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(54) **Spine formation device, bookbinding system, and processing method of bundle of folded sheets using same**

(57) A spine formation device (3) includes a sheet conveyer (31) to convey a bundle of folded sheets with a folded portion of the bundle forming a front end of the bundle, a clamping unit (32,325,326) disposed downstream from the sheet conveyer (31) in a sheet conveyance direction for squeezing a folded portion of the bundle in a direction of thickness of the bundle, a contact member (330) against which the folded portion of the bundle is pressed, disposed downstream from the clamping unit (32,325,326), an elevation unit (331,332) to move the contact member (330) vertically, and a controller (3-1). The clamping unit (32,325,326) includes multiple pressure rollers (325b) arranged in a single line along the folded portion of the bundle, a planar clamping member (326) disposed facing the multiple pressure rollers (325b) vertically, to press the bundle against the multiple pressure rollers (325b), and a unit to (325s) move the pressure rollers (325b) and the clamping member close and away from each other.

FIG. 1

