

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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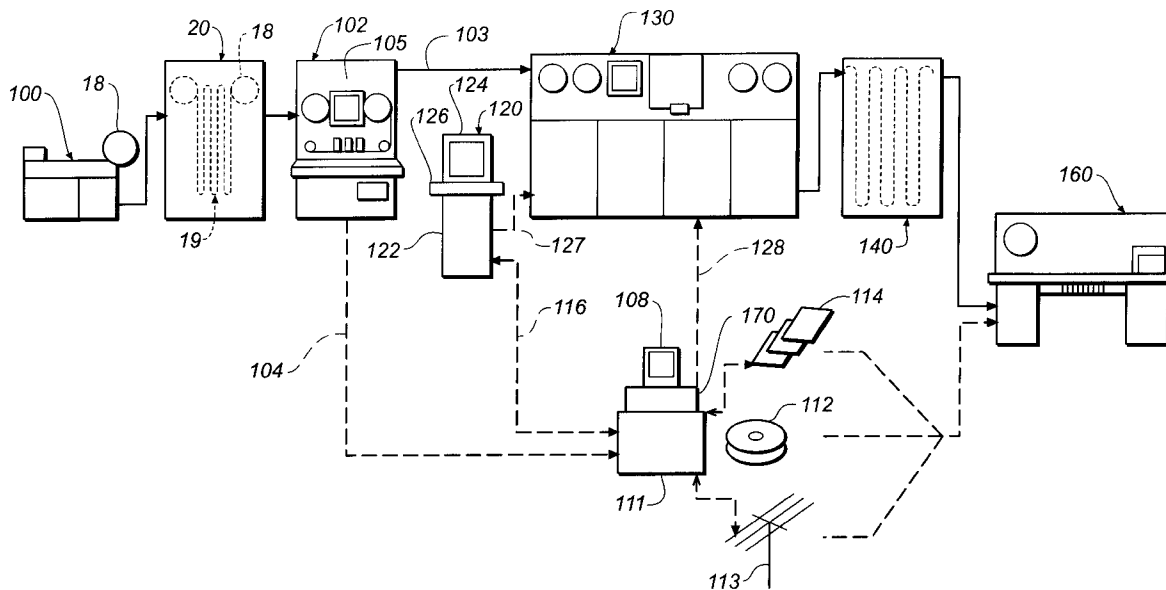
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Primary Examiner—D. Ruthledge*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Gordon M. Stewart; David A. Novais[57] **ABSTRACT**

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

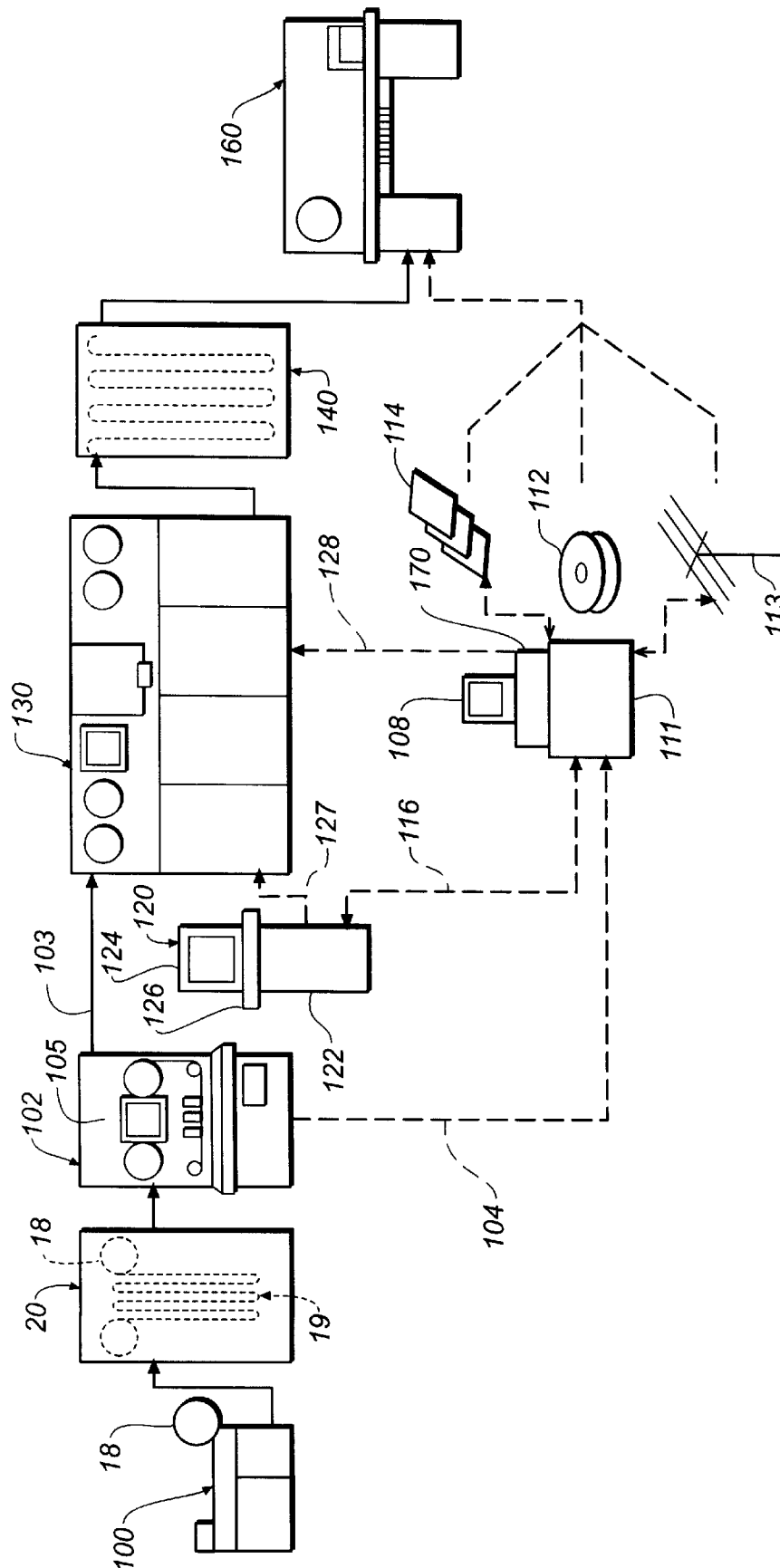
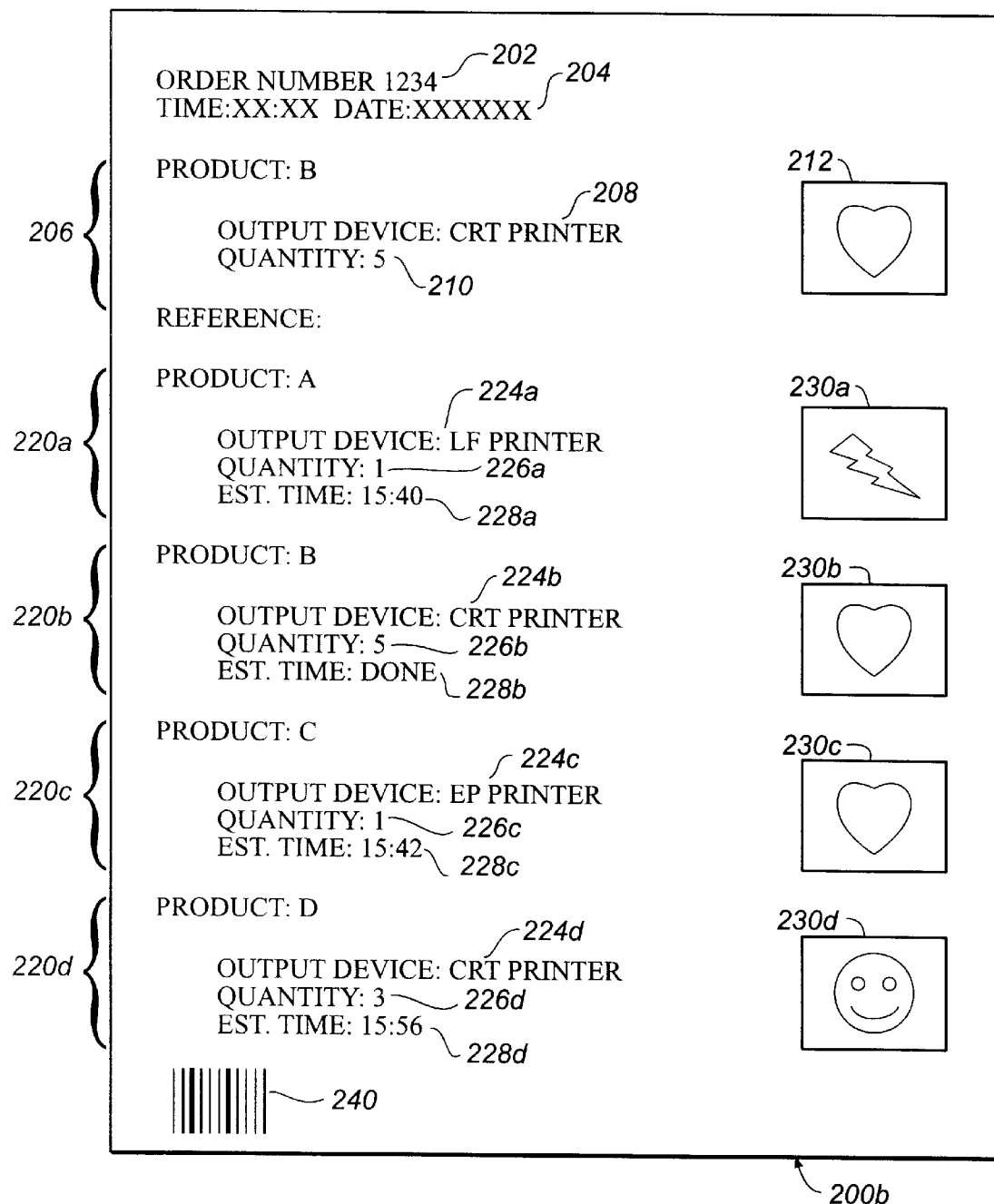
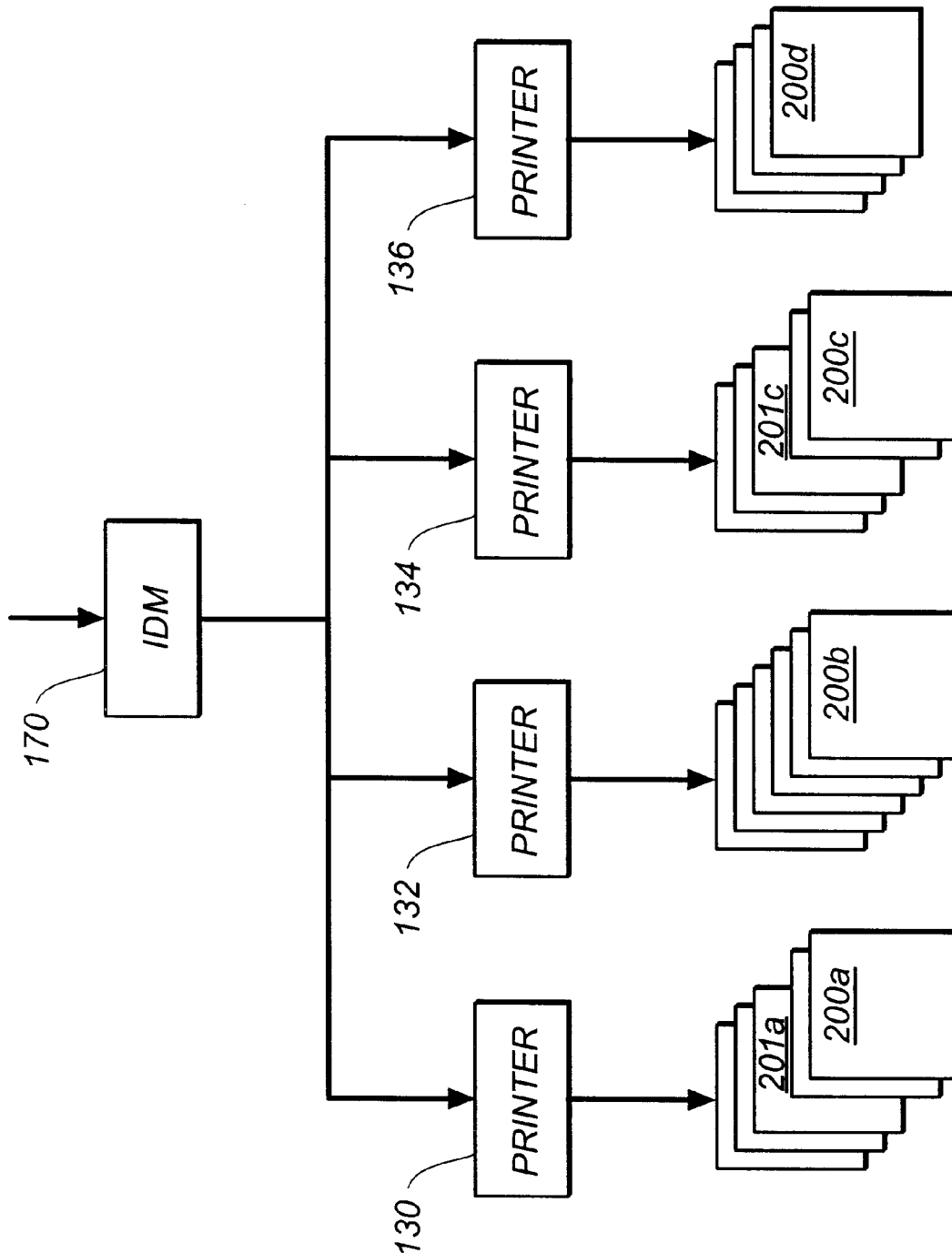


FIG. 1

**FIG. 2**

**FIG. 3**

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