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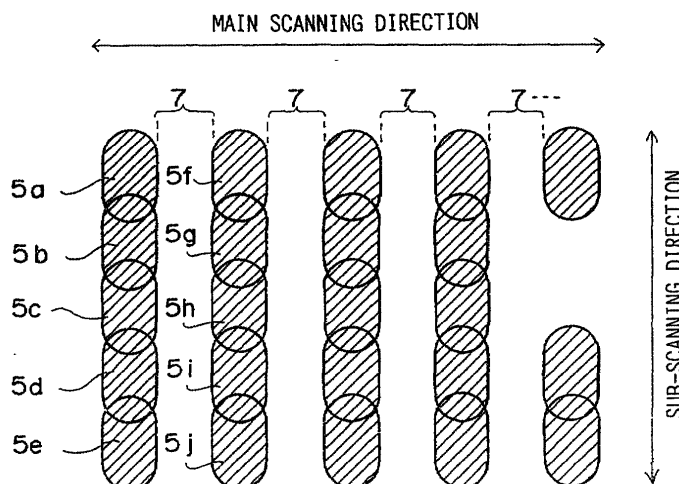
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(54) **Method of and apparatus for making stencil**

(57) A stencil is made by the use of a thermal head which has an array of resistance heater element arranged in a main scanning direction. The resistance heater elements are selectively driven while the stencil material is conveyed in a sub-scanning direction intersecting the main scanning direction so that perforations are formed in the stencil material in a predetermined

size at a first pitch in the main scanning direction and a second pitch in the sub-scanning direction. The stencil material is perforated so that unperforated portions which continuously extend in one of the main scanning direction and the sub-scanning direction to separate perforations in the other of the main scanning direction and the sub-scanning direction are left in the stencil material.

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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		26 April 2001	Didenot, B		
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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<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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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