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(54) **An ink jet printhead including a non-ink priming and coating fluid**

(57) An ink jet printhead for use in an ink jet printer, or mounted in an ink jet printer being shipped or being stored. The ink jet printhead (34) consists of a printhead structure having a body including walls having surfaces defining fluid flow channels (44) and fluid ejecting nozzles (62) at the ends of the channels. In order to achieve a successful first time ink wetting and priming of the printhead structure, the channels and the nozzles are filled with a non-ink priming and coating fluid prior to a first time filling thereof with printing ink. The non-ink priming and coating fluid has low surface tension and volatility characteristics for enabling the non-ink priming and coating fluid to spontaneously and quickly move through the channels of the printhead and into the nozzles thereof. The non-ink priming and coating fluid also has surface treating characteristics for wetting and coating the surfaces of the walls of the channels and nozzles in order to clean and lubricate such surfaces, thereby destroying any hydrophobic film on such surfaces, and enabling a successful first time wetting and priming of the channels and nozzles with printing ink.

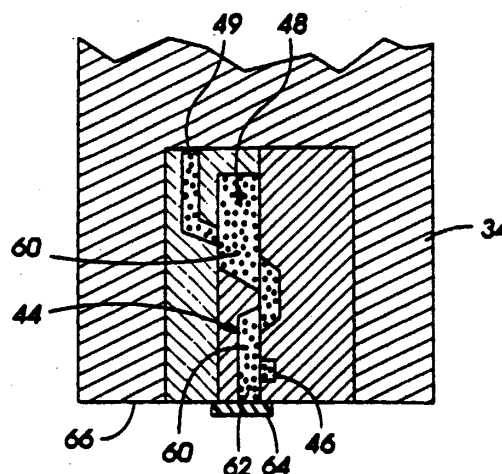


FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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)
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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 4 February 1999	Examiner Bardet, M
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div> 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 </div>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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