

ABSTRACT

An automatic platen gap adjusting apparatus is provided with a stepping motor (5) for moving a carriage (1) loaded with a recording head (2) in the vertical direction of a platen (4), a rotary encoder (12) for producing a plurality of pulse signals proportional to the rotational speed of the motor, the rotary encoder being equipped with a detection mark on its circumference, a time difference integrating device for obtaining the integrated value of the time difference between the pulse signal from the rotary encoder and the driving pulse of the stepping motor (5) by moving the carrier (1) from a reference position in the direction of the platen (4), and an abutment decision device for detecting whether the value thus obtained has reached a predetermined value. The thickness of the paper is calculated by a paper thickness calculation device according to the number of pulses produced up to a point of time the signal is produced from the abutment decision device. The apparatus of the present invention can automatically adjust the relative gap (G) between the platen (4) and the recording head (1) with precision while preventing press marks from appearing on the paper as much as possible because the paper is caused to abut against the carriage.

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