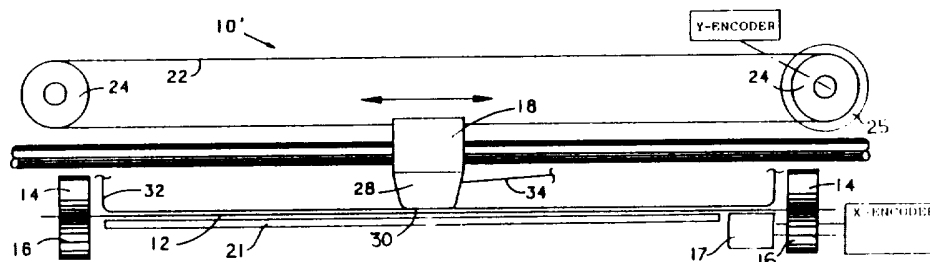




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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/00554 (22) International Filing Date: 24 January 1992 (24.01.92) (30) Priority data: 646,153 25 January 1991 (25.01.91) US (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): SDI, INC. [US/US]; P.O. Box 550, Pine Valley Mill, Elm Street, Wilton, NH 03086 (US). SUMMAGRAPHICS CORPORATION [US/US]; 60 Silvermine Road, Seymour, CT 06483 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only) : FORSYTH, John, L. [US/US]; Box 85A, RFD #1, SO. Lyndeborough, NH 03082 (US). SANDERS, Royden, C., Jr. [US/US]; RR #2, Wilton, NH 03086 (US). LARSEN, John, R. [US/US]; Rt. 11D, Box 262C, Star Rt. West, Alton Bay, NH 03810 (US). SMITH, Paul, D. [US/US]; 567 Carter Street, New Canaan, CT 06840 (US). LAKE, Ralph [US/US]; 16 Chapin Lane, Austin, TX 78746 (US). VAN-DOUSSELAERE, Erwin [BE/BE]; Dr. Bruwierlaan 55, B-8480 Ichtegem (BE). VERDONCK, Gerard [BE/BE]; Dennenlaan 2, B-8470 Gistel (BE). VAN LOENHOUT, William [BE/BE]; Marnix Van St. Aldegondestraat 1, B-8020 Oostkamp (BE).		(74) Agents: DAVIS, Anthony, G., M.; Davis, Bujold & Streck, 175 Canal Street, Manchester, NH 03101 (US) et al. (81) Designated States: AT, AT (European patent), AU, BB, BE (European patent), BF (OAPI patent), BG, BJ (OAPI patent), BR, CA, CF (OAPI patent), CG (OAPI patent), CH, CH (European patent), CI (OAPI patent), CM (OAPI patent), CS, DE, DE (European patent), DK, DK (European patent), ES, ES (European patent), FI, FR (European patent), GA (OAPI patent), GB, GB (European patent), GN (OAPI patent), GR (European patent), HU, IT (European patent), JP, KP, KR, LK, LU, LU (European patent), MC (European patent), MG, ML (OAPI patent), MN, MR (OAPI patent), MW, NL, NL (European patent), NO, PL, RO, RU, SD, SE, SE (European patent), SN (OAPI patent), TD (OAPI patent), TG (OAPI patent), US. Published <i>With international search report.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 1 October 1992 (01.10.92)

(54) Title: VECTOR PLOTTER WITH DOT-PRODUCING PRINTHEAD



(57) Abstract

Vector plotter (10) having a plotter head (18) moves over the surface of a plotting media (12) in an X and Y coordinate system wherein a projecting dot-producing impact printhead (28) using a ribbon (32) is carried by the plotter head at a constant printing distance above the surface of the plotting media to replace the traditional plotting pen. Other features include a multihead printhead (28') capable of producing different sized dots (74) to replace pens of different tip size, a structure (84) for providing the constant printing distance, a mechanism (38) for maximizing ribbon life and control arrangements (38) for providing desirable line quality.

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