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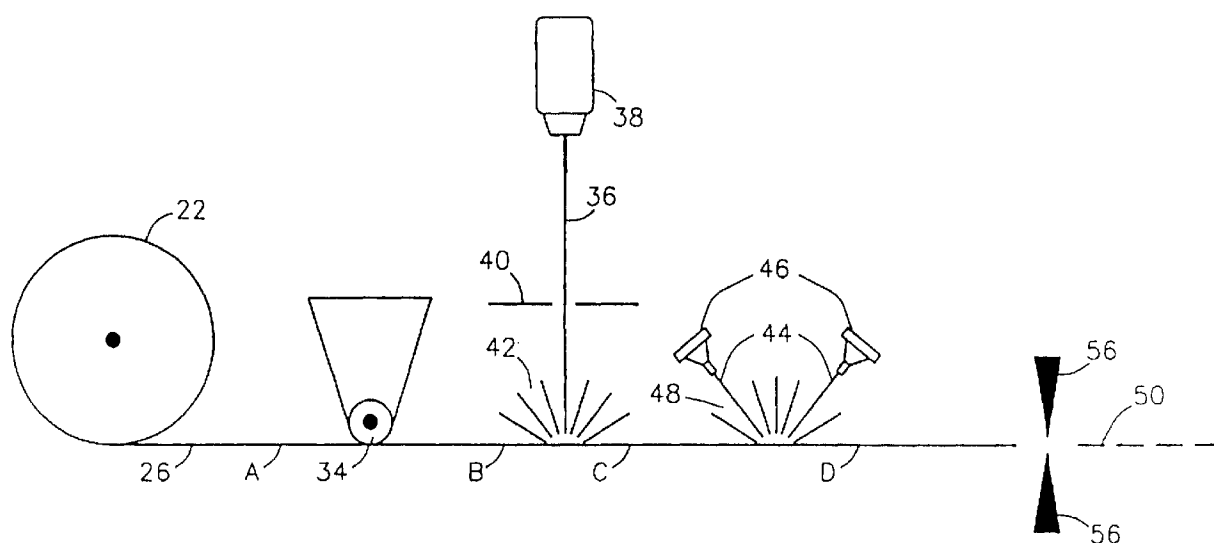
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**(54) Method of forming an inkjet printhead nozzle structure**

(57) A composite structure containing a nozzle layer (10) and an adhesive layer is provided and the adhesive layer (24) is coated with a polymeric sacrificial layer (28). The coated composite structure is laser ablated to form one or more nozzles in the structure and the sacrificial

layer is removed. The sacrificial layer is preferably a water soluble polymer and is most preferably polyvinyl alcohol which is removed by directing jets of water at the sacrificial layer until it is substantially removed from the adhesive layer.

**Fig. 2**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 30 6160

| 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 93 22141 A (COMPAQ COMPUTER CORP) 11 November 1993<br>* abstract *                                                                                  | 1-4                                                | B41J2/16                                     |
| Y                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | * page 9, line 17 - page 11, line 9 *<br>* figures 1A,2 *                                                                                              | 7-11                                               |                                              |
| X                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | EP 0 576 007 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP) 29 December 1993<br>* abstract *                                                                                     | 1,2                                                |                                              |
| Y                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | * page 5, line 48 - page 6, line 20 *<br>* claims *                                                                                                    |                                                    |                                              |
| Y                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN<br>vol. 007, no. 215 (M-244), 22 September 1983<br>& JP 58 110190 A (TOKYO SHIBAURA DENKI KK), 30 June 1983,<br>* abstract * | 7                                                  |                                              |
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| Y                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | US 4 239 954 A (HOWARD CURTISS G ET AL) 16 December 1980<br>* abstract *                                                                               | 7-9                                                |                                              |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | * column 2, line 36 - column 3, line 20 *<br>* figure 1 *                                                                                              |                                                    |                                              |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | US 4 948 941 A (ALTMAN LEONARD F ET AL) 14 August 1990<br>* the whole document *                                                                       | 1                                                  |                                              |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                    |                                              |
| Place of search<br>THE HAGUE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        | Date of completion of the search<br>19 August 1997 | Examiner<br>Didenot, B                       |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br/>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br/>A : technological background<br/>O : non-written disclosure<br/>P : intermediate document</p> <p>I : theory or principle underlying the invention<br/>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br/>D : document cited in the application<br/>L : document cited for other reasons<br/>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                    |                                              |

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