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(72) Inventor: **Seino, Takumi, c/o SII P & S Inc.**
Chiba-shi, Chiba (JP)

(74) Representative: **Sturt, Clifford Mark et al**
Miller Sturt Kenyon
9 John Street
London WC1N 2ES (GB)

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(71) Applicant: **SII P & S INC.**
Chiba-shi, Chiba 261-8507 (JP)

(54) **Thermal printer**

(57) To provide a thermal printer in which a planar area may be reduced when the printer is mounted on various information equipments.

The printer is composed of an operating piece (5d) formed by extending one end portion of a rotary shaft support portion (5a) of a lock arm (5) in a direction away from a platen roller (2) and a downwardly depressing

means (slide type release lever L1, rotary type release lever L2) engaging with the operating piece for downwardly depressing this operating piece against a biasing force of a biasing means. There is provided a platen roller release means for releasing the engagement condition between the rotary shaft of the platen roller and the rotary shaft support portion of the lock arm member.

FIG. 1A

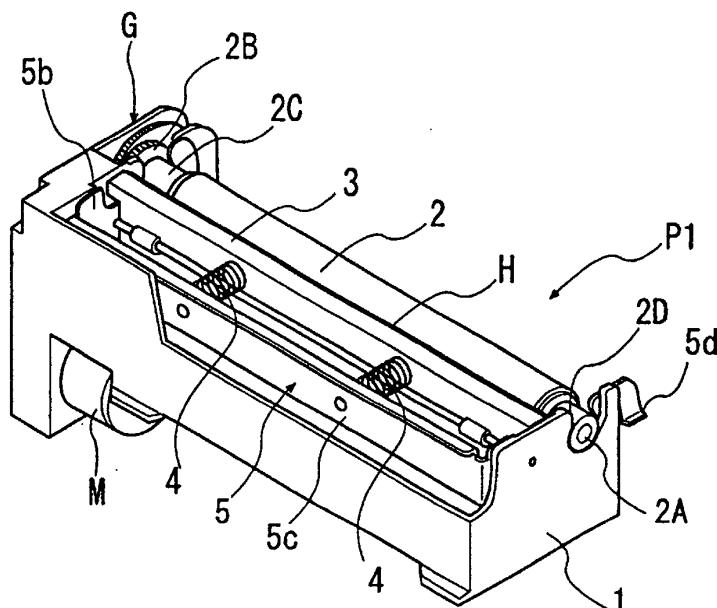
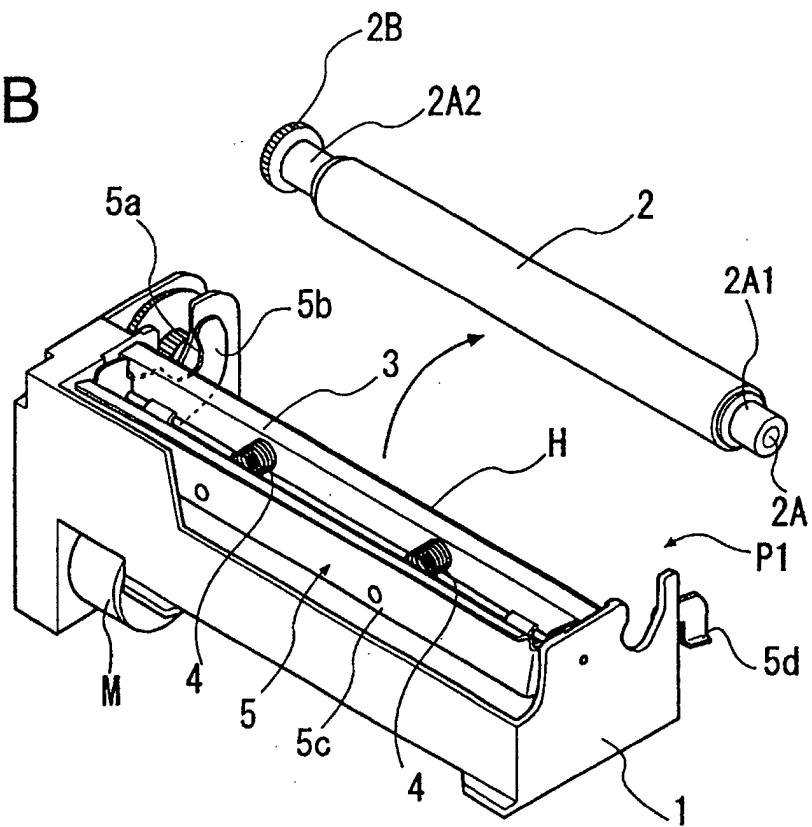


FIG. 1B





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH		14 November 2003	Axters, M
<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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EP 02 25 8479

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