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(54) Inkjet printhead service station

(57) A timing cam driven service station services a pair of inkjet cartridges, such as interchangeable first and second inkjet cartridges when installed with a third inkjet cartridge, in a dual-cartridge carriage of an inkjet printing mechanism. The interchangeable cartridge system uses a black ink cartridge and a full color cartridge with full-colorant concentrations of colored ink for printing graphics and text. For printing photographic type images, the black cartridge is replaced with an imaging cartridge that carries ink formulations having reduced colorant concentrations to provide near photographic

quality images. The service station has a timing cam drive that selectively translationally moves caps and wipers to service the installed printheads, including the capability to independently wipe each printhead for optimum servicing, as well as the capability to simultaneously wipe both installed printheads to speed servicing during a print job. The timing cam drive also drives a carriage lock to secure a carriage carrying the printheads in a fixed position when the printheads are capped. A method is also provided of servicing inkjet printheads installed in the printing mechanism.

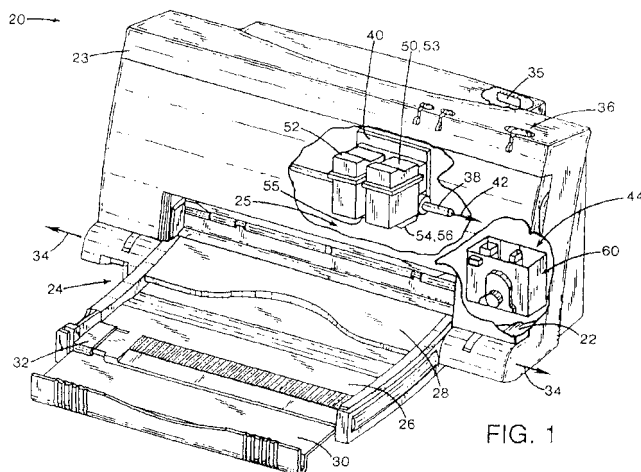


FIG. 1

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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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B41J
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 May 1999	Examiner De Groot, R
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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