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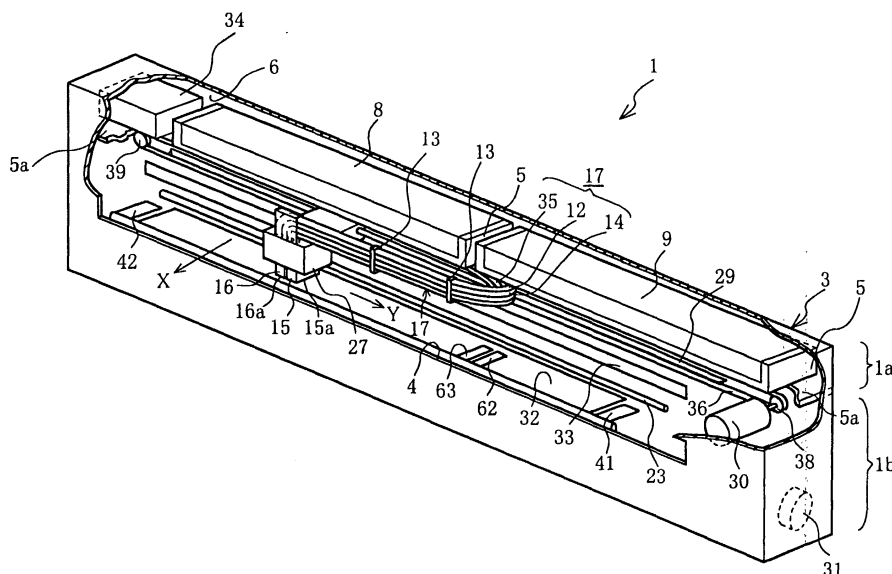
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(54) **Ink supplying apparatus**

(57) An ink supplying apparatus is provided that houses two ink packages in an upper portion thereof, and supplies inks to print heads. Waste ink drawn by the purge operation is injected into a first waste liquid chamber via an injection opening, and then absorbed into an absorber. When the first waste liquid chamber becomes filled with waste ink, waste ink flows into the second

waste liquid chamber via a vent hole, and then into the third waste liquid chamber. Therefore, even if the first waste liquid chamber becomes filled with waste ink, ink will not leak out. A small ink cartridge houses two ink packages. Since each ink cartridge has two separate ink packages storing individual inks, the amount of ink to be wasted at the time of ink cartridge replacement is reduced and, therefore, the operating cost is reduced.

Fig.2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 5124

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B41J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19 July 2000	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			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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