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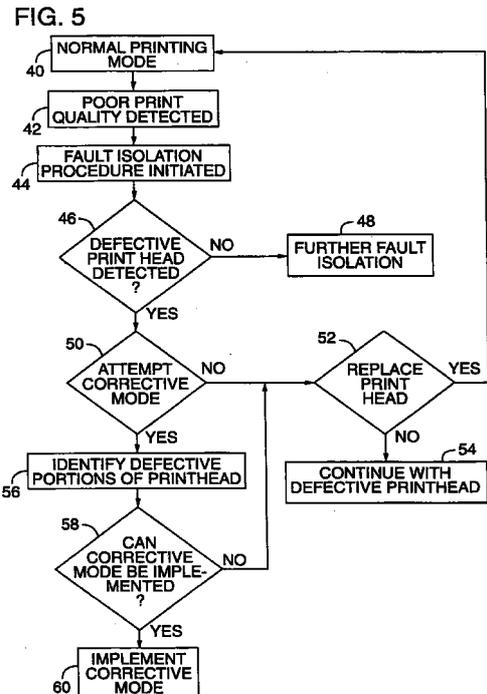
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(54) System and method for printing with a portion of an ink-jet print head

(57) A system and method for printing with a portion of an ink-jet print head 26 allows for defect-free printing even with a print head 26 containing defective ink-jets 28. Where some ink-jets 28 on a print head 26 are defective, the print head is controlled to print, albeit at a reduced speed, using only properly functioning ink-jets. For example, if the top half of a print head 26 contains one or more defective ink-jets 28, the top half of the print head could be disabled. Then using the defect-free bottom half of the print head, the printer can continue to print with high print quality. In this example, the printer would make two swaths with the bottom half of the print head to print what would normally be printed in a single swath of a fully functional print head. A system for detecting and locating defective ink-jets is provided.







European Patent  
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
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E	EP 0 881 083 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP) 2 December 1998 * the whole document * -----	1-8	
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Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
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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			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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