

Braille Stereotypes and Duplicators

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This survey covers the two systems in common use for multiple copies of braille books and magazines - vacuum forming and embossed metal plates.

Vacuum forming machines can be used for producing copies of a single-sided braille master. The technique is that a sheet of thermoplastic is heated, then sucked down to conform to the shape of the braille master, and then cooled so that it retains this shape. The advantages of this system are simplicity and the low capital cost. The disadvantages include the high cost of the thermoplastic sheets and that plastic is not as comfortable to read as braille embossed on paper.

A stereotype machine embosses a pair of metal plates which are then used in a press for embossing paper. The metal plates can be used for producing hundreds or thousands of copies. The input to the stereotyper can be direct by a skilled brailist or from digital signals such as from a computer.

American Thermoform Corp, 8640 East Slauson Avenue, PO Box 125,
Pico Rivera, California 90660, USA. Tel: 213-277 0516.

Model: Brailon duplicator

Description: Vacuum forming machine for duplicating braille on a sheet of thermoplastic. The plastic is placed over the original and clamped, the heating oven is pulled into position over the plastic, and vacuum is applied. Can produce 150 copies per hour.

Price: \$1540; \$105 for conversion to 240 volts

C R Clarke & Co, Carragamman Lane, Ammanford, Dyfed SA18 3EL,
Wales. Tel: 0269-2329.

Model: Vacuum forming machine 375

Description: Vacuum forming machine for duplicating braille. Adjustable automatic timer with a maximum heating cycle time of 15 seconds. Supplied with 279 x 292 mm and 279 x 216 mm platens and clamp frames.

Price: £1003.97

Deutsche Blindenstudienanstalt e.V., Postfach 1160, Am Schlag 8,
D-3550 Marburg, German Federal Republic. Tel: 06421-67053.

Model: Puma M Stereotype
Description: Mechanical (pedal) stereotyping machine for embossing a pair of metal plates. One-hand operation. Interdot and interline braille possible.
Price: 13,813 Deutschmarks

Model: Puma E Stereotype
Description: Electric stereotyping machine for embossing a pair of metal plates. Mechanical one-hand keys, electric carriage and mechanical line spacing. Interdot and interline braille possible.
Price: 18,078 Deutschmarks

Model: Puma ET Stereotype
Description: Electric stereotyping machine for embossing a pair of metal plates. Electric one or two-hand keys, electric carriage transport and mechanical line spacing. Interdot and interline braille possible.
Price: 24,041 Deutschmarks

Model: Puma ES Stereotype
Description: Full electrically-operating stereotyping machine for embossing a pair of metal plates. One or two-hand operation. Interdot and interline braille possible.
Price: 25,796 Deutschmarks

Model: Puma ESV Stereotype
Description: Electric stereotyper controlled by magnetic tape (ECMA 34 cassette), 8-channel punched tape or direct from a RS232 interface. Interdot and interline braille possible.
Price: 90,000 Deutschmarks with RS232 interface; 100,000 Deutschmarks with cassette tape reader.

Model: Braille composition unit
Description: Basic unit for digital text-input on ECMA 34 cassettes or 8-channel punched tape for Puma ESV. One-line display.
Price: 15,900 Deutschmarks for magnetic tape; 18,100 Deutschmarks for punched tape

Model: Braille correction unit
Description: Unit for correcting the cassettes or punched tape. The unit permits insertion and deletion of characters.
Price: 61,500 Deutschmarks for magnetic tape; 62,500 Deutschmarks for punched tape

Model: Rotary printing press

Description: The folded and embossed metal plate is cut into two parts and placed over top and bottom rollers. Output speed approximately 7000 sheets per hour.

Price: 36,179 Deutschemarks

Model: Marburg printing box

Description: The braille characters are composed in a typesetting frame; each character is of three types (space, 1 dot or 2 dots). The typesetting frame comprises 700 characters. The sheet of paper is placed on the embossed type, the pressure plate is placed on top, and the pressure roller is turned over the plate with a crank handle.

Price: 1343.00 Deutschemarks for single-sided system; 1837.40 Deutschemarks for double-sided system

F Kutschera & Co, Konigsworther Strasse 7, D-3000 Hannover, German Federal Republic. Tel: 32 15 05.

Model: Copytherm

Description: Vacuum forming machine for reproducing braille or embossed diagrams on thermoplastic sheet. Standard frames 27 x 34 cm or 21 x 29.5 cm (A4). Also available with cooling fan.

Price: 2905 Deutschemarks; 3325 Deutschemarks with cooling fan

Matsushita Research Institute Toyko Inc, 4896 Ikura, Tama, Kawasaki, Kanagawa, 214 Japan.

Model: Duplication system

Description: An optical reader detects the embossed patterns on the braille original and converts them to electronic signals. The braille can be proofread and edited on the screen of a microcomputer. The output is to a mechanical punch which makes a negative braille printing plate.

Ernest F Moy Ltd, Unit 5, Brunswick Park Industrial Estate, New Southgate, London N11 1JF, England. Tel: 01-361 1211.

Model: Braille stereotyper

Description: Electrically operated machine for embossing a folded metal plate. Mechanical carriage transport and line spacing. Maximum plate size 394 x 241 mm which provides a 36 cell line with 28 lines per page using interpoint or 23 lines interline. This is with the British braille dimensions; other specifications available as extra. This machine will accept 210 cells per minute and can be used by non-sighted personnel. One-hand operating attachment is available as extra.

Price: £19,000

