

EXHIBIT B



US006157436A

United States Patent [19]
Cok

[11] **Patent Number:** **6,157,436**
[45] **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 5, 2000**

[54] **IMAGE PRINTING**

[75] Inventor: **Ronald S. Cok**, Rochester, N.Y.

[73] Assignee: **Eastman Kodak Company**, Rochester, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: **09/143,842**

[22] Filed: **Aug. 31, 1998**

[51] **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G03B 27/52**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **355/40; 355/77; 399/83; 399/84**

[58] **Field of Search** **396/564, 612; 355/40, 41, 54, 77; 399/83, 84; 345/435**

[56] **References Cited**

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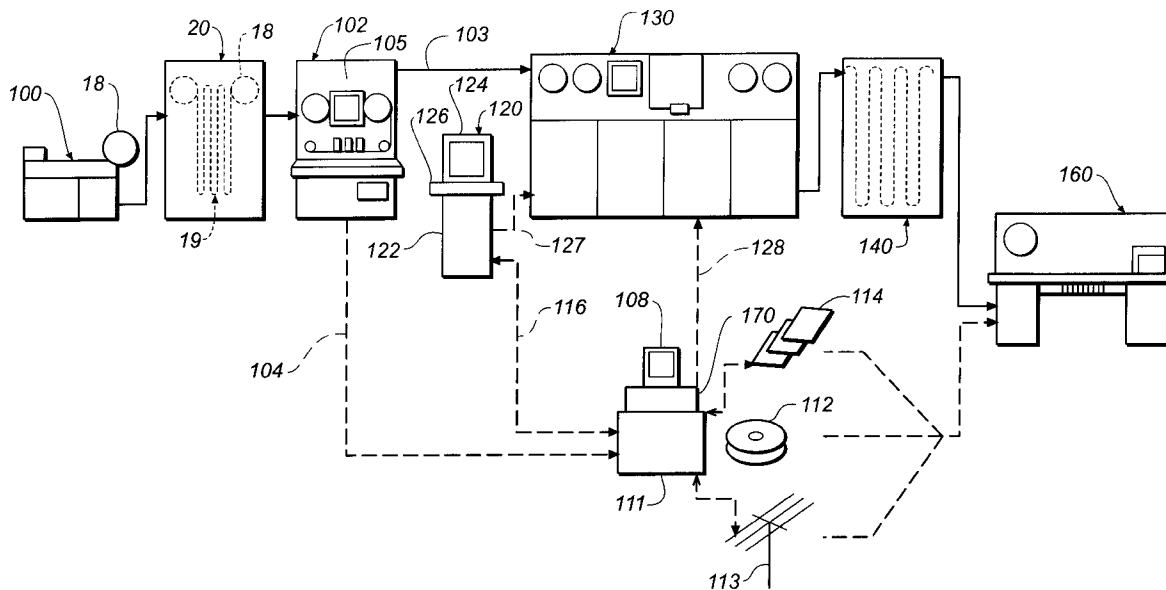
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Primary Examiner—D. Ruthledge
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Gordon M. Stewart; David A. Novais

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An image printing system for generating multiple printed image copies in response to an order. A processor can divide the order into multiple sub-orders for respective image printers, each sub-order having a sub-order header which includes a unique order identification and an indication of the number of copies of the image to be printed by the corresponding printer. A plurality of image printers are connected to the processor, to each receive a corresponding sub-order and print the corresponding sub-order header, and the numbers of image copies indicated in that header. A method which can be executed by such a system and a computer program product which can execute the method on a programmable computer, are also provided.

31 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



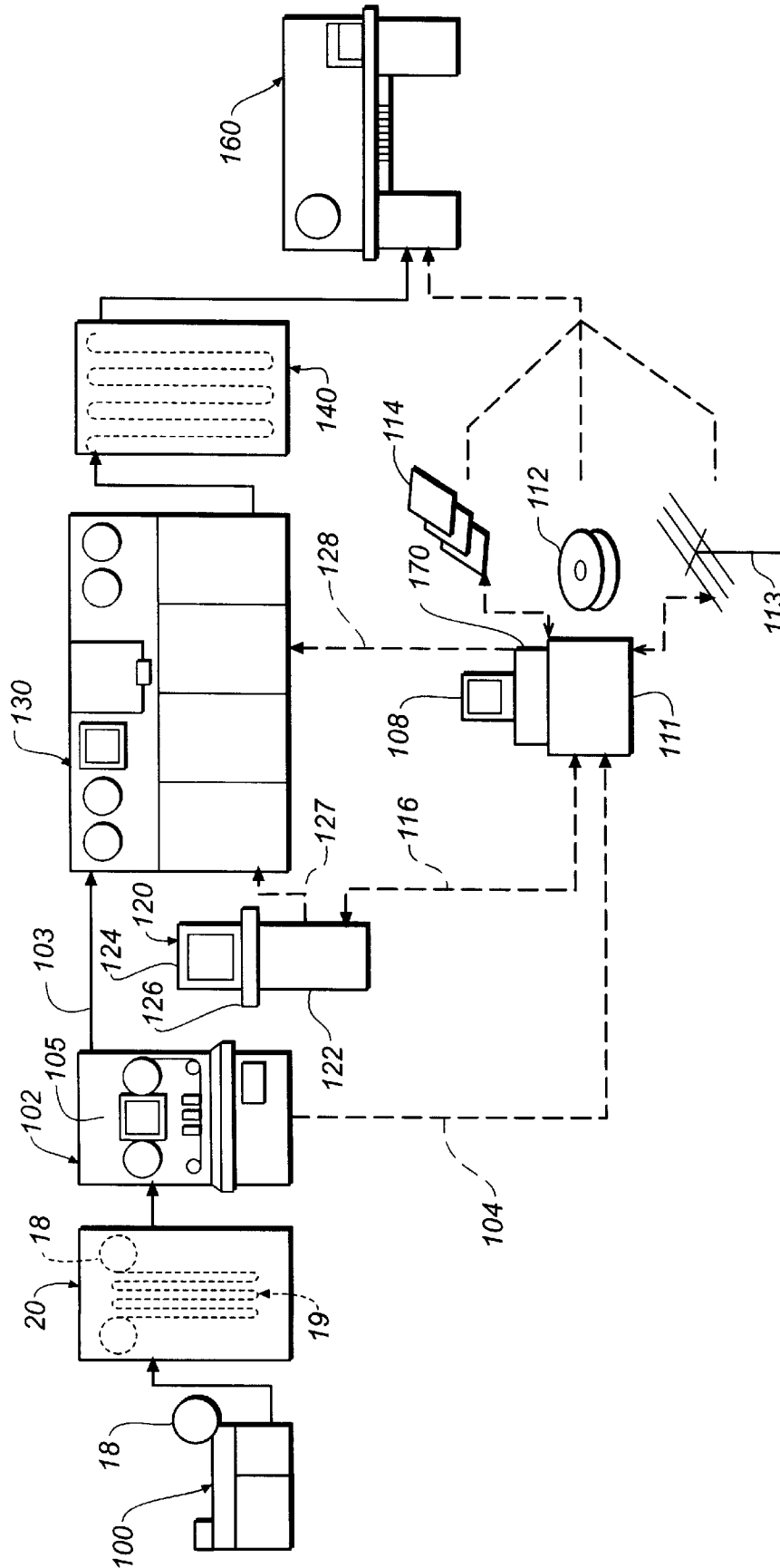


FIG. 1

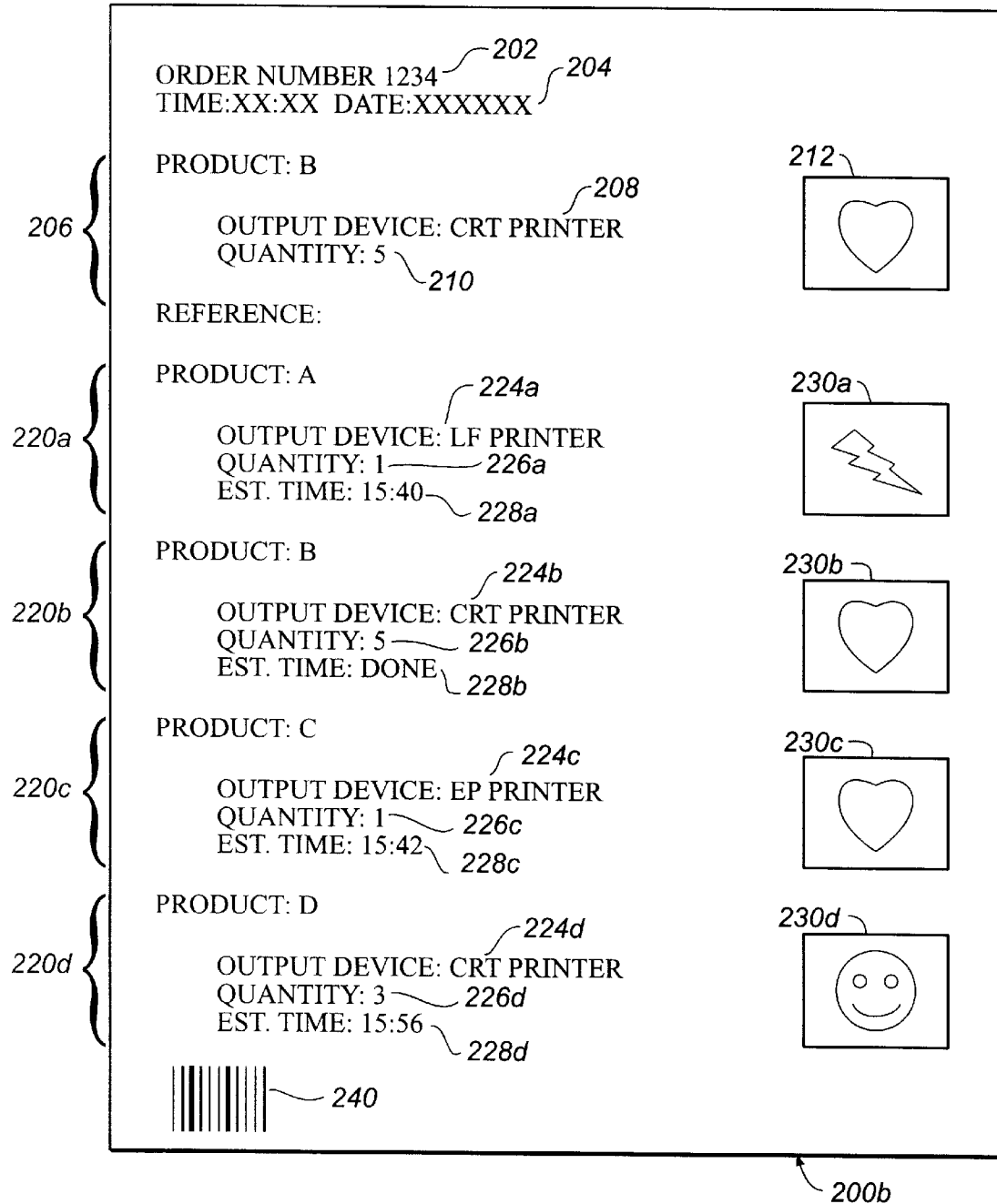


FIG. 2

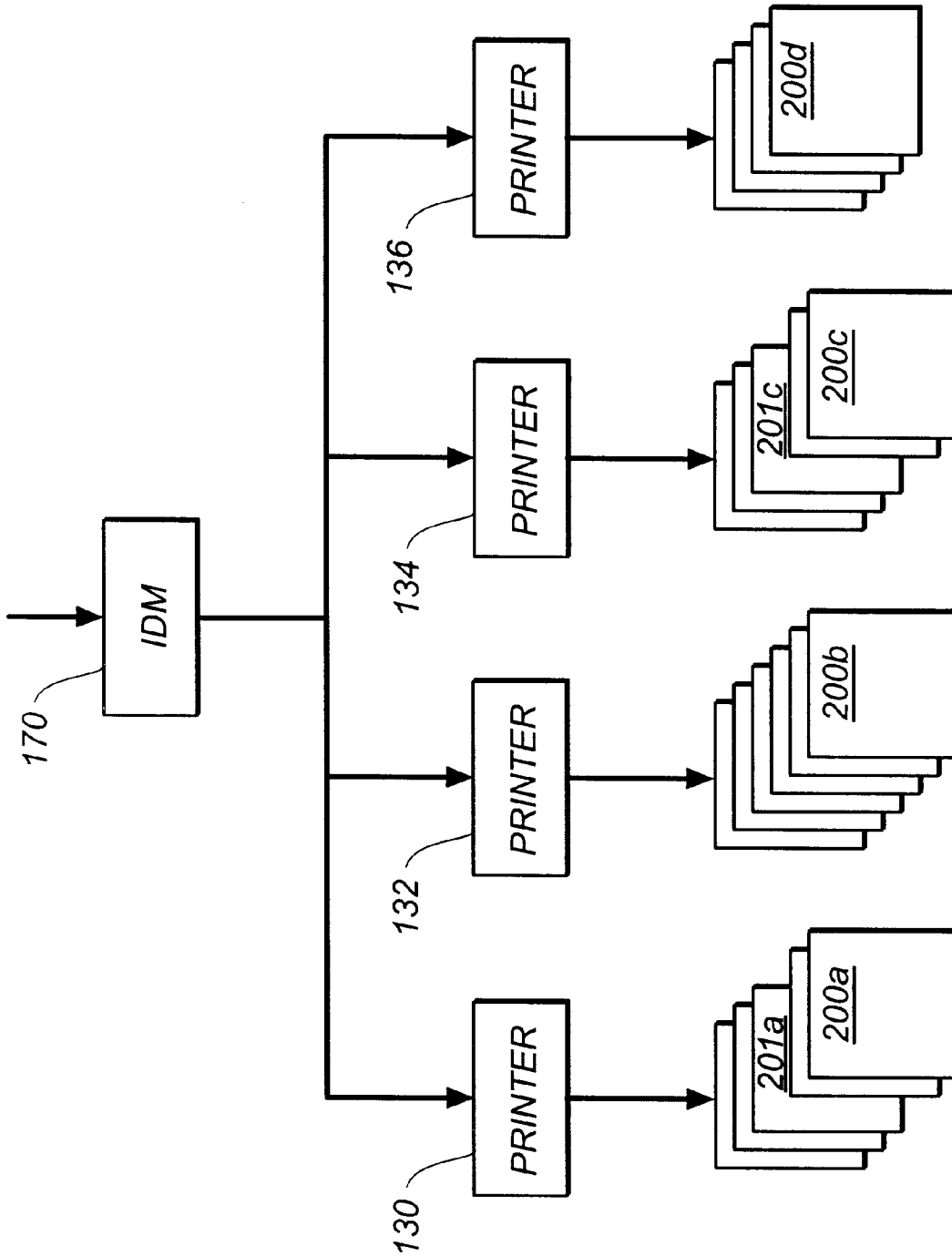


FIG. 3

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