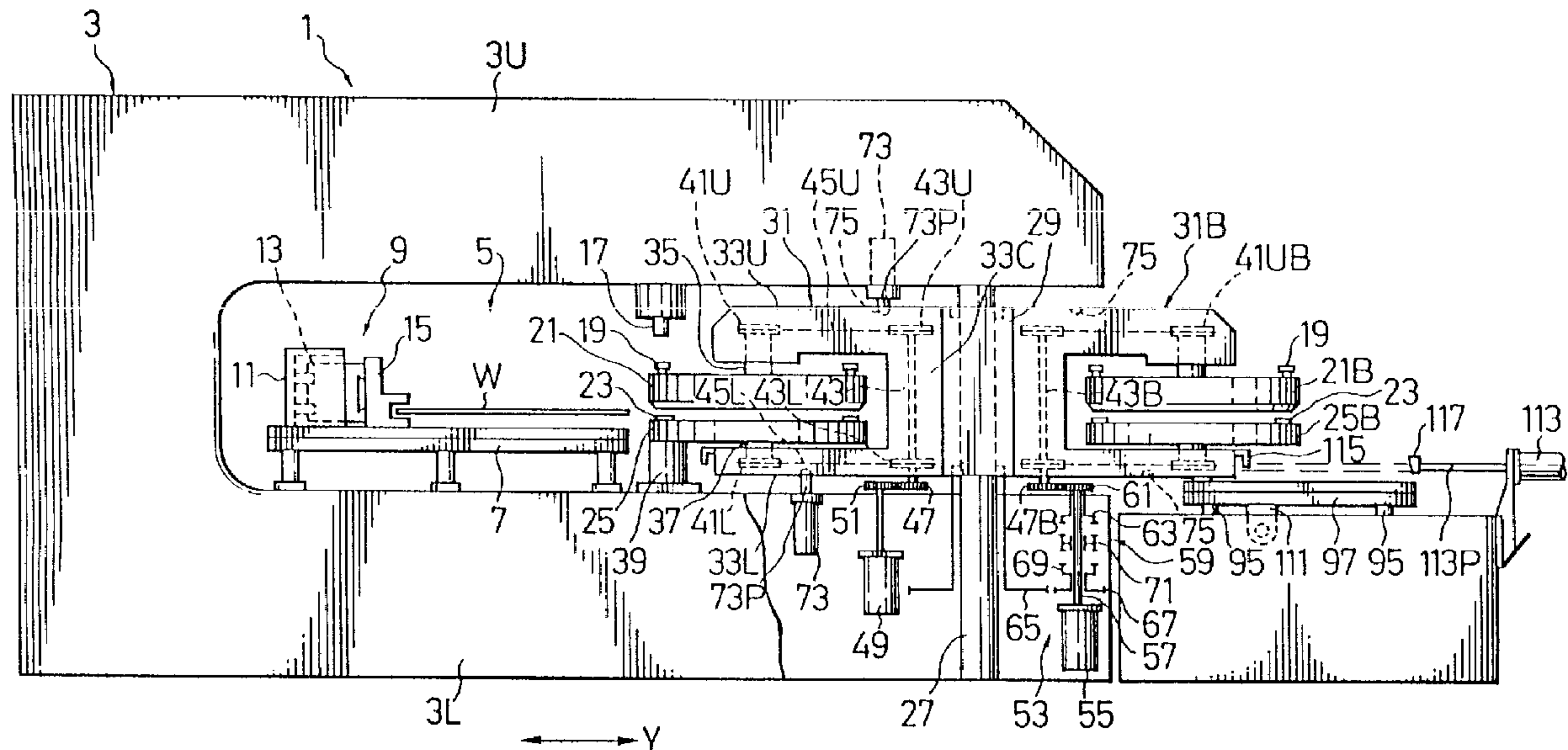




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(54) **POINCONNEUSE A TOURELLE REVOLVER**  
(54) **TURRET PUNCH PRESS**



(57) In order to change punches and dies on upper and lower turrets during punching operation on a workpiece, a turret punch press includes a plurality of rotatable holder frames each supporting the upper and lower turret. Thus, when a first set of upper and lower turrets supported on a first holder frames is located in a working region under a striker for a punching operation, a second set of upper and lower turrets supported on a second holder frame is located in a position outside the working region, whereby a punch and die supported on the second set of the turrets can be changed for another punch and die during punching operation. In the preferable embodiment, the holder frame is removably supported on a main frame of the turret punch press, whereby the holder frame can be changed for another holder frame during punching operation.



ABSTRACT

In order to change punches and dies on upper and lower turrets during punching operation on a workpiece, a turret punch press includes a plurality of rotatable holder frames each supporting the upper and lower turret. Thus, when a first set of upper and lower turrets supported on a first holder frames is located in a working region under a striker for a punching operation, a second set of upper and lower turrets supported on a second holder frame is located in a position outside the working region, whereby a punch and die supported on the second set of the turrets can be changed for another punch and die during punching operation. In the preferable embodiment, the holder frame is removably supported on a main frame of the turret punch press, whereby the holder frame can be changed for another holder frame during punching operation.

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## TURRET PUNCH PRESS

This is a divisional of Canadian Patent  
5 Application Serial No. 2,084,416 filed June 4, 1991.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTIONField of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to a turret punch press,  
and, in particular, to a turret punch press on which is  
mounted a plurality of turrets.

Description of the Prior Art

15 As is commonly known, a conventional turret punch  
press comprises: a C-shaped frame integrally provided with  
an upper frame and a lower frame; a workpiece transfer and  
positioning device for supporting in a freely transferable  
manner in the X-axis and Y-axis directions on the frame, a  
plate-shaped workpiece which is to be transferred and  
20 positioned in the X-axis and Y-axis direction; a plurality  
of freely rotatable upper turrets, each of which supports a  
plurality of punches for punching the workpiece; a  
plurality of lower turrets, each of which supports a  
plurality of dies in opposition to the above-mentioned  
punches; and a striker provided with free vertical motion  
on the frame for striking the punches.

25 In a turret punch press with such a configuration the  
number of punches and dies which can be mounted at one time  
on the upper and lower turrets is limited, which imposes  
limitations on the processing.

30 Accordingly, in recent years, in order to increase the  
variety of processing, technology has been developed for  
automatically mounting/dismounting and changing the punches  
and dies on the upper and lower turrets, using an automatic  
tool changing device, for example, as disclosed in US

Patent No. 4624044 and in Japanese Laid open Patent Application No. 63-26225.

However, in this conventional technology, the problem arises that, when the punches and dies are changed on the upper and lower turrets of the turret punch press, the punching operation on the plate-shaped workpiece must be halted, to the detriment of the operating efficiency.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the present invention is to alleviate the difficulties associated with the known conventional technology.

According to the invention in one aspect there is provided a machine tool comprising: a C-shaped main frame having an upper frame and a lower frame; a workpiece transfer and positioning device for supporting a plate-shaped workpiece in a freely transferable manner in X-axis and Y-axis directions relative to said upper and lower frames; a tool holder supporting a tool for performing a desired processing of the workpiece and means for energizing the tool when in use; and a rotary frame being rotatably mounted on a vertical shaft in an opening defined between said upper and lower frames of the C-shaped main frame, and a C-shaped tool holder frame for supporting the tool holder being mounted in a freely changeable mountable/dismountable manner on the rotary frame.

Preferably, the tool is a laser processing head.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention a tool housing device is provided in front of the C-shaped main frame for housing and supporting various types of holder frames, and a holder frame changing device on the toolhousing device for changing the holder frame on the rotary frame.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 These and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG.1 is a schematic side elevation, for explanatory purposes, which functionally represents an embodiment of a turret punch press of the present invention.

FIG.2 is a plan view of the same turret punch press.

10 FIG.3 is a perspective view illustrating the operation for mounting and dismounting a holder frame.

FIG.4 is a sectional view of the mounting and securing section of the turret punch press.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

15 Other features of this invention will become apparent in the course of the following description of exemplary embodiments which are given for illustration of the invention and are not intended to be limiting thereof.

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Now referring to FIG.1, an embodiment of a turret punch press 1 of the present invention is formed in a C-shape and is provided with a frame 3 which comprises an upper frame 3U and a lower frame 3L.

5 An opening 5 is formed between the upper frame 3U and the lower frame 3L of the frame 3. A workpiece table 7 for supporting a plate-shaped workpiece 7 is provided within the opening 5, and a workpiece transfer and positioning device 9 is provided for transferring and positioning the  
10 workpiece W in the X-axis and the Y-axis directions.

The configuration of the workpiece transfer and positioning device 9 is almost identical to that of a commonly known workpiece transfer and positioning device for a turret punch press, therefore only a brief  
15 description will be presented here. Specifically, the workpiece transfer and positioning device 9 is provided with a carriage base 11 which can be freely transferred in the Y-axis direction, guided by a Y-axis direction guide rail(omitted from the drawings), by means of a Y-axis motor  
20 (also omitted from the drawings). The carriage base 11 extends in the X-axis direction on the workpiece table 7, and a carriage 13 is supported on the carriage base 11 in a freely transferable manner in the X-axis direction by means of an X-axis motor (omitted from the drawings) provided on  
25 the carriage base 11. A plurality of workpiece clamps 15 for freely clamping the workpiece W is provided in a freely positional adjustable manner on the carriage 13.

As has already been explained, with the workpiece transfer and positioning device 9, as is commonly known,  
30 after the workpiece W has been clamped in the workpiece clamps 15 the carriage base 11 is moved and positioned in the Y-axis direction, and the carriage 13 is moved and positioned along the carriage base 11 in the X-axis direction, so that the workpiece W can be suitably  
35 transferred and positioned.

Because the structure of the workpiece transfer and

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positioning device 9, as previously stated, is commonly known, a further detailed explanation of the structure and operation is omitted.

As is commonly known, a striker 17 for freely striking a punch, which will be later explained, is provided on the upper frame 3U of the turret punch press 1 in a manner allowing free movement in the vertical direction. A crank mechanism or hydraulic cylinder, for example, actuates this vertical movement of the striker 17, but because the structure of such mechanisms is well known, a detailed description of the operation of the striker is omitted.

A disk-shaped upper turret 21 and a lower turret 25 are provided in a freely rotatable manner in the opening 5 in the frame 3 for performing a punching operation on the workpiece; specifically, the upper turret 21 supports a plurality of punches 19, freely mountable and dismountable for changing, and the lower turret 23 supports a plurality of dies 23, each of which can be freely mounted or dismounted for changing in opposition to each of the punches 19.

More specifically, at the end section of the opening 5 in the frame 3, a tie-rod-shaped vertical shaft 27 is provided, one end of which is secured to the upper part of the end section of the upper frame 3U and the other end which is secured to the end section of the lower frame 3L. Also, a holder frame 31 is integrally mounted on a side surface of a rotary frame 29 with a multiform cross section (square, in this embodiment) supported in a freely rotatable manner on the vertical shaft 27.

The holder frame 31 is C-shaped and provided with an upper arm 33U on the upper section of a column part 33C, and with a lower 33L on the lower section of the column part 33C. The upper turret 21 is supported in a freely rotatable manner on the end part of the upper arm 33U through an upper shaft 35, and the lower turret 25 is

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supported in a freely rotatable manner on the end part of the lower arm 33L through a lower shaft 37.

Accordingly, within the processing region, the upper turret 21 and the lower turret 25 are suitably rotated, and  
5 after the desired punch 19 and the die 23 are set in the processing position under the striker 17, the workpiece W is suitably positioned in the X- and Y-axis directions by means of the workpiece transfer and positioning device 9, so that the workpiece W can be punched with the desired  
10 punch 19 and the die 23 by striking the punch 19 with the striker 17.

A turret support member 39 is provided on the lower frame 3L positioned under the striker 17, for supporting the lower turret 25 from below during the punching  
15 operation. Accordingly, the turret support member 39 prevents the lower turret 25 from being bent downward when the punch 19 is struck by the striker 17 to perform the punching operation.

An upper sprocket 41U is mounted on the upper shaft 35  
20 of the upper turret 21, and a lower sprocket 41L is mounted on the lower shaft 37 of the lower turret 25 for rotating the upper and lower turrets 21, 25. An endless upper chain 45U is fitted around an upper sprocket 43U, mounted on the upper part of a rotary shaft 43 which is  
25 supported in a freely rotatable manner on the column part 33C of the holder frame 31, and around the upper sprocket 41U. In addition, a lower chain 45L is fitted around a lower sprocket 43L, mounted on the lower part of the rotary shaft 43 and around the lower sprocket 41L. A follower  
30 gear 47 for rotating the rotary shaft 43 is mounted on the lower end of the rotary shaft 43, and a drive gear 51 mounted on a servomotor 49 provided on the lower frame 31 engages the follower gear 47 in a freely disengageable manner. The drive gear 51 and the follower gear 47 are  
35 engaged and disengaged by swinging the rotary frame 29 around the vertical shaft 27. Engagement occurs when the

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follower gear 47 is arranged in a position corresponding with the drive gear 51, and disengagement occurs when the follower gear 47 is removed from the drive gear 51 by swinging the rotary frame 29.

5 As can be readily understood from the foregoing explanation, when the drive gear 51 of the servomotor 49 and the follower gear 47 are in the engaged state, the upper and lower turrets 21, 25 are rotated simultaneously in the same direction, suitably driven by the servomotor  
10 49, and the desired punch 19 and die 23 can be positionally indexed at the position under the striker 17, supported on the upper and lower turrets 21, 25.

In order to utilize a larger number of punches 19 and dies 23, a second holder frame 31B is mounted in a freely  
15 mountable/dismountable manner on the rotary frame 29. More specifically, the second frame 31B the shape of which is symmetrical with the first holder frame 31, is symmetrically positioned with the first holder frame 31 with the vertical shaft 27 between them. Accordingly, the  
20 same reference numerals used for the first holder frame 31 are also used for the second holder frame 31B with the suffix B added, so a more detailed explanation of the second holder frame 31B is omitted.

A rotating indexing drive device 53 is provided on the  
25 lower frame 3L of the frame 3 to switch the positions of the first holder frame 31 and the second holder frame 31B, and also to rotate a pair of upper and lower turrets 21B, 25B which are supported by the second holder frame 31B.

More specifically, a drive motor 55 is mounted on the  
30 lower frame 3L, symmetrically positioned with the servomotor 49 around the vertical shaft 27. A clutch device 59 which freely transmits/interrupts the rotation to the rotary frame 29 and to the upper and lower turrets 21B, 25B which are supported on the second holder frame 31B, is  
35 provided on an output shaft 57 of the drive motor 55.

Specifically, a first drive gear 61, which freely

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engages a follower gear 47B mounted on a rotary shaft 43B supported on the second holder frame 31B, is provided on the upper portion of the output shaft 57 of the drive motor 55, and a first clutch plate 63 is integrally provided on  
5 the first drive gear 61. In addition, a second drive gear 67, which engages a swing gear 65 integrally provided on the rotary frame 29, is supported in a freely rotatable manner on the lower part of the output shaft 57, and a second clutch plate 69 is integrally provided on the second  
10 drive gear 67. Further, a clutch switching plate 71 is provided between the first clutch plate 63 and the second clutch plate 69, rotating integrally with the output shaft 57 but free to move in the axial direction of the output shaft 57. The switching of the clutch switching plate 71  
15 is performed by either manual or automatic operation of a shift lever (omitted from the drawings).

As can be understood from the foregoing, the clutch change plate 71 is operated so that, by the connection or engaging of the clutch change plate 71 and the first clutch  
20 plate 63, the rotation of the drive motor 55 is transmitted to the upper and lower turrets 21B, 25B supported on the second holder frame 31B. Accordingly, during the performance of a punching operation on the workpiece W, using the punches 19 and the dies 23 provided on the upper  
25 and lower turrets 21, 25 supported on the first holder frame 31, the upper and lower turrets 21B, 25B are suitably rotated, supported on the second holder frame 31B, the punches 19 and the dies 23 on the upper and lower turrets 21B, 25B are changed, and the arrangements are made for the  
30 next process.

The first holder frame 31 and the second holder frame 31B are exchanged by means of the rotational drive of the drive motor 55 after the clutch switching plate 71 on the clutch device 59 is switched downward, and the clutch  
35 switching plate 71 and the second clutch plate 69 are in contact or engaged. In this case, the follower gear 47

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supported on the first holder frame 31 side is disengaged from the drive gear 51 of the servomotor 49 and engaged with the first drive gear 61 of the clutch device 59 by swinging the rotating frame 29. On the other hand, the  
5 follower gear 47B, which is supported on the second holder frame 31 side, is disengaged from the first drive gear 61 of the clutch device 59 and engaged with the drive gear 51 of the servomotor 49.

Accordingly, after the first holder frame 31 and the  
10 second holder frame 31B are exchanged by swinging the rotating frame 29, the workpiece W can be punched by using the punches 19 and the dies 23 provided on the upper and lower turrets 21B, 25B supported on the second holder frame 31B; in addition, it is possible to change the punches 19  
15 and the dies 23 which are on the upper and lower turrets 21, 25 supported on the first holder frame 31.

Accordingly, by means of this embodiment of the present invention, when the upper and lower turrets 21, 25 supported on the one holder frame 31 are positioned in the  
20 processing region, and the workpiece W is being punched using the punches 19 and the dies 23 mounted on the upper and lower turrets 21, 25, it is possible to change the punches and dies 19, 23 on the upper and lower turrets 21B, 25B supported on the other holder frame 31B in preparation  
25 for the next punching operation. Therefore, the operating efficiency of preparing for and performing the various punching operations can be improved, which is very effective with respect to multivariety, small volume processing.

30 In order to positionally index a holder frame such as the holder frames 31, 31B in the processing region, a suitable number of shot pin devices 73 are provided in the frame 3, and an engaging hole 75 for engaging with a pin 73P of the shot pin device 73 is provided on each holder  
35 frame 31, 31B.

In addition, although a detailed drawing has been

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omitted, a securing device is provided to maintain the upper and lower turrets 21, 25 in a secured state when the punches 19 and dies 23 mounted on the upper and lower turrets 21, 25 on the holder frames 31, 31B, are  
5 positionally indexed under the striker 17. This securing device may be of the same structure as a conventional shot pin device provided on a conventional turret punch press, to position the upper and lower turrets.

In order to expand the utilization of the turret punch  
10 press 1, the holder frames 31, 31B are installed on the rotary frame 29 in a freely mountable and dismountable manner. Specifically, as shown in FIG.3, a positioning key 77 and a tapered shaft 79 are provided on a mounting surface for mounting the holder frames 31, 31B on the  
15 rotary frame 29, and a small disk-shaped engaging part 81, for example, is provided on the tip of the tapered shaft 79. A key channel 83, which freely engages/disengages the positioning key 77 and a tapered hole which is penetrated by the tapered shaft 79 are formed in the mounting surface  
20 on the rotary frame 29.

A collet hook 87 for clamping the engaging part 81 is incorporated in a tapered hole 85 formed in the rotary frame 29, to secure the holder frame 31 to the rotary frame 29. The collet hook 87 is mounted on the end  
25 of a pull rod 89 which is moved in a reciprocating manner by a hydraulic cylinder (omitted from the drawing) incorporated in the rotary frame 29.

Accordingly, the holder frame 31 can be secured to the rotary frame 29 by engaging the positioning key 77 in the  
30 key channel 83 and engaging the tapered shaft 79 in the tapered hole 85, then pulling the pull rod 89 so that the engaging part 81 on the tip of the tapered shaft 79 is clamped by the collet hook 87. Conversely, by pressing the pull rod 89 forward, the engaging part 81 is released from  
35 the collet hook 87 so that the holder frame 31 can be removed from the rotary frame 29.

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Referring now to FIG.2, in order to provide various types of holder frames which can be changed by mounting/dismounting on the rotary frame 29 of the turret punch press 21, a tool housing device 91 is positioned at the front of the turret punch press 21 to house and support various types of holder frames.

More specifically, a supporting base 93 extending in the X-axis direction is provided at the front of the turret punch press 21. A plurality of sliding member 97 are supported for moving in the X-axis direction on a guide rail 95 provided on the supporting base 93. Various types of freely exchangeable holder frames 31B, 31C,... 31F, are supported in a freely mountable/dismountable manner on each of the sliding members 97.

A laser process head 99 from which a laser beam from a laser generating device is introduced to perform a laser process on the workpiece W is supported on the holder frame 31C, and a forming mold for carrying out a forming process on the workpiece W is supported on the holder frame 31D. In addition, a progressive die 101 for carrying out a progressive process in a coil strip is mounted on the holder frame 31E, and when the progressive die 101 is used, a coil strip feeder device 107 provided in a position beside the worktable 7 is used for feeding the coil strip into the press 21, the coil strip feeder device generally including an uncoiler 103 or a leveller 105 or the like. Also, a bending tool for bending the workpiece W is mounted on the holder frame 31F.

A freely rotatable ball screw 109 extending parallel to the guide rail 105 is provided to move the sliding members 97 along the guide rail 95. A ball nut 111 mounted on the sliding member 97 is engaged by the ball screw 109. Accordingly, the sliding member 97 can be moved along the guide rail 95 by the suitable rotation of the screw 109 by a motor (omitted from the drawings), making it possible to positionally index the sliding member 97 in front of the

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turret punch press 1.

A push-pull cylinder 113 is mounted on the supporting base 93 for moving the holder frames 31, 31B... from the sliding member 97 to the rotary frame 29, so that the  
5 holder frames 31, 31B... are mounted on the rotary frame 29 and for removing the holder frames from the rotary frame 29. A hook claw 117 is provided on the end of a freely reciprocating piston rod 113P on the push-pull cylinder 113, to releasaly engage with a hook part 115 (FIG.1)  
10 mounted on each holder frame 31, 31B.... The engagement and disengagement of the hook claw 117 with the hook part 115 is effected by rotating the hook claw 117 or the hook part 115 by means of a suitable actuator (omitted from the drawings).

15 As can be readily understood from the foregoing description, after an empty sliding member 97 is positionally indexed before the turret punch press 1, the hook claw 117 on the end of the piston rod 113P engages the hook part 115 on the holder frame 31, 31B... mounted on the  
20 rotary frame 29, after which the holder frame mounted on the rotary frame 29 can be installed on the empty sliding member 97 by withdrawing the piston rod 113P.

Next, after another holder frame 31, 31B... is positionally indexed before the turret punch press 1, the  
25 other holder frame 31, 31B... can be mounted on the rotary frame 29 by advancing the other holder frame 31, 31B... toward the rotary frame 29 with the piston rod 113P of the push-pull cylinder 113.

Accordingly, by means of this embodiment of the  
30 present invention, various types of freely changeable holder frames can be used with the rotary frame 29, and various types of processes such as, for example, a laser process, a forming process, a progressive process, a bending process, and the like, can be performed in addition  
35 to the punching process.

As can be understood from the foregoing explanation of

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the embodiment of the present invention, when a  
workpiece is punched using the punches and dies mounted on  
one set of upper and lower turrets, punches and dies mounted  
on another set of upper and lower turrets can be changed  
5 in preparation for the next punching operation, therefore  
the operating efficiency can be improved.

Also, because it is possible to use changeable holder  
frames which support various types of tools for performing  
processes other than the punching process, the general  
10 purpose use of the turret punch press is improved.

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## CLAIMS:

1. A machine tool comprising:
  - a C-shaped main frame having an upper frame and a lower frame;
  - a workpiece transfer and positioning device for supporting a plate-
  - 5 shaped workpiece in a freely transferable manner in X-axis and Y-axis directions relative to said upper and lower frames;
  - a tool holder supporting a tool for performing a desired processing of the workpiece and means for energizing the tool when in use; and
  - a rotary frame being rotatably mounted on a vertical shaft in an opening
  - 10 defined between said upper and lower frames of the C-shaped main frame, and a C-shaped tool holder frame for supporting the tool holder being mounted in a freely changeable mountable/dismountable manner on the rotary frame.
2. The machine tool of claim 1 wherein the tool is a laser processing head.
- 15 3. The machine tool of claim 1 wherein a tool housing device is provided in front of the C-shaped main frame for housing and supporting various types of holder frames, and a holder frame changing device on the toolhousing device for changing the holder frame on the rotary frame.

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FIG. 1

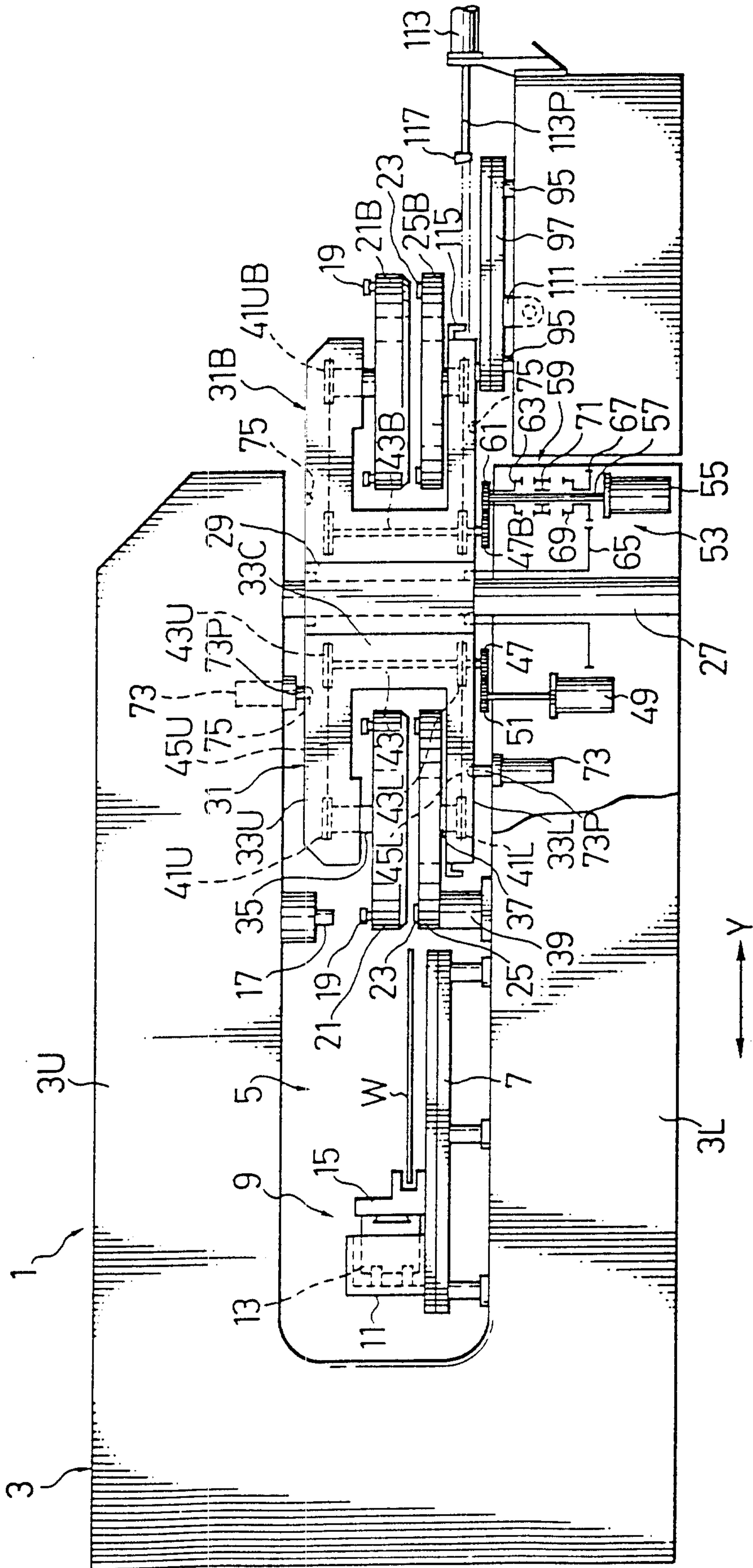
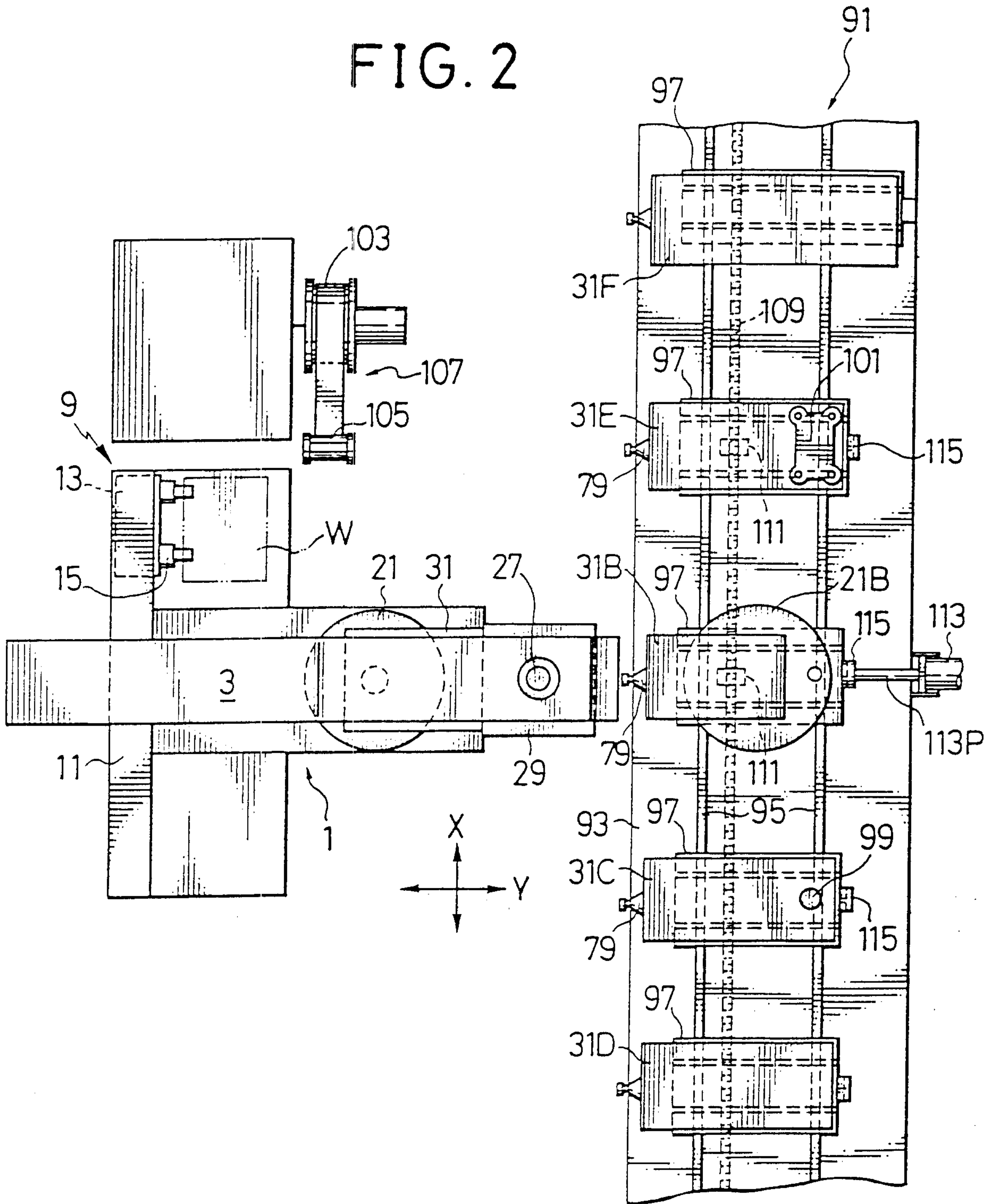


FIG. 2



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FIG. 3

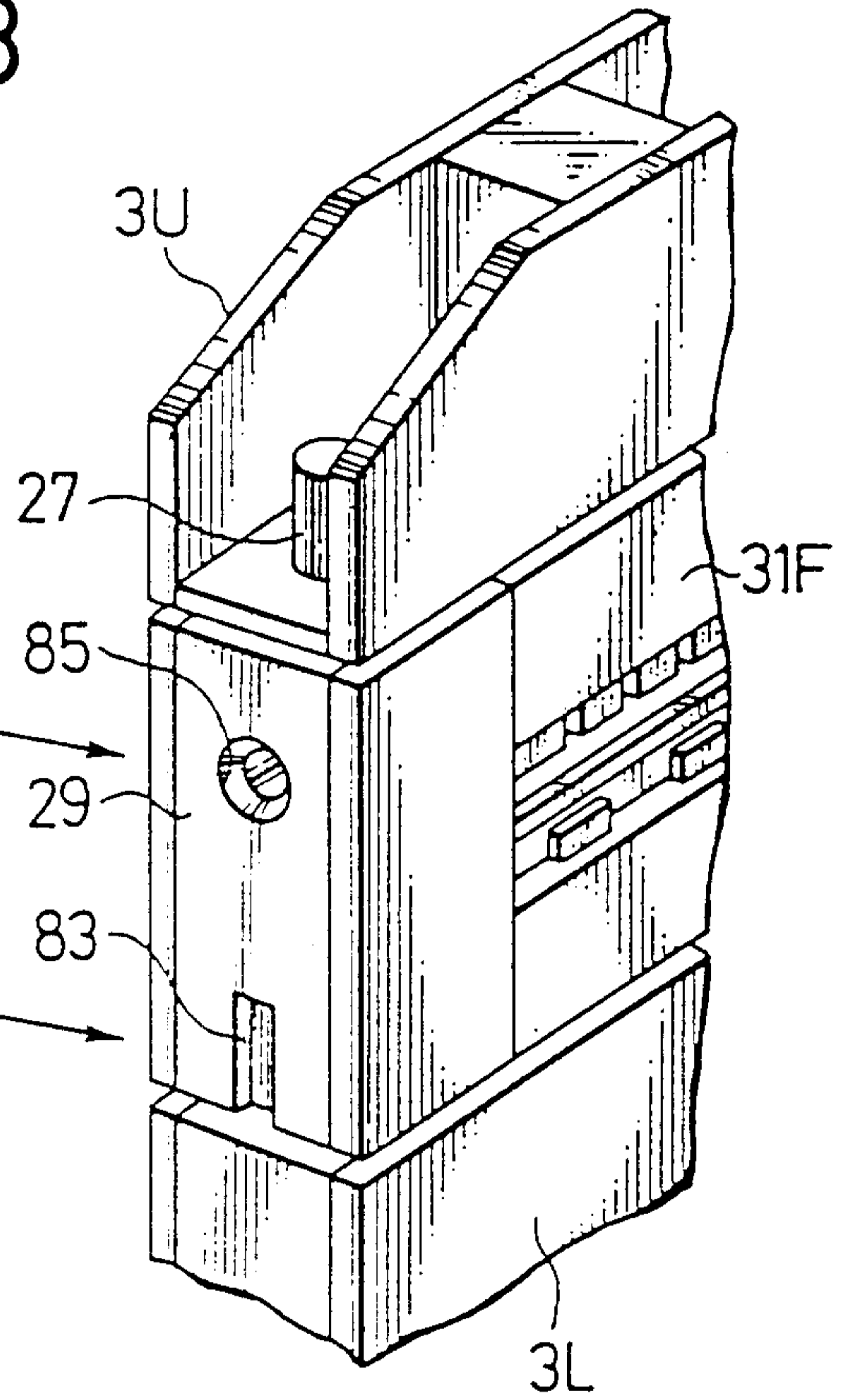
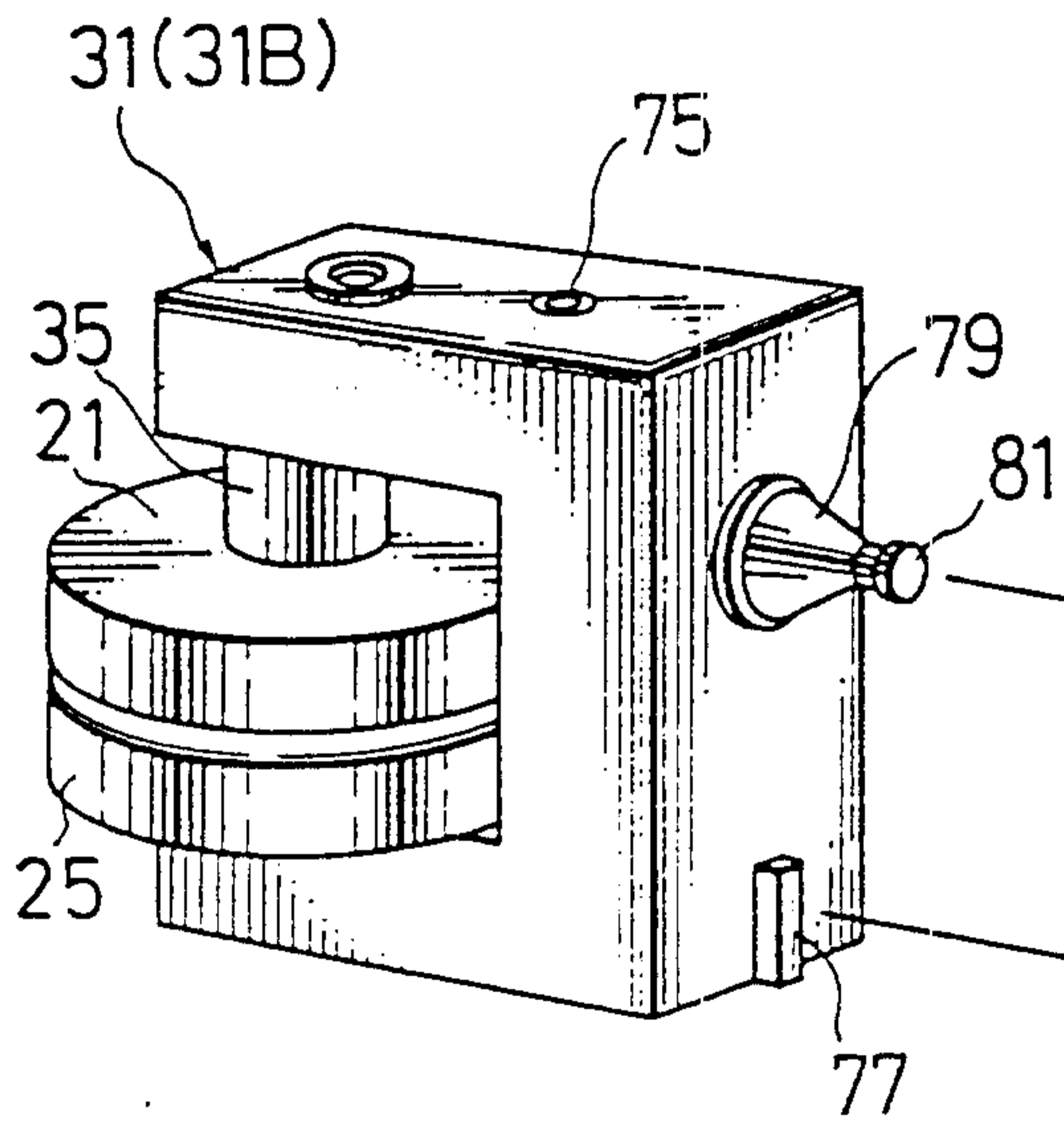


FIG. 4

