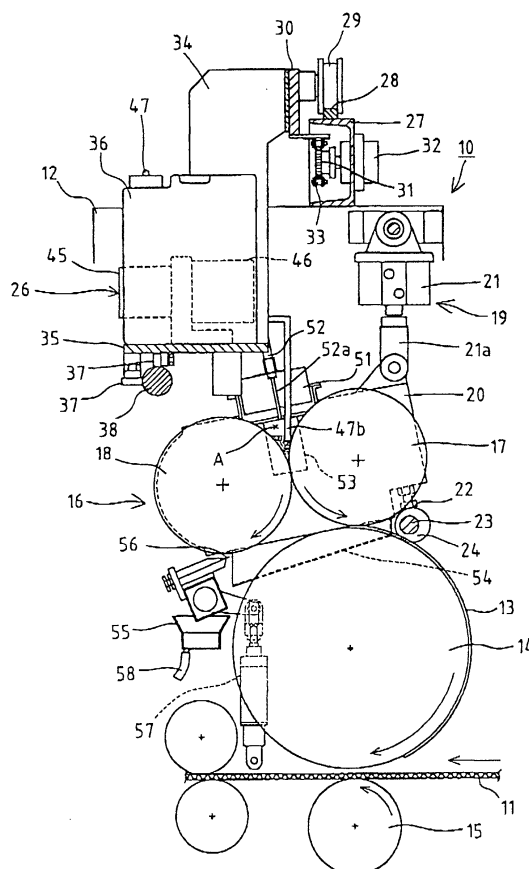
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(54) Apparatus and method for preventing ink from getting dry

(57) An apparatus for printing sheets includes a plate cylinder (14) with a printing die (13) mounted thereon and an impression cylinder (15) disposed to oppose said plate cylinder. In the apparatus, sheets are passed through a clearance between the plate cylinder and the impression cylinder to carry out printing on the sheets. The apparatus further includes an ink transfer roll (17) and means for regulating an amount of the ink transferred, so that when printing is carried out, the ink is transferred to the printing die, while at the same time the ink transferred is regulated as the ink transfer roll rotates in contact with the printing die of the plate cylinder while the regulating means contacts a surface of the ink transfer roll. The apparatus further includes an ink fountain (A) provided between the ink transfer roll and the ink regulating means along an axial direction thereof, and an ink reservoir (36) for reserving the ink which is disposed above and adjacent to the ink fountain. At least one tube body (47) is provided between the ink reservoir and the ink fountain in such a way that one open end (47b) of the tube body communicates with the ink reservoir and another open end thereof opens into the ink fountain. The apparatus further includes means (46) for transferring the ink between the ink fountain and the ink reservoir through the tube body and means (32) for reciprocally moving the ink reservoir, the tube body, and the ink transfer means unitarily along the axial direction of the ink fountain.

FIG. 1





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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			B41F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 16 October 2002	Examiner Loncke, J
<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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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