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(54) **Image forming method and apparatus therefor**

(57) An image forming apparatus prevents foreign matter, such as dust or the like from being sucked into an ink passage from an ejection opening when a liquid ejection head ejecting a liquid is elevated from an image forming position to a recovery process position located above the image forming position. The image forming apparatus includes a liquid supply passage (39) connected to the liquid ejection head (21) which is provided with ejection opening (44) for ejecting liquid, liquid supply device (41) for supplying liquid to the liquid ejection head (21) via the liquid supply passage (39), recovery process device for recovering ejecting condition of liquid

from the liquid ejection head (21), head moving device for moving the liquid ejection head between the recovery process position for performing recovery process of the liquid ejection head (21) by the recovery process device and an image forming position for forming an image on the printing medium by the liquid ejection head (21), and closing device (41) for closing the liquid supply passage (39) during movement of the liquid ejection head (21) into the recovery process position by the head moving device.

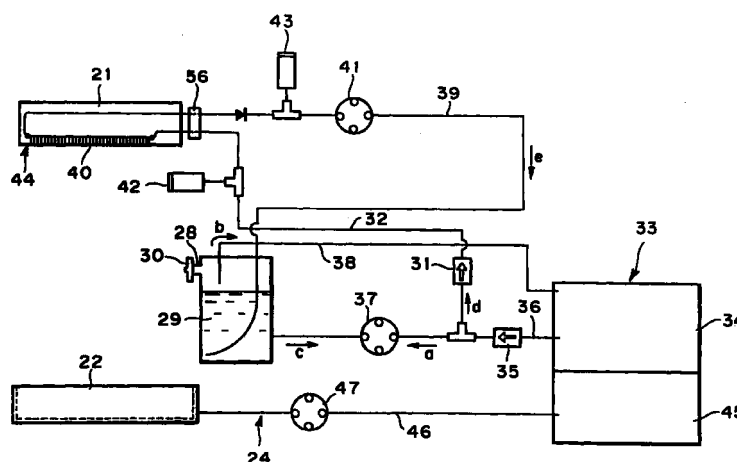


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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A	EP 0 376 309 A (CANON KK) 4 July 1990 * abstract * * column 4, line 39 - column 6, line 20; figure 16 * * column 7, line 23 - column 8, line 38; figures 2A,2B * * column 9, line 34 - column 11, line 53; figures 4-6 * * column 12, line 31 - column 15, line 29; figures 8-11 *	1,5	
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Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 4 February 1999	Examiner Nielsen, M
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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