



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(21) Application number : **93309059.9**

(51) Int. Cl.⁵ : **B41J 2/17**

(22) Date of filing : **12.11.93**

(30) Priority : **19.11.92 US 978846**

(43) Date of publication of application :
25.05.94 Bulletin 94/21

(84) Designated Contracting States :
DE FR GB IT

(88) Date of deferred publication of search report :
31.08.94 Bulletin 94/35

(71) Applicant : **Hewlett-Packard Company**
3000 Hanover Street
Palo Alto, California 94304 (US)

(72) Inventor : **Lim, Chuin Kiat**
2 Melrose Drive,
Singapore 1335 (SG)
Inventor : **Chan, James Loke Kie**
Block 171,
Woodlands Street 11, 07-33
Singapore 2573 (SG)

(74) Representative : **Colgan, Stephen James et al**
CARPMAELS & RANSFORD
43 Bloomsbury Square
London WC1A 2RA (GB)

(54) **System and method for drying ink on a printing medium.**

(57) A system and method is provided for drying ink deposited onto an printing medium (12) by a printer. The printer includes therewithin primary heat generating modules (126,30) which generate excess heat within the printer when the ink is printed onto the printing medium (12), a thermally conductive platen (22) over which the printing medium moves within the printer during the printing of the ink onto the printing medium (12), and heat conductive contacts (24). It also includes heat conductive contacts for conductively attaching the primary heat generating modules (26,30) to the thermally conductive platen (22). The primary heat generating modules are conductively attached to the thermally conductive platen through heat conductive contacts. The primary heat generating modules (26,30) generate excess heat for conductively heating the thermally conductive platen. Then, the printing medium is moved into contact with the heated thermally conductive platen (22) thereby heating the printing medium (12). Next, the printing ink is deposited by the printer onto the heated printing medium. The ink on the heated printing medium is dried by effects of the elevated temperature imparted to the printing medium (12) by the heated thermally conductive platen (22). In this way, faster printing throughput and improved print quality are provided.

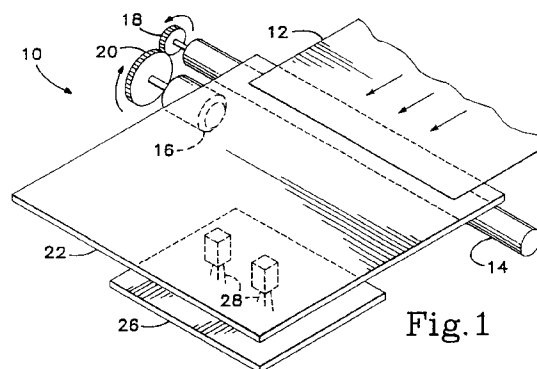


Fig.1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 30 9059

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
X	US-A-5 136 329 (YOSHINORI SUGIURA) * column 4, line 10 - column 5, line 5; figures 1-12 *	1,2,5,6, 8,10	B41J2/17
Y	---	4,9	
Y	US-A-5 021 805 (MAMORU IMAIZUMI) * claims 1-20 *	4,9	
A	XEROX DISCLOSURE JOURNAL, vol.7, no.6, November 1982 GILBERT M. ELCHINGER 'ELECTROSTATIC DRYER FOR INK JET PRINTERS' -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			B41J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 4 July 1994	Examiner Henningsen, O
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.92 (P04C01)