

ABSTRACT

An ink return blade 17, an ink filling blade 18, and an ink removal blade 19 are disposed in order at a retreat height that is higher by a predetermined dimension than the plate 10 retained in the plate table 11, and are supported by a supporting frame 20 at a predetermined position on a pedestal 8 of an offset printing apparatus. Separate elevating/lowering actuators 21, 22, 23 are provided for each blade 17, 18, 19. When the plate table 11 that retains the plate 10 is driven in one direction, after ink from an ink pool 25 on the plate 10 is filled into the plate 10 by the ink filling blade 18, and excess ink is removed by the ink removal blade 19. Therefore the plate 10 with a suitable amount of inking thereon can be supplied for printing operations. Thereafter, when the plate table 11 is driven in the opposite direction, the ink return blade 17 is brought into contact with the plate 10, and the ink pool 25 is returned to an initial position.



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