My invention relates to a can printing machine, that is a machine for printing on each can or other container passing through it, a number or other distinguishing mark so that, for example, the cans of one day's run of a factory may be distinguished from those of another day's run by the marks thus placed upon them. The machine is adapted to operate on cans or other packages of the usual cylindrical form and to print the number or any other distinguishing mark on the periphery of the can.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate one form of machine made in accordance with my invention, Figure 1 is a side elevation; Figure 2 is an end view; Figure 3 is an enlarged section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1; Figure 4 is an enlarged section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 2; and Figure 5 is a detail view showing the method of mounting the printing devices as three in number but the number may be varied in accordance with the relative diameter of the drum and can in order to insure one impression and one only on each can. Each printing device comprises a holder 25 adapted to carry removable rubber type 26 and radially movable in retaining bars 27. The holders are normally held in their outer position by pins 28 on springs 29. This construction allows the type and holders to yield inwardly when contacting with either the inking roll or the can.

Formed on the outer face of the disk 20 is a boss 30 for centering a toothed ring 31 rigidly attached to the disk. The teeth of this ring mesh with a pinion 32 mounted on a shaft 33 journaled in the uprights 11 directly below the shaft 12. Mounted on the shaft 33 is an inking roll 34 the periphery of which is supplied with ink by means of a felt pad 35 mounted on a spring plate 36 and having its lower end immersed in ink in an ink pan 37 secured to the base 10. A uniform coating of ink is then applied to the surface of the ink roll by the capillary action of the pad. In addition to the pinion 32 the shaft 33 is provided with a sprocket wheel 38 around which passes a sprocket chain 39.

Arranged against the inner face of each of the track members 15 is a spring presser bar 40. The bar 40 is carried by a pair of bolts 41 rigidly secured to the bar and passing through openings 42 in a flange 43 on the inner face of the track. Coil springs 44 force the bar 40 inwardly so that the normal distance between the bar and the shoulder 21 is slightly less than the diameter of the can 19. Formed on the track 15 at a point above the shoe 17 are lugs 45 in which is journaled a shaft 46 on the end of which is a sprocket wheel 47 driven by the sprocket chain 39.

Mounted on the shaft 46 between the track 15 are a pair of feed wheels 48 each provided with a soft rubber tread 49. The object of these feed wheels is to engage the cans on the shoe 17 and force them into the space between the shoulder 21 and the presser bar 40. After being forced between these parts the can is rolled along between them by the rotary movement of the disks 20 and 20' until it is delivered to the shoe 18 being firmly held against the shoulder by the spring action of the presser bar. During the travel from one shoe to another one of the rubber stamps 26 engages with its periphery to print the desired number or other distinguishing marks upon the can.
mark thereon. A cross bar 50 may be provided to brace the tracks 15 at their central part.

Having fully described my invention, what
I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:
1. In a device of the class described, the combination with a rotary member, of an impression device carried thereby, an arcuate spring presser bar cooperating with the article to be marked when the impression device cooperates therewith, and means for forcing the article between the rotary member and presser bar, said means comprising a feed wheel having a resilient tread.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination with a pair of rotary disks each provided with can engaging shoulders, of an impression device carried between said disks, and arcuate presser bars holding the cans against said shoulders while the impression device contacts with the can.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination with a pair of rotary disks each provided with a can engaging shoulder, of a yielding impression device carried between said disks, and yielding arcuate presser bars holding the cans against said shoulders while the impression device contacts with the can.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination with a pair of rotary disks each provided with can engaging shoulders, of a yielding impression device carried between said disks, yielding arcuate presser bars holding the cans against said shoulders, and a feed wheel for forcing the cans between said shoulders and presser bars.

5. In a device of the class described, the combination with a rotary member, of an impression device carried thereby, a landing shoe arranged at one side of said rotary member, a discharge shoe arranged at the other side thereof and at approximately the same horizontal level, and an arcuate presser bar extending between said shoes for causing engagement of the article to be marked with said rotary member, said bar being spring-pressed at a plurality of points along its length.

6. In a device of the class described, the combination with a rotary member, of an impression device carried thereby, a landing shoe arranged at one side of said rotary member, a discharge shoe arranged at the other side thereof, a yielding presser bar extending between said shoes for causing engagement of the article to be marked with said rotary member, and a feed wheel arranged adjacent to one end of the presser bar for forcing the article between said rotary member and presser bar.

7. In a device of the class described, the combination with a pair of disks each having a can engaging shoulder, of a drum carried by one of said disks, an impression device carried on the periphery of the drum and having radial movement, a spring in the interior of the drum for forcing the impression device outwards, and means for holding a can against said shoulders while its periphery contacts with the impression device.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature, this 27th day of May, 1926.

WILLIAM F. HEBRANK.