

Title (en)
Inkjet ink solvent application system

Title (de)
System zum Zuführen von Tintenlösungsmittel für Tintenstrahldrucker

Title (fr)
Système d'application de solvant d'encre pour imprimante à jet d'encre

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Application
EP 00300045 A 20000106

Priority
US 22744999 A 19990108

Abstract (en)
A replaceable inkjet printhead cleaner service station system (70) has separate replaceable cleaning units (80, 82, 84, 86) for maintaining each printhead (60, 62, 64, 66) in an inkjet printing mechanism (20), which has a pallet (72) that moves the cleaning units. Each cleaning unit (80, 82, 84, 86) has a printhead wiper (125), a printhead snout wiper (190), a capping system (170), a spittoon (108), and an ink solvent application system (134), all supported by a base (102). The application system (134) has a reservoir body (132) impregnated with an ink solvent (130), and an applicator wick (135) located to apply the solvent (130) to the printhead (60) when an edge (200) of the printhead is brought into contact with the wick. A wiper (126, 128) wipes the solvent across the printhead (60), with excess ink solvent (130) and ink residue (218, 224) falling from the printhead and wiper into an auxiliary wiper chamber (220) defined by the base (102), eliminating the need for cumbersome wiper scrapers. A method is provided for cleaning an inkjet printhead (60), along with a printing mechanism (20) employing such a system. <IMAGE>

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Citation (applicant)

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