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(71) Applicant: **EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY**
Rochester, New York 14650-2201 (US)

(72) Inventor: **Jeanmaire, David Louis,**
c/o Eastman Kodak Company
Rochester, New York 14650-2201 (US)

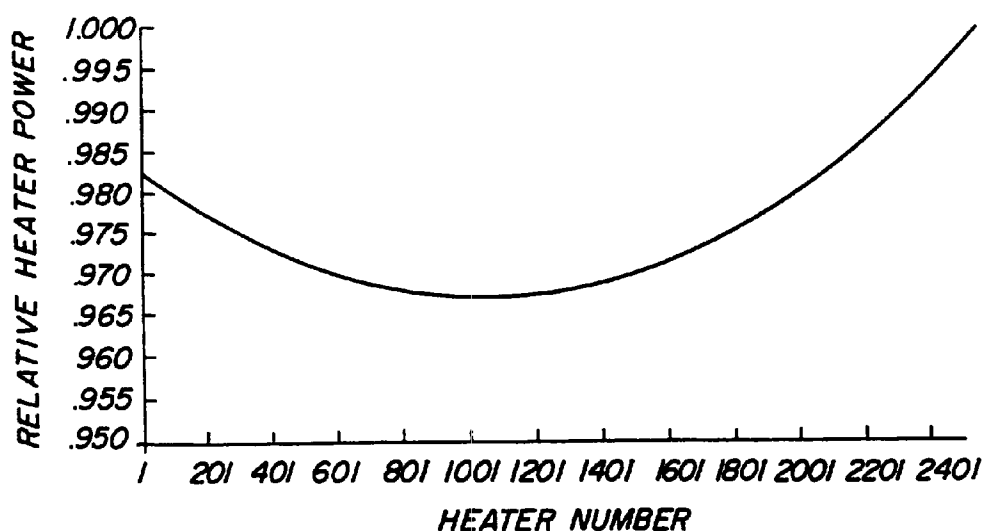
(74) Representative: **Blickle, K. Werner, Dipl.-Ing. et al**
D-70323 Stuttgart (DE)

(54) **Compensation for voltage drops due to resistive heating element location in thermal printer heads**

(57) Compensation is provided for location-dependent voltage drops within a thermal printhead by adjusting the duration of application of current to selected resistive heating elements as a function of the location of (i) the resistive heating elements on the printhead and (ii) of the number of heating elements which are simultaneously activated. A histogram of the frequency that different

duration of current application occur during each print line is produced and used for producing a location-dependent correction factor. The resistive heating elements may be segmented into a plurality of groups based on physical location on the printhead, and the duration of application of current to the selected resistive heating elements is adjusted as a group.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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.6)
X	WO-A-91 14577 (DOWTY MARITIME LTD.) * the whole document * ---	1,5,6	B41J2/36
X	US-A-5 248 995 (H. IZUMI) * the whole document * ---	1,6	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12 no. 424 (M-761) [3271] ,10 November 1988 & JP-A-63 159068 (Y. MOJI) 1 July 1988, * abstract * ---	1,6	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12 no. 424 (M-761) [3271] ,10 November 1988 & JP-A-63 159069 (M. OYAMA) 1 July 1988, * abstract * ---	1,2,6,7	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12 no. 325 (M-737) [3172] ,5 September 1988 & JP-A-63 091266 (M. OYAMA) 21 April 1988, * abstract * -----	1,2,6,7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B41J
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		20 December 1995	Van den Meerschaut,G
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			

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