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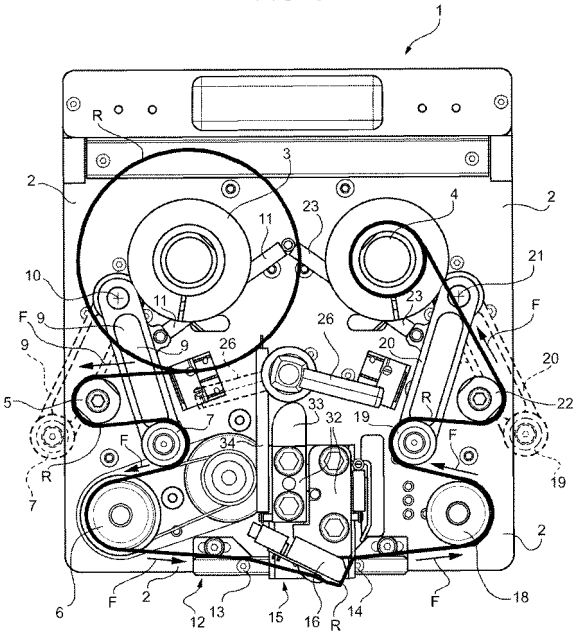
(54) Machine for printing images on articles

(57) The machine (1) comprises a support structure (2) on which a reel (3) for unwinding the ink ribbon (R) and a reel (4) for rewinding the used ribbon (R) are rotatably mounted. Between said reels (3, 4) there is defined a path for the ribbon (R), including a first and a second pair of transmission rollers (5, 6; 18, 22) between which a thermal print head (16) is arranged.

The machine (1) also comprises a first and second tensioning device (7, 9, 11; 19, 20, 23) including respective tensioning rollers (7, 19) each movable along a trajectory which intersects the path of the ribbon (R) between the two transmission rollers (5, 6; 18, 22) of each pair.

A switching device (24-26) is connected to the tensioning rollers (7, 19) of the tensioning devices (7, 9, 11; 19, 20, 23) and is able to be set selectively to
a first condition (Figure 2) where the tensioning rollers (7, 19) are arranged in a disengaged position where they extend externally and at a distance from the ribbon path (R) between the corresponding pair of transmission rollers (5, 6; 18, 22), and
a second condition where the tensioning rollers (7, 19) are free to assume, under the action of one or more springs (11, 23; 40), an operative position where the ribbon (R) is engaged between the corresponding pair of transmission rollers (5, 26; 18, 22), tending to form between the rollers of these pairs a loop of ribbon (R).

FIG. 5



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 15 3365

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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
The Hague	22 December 2009	Joosting, Thetmar

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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