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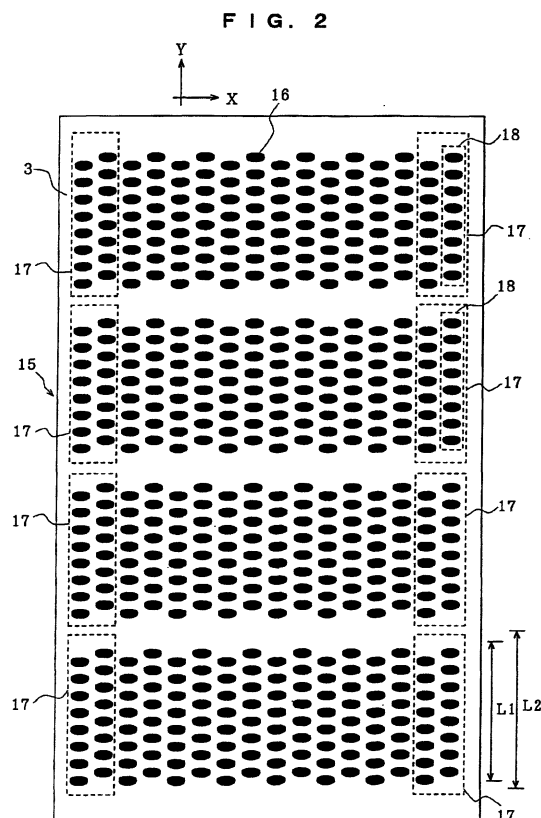
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(54) Ink-jet printer nozzle defect detection method and device

(57) A method and device designed to detect any defects in ink-jet nozzles such as blinding, satellite of ink, ink drop mislocation and uneven printing, wherein a test pattern 15 is printed on a test recording medium 3 with a printing head 4 and the said test pattern is scanned by sensor means 1 to capture an image of a column of ink drops 16 in the test pattern as a group 18, the image being processed to determine the average area of the ink drops, their X direction edge positions or Y direction center-to-center distances for comparison with specified criteria to judge any failure in the ink jetting on a group basis.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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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