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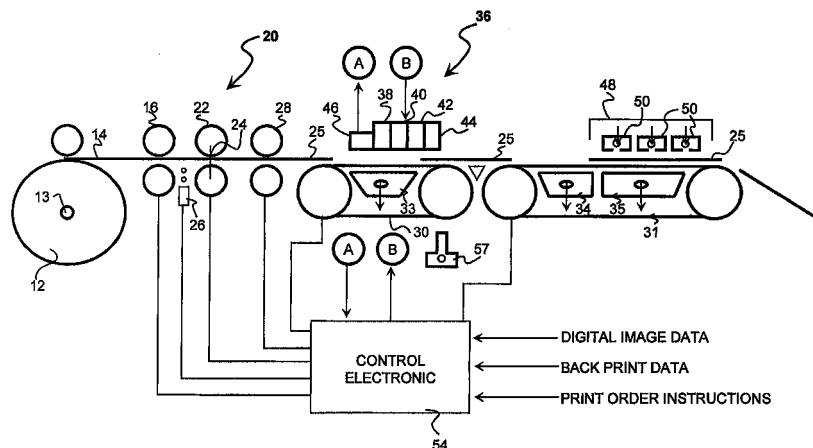
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(54) **Ink jet printer for photofinishing**

(57) An ink jet printer (10) for making photographic prints includes at least one paper supply (12, 12', 58, 58') for holding a supply of print paper and a sheet paper transport belt (30, 31) arranged to receive sheets of print paper (25) from the at least one paper supply and transport the sheets through the printer. A back printer (26) is located between the at least one paper supply and the paper transport belt for applying back prints to the print paper. A full print width color ink jet print head (36) located over a first portion of the transport belt (30) for printing an image on a paper sheet. A

linear image sensor (46) located in front of the ink jet print head detects the edges of the paper sheet being transported under the print head and a controller (54) connected to the paper sensor generates a digital mask representing the area of the paper and applies the digital mask to a digital image being printed, thereby preventing overspill printing onto the belt. A paper dryer (48) is located over a second portion of the transport belt (31), the paper dryer including a source of flowing air (50) for drying the ink image on the paper.



**Fig. 1**

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 11 2468

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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		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		11 January 2001	Wehr, W
<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 &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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