

Title (en)  
DIRECT PRINTING APPARATUS AND METHOD

Title (de)  
GERÄT UND VERFAHREN ZUM DIREKTEN DRUCKEN

Title (fr)  
APPAREIL ET PROCEDE D'IMPRESSION DIRECTE

Publication  
**EP 1261490 A1 20021204 (EN)**

Application  
**EP 00973321 A 20001020**

Priority  
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Abstract (en)  
[origin: WO0232679A1] An image forming apparatus and a method for direct printing in which an image information is converted into a pattern of electrostatic fields for modulating a transport of charged toner particles from a particle carrier towards an image receiving surface. A printhead structure is arranged in the background electric field, including a plurality of apertures and control electrodes arranged in conjunction to the apertures. A plurality of the printhead structures (3005', 3005", 3005'", 3005''') and the particle carriers (3033', 3033", 3033'", 3033''') are arranged in a succession along the image receiving surface (3001). Each printhead structure has a particle-emitting plane at a printing distance (li', li", li'", li''') from the image receiving surface (3001) for selectively permitting or restricting transport of charged toner particles of a specific color. The printing distance (li''') of a later printhead structure (3005''') is at least  $\mu\text{m}$  larger than the printing distance (li") of an earlier printhead structure (3005') in the succession.

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