



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) **EP 0 849 085 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
17.02.1999 Bulletin 1999/07

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **B41J 2/175**

(43) Date of publication A2:
24.06.1998 Bulletin 1998/26

(21) Application number: **97122189.0**

(22) Date of filing: **16.12.1997**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventor:
**Tanaka, Koichi,
c/o NEC Niigata Ltd.
Kashiwazaki-shi, Niigata (JP)**

(30) Priority: **17.12.1996 JP 337326/96**

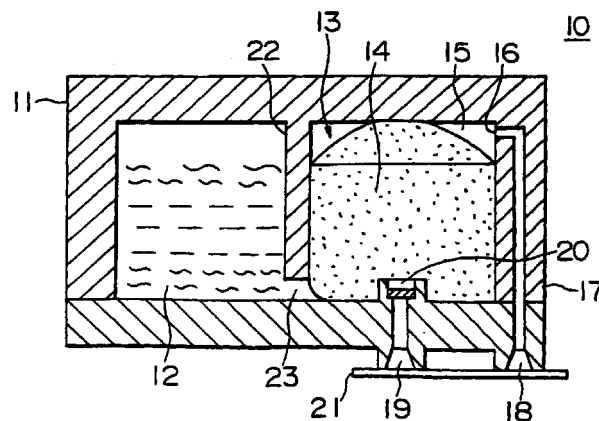
(74) Representative: **Betten & Resch
Reichenbachstrasse 19
80469 München (DE)**

(71) Applicant: **NEC CORPORATION
Tokyo (JP)**

(54) **Ink cartridge**

(57) An ink cartridge comprises a housing (11) defining an ink chamber (12) and a negative pressure chamber (13). The negative pressure chamber (13) receives therein a porous body (14) impregnated with liquid ink and having a mound (41) at the top surface for defining a space (15) between the top surface and the inner wall of the negative pressure chamber (13). A vent (18) communicated with the space (15) through a uniform passage (17) and an ink outlet port (19) are disposed at the bottom of said negative pressure chamber for alignment in a plane and sealed by a common seal tape (21).

FIG. 4



EP 0 849 085 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 12 2189

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)
A	US 5 581 288 A (SEIKO PRECISION INC.) 3 December 1996 * the whole document *	1,2	B41J2/175
A	EP 0 685 340 A (CANON K.K.) 6 December 1995 * column 9, line 40 - column 13, line 1 * * figures 1-8 *	4,5	
P,X	EP 0 755 794 A (CANON K.K.) 29 January 1997 * the whole document *	1	
E	WO 98 03340 A (DATAPRODUCTS CORP.) 29 January 1998 * page 8, line 5 - page 9, line 8 * * figures 6,7 *	1,4,6	
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	22 December 1998	Van den Meerschaut,G	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 12 2189

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

22-12-1998

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5581288 A	03-12-1996	JP 5246044 A	24-09-1993
EP 685340 A	06-12-1995	JP 7323565 A	12-12-1995
		JP 8025640 A	30-01-1996
EP 755794 A	29-01-1997	JP 9030003 A	04-02-1997
		JP 9030000 A	04-02-1997
WO 9803340 A	29-01-1998	US 5821964 A	13-10-1998
		AU 3724797 A	10-02-1998