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(54) Media handling in an ink-jet printer

(57) Described herein is a printer having a printhead (102) which traverses laterally across a sheetlike print medium (110) and which thereby defines a laterally-extending print zone across the print medium. A paper transport mechanism in the printer has drive rollers (114) and associated pinch wheels (180) to drive the print medium through the printer's print zone. The paper transport mechanism further includes an upper print media guide (202) and a lower print medium guide (126). The two print medium guides are shaped at their transverse ends to bow the transverse edges of the print medium downwardly to reduce its tendency to buckle upwardly into the printhead. In order to fit the upper print medium guide into the limited available space above the drive rollers, it is made of a lower molded portion (170) for paper contact and an upper backing portion (172) for rigidity. A pinch finger (191) extends toward the printer's print zone beyond the pinch wheels to establish a pinch point (192) against the drive roller in near proximity to the print zone. To facilitate ejection of printed pages, the upper print medium guide is formed with a series of ribs (204) which contact the paper. The ribs reduce friction and static buildup, and make it easier to push the paper from the paper transport mechanism.

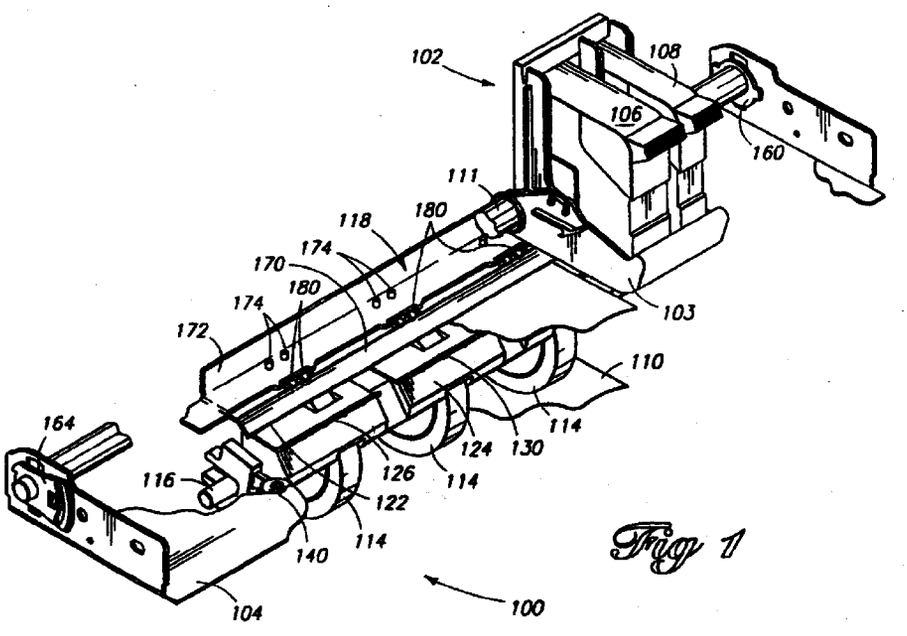


Fig 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number EP 96301348.7

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 6)
A	US 5393151 A (MARTIN et al.) 28 February 1995 (28.02.95), the whole document. --	1,3	B 41 J 13/10 B 41 J 11/00
A	EP 0622227 A2 (TOKYO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.) 02 November 1994 (02.11.94), the whole document. --	1-3	
A,P	US 5419644 A (MARTIN et al.) 30 May 1995 (30.05.95), the whole document. --	1	
A	EP 0487080 A1 (TOKYO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.) 27 May 1992 (27.05.92), the whole document. --	1,2	
A	EP 0441448 A1 (N.V. PHILIPS' GLOEILAMPEN-FABRIEKEN) 14 August 1991 (14.08.91), the whole document. ----	1,2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 6) B 41 J

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
VIENNA	06-05-1998	WITTMANN

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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