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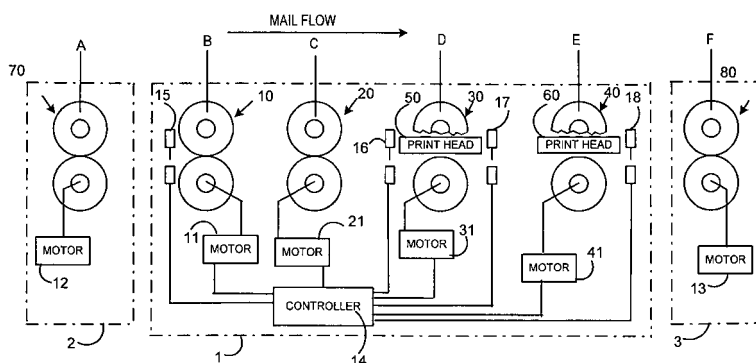
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(54) Method and system for high speed digital metering

(57) A printing apparatus and method to for use in a high velocity mail production system, preferably for printing postal indicia. A transport path conveys a series of mail pieces at a print velocity. At least two ink jet print heads are available to perform printing operations. During normal operation, only one print head is operating at a time. To allow continuous uninterrupted operation, when a first print head is removed from service for a maintenance operation, a second print head is automatically brought into service. Adjustments to the triggering of the

print cycle are made to account for the different print heads at different locations. Depending on which print head is in used, different sets of transport elements in the print module are used to effectuate the motion profile appropriate for the print head that is in operation. Based on the status of the print heads, a controller selectively groups different individual transport elements together to act in unison for the motion control. Print heads may be geared to operate in synchronism with the motion of the print transport

FIG.2





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 02 3374

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 26 June 2006	Examiner Papastefanou, E
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	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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