

E=P+D2/4p.

8. The conversion apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein each said particle has a diameter not exceeding three millimeters.

9. The conversion apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said magnetic recording medium (10), has the form of a cylinder rotating about an axis (13), and further comprises a pressure roller (32) coated with a layer of elastic material (41) and mounted to turn freely on an axis of rotation (13) of said recording medium (10), said pressure roller (32) being normally set up to occupy a position of rest in which it is kept separate from said recording medium; and a control mechanism (34, 38, 39, 63) constructed and arranged such that, when acted upon, it urges said pressure roller (32) against said recording medium, thus enabling said spherical particles jutting out at the surface of said recording medium (10) to emboss a recording sheet (31) engaged between said medium and said pressure roller (32) during the rotation of said medium (10).

10. The conversion apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said magnetic recording medium (10) is a cylinder mounted for rotation about a shaft (13) and said cells (12), being distributed on said medium so as to form, when spherical particles are received by said cells, groups of raised dots representing Braille characters.

11. The apparatus as set forth in claim 10 further comprising a case (17) in which said recording medium (10) is enclosed, said case having an opening (18) extending along said medium parallel to its axis of rotation (13) so as to enable an operator's fingers to come into contact with said medium and identify, by touch, the Braille characters that have moved past said opening.

12. The conversion apparatus as set forth in claim 1, in which said recording unit (14) comprises a row of n magnetic recording heads (T-1 to T-n) each associated with one of the n columns of cells (K1, K2, K3, . . . ) of said recording medium (10), said apparatus further comprising:

- a storage unit (52) comprising storage locations each set up to temporarily hold a binary digit needed to control the magnetization of a cell (12) of said recording medium, said storage locations being disposed in three rows (J1, J2, J3) and n columns, each of said n columns being connected to each of said n magnetic recording heads;
- a register (55) set up to temporarily hold a combination of signals representing a Braille character to be formed on said recording medium (10); and
- a transcoding storage (53) connected, on one side, to said register (55) by means of a decoder (54) and, on the other side, to said storage unit (52) and set up in response to the recording of a combination of signals in said register (55) to deliver two groups of binary digits "1" to said storage unit (52), each of said two groups being recorded in each of said two consecutive columns of said unit, the arrangement of said binary digits "1" recorded in said six positions of said two columns being the same as that of

the dots constituting the Braille character represented by the combination of signals contained in said register (55).

13. The conversion apparatus as set forth in claim 12, wherein said rows of cells of said recording medium (10) are distributed to form groups (N1, N2, N3, . . . ) each comprising three rows of cells (L1, L2, L3), each group enabling the formation of a line of Braille characters.

14. The apparatus as set forth in claim 13 including electric control means further comprising:

- a first detection group (PH1, H1, H'1, . . . ) set up to detect the movement of said first row (L1) of each group of cells past said recording heads (T-1 to T-n) and to send a pulse to said first row (J1) of storage locations of said storage unit (52) at the moment when said first row of cells (L1) is about to move past said heads;
- a second detection group (PH2, H2, . . . ) set up to detect the movement of said second row (L2) of each group of
- a second detection group (PH2, H2, . . . ) set up to detect the movement of said second row (L2) of each group of cells past said heads (T-1 to T-n) and to send a pulse to the second row (J2) of storage locations of said storage unit (52) at the moment when said second row of cells (L2) is about to move past said head; and
- a third detection group (PH3, H3, . . . ) set up to detect the movement of the third row (L3) of each group of cells past said heads (T-1 to T-n) and to send a pulse to the third row (J3) of storage locations of said storage unit (52) at the moment when said third row of cells (L3) is about to move under said heads, owing to which said binary digits "1" which, stored in the three rows (J1, J2, J3) of said storage unit (52) are extracted, row by row, under the action of the pulses applied to said rows are sent in the form of electric pulses in order to selectively energize said heads (T-1, T-n), thus causing the selective magnetization of said cells of the same group.

15. The conversion apparatus as set forth in claim 1 further comprising an erasing means (21) disposed near the surface of said magnetic recording medium (10) and operatively connected to demagnetize said cells (12) which move past during the displacement of said recording medium (10) when said erasing means is energized.

16. The conversion apparatus as set forth in claim 15 further comprising an electromagnetic means (19) for extracting spherical particles disposed near the surface of said magnetic recording medium (10) and upstream of said erasing extraction means (21) relative to the direction of placement of said medium, said extraction means being arranged when energized to extract said particles received in said cells (12) which move past it in the course of said displacement of said medium.

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