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(54) **Apparatus and method for image fusing**

(57) A method of offset printing in an ink jet printer (10), the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming an ink image on a preliminary receiving surface (9);
- (b) passing a final receiving substrate (11) through a first nip (32) where it comes into contact with the preliminary receiving surface (9);
- (c) exerting a first pressure on the final receiving

substrate (11) in the first nip (32) to transfer the ink image from the preliminary receiving surface (9) to the final receiving substrate (11);

- (d) passing the final receiving substrate (11) through a second nip (39); and
- (e) exerting a second pressure on the final receiving substrate (11) in the second nip (39) to fuse the ink image into the final receiving substrate (11).

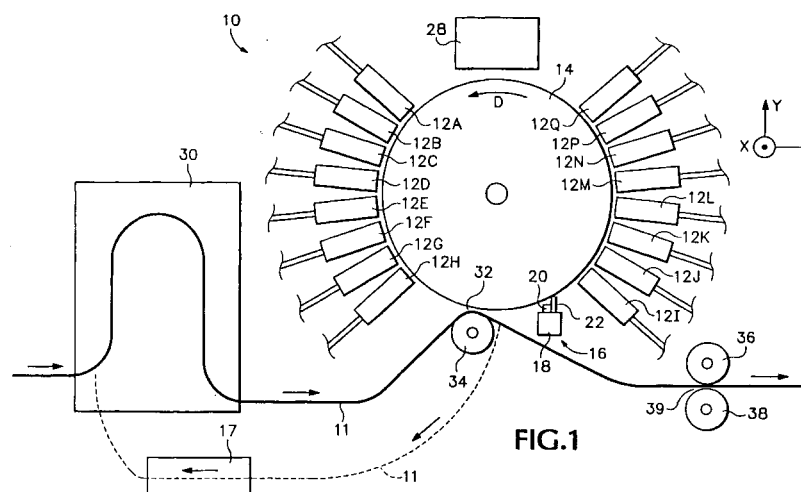


FIG.1



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 1400

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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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A	EP 0 635 369 A (TEKTRONIX INC) 25 January 1995 (1995-01-25) * column 5, line 5 - column 6, line 31 * * column 8, line 19 - line 42 * * column 9, line 3 - line 31 * * column 11, line 51 - column 12, line 7 * * column 16, line 46 - column 17, line 43; figures 1-3 *	1,3,5,7, 9,15,17	
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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 20 December 1999	Examiner Papastefanou, E
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	

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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