



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 1032

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 A	EP 0 709 205 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) * column 4, line 8 - line 52; figure 1 *	1,7,14,43 2-6, 9-13, 15-17, 19,21, 22,27, 29,44	B41J2/175
X A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 095, no. 010, 30 November 1995 & JP 07 178920 A (CANON INC), 18 July 1995, * abstract *	1,14 7,15,19, 21,22, 29,43,44	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) B41J
X A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 095, no. 004, 31 May 1995 & JP 07 025025 A (CANON INC), 27 January 1995, * abstract *	1,14 7,15,19, 21,22, 29,43,44	
X A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 368 (M-1443), 12 July 1993 & JP 05 057902 A (CANON INC), 9 March 1993, * abstract *	1,7,14 15,19, 21,22, 29,43,44	
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-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 23 January 1998	Examiner ADAM, E
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 03/82 (P04C01)



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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	EP 0 745 482 A (HEWLETT-PACKARD) * abstract *	1,14	
A	* column 7, line 22 - line 58; figures 4-7C *	2,19,21, 22,43,44	
A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 096, no. 011, 29 November 1996 & JP 08 174859 A (CANON INC), 9 July 1996, * abstract * -----		
-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 23 January 1998	Examiner ADAM, E
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 82 (P04C01)

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-30, 43, 44

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions, or groups of inventions, namely:

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|--------|----------------------|---|
| 1. Yes | Claims 1-30, 43, 44: | Apparatus and method of filling an ink cartridge for a printer comprising the step of reducing the pressure in the cartridge and connecting an ink supply at a higher pressure to the cartridge such that ink is drawn from the supply into the cartridge by the pressure differential. |
| 2. No | Claims 31-37: | Apparatus including means for evacuating an air bag and means permitting a final predetermined volume of air to be in the air bag. |
| 3. No | Claims 38-42: | Station comprising means to receive and locate a cartridge, means to cover the apertures of a located cartridge and enable at least one of the cartridge apertures to be connected to external means. |