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(72) Inventors:
• **Engel, James William**
Simi Valley, CA 91306 (US)
• **Zevin, Thomas M.**
Canoga Park, CA 91306 (US)

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(74) Representative:
Weatherald, Keith Baynes
Castles,
17 Lansdowne Road
Croydon CR0 2BX (GB)

(54) **Label detector**

(57) A media detector detects the presence of a printed label in a printer which is designed to pause after printing each label, and resume printing only after the printed label has been removed. The detector uses reflected light from an LED, which strikes the print media and is reflected onto a light sensor. The ambiguity caused by ambient light striking the light sensor is avoided by using a two-step detection process. The output from the light detector is read both with the LED on and with the LED off. The status of the light sensor under both conditions is repeatedly analyzed until it is unambiguously determined that the printed label has been removed and the printer can therefore resume printing.

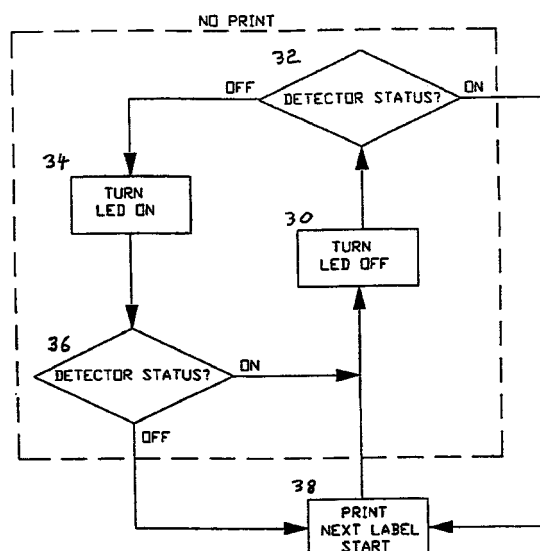


FIG. 4

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 17 November 2000	Examiner Bridge, S
<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 A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EP 99 20 3400

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