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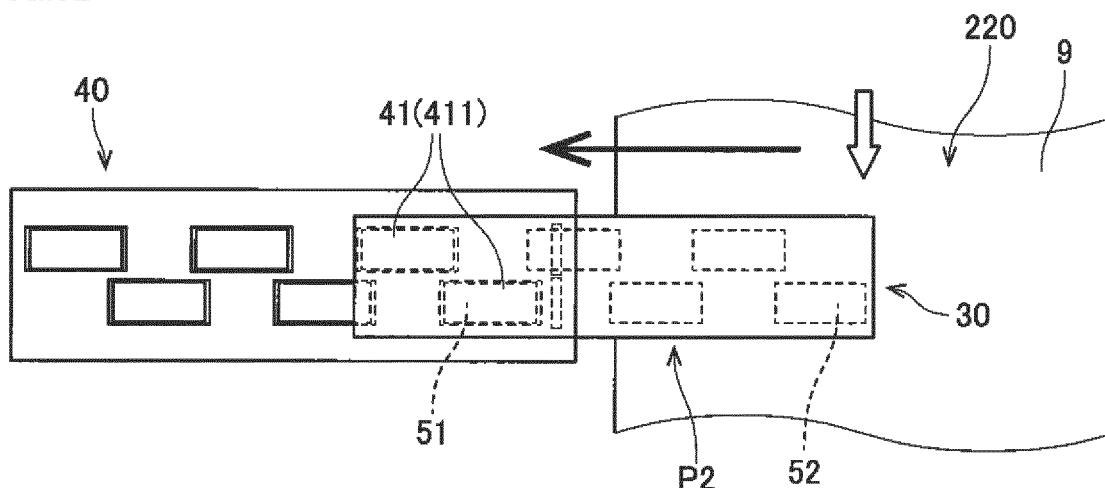
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(54) PRINTING APPARATUS AND METHOD OF CLEANING PRINTING APPARATUS

(57) A printing apparatus includes a transferring mechanism, at least one head unit having a plurality of recording heads, a plurality of caps, and a moving mechanism that moves the head unit between a printing position and a cleaning position. The recording heads include a terminal head located above a transfer path in the cleaning position. A gap between the head unit and the

transfer path in the cleaning position is larger than a gap therebetween in the printing position. This allows transfer of a thick part of a recording medium in the cleaning step. Specifically, the cleaning step can be performed and recording media can be exchanged simultaneously. This can shorten a time of suspension of the printing step, thereby enhancing efficiency of printing operation.

FIG.3B





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 15 19 8141

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
| 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 | <p>A US 2013/293633 A1 (LI KE [CA] ET AL) 7 November 2013 (2013-11-07) * paragraphs [0041] - [0043]; figure 2 *</p> <p>-----</p> | 1-10 | INV. B41J2/165 |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| 50 55 | <p>Place of search Munich</p> <p>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</p> <p>EPO FORM 1503 03-82 (P04C01)</p> | <p>Date of completion of the search 27 July 2016</p> <p>Examiner Achermann, Didier</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> | |

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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5 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.

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