

Title (en)

A method of maintaining a liquid ink printhead

Title (de)

Verfahren zur Wartung eines Druckkopfes für flüssige Tinte

Title (fr)

Méthode de maintenance pour tête d'impression à encre liquide

Publication

EP 0799701 A1 19971008 (EN)

Application

EP 97200949 A 19970401

Priority

US 62630096 A 19960401

Abstract (en)

A liquid ink printer (10) and a method of operation therefore having a maintenance device (30) in communication with a liquid ink printhead (20) to direct the liquid ink printhead to eject purge ink drops from the ink ejecting orifices as a function of image data. The maintenance device (30) includes a maintenance circuit having an image data input for receiving the image data and a maintenance circuit output transmitting a maintenance signal to the liquid ink printhead (20) to cause the ink ejecting orifices thereof to eject purge ink as a function of the received image data. A timer is used to determine the time period between the ejection of ink drops from an individual nozzle to thereby determine if a sufficient number of ink drops are fired to prevent viscous plugs from forming in the nozzles. If the ink nozzles are not ejecting a required number of drops to prevent viscous plugs from forming, a purge operation is performed to project purge ink or purge drops from the respective nozzles to thereby maintain proper operation thereof. <IMAGE>

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IPC 8 full level

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Citation (search report)

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- [A] PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 014, no. 379 (M - 1012) 16 August 1990 (1990-08-16)

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