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(54) **Method for providing particle-free ink jet printer components**

(57) A method is provided for improving the operation of ink jet components. The components are machined using known, conventional machining techniques. All of the machined surfaces are then treated using non-abrasive, intrinsically leveling polishing processes to eliminate particulate sources. The convention-

al machining may be any known technique, such as electro discharge machining. The polishing processes include, but are not limited to, electrochemical means such as electropolishing, electrochemical deburring, and electrochemical grinding. The polishing processes may further comprise vapor polishing, and laser treatment to reflow the machined surface.

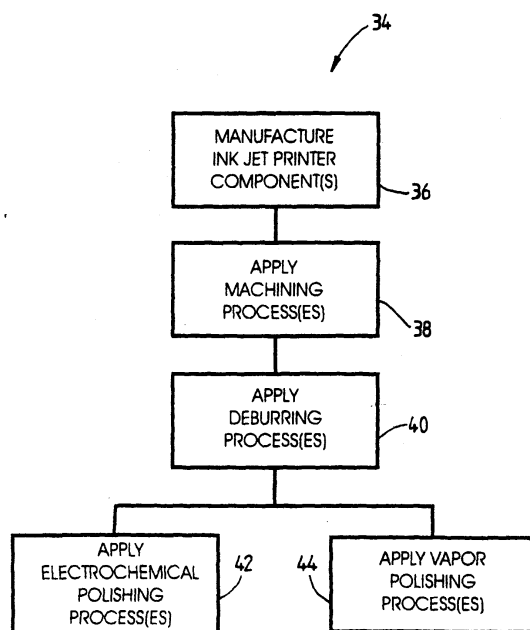


FIG. 4



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 98 30 0078

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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 25 January 1999	Examiner Didenot, B
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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Application Number  
EP 98 30 0078

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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 25 January 1999	Examiner Didenot, B
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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

EP 98 30 0078

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
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