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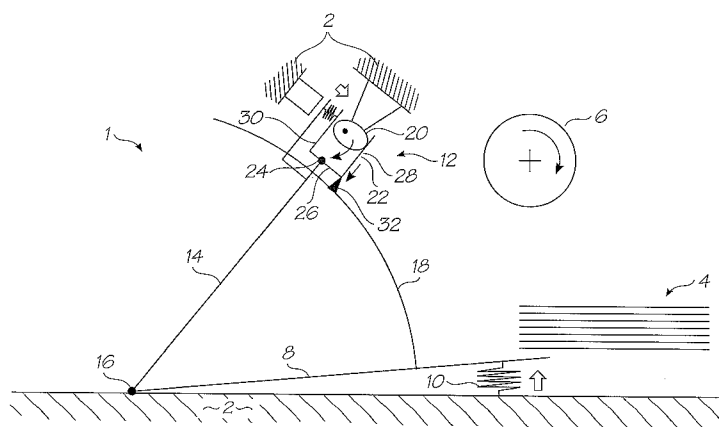
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(54) Title: SHEET FEED MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: A sheet feed mechanism for a device such as a printer, with a chassis (2) configured to support a stack of sheets (4). A top sheet engaging member (6) for engaging the top-most sheet (40) of the stack and moving it relative to the remainder of the stack (4). A stack engaging structure (8) for engaging the stack (4) and biasing its top sheet (40) against the top sheet engaging member (6). The stack engaging structure (8) having a friction surface (18) extending parallel to the stack engaging structure's direction of travel. A lock mechanism (12) mounted to the chassis (2) for limited relative movement thereto, the lock mechanism (12) having a biased contact foot (32) for engaging the friction surface (18) to secure the stack engaging structure (8) to the lock mechanism (12) for movement therewith. An actuator (20) mounted to the chassis (2) to disengage the contact foot (32) from the friction surface (18) such that the stack engaging structure (8) moves relative to the lock mechanism (12) to press the top-most sheet (40) against the top sheet engaging (6), then the actuator disengages the contact foot (32) such that it re-engages the friction surface (18) and then moves the lock mechanism relative to the chassis (2) such that the stack engaging structure (8) also retracts a predetermined distance from the top-most sheet engaging member (6).

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