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(54)

Dot substitution to compensate for failed ink jet nozzles

(57)

An ink jet printer and a method of operating an ink jet printer wherein inoperative true black printing nozzles are detected, and substitute dots formed of non-black are printed at pixel locations that normally would be printed with the inoperative true black printing nozzles if such nozzles were operative. Each substitute dot comprises one or more constituent non-black dots, and in accordance with one implementation, each substituted dot comprises a composite or process black dot formed of two or three of cyan, magenta or yellow inks.

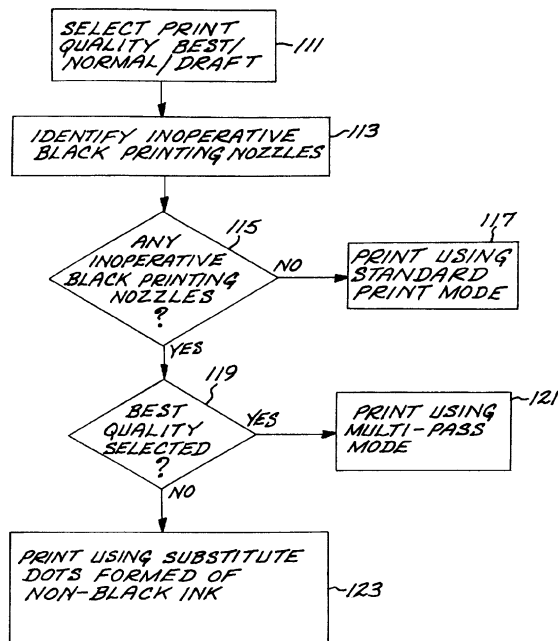


FIG.8



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 6367

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 581 284 A (HERMANSON HERMAN A) 3 December 1996 (1996-12-03)	1-13	B41J2/165 B41J2/21
Y	* column 2, line 52 - column 6, line 49; figures *	14-18	

Y	EP 0 694 396 A (CANON KK) 31 January 1996 (1996-01-31) * column 8, line 4 - column 27, line 10; figures 1-13 *	14-18	

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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 13 June 2000	Examiner De Groot, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03 B2 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 99 30 6367

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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13-06-2000

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