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[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOUNTING PRINTING PLATES**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **101/486**; 101/DIG. 36; 33/621

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 101/481, 485, 101/486, DIG. 36, 401.1; 33/620, 621, 614, 617; 364/470.06

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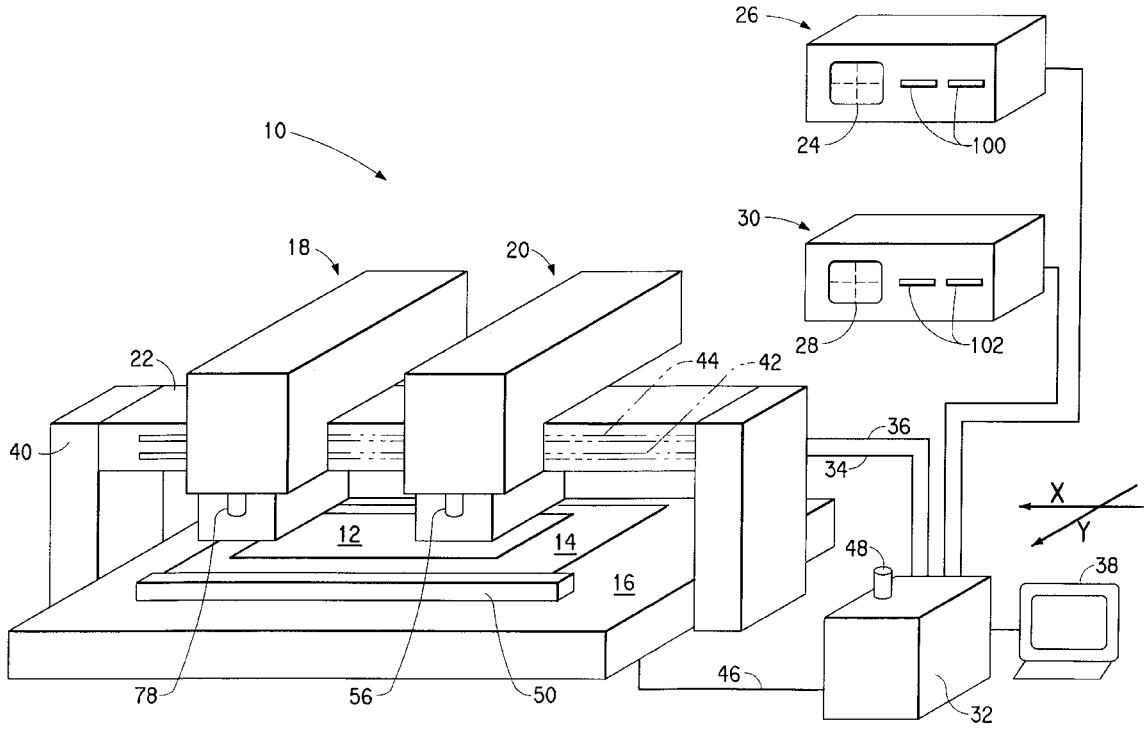
[57] **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus and method for mounting a plurality of plates onto a carrier sheet includes a table mounted on a stationary base, each plate having a first and a second registration mark thereon. A first camera assembly is moveably attached to a support adjacent the table and is connected to a first video monitor for viewing the first registration marks. A second video camera is moveably attached to the support adjacent the table and is connected to a second video monitor for viewing the second registration marks. Linear actuators are connected to the first and the second camera assemblies and to the table for independently moving each camera assembly relative to the table. A motion controller is connected to the linear actuators for sending moving signals thereto, and generates at least two moving signals corresponding to the two registration marks for each plate. Each plate is positioned on the carrier sheet beneath the first and the second camera assemblies so that the first registration mark aligns with a cross-hair image on the first video monitor and the second registration mark aligns with a cross-hair image on the second video monitor.

16 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets