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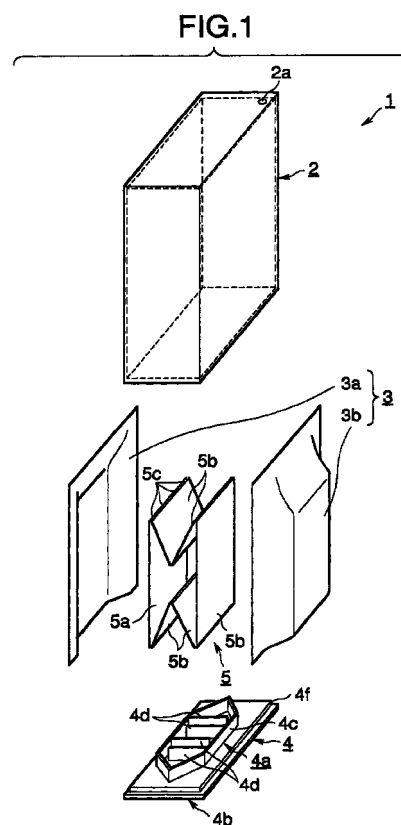
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(54) **Ink container**

(57) An ink container (1, 51) has an ink-holding space (9a, 89) maintained at substantially constant negative pressure until the ink contained in the ink-holding space (9a, 89) has been exhausted. The ink container (1, 51) includes a flexible wall (3, 55) and an urging member (5, 59, 76). The flexible wall (3, 55) forms a part of the ink-holding space (9a, 89) and the outer surface of the flexible wall (3, 55) is exposed to the atmospheric pressure. The urging member (5, 59, 76) takes the form of, for example, a spring. The urging member (5, 59, 76) is incorporated in the ink-holding space (9a, 89) and urges the flexible wall (3, 55) outwardly of the ink-holding space (9a, 89). The atmospheric pressure is exerted on the flexible wall (3, 55) so that the flexible wall (3, 55) is displaceable inwardly of the ink-holding space (9a, 89) as the ink is supplied from the ink-holding space (9a, 89) to an external device. The urging member (5, 59, 76) operates substantially in a plastic deformation region thereof.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 12 4023

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		20 August 1999	Adam, E
<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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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