



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 504 906 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
08.03.2006 Bulletin 2006/10

(51) Int Cl.:
B41J 2/175^(2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
09.02.2005 Bulletin 2005/06

(21) Application number: **04018562.1**

(22) Date of filing: **05.08.2004**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL HR LT LV MK

(30) Priority: **08.08.2003 JP 2003290713**
30.06.2004 US 882528 P

(71) Applicant: **SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION**
Shinjuku-ku,
Tokyo 163-0811 (JP)

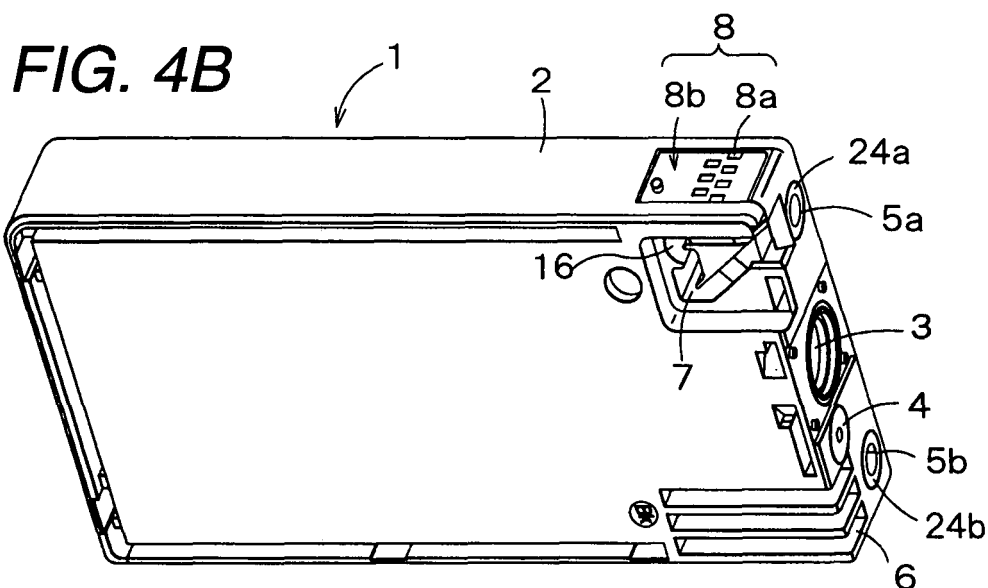
(72) Inventors:
• **Seino, Takeo**
Suwa-shi
Nagano 392-8502 (JP)
• **Kimura, Hitotoshi**
Suwa-shi
Nagano 392-8502 (JP)

(74) Representative: **HOFFMANN EITLE**
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4
81925 München (DE)

(54) **Liquid container**

(57) An ink cartridge includes a container body with a surface, the surface having a recess, the recess having a bottom and a perimeter wall, and a guide projection disposed within the recess, at least a portion of the guide projection extending from the bottom of the recess toward

the surface. Viewing the guide projection in a direction perpendicular to the bottom of the recess, the guide projection has at least three edges. The perimeter wall and the edges of the guide projection define a path therebetween, and the path has at least a predetermined width.



EP 1 504 906 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 01 8562

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	EP 1 199 179 A (SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION) 24 April 2002 (2002-04-24) * paragraphs [0026], [0037], [0038] * * figures 4,8 *	1,6,14, 42,50	B41J2/175
P,X	EP 1 375 159 A (SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION) 2 January 2004 (2004-01-02) * paragraphs [0038] - [0043] * * figure 6 *	1-8,14	
A	US 2002/071011 A1 (HAYASHI HIROKI ET AL) 13 June 2002 (2002-06-13) * the whole document *	1,7,14, 17,19, 30,42, 50,57,58	
A	US 5 500 664 A (SUZUKI ET AL) 19 March 1996 (1996-03-19) * the whole document *	1,7,14, 17,19, 30,42, 50,57,58	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B41J
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		10 January 2006	Didenot, B
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			

3
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 01 8562

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

10-01-2006

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1199179	A	24-04-2002	SG 103840 A1	26-05-2004
			US 2002154200 A1	24-10-2002

EP 1375159	A	02-01-2004	AU 2003204751 A1	15-01-2004
			CA 2432674 A1	17-12-2003
			CN 1481998 A	17-03-2004
			DE 10327251 A1	26-02-2004
			FR 2841177 A1	26-12-2003
			GB 2391200 A	04-02-2004
			HK 1060333 A1	22-07-2005
			JP 2004074773 A	11-03-2004
			NZ 526541 A	27-05-2005
			SG 111112 A1	30-05-2005
			US 2004021737 A1	05-02-2004

US 2002071011	A1	13-06-2002	NONE	

US 5500664	A	19-03-1996	NONE	
