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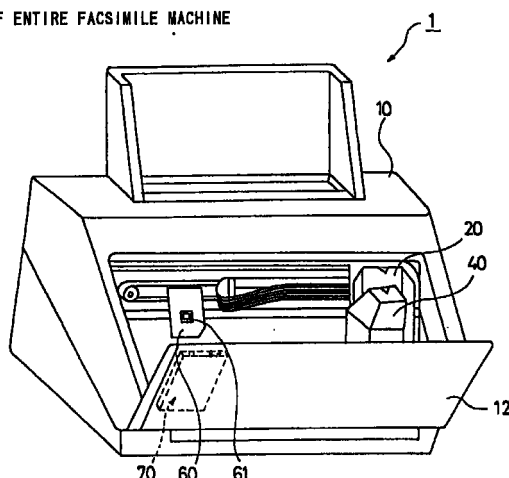
(54) **Printing apparatus provided with inkjet printer**

(57) A printing apparatus (1) which includes an inkjet printer (20) uses an ink cartridge (40) accompanied by an IC card (60) to which an IC chip having a read only memory and a read/write memory is secured. A control signal for starting the operation of the inkjet printer is stored in the read only memory, and information indicative of a final printing date/time of the inkjet printer is updated and stored in the read/write memory. Since the inkjet printer starts its operation in response

to only the operation starting control signal, it is possible to eliminate nonconforming articles from ink cartridges which are expendable supplies. Furthermore, the printing apparatus is capable of maintaining the state of emission of ink in good conditions by operating the inkjet printer to effect printing in a predetermined format each time a predetermined time elapses from a stored final printing date/time.

**FIG.1**

**VIEW OF ENTIRE FACSIMILE MACHINE**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 4756

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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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A	---	4-7	
X	US 5 610 635 A (DULL DAN J ET AL) 11 March 1997 (1997-03-11) * column 6, line 7 - column 8, line 28; figure 2 *	1-3	
A	---	4-7	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			<b>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)</b>  B41J
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>14 December 2000</b>	Examiner <b>Adam, E</b>
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> 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			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P4/C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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