



Abstract

PRINTER WITH SPROCKET AND PLATEN DRIVE MECHANISM

An apparatus for preparing graphic products utilizes a printer (20) to print on sheet material (S) and a cutter (22) to cut the sheet material (S) with the printed material within the periphery of the cut edges (C). Both the printer (20) and the cutter (22) are controlled by machine readable data having a common data base so that the printed material and the cut material correspond positionally in the final graphic product. The printer (20) is a thermal printer (40) that places the printed material on a strip of sheet material (S) generally before the sheet material is cut. The thermal printer (40) utilizes a donor web (W) bearing a transfer ink to create enhanced printed images on the sheet material with halftones, color and other attractive features. The printer (40) is controlled to regulate a number of printing parameters (256-260) through coding (270) on a cassette (170) in which the donor web (W) is supported.

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