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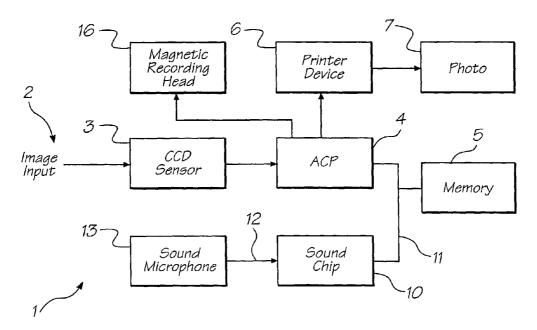
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(54) Title: PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS HAVING MAGNETICALLY RECORDABLE MEDIA



(57) Abstract: A camera provides a photo (7) printed on print media via printer device (6) under the control of a central processor (4). The photo (7) is a print of an image (5) provided by a CCD sensor (3). The photo (7) includes print media having, in addition, a magnetically recordable medium whereby sound processed by sound chip (10) received from sound microphone (13) and/or processed by central processor (4) can be recorded with magnetic recording head (16) on the photo (7). The photo (7) is printed using an ink jet printer on suitable ink jet compatible print media preferably with the magnetically recordable medium on the rear of the photo (7) and the image (2) on the front surface of the photo (7).

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PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS HAVING MAGNETICALLY RECORDABLE MEDIA

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of digital image cameras and in particular, discloses a Camera and Media for Art Prints or Photos with Magnetically Recordable Feature.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The preferred embodiment is preferably implemented through modification of a hand held camera device such as that described in Patent Application USSN 09/113,060, which claims priority from Australian provisional application No. PO7991 entitled "Image Processing Method and Apparatus" (Art 01) filed 15 July, 1997.

The aforementioned patent specification discloses a camera system, hereinafter known as an "Artcam" type camera, wherein sensed images can be directly printed out by an Artcam portable camera unit. Further, the aforementioned specification discloses means and methods for performing various manipulations on images captured by the camera sensing device leading to the production of various effects in any output image. The manipulations are disclosed to be highly flexible in nature and can be implemented through the insertion into the Artcam of cards having encoded thereon various instructions for the manipulation of images, the cards hereinafter being known as Artcards. The Artcam further has significant onboard processing power in an Artcam Central Processor unit (ACP) which is interconnected to a memory device for the storage of important data and images.

The Artcam camera system which a digital camera with an inbuilt integral color printer. Additionally, the camera provides hardware and software for the increasing of the apparent resolution of the image sensing system and the conversion of the image to a wide range of "artistic styles" and a graphic enhancement.

In one aspect, the Artcam camera system comprises at least one area image sensor for imaging a scene, a camera processor means for processing said imaged scene in accordance with a predetermined scene transformation requirement, a printer for printing out said processed image scene on print media, print media and printing ink stored in a single detachable module inside said camera system, said camera system comprising a portable hand

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held unit for the imaging of scenes by said area image sensor and printing said scenes directly out of said camera system via said printer.

Preferably the camera system includes a print roll for the storage of print media and printing ink for utilization by the printer, the print roll being detachable from the camera system. Further, the print roll can include an authentication chip containing authentication information and the camera processing means is adapted to interrogate the authentication chip so as to determine the authenticity of said print roll when inserted within said camera system.

Further, the printer can include a drop on demand ink jet printer and guillotine means for the separation of printed photographs.

With such an arrangement, it would be desirable to be able to record ancillary information with each output photograph.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide for the magnetic recording of information such as audio with a photo output by an Artcam device.

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a camera system for the creation of images, the camera system comprising a sensor for sensing an image; a processing means for processing the sensed image in accordance with predetermined processing requirements; a printer means for printing the sensed image on the surface of print media, the print media including a magnetically sensitive surface; a magnetic recording means for recording associated information on the magnetically sensitive surface.

The associated information can comprise audio information associated with the sensed image and the printer means preferably prints the sensed image on a first surface of the print media and the magnetic recording means records the associated information on a second surface of the print media. The print media can be stored on an internal detachable roll in the camera system. In one embodiment, the magnetic sensitive surface can comprise a strip affixed to the back surface of the print media.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a camera system for recording images, said camera system comprising:

an electronic image sensor for sensing an image;

a digital processing means for processing said sensed image in accordance with predetermined processing requirements;

a photo width ink jet printer means for printing said processed image on a surface of ink jet print media, said ink jet print media including a magnetic recording surface;

a magnetic recording means for recording associated information on said magnetic recording surface.

Preferably, said associated information comprises audio information associated with said sensed image.

Preferably, the printer means prints said sensed image on a first surface of said print media and the magnetic recording means records said associated information on a second surface of said print media. Preferably, said first and said second surfaces are on different faces of said print media.

Preferably, said ink jet print media is stored on an internal detachable roll in said camera system, said camera system comprising a hand held portable camera device, said photo width ink jet printer being built into said hand held portable camera device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Notwithstanding any other forms which may fall within the scope of the present invention, preferred forms of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

- Fig. 1 illustrates schematically the camera system constructed in accordance to the preferred embodiment;
- Fig. 2 illustrates schematically a printer mechanism and recording mechanism of the preferred embodiment.
 - Fig. 3 illustrates a format of the magnetic strip on the back of the photo;
 - Fig. 4 illustrates a reader device utilized to read data recorded on the back of a photograph; and
 - Fig. 5 illustrates the utilization of an apparatus of the preferred embodiment.

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DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED AND OTHER EMBODIMENTS

In the preferred embodiment a magnetic sensitive print media material is utilized for the recording of an audio message on the back of an output photograph. The Artcam device is

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altered so as to include a magnetic recording device which can comprise an array of magnetic recorders covering a whole surface of the photograph or alternatively, a magnetic strip can be provided wherein, for example, a central portion of the photograph is magnetically sensitive. The Artcam devices are further provided with the ability to record an audio message for later playback.

The preferred embodiment is preferably implemented through suitable programming of a hand held camera device such as that described in Australian Provisional Patent Application No. PO7991 USSN 09/113,060) entitled "Image Processing Method and Apparatus (Art 01)" filed 15 July, 1997.

The aforementioned patent specification discloses a camera system, hereinafter known as an "Artcam" type camera, wherein sensed images can be directly printed out by an Artcam portable camera unit. Further, the aforementioned specification discloses means and methods for performing various manipulations on images captured by the camera sensing device leading to the production of various effects in any output image. The manipulations are disclosed to be highly flexible in nature and can be implemented through the insertion into the Artcam of cards having encoded thereon various instructions for the manipulation of images, the cards hereinafter being known as Artcards. The Artcam further has significant onboard processing power by an Artcam Central Processor unit (ACP) which is interconnected to a memory device for the storage of important data and images.

In the preferred embodiment, the Artcam device is suitably modified so as to equip it with a microphone device and associated recording technologies. When a picture is taken, the opportunity is provided to record either the surrounding sound environment or a message associated with the image. The print media or film is pretreated so as to make it magnetically sensitive in a similar manner to that provided by tape media. The recording can be over the whole back surface of the output photo or alternatively a magnetically sensitive strip may be provided. The recorded audio is stored on the back of the output photograph in an encoded format, the encoding preferably being of a highly digital resilient form. The recorded audio provides a permanent audio record associated with the corresponding photograph. Subsequently, a playback apparatus is provided for scanning the encoded audio and decoding this information.

Turning now to Fig. 1, there is illustrated, in schematic form the preferred embodiment 1 which includes the arrangement as described in the aforementioned patent specification wherein an image 2 is sensed via a CCD sensor 3 and forwarded to an Artcam

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central processor 4 which includes significant computational resources as described in the aforementioned patent specification. The Artcam central processor 4 can store the image in memory 5 which preferably comprises a high speed RAMBUS (Trade Mark) interfaced memory. The Artcam central processor 4 is also responsible for controlling the operation of a printhead 6 for the printing out of full colour photographs, eg. 7, so as to provide for instant images on demand in addition to the magnetic recording head 16, for recording on the back of the photo.

In the preferred embodiment, the camera arrangement 1 is also supplied with a sound chip 10 which interfaces via RAMBUS bus 11 to memory 5 under the control of the ACP processor 4. The sound chip 10 can be of a standard or specialised form and can, for example, comprise a DSP processor that takes an analogue input 12 from a sound microphone 13. Alternatively, with increasing chip complexities (Moore's Law), the functionality of sound chip 10 can be incorporated onto the ACP chip 4 which preferably comprises a leading edge CMOS type integrated circuit chip. It will be readily evident that many other types of arrangements can be provided which fall within the scope of the present invention.

The sound chip 10 converts the analogue input 12 to a corresponding digital form and forwards it for storage in memory 5. The recording process can be activated by means of the depressing of a button (not shown) on the camera device, the button being under the control of the ACP processor 4 otherwise it can be substantially automatic when taking a photo. The recorded data is stored in the memory 5.

Turning now to Fig. 2, the camera arrangement preferably includes a printer device 6 such as an ink jet printer which includes a printhead 6 to print an image on compatible print media 17 and a magnetic recording head 16. A further printhead can be used to print information on the back of print media 17. Similar arrangements for printing information on the back of an output photo image are described in USSN 09/112,741 (Art 12) the contents of which are hereby incorporated by cross reference.

Turning now to Fig. 3, there is illustrated an example of a magnetic strip 18 formed on the back of photo media 17, the strip being recorded on by recording head 16 of Fig. 1 or Fig. 2. The information recorded can include location, date and time data with the location data being provided by means of keyboard input or, alternatively, through the inclusion of a positioning systems such as GPS or the like. Fig 4 shows the back of the image 17 on which is also recorded an encoded form 22 of the audio information. The

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format of the encoding can be any form within the knowledge of the person skilled in the art. However, preferably the encoding provides a highly fault tolerant form of encoding to tolerate errors that may arise due to use and handling of the print media. The encoding format can be, for example, Reed-Solomon encoding of the data to provide for a high degree of fault tolerance.

Turning to Fig. 4, when it is desired to "play back" the recorded audio, the photo 17 is passed through a reader device 26 which includes pinch rollers for guiding the photo 17 past a magnetic sensor device 27.

Referring now to Fig. 5, there is illustrated in schematic form the operation of the audio reader device 26 of Fig. 5. The magnetic sensor 27 is interconnected to a second Artcam central processor (ACP) 28 which is suitably adapted to read and decode the data stored on the back of the photograph. The decoded audio information is stored in memory 32 for playback via a sound processing chip 35 on speaker 29. The sound processing chip 35 can operate under the control of the ACP decoder 28 which in turn operates under the control of various user input controls 33 which can include volume controls, rewind, play and fast forward controls etc.

It can be seen from the foregoing description of the preferred embodiment that there is provided a system for the automatic recording of audio associated with an output image so as to provide an audio record associated with a photograph printed on ink jet media. There is also disclosed an audio reader system for reading an image recorded on the back of such a photograph.

It would be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications any be made to the present invention as shown in the specific embodiment without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. For example, the utilisation of more complex audio recording and playback techniques such as stereo and B-format techniques. The present embodiment is, therefore, to be considered in all respects to be illustrative and not restrictive.

Ink Jet Technologies

The embodiments of the invention use an ink jet printer type device. Of course many different devices could be used. However presently popular ink jet printing technologies are unlikely to be suitable.

The most significant problem with thermal ink jet is power consumption. This is approximately 100 times that required for high speed, and stems from the energy-inefficient

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means of drop ejection. This involves the rapid boiling of water to produce a vapor bubble which expels the ink. Water has a very high heat capacity, and must be superheated in thermal ink jet applications. This leads to an efficiency of around 0.02%, from electricity input to drop momentum (and increased surface area) out.

The most significant problem with piezoelectric ink jet is size and cost. Piezoelectric crystals have a very small deflection at reasonable drive voltages, and therefore require a large area for each nozzle. Also, each piezoelectric actuator must be connected to its drive circuit on a separate substrate. This is not a significant problem at the current limit of around 300 nozzles per print head, but is a major impediment to the fabrication of pagewide print heads with 19,200 nozzles.

Ideally, the ink jet technologies used meet the stringent requirements of in-camera digital color printing and other high quality, high speed, low cost printing applications. To meet the requirements of digital photography, new ink jet technologies have been created. The target features include:

low power (less than 10 Watts)

high resolution capability (1,600 dpi or more)

photographic quality output

low manufacturing cost

small size (pagewidth times minimum cross section)

20 high speed (< 2 seconds per page).

All of these features can be met or exceeded by the ink jet systems described below with differing levels of difficulty. 45 different ink jet technologies have been developed by the Assignee to give a wide range of choices for high volume manufacture. These technologies form part of separate applications assigned to the present Assignee as set out in the table below..

The ink jet designs shown here are suitable for a wide range of digital printing systems, from battery powered one-time use digital cameras, through to desktop and network printers, and through to commercial printing systems.

For ease of manufacture using standard process equipment, the print head is designed to be a monolithic 0.5 micron CMOS chip with MEMS post processing. For color photographic applications, the print head is 100 mm long, with a width which depends upon the ink jet type. The smallest print head designed is IJ38, which is 0.35 mm wide, giving a chip area of 35 square mm. The print heads each contain 19,200 nozzles plus data and control

circuitry.

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Ink is supplied to the back of the print head by injection molded plastic ink channels. The molding requires 50 micron features, which can be created using a lithographically micromachined insert in a standard injection molding tool. Ink flows through holes etched through the wafer to the nozzle chambers fabricated on the front surface of the wafer. The print head is connected to the camera circuitry by tape automated bonding.

Tables of Drop-on-Demand Ink Jets

Eleven important characteristics of the fundamental operation of individual ink jet nozzles have been identified. These characteristics are largely orthogonal, and so can be elucidated as an eleven dimensional matrix. Most of the eleven axes of this matrix include entries developed by the present assignee.

The following tables form the axes of an eleven dimensional table of ink jet types.

Actuator mechanism (18 types)

Basic operation mode (7 types)

15 Auxiliary mechanism (8 types)

Actuator amplification or modification method (17 types)

Actuator motion (19 types)

Nozzle refill method (4 types)

Method of restricting back-flow through inlet (10 types)

Nozzle clearing method (9 types)

Nozzle plate construction (9 types)

Drop ejection direction (5 types)

Ink type (7 types)

The complete eleven dimensional table represented by these axes contains 36.9

billion possible configurations of ink jet nozzle. While not all of the possible combinations result in a viable ink jet technology, many million configurations are viable. It is clearly impractical to elucidate all of the possible configurations. Instead, certain ink jet types have been investigated in detail. These are designated IJ01 to IJ45 above.

Other ink jet configurations can readily be derived from these 45 examples by substituting alternative configurations along one or more of the 11 axes. Most of the IJ01 to IJ45 examples can be made into ink jet print heads with characteristics superior to any currently available ink jet technology.

Where there are prior art examples known to the inventor, one or more of these

examples are listed in the examples column of the tables below. The IJ01 to IJ45 series are also listed in the examples column. In some cases, a printer may be listed more than once in a table, where it shares characteristics with more than one entry.

Suitable applications for the ink jet technologies include: Home printers, Office network printers, Short run digital printers, Commercial print systems, Fabric printers, Pocket printers, Internet WWW printers, Video printers, Medical imaging, Wide format printers, Notebook PC printers, Fax machines, Industrial printing systems, Photocopiers, Photographic minilabs etc.

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The information associated with the aforementioned 11 dimensional matrix are set out in the following tables.

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Thermal bubble	An electrothermal heater heats the ink to above boiling point, transferring significant heat to the aqueous ink. A bubble nucleates and quickly forms, expelling the ink. The efficiency of the process is low, with typically less than 0.05% of the electrical energy being transformed into kinetic energy of the drop.	 Large force generated Simple construction No moving parts Fast operation Small chip area required for actuator 	 ♦ High power ♦ Ink carrier limited to water ♦ Low efficiency ♦ High temperatures required ♦ High mechanical stress ♦ Unusual materials required ♦ Large drive transistors ♦ Cavitation causes actuator failure ♦ Kogation reduces bubble formation ♦ Large print heads are difficult to fabricate 	 Canon Bubblejet 1979 Endo et al GB patent 2,007,162 Xerox heater-inpit 1990 Hawkins et al USP 4,899,181 Hewlett-Packard TIJ 1982 Vaught et al USP 4,490,728
Piezo- electric	A piezoelectric crystal such as lead lanthanum zirconate (PZT) is electrically activated, and either expands, shears, or bends to apply pressure to the ink, ejecting drops.	 Low power consumption Many ink types can be used Fast operation High efficiency 	◆ Very large area required for actuator ◆ Difficult to integrate with electronics ◆ High voltage drive transistors required ◆ Full pagewidth print heads impractical due to actuator size ◆ Requires electrical poling in high field strengths during manufacture	 Kyser et al USP 3,946,398 Zoltan USP 3,683,212 1973 Stemme USP 3,747,120 Epson Stylus Tektronix IJ04
Electro- strictive	An electric field is used to activate electrostriction in relaxor materials such as lead lanthanum zirconate titanate (PLZT) or lead magnesium niobate (PMN).	 Low power consumption Many ink types can be used Low thermal expansion Electric field strength required (approx. 3.5 V/µm) can be generated without difficulty Does not require electrical poling 	Low maximum strain (approx. 0.01%) Large area required for actuator due to low strain Response speed is marginal (~10 µs) High voltage drive transistors required Full pagewidth print heads impractical due to actuator size	◆ Seiko Epson, Usui et all JP 253401/96 ◆ IJ04

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Ferro- electric	An electric field is used to induce a phase transition between the antiferroelectric (AFE) and ferroelectric (FE) phase. Perovskite materials such as tin modified lead lanthanum zirconate titanate (PLZSnT) exhibit large strains of up to 1% associated with the AFE to FE phase transition.	 Low power consumption Many ink types can be used Fast operation (< 1 μs) Relatively high longitudinal strain High efficiency Electric field strength of around 3 V/μm can be readily provided 	◆ Difficult to integrate with electronics ◆ Unusual materials such as PLZSnT are required ◆ Actuators require a large area	◆ IJ04
Electro- static plates	Conductive plates are separated by a compressible or fluid dielectric (usually air). Upon application of a voltage, the plates attract each other and displace ink, causing drop ejection. The conductive plates may be in a comb or honeycomb structure, or stacked to increase the surface area and therefore the force.	 Low power consumption Many ink types can be used Fast operation 	 ◆ Difficult to operate electrostatic devices in an aqueous environment ◆ The electrostatic actuator will normally need to be separated from the ink ◆ Very large area required to achieve high forces ◆ High voltage drive transistors may be required ◆ Full pagewidth print heads are not competitive due to actuator size 	◆ IJ02, IJ04
Electro- static pull on ink	A strong electric field is applied to the ink, whereupon electrostatic attraction accelerates the ink towards the print medium.	 Low current consumption Low temperature 	 ◆ High voltage required ◆ May be damaged by sparks due to air breakdown ◆ Required field strength increases as the drop size decreases ◆ High voltage drive transistors required ◆ Electrostatic field attracts dust 	 1989 Saito et al, USP 4,799,068 1989 Miura et al, USP 4,810,954 Tone-jet

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Permanent magnet electro- magnetic	An electromagnet directly attracts a permanent magnet, displacing ink and causing drop ejection. Rare earth magnets with a field strength around 1 Tesla can be used. Examples are: Samarium Cobalt (SaCo) and magnetic materials in the neodymium iron boron family (NdFeB, NdDyFeBNb, NdDyFeB, etc)	 Low power consumption Many ink types can be used Fast operation High efficiency Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads 	◆ Complex fabrication ◆ Permanent magnetic material such as Neodymium Iron Boron (NdFeB) required. ◆ High local currents required ◆ Copper metalization should be used for long electromigration lifetime and low resistivity ◆ Pigmented inks are usually infeasible ◆ Operating temperature limited to the Curie temperature (around 540 K)	♦ IJ07, IJ10
Soft magnetic core electro- magnetic	A solenoid induced a magnetic field in a soft magnetic core or yoke fabricated from a ferrous material such as electroplated iron alloys such as CoNiFe [1], CoFe, or NiFe alloys. Typically, the soft magnetic material is in two parts, which are normally held apart by a spring. When the solenoid is actuated, the two parts attract, displacing the ink.	 Low power consumption Many ink types can be used Fast operation High efficiency Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads 	◆ Complex fabrication ◆ Materials not usually present in a CMOS fab such as NiFe, CoNiFe, or CoFe are required ◆ High local currents required ◆ Copper metalization should be used for long electromigration lifetime and low resistivity ◆ Electroplating is required ◆ High saturation flux density is required (2.0-2.1 T is achievable with CoNiFe [1])	◆ IJ01, IJ05, IJ08, IJ10, IJ12, IJ14, IJ15, IJ17

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Lorenz force	The Lorenz force acting on a current carrying wire in a magnetic field is utilized. This allows the magnetic field to be supplied externally to the print head, for example with rare earth permanent magnets. Only the current carrying wire need be fabricated on the printhead, simplifying materials requirements.	 Low power consumption Many ink types can be used Fast operation High efficiency Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads 	 Force acts as a twisting motion Typically, only a quarter of the solenoid length provides force in a useful direction High local currents required Copper metalization should be used for long electromigration lifetime and low resistivity Pigmented inks are usually infeasible Force acts as a 	◆ IJ06, IJ11, IJ13, IJ16
Magneto- striction	The actuator uses the giant magnetostrictive effect of materials such as Terfenol-D (an alloy of terbium, dysprosium and iron developed at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, hence Ter-Fe-NOL). For best efficiency, the actuator should be prestressed to approx. 8 MPa.	 Many link types can be used Fast operation Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads High force is available 	 Force acts as a twisting motion Unusual materials such as Terfenol-D are required High local currents required Copper metalization should be used for long electromigration lifetime and low resistivity Pre-stressing may be required 	◆ Fischenbeck, USP 4,032,929 ◆ IJ25
Surface tension reduction	Ink under positive pressure is held in a nozzle by surface tension. The surface tension of the ink is reduced below the bubble threshold, causing the ink to egress from the nozzle.	 Low power consumption Simple construction No unusual materials required in fabrication High efficiency Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads 	 Requires supplementary force to effect drop separation Requires special ink surfactants Speed may be limited by surfactant properties 	Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Viscosity reduction	The ink viscosity is locally reduced to select which drops are to be ejected. A viscosity reduction can be achieved electrothermally with most inks, but special inks can be engineered for a 100:1 viscosity reduction.	 Simple construction No unusual materials required in fabrication Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads 	 Requires supplementary force to effect drop separation Requires special ink viscosity properties High speed is difficult to achieve Requires oscillating ink pressure A high temperature difference (typically 80 degrees) is required 	Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications
Acoustic	An acoustic wave is generated and focussed upon the drop ejection region.	Can operate without a nozzle plate	 Complex drive circuitry Complex fabrication Low efficiency Poor control of drop position Poor control of drop volume 	 1993 Hadimioglu et al, EUP 550,192 1993 Elrod et al, EUP 572,220
Thermo- elastic bend actuator	An actuator which relies upon differential thermal expansion upon Joule heating is used.	 Low power consumption Many ink types can be used Simple planar fabrication Small chip area required for each actuator Fast operation High efficiency CMOS compatible voltages and currents Standard MEMS processes can be used Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads 	 Efficient aqueous operation requires a thermal insulator on the hot side Corrosion prevention can be difficult Pigmented inks may be infeasible, as pigment particles may jam the bend actuator 	• IJ03, IJ09, IJ17, IJ18, IJ19, IJ20, IJ21, IJ22, IJ23, IJ24, IJ27, IJ28, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ32, IJ34, IJ35, IJ36, IJ37, IJ38, IJ39, IJ40, IJ41

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High CTE thermo- elastic actuator	Description A material with a very high coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) such as polytetrafluoroethylen e (PTFE) is used. As high CTE materials are usually nonconductive, a heater fabricated from a conductive material is incorporated. A 50 μm long PTFE bend actuator with polysilicon heater and 15 mW power input can provide 180 μN force and 10 μm deflection. Actuator motions include: Bend Push Buckle Rotate	Advantages ◆ High force can be generated ◆ Three methods of PTFE deposition are under development: chemical vapor deposition (CVD), spin coating, and evaporation ◆ PTFE is a candidate for low dielectric constant insulation in ULSI ◆ Very low power consumption ◆ Many ink types can be used ◆ Simple planar fabrication ◆ Small chip area required for each actuator ◆ Fast operation ◆ High efficiency ◆ CMOS compatible voltages and currents ◆ Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads	Requires special material (e.g. PTFE) Requires a PTFE deposition process, which is not yet standard in ULSI fabs PTFE deposition cannot be followed with high temperature (above 350 °C) processing Pigmented inks may be infeasible, as pigment particles may jam the bend actuator	Examples ◆ IJ09, IJ17, IJ18, IJ20, IJ21, IJ22, IJ23, IJ24, IJ27, IJ28, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ42, IJ43, IJ44
Conduct-ive polymer thermo- elastic actuator	A polymer with a high coefficient of thermal expansion (such as PTFE) is doped with conducting substances to increase its conductivity to about 3 orders of magnitude below that of copper. The conducting polymer expands when resistively heated. Examples of conducting dopants include: Carbon nanotubes Metal fibers Conductive polymers such as doped polythiophene Carbon granules	 ◆ High force can be generated ◆ Very low power consumption ◆ Many ink types can be used ◆ Simple planar fabrication ◆ Small chip area required for each actuator ◆ Fast operation ◆ High efficiency ◆ CMOS compatible voltages and currents ◆ Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads 	 Requires special materials development (High CTE conductive polymer) Requires a PTFE deposition process, which is not yet standard in ULSI fabs PTFE deposition cannot be followed with high temperature (above 350 °C) processing Evaporation and CVD deposition techniques cannot be used Pigmented inks may be infeasible, as pigment particles may jam the bend actuator 	

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Shape memory alloy	A shape memory alloy such as TiNi (also known as Nitinol - Nickel Titanium alloy developed at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory) is thermally switched between its weak martensitic state and its high stiffness austenic state. The shape of the actuator in its martensitic state is deformed relative to the austenic shape. The shape change causes ejection of a drop.	 ✦ High force is available (stresses of hundreds of MPa) ✦ Large strain is available (more than 3%) ✦ High corrosion resistance ✦ Simple construction ✦ Easy extension from single nozzles to pagewidth print heads ✦ Low voltage operation 	 Fatigue limits maximum number of cycles Low strain (1%) is required to extend fatigue resistance Cycle rate limited by heat removal Requires unusual materials (TiNi) The latent heat of transformation must be provided High current operation Requires pre- stressing to distort the martensitic state 	◆ IJ26
Linear Magnetic Actuator	Linear magnetic actuators include the Linear Induction Actuator (LIA), Linear Permanent Magnet Synchronous Actuator (LPMSA), Linear Reluctance Synchronous Actuator (LRSA), Linear Switched Reluctance Actuator (LSRA), and the Linear Stepper Actuator (LSA).	◆ Linear Magnetic actuators can be constructed with high thrust, long travel, and high efficiency using planar semiconductor fabrication techniques ◆ Long actuator travel is available ◆ Medium force is available ◆ Low voltage operation	 Requires unusual semiconductor materials such as soft magnetic alloys (e.g. CoNiFe) Some varieties also require permanent magnetic materials such as Neodymium iron boron (NdFeB) Requires complex multiphase drive circuitry High current operation 	♦ IJ12

BASIC OPERA	BASIC OPERATION MODE			
	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples

BASIC OPERA			1	-
	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Actuator directly pushes ink	This is the simplest mode of operation: the actuator directly supplies sufficient kinetic energy to expel the drop. The drop must have a sufficient velocity to overcome the surface tension.	 ♦ Simple operation ♦ No external fields required ♦ Satellite drops can be avoided if drop velocity is less than 4 m/s ♦ Can be efficient, depending upon the actuator used 	 ◆ Drop repetition rate is usually limited to around 10 kHz. However, this is not fundamental to the method, but is related to the refill method normally used ◆ All of the drop kinetic energy must be provided by the actuator ◆ Satellite drops usually form if drop velocity is greater than 4.5 m/s 	↑ Thermal ink jet ↑ Piezoelectric ink jet ↑ IJ01, IJ02, IJ03, IJ04, IJ05, IJ06, IJ07, IJ09, IJ11, IJ12, IJ14, IJ16, IJ20, IJ22, IJ23, IJ24, IJ25, IJ26, IJ27, IJ28, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ32, IJ33, IJ34, IJ35, IJ36, IJ37, IJ38, IJ39, IJ40, IJ41, IJ42, IJ43, IJ44
Proximity	The drops to be printed are selected by some manner (e.g. thermally induced surface tension reduction of pressurized ink). Selected drops are separated from the ink in the nozzle by contact with the print medium or a transfer roller.	 ♦ Very simple print head fabrication can be used ♦ The drop selection means does not need to provide the energy required to separate the drop from the nozzle 	 ◆ Requires close proximity between the print head and the print media or transfer roller ◆ May require two print heads printing alternate rows of the image ◆ Monolithic color print heads are difficult 	Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications
Electro- static pull on ink	The drops to be printed are selected by some manner (e.g. thermally induced surface tension reduction of pressurized ink). Selected drops are separated from the ink in the nozzle by a strong electric field.	 ♦ Very simple print head fabrication can be used ♦ The drop selection means does not need to provide the energy required to separate the drop from the nozzle 	 Requires very high electrostatic field Electrostatic field for small nozzle sizes is above air breakdown Electrostatic field may attract dust 	◆ Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications ◆ Tone-Jet
Magnetic pull on ink	The drops to be printed are selected by some manner (e.g. thermally induced surface tension reduction of pressurized ink). Selected drops are separated from the ink in the nozzle by a strong magnetic field acting on the magnetic ink.	 ♦ Very simple print head fabrication can be used ♦ The drop selection means does not need to provide the energy required to separate the drop from the nozzle 	 Requires magnetic ink Ink colors other than black are difficult Requires very high magnetic fields 	Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Shutter	The actuator moves a shutter to block ink flow to the nozzle. The ink pressure is pulsed at a multiple of the drop ejection frequency.	 ◆ High speed (>50 kHz) operation can be achieved due to reduced refill time ◆ Drop timing can be very accurate ◆ The actuator energy can be very low 	 Moving parts are required Requires ink pressure modulator Friction and wear must be considered Stiction is possible 	◆ IJ13, IJ17, IJ21
Shuttered grill	The actuator moves a shutter to block ink flow through a grill to the nozzle. The shutter movement need only be equal to the width of the grill holes.	 Actuators with small travel can be used Actuators with small force can be used High speed (>50 kHz) operation can be achieved 	 Moving parts are required Requires ink pressure modulator Friction and wear must be considered Stiction is possible 	◆ IJ08, IJ15, IJ18, IJ19
Pulsed magnetic pull on ink pusher	A pulsed magnetic field attracts an 'ink pusher' at the drop ejection frequency. An actuator controls a catch, which prevents the ink pusher from moving when a drop is not to be ejected.	 Extremely low energy operation is possible No heat dissipation problems 	 Requires an external pulsed magnetic field Requires special materials for both the actuator and the ink pusher Complex construction 	◆ IJ10

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
None	The actuator directly fires the ink drop, and there is no external field or other mechanism required.	 Simplicity of construction Simplicity of operation Small physical size 	Drop ejection energy must be supplied by individual nozzle actuator	◆ Most ink jets, including piezoelectric and thermal bubble. ◆ IJ01, IJ02, IJ03, IJ04, IJ05, IJ07, IJ09, IJ11, IJ12, IJ14, IJ20, IJ22, IJ23, IJ24, IJ25, IJ26, IJ27, IJ28, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ32, IJ33, IJ34, IJ35, IJ36, IJ37, IJ38, IJ39, IJ40, IJ41, IJ42, IJ43, IJ44

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Oscillating ink pressure (including acoustic stimulation)	The ink pressure oscillates, providing much of the drop ejection energy. The actuator selects which drops are to be fired by selectively blocking or enabling nozzles. The ink pressure oscillation may be achieved by vibrating the print head, or preferably by an actuator in the ink supply.	 ◆ Oscillating ink pressure can provide a refill pulse, allowing higher operating speed ◆ The actuators may operate with much lower energy ◆ Acoustic lenses can be used to focus the sound on the nozzles 	 Requires external ink pressure oscillator Ink pressure phase and amplitude must be carefully controlled Acoustic reflections in the ink chamber must be designed for 	◆ Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications ◆ IJ08, IJ13, IJ15, IJ17, IJ18, IJ19, IJ21
Media proximity	The print head is placed in close proximity to the print medium. Selected drops protrude from the print head further than unselected drops, and contact the print medium. The drop soaks into the medium fast enough to cause drop separation.	 Low power High accuracy Simple print head construction 	 ◆ Precision assembly required ◆ Paper fibers may cause problems ◆ Cannot print on rough substrates 	Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications
Transfer roller	Drops are printed to a transfer roller instead of straight to the print medium. A transfer roller can also be used for proximity drop separation.	 High accuracy Wide range of print substrates can be used Ink can be dried on the transfer roller 	♦ Bulky♦ Expensive♦ Complex construction	 Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications Tektronix hot melt piezoelectric ink jet Any of the IJ series
Electro- static	An electric field is used to accelerate selected drops towards the print medium.	◆ Low power ◆ Simple print head construction	◆ Field strength required for separation of small drops is near or above air breakdown	Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications Tone-Jet
Direct magnetic field	A magnetic field is used to accelerate selected drops of magnetic ink towards the print medium.	◆ Low power ◆ Simple print head construction	 ◆ Requires magnetic ink ◆ Requires strong magnetic field 	Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications
Cross magnetic field	The print head is placed in a constant magnetic field. The Lorenz force in a current carrying wire is used to move the actuator.	◆ Does not require magnetic materials to be integrated in the print head manufacturing process	 ◆ Requires external magnet ◆ Current densities may be high, resulting in electromigration problems 	◆ IJ06, IJ16

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Pulsed magnetic field	A pulsed magnetic field is used to cyclically attract a paddle, which pushes on the ink. A small actuator moves a catch, which selectively prevents the paddle from moving.	 ♦ Very low power operation is possible ♦ Small print head size 	 ◆ Complex print head construction ◆ Magnetic materials required in print head 	◆ IJ10

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
None	No actuator mechanical amplification is used. The actuator directly drives the drop ejection process.	♦ Operational simplicity	♦ Many actuator mechanisms have insufficient travel, or insufficient force, to efficiently drive the drop ejection process	◆ Thermal Bubble Ink jet ◆ IJ01, IJ02, IJ06, IJ07, IJ16, IJ25, IJ26
Differential expansion bend actuator	An actuator material expands more on one side than on the other. The expansion may be thermal, piezoelectric, magnetostrictive, or other mechanism. The bend actuator converts a high force low travel actuator mechanism to high travel, lower force mechanism.	◆ Provides greater travel in a reduced print head area	 ◆ High stresses are involved ◆ Care must be taken that the materials do not delaminate ◆ Residual bend resulting from high temperature or high stress during formation 	◆ Piezoelectric ◆ IJ03, IJ09, IJ17, IJ18, IJ19, IJ20, IJ21, IJ22, IJ23, IJ24, IJ27, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ32, IJ34, IJ35, IJ36, IJ37, IJ38, IJ39, IJ42, IJ43, IJ44
Transient bend actuator	A trilayer bend actuator where the two outside layers are identical. This cancels bend due to ambient temperature and residual stress. The actuator only responds to transient heating of one side or the other.	 ♦ Very good temperature stability ♦ High speed, as a new drop can be fired before heat dissipates ♦ Cancels residual stress of formation 	 ◆ High stresses are involved ◆ Care must be taken that the materials do not delaminate 	◆ IJ40, IJ41
Reverse spring	The actuator loads a spring. When the actuator is turned off, the spring releases. This can reverse the force/distance curve of the actuator to make it compatible with the force/time requirements of the drop ejection.	Better coupling to the ink	 ◆ Fabrication complexity ◆ High stress in the spring 	◆ IJ05, IJ11
Actuator stack	A series of thin actuators are stacked. This can be appropriate where actuators require high electric field strength, such as electrostatic and piezoelectric actuators.	 ◆ Increased travel ◆ Reduced drive voltage 	 ♦ Increased fabrication complexity ♦ Increased possibility of short circuits due to pinholes 	◆ Some piezoelectric ink jet ◆ IJ04

WO 2004/001501

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Multiple actuators	Multiple smaller actuators are used simultaneously to move the ink. Each actuator need provide only a portion of the force required.	 ◆ Increases the force available from an actuator ◆ Multiple actuators can be positioned to control ink flow accurately 	Actuator forces may not add linearly, reducing efficiency	◆ IJ12, IJ13, IJ18, IJ20, IJ22, IJ28, IJ42, IJ43
Linear Spring	A linear spring is used to transform a motion with small travel and high force into a longer travel, lower force motion.	 Matches low travel actuator with higher travel requirements Non-contact method of motion transformation 	◆ Requires print head area for the spring	◆ IJ15
Coiled actuator	A bend actuator is coiled to provide greater travel in a reduced chip area.	 ♦ Increases travel ♦ Reduces chip area ♦ Planar implementations are relatively easy to fabricate. 	◆ Generally restricted to planar implementations due to extreme fabrication difficulty in other orientations.	◆ IJ17, IJ21, IJ34, IJ35
Flexure bend actuator	A bend actuator has a small region near the fixture point, which flexes much more readily than the remainder of the actuator. The actuator flexing is effectively converted from an even coiling to an angular bend, resulting in greater travel of the actuator tip.	Simple means of increasing travel of a bend actuator	 ◆ Care must be taken not to exceed the elastic limit in the flexure area ◆ Stress distribution is very uneven ◆ Difficult to accurately model with finite element analysis 	♦ IJ10, IJ19, IJ33
Catch	The actuator controls a small catch. The catch either enables or disables movement of an ink pusher that is controlled in a bulk manner.	◆ Very low actuator energy◆ Very small actuator size	 Complex construction Requires external force Unsuitable for pigmented inks 	◆ IJ10
Gears	Gears can be used to increase travel at the expense of duration. Circular gears, rack and pinion, ratchets, and other gearing methods can be used.	 Low force, low travel actuators can be used Can be fabricated using standard surface MEMS processes 	 ♦ Moving parts are required ♦ Several actuator cycles are required ♦ More complex drive electronics ♦ Complex construction ♦ Friction, friction, and wear are possible 	→ IJ13

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Buckle plate	A buckle plate can be used to change a slow actuator into a fast motion. It can also convert a high force, low travel actuator into a high travel, medium force motion.	♦ Very fast movement achievable	 Must stay within elastic limits of the materials for long device life High stresses involved Generally high power requirement 	◆ S. Hirata et al, "An Ink-jet Head Using Diaphragm Microactuator", Proc. IEEE MEMS, Feb. 1996, pp 418- 423. ◆ IJ18, IJ27
Tapered magnetic pole	A tapered magnetic pole can increase travel at the expense of force.	◆ Linearizes the magnetic force/distance curve	◆ Complex construction	♦ IJ14
Lever	A lever and fulcrum is used to transform a motion with small travel and high force into a motion with longer travel and lower force. The lever can also reverse the direction of travel.	 Matches low travel actuator with higher travel requirements Fulcrum area has no linear movement, and can be used for a fluid seal 	◆ High stress around the fulcrum	◆ IJ32, IJ36, IJ37
Rotary impeller	The actuator is connected to a rotary impeller. A small angular deflection of the actuator results in a rotation of the impeller vanes, which push the ink against stationary vanes and out of the nozzle.	◆ High mechanical advantage ◆ The ratio of force to travel of the actuator can be matched to the nozzle requirements by varying the number of impeller vanes	 Complex construction Unsuitable for pigmented inks 	♦ IJ28
Acoustic lens	A refractive or diffractive (e.g. zone plate) acoustic lens is used to concentrate sound waves.	♦ No moving parts	 Large area required Only relevant for acoustic ink jets 	◆ 1993 Hadimioglu et al, EUP 550,192 ◆ 1993 Elrod et al, EUP 572,220
Sharp conductive point	A sharp point is used to concentrate an electrostatic field.	◆ Simple construction	◆ Difficult to fabricate using standard VLSI processes for a surface ejecting ink- jet ◆ Only relevant for electrostatic ink jets	♦ Tone-jet

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Volume expansion	The volume of the actuator changes, pushing the ink in all directions.	◆ Simple construction in the case of thermal ink jet	◆ High energy is typically required to achieve volume expansion. This leads to thermal stress, cavitation, and kogation in thermal ink jet implementations	 Hewlett-Packard Thermal Ink jet ◆ Canon Bubblejet
Linear, normal to chip surface	The actuator moves in a direction normal to the print head surface. The nozzle is typically in the line of movement.	◆ Efficient coupling to ink drops ejected normal to the surface	High fabrication complexity may be required to achieve perpendicular motion	◆ IJ01, IJ02, IJ04, IJ07, IJ11, IJ14
Parallel to chip surface	The actuator moves parallel to the print head surface. Drop ejection may still be normal to the surface.	◆ Suitable for planar fabrication	 Fabrication complexity Friction Stiction 	• IJ12, IJ13, IJ15, IJ33, , IJ34, IJ35, IJ36
Membrane push	An actuator with a high force but small area is used to push a stiff membrane that is in contact with the ink.	The effective area of the actuator becomes the membrane area	 Fabrication complexity Actuator size Difficulty of integration in a VLSI process 	• 1982 Howkins USP 4,459,601
Rotary	The actuator causes the rotation of some element, such a grill or impeller	 Rotary levers may be used to increase travel Small chip area requirements 	 Device complexity May have friction at a pivot point 	◆ IJ05, IJ08, IJ13, IJ28
Bend	The actuator bends when energized. This may be due to differential thermal expansion, piezoelectric expansion, magnetostriction, or other form of relative dimensional change.	A very small change in dimensions can be converted to a large motion.	◆ Requires the actuator to be made from at least two distinct layers, or to have a thermal difference across the actuator	◆ 1970 Kyser et al USP 3,946,398 ◆ 1973 Stemme USP 3,747,120 ◆ IJ03, IJ09, IJ10, IJ19, IJ23, IJ24, IJ25, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ33, IJ34, IJ35
Swivel	The actuator swivels around a central pivot. This motion is suitable where there are opposite forces applied to opposite sides of the paddle, e.g. Lorenz force.	 ◆ Allows operation where the net linear force on the paddle is zero ◆ Small chip area requirements 	♦ Inefficient coupling to the ink motion	◆ IJ06
Straighten	The actuator is normally bent, and straightens when energized.	◆ Can be used with shape memory alloys where the austenic phase is planar	♦ Requires careful balance of stresses to ensure that the quiescent bend is accurate	♦ IJ26, IJ32

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Double bend	The actuator bends in one direction when one element is energized, and bends the other way when another element is energized.	 ♦ One actuator can be used to power two nozzles. ♦ Reduced chip size. ♦ Not sensitive to ambient temperature 	 Difficult to make the drops ejected by both bend directions identical. A small efficiency loss compared to equivalent single bend actuators. 	◆ IJ36, IJ37, IJ38
Shear	Energizing the actuator causes a shear motion in the actuator material.	 Can increase the effective travel of piezoelectric actuators 	Not readily applicable to other actuator mechanisms	◆ 1985 Fishbeck USP 4,584,590
Radial con- striction	The actuator squeezes an ink reservoir, forcing ink from a constricted nozzle.	Relatively easy to fabricate single nozzles from glass tubing as macroscopic structures	 High force required Inefficient Difficult to integrate with VLSI processes 	◆ 1970 Zoltan USF 3,683,212
Coil / uncoil	A coiled actuator uncoils or coils more tightly. The motion of the free end of the actuator ejects the ink.	 ◆ Easy to fabricate as a planar VLSI process ◆ Small area required, therefore low cost 	 Difficult to fabricate for non-planar devices Poor out-of-plane stiffness 	◆ IJ17, IJ21, IJ34, IJ35
Bow	The actuator bows (or buckles) in the middle when energized.	◆ Can increase the speed of travel◆ Mechanically rigid	 Maximum travel is constrained High force required 	♦ IJ16, IJ18, IJ27
Push-Pull	Two actuators control a shutter. One actuator pulls the shutter, and the other pushes it.	◆ The structure is pinned at both ends, so has a high out-of-plane rigidity	♦ Not readily suitable for ink jets which directly push the ink	♦ IJ18
Curl inwards	A set of actuators curl inwards to reduce the volume of ink that they enclose.	◆ Good fluid flow to the region behind the actuator increases efficiency	◆ Design complexity	◆ IJ20, IJ42
Curl outwards	A set of actuators curl outwards, pressurizing ink in a chamber surrounding the actuators, and expelling ink from a nozzle in the chamber.	Relatively simple construction	♦ Relatively large chip area	♦ IJ43
Iris	Multiple vanes enclose a volume of ink. These simultaneously rotate, reducing the volume between the vanes.	✦ High efficiency✦ Small chip area	 ◆ High fabrication complexity ◆ Not suitable for pigmented inks 	♦ IJ22

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Acoustic vibration	The actuator vibrates at a high frequency.	♦ The actuator can be physically distant from the ink	 Large area required for efficient operation at useful frequencies Acoustic coupling and crosstalk Complex drive circuitry Poor control of drop volume and position 	 ◆ 1993 Hadimioglu et al, EUP 550,192 ◆ 1993 Elrod et al, EUP 572,220
None	In various ink jet designs the actuator does not move.	♦ No moving parts	◆ Various other tradeoffs are required to eliminate moving parts	 Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications Tone-jet

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Surface tension	This is the normal way that ink jets are refilled. After the actuator is energized, it typically returns rapidly to its normal position. This rapid return sucks in air through the nozzle opening. The ink surface tension at the nozzle then exerts a small force restoring the meniscus to a minimum area. This force refills the nozzle.	 ◆ Fabrication simplicity ◆ Operational simplicity 	◆ Low speed ◆ Surface tension force relatively small compared to actuator force ◆ Long refill time usually dominates the total repetition rate	 Thermal ink jet Piezoelectric ink jet IJ01-IJ07, IJ10-IJ14, IJ16, IJ20, IJ22-IJ45
Shuttered oscillating ink pressure	Ink to the nozzle chamber is provided at a pressure that oscillates at twice the drop ejection frequency. When a drop is to be ejected, the shutter is opened for 3 half cycles: drop ejection, actuator return, and refill. The shutter is then closed to prevent the nozzle chamber emptying during the next negative pressure cycle.	◆ High speed ◆ Low actuator energy, as the actuator need only open or close the shutter, instead of ejecting the ink drop	 Requires common ink pressure oscillator May not be suitable for pigmented inks 	◆ IJ08, IJ13, IJ15, IJ17, IJ18, IJ19, IJ21
Refill actuator	After the main actuator has ejected a drop a second (refill) actuator is energized. The refill actuator pushes ink into the nozzle chamber. The refill actuator returns slowly, to prevent its return from emptying the chamber again.	♦ High speed, as the nozzle is actively refilled	◆ Requires two independent actuators per nozzle	◆ IJ09
Positive ink pressure	The ink is held a slight positive pressure. After the ink drop is ejected, the nozzle chamber fills quickly as surface tension and ink pressure both operate to refill the nozzle.	◆ High refill rate, therefore a high drop repetition rate is possible	 Surface spill must be prevented Highly hydrophobic print head surfaces are required 	◆ Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications ◆ Alternative for:, IJ01-IJ07, IJ10-IJ14 IJ16, IJ20, IJ22-IJ4:

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Long inlet channel	The ink inlet channel to the nozzle chamber is made long and relatively narrow, relying on viscous drag to reduce inlet back-flow.	 ◆ Design simplicity ◆ Operational simplicity ◆ Reduces crosstalk 	 ♦ Restricts refill rate ♦ May result in a relatively large chip area ♦ Only partially effective 	 ◆ Thermal ink jet ◆ Piezoelectric ink jet ◆ IJ42, IJ43
Positive ink pressure	The ink is under a positive pressure, so that in the quiescent state some of the ink drop already protrudes from the nozzle. This reduces the pressure in the nozzle chamber which is required to eject a certain volume of ink. The reduction in chamber pressure results in a reduction in ink pushed out through the inlet.	 ◆ Drop selection and separation forces can be reduced ◆ Fast refill time 	Requires a method (such as a nozzle rim or effective hydrophobizing, or both) to prevent flooding of the ejection surface of the print head.	◆ Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications ◆ Possible operation of the following: IJ01-IJ07, IJ09-IJ12, IJ14, IJ16, IJ20, IJ22, , IJ23-IJ34, IJ36-IJ41, IJ44
Baffle	One or more baffles are placed in the inlet ink flow. When the actuator is energized, the rapid ink movement creates eddies which restrict the flow through the inlet. The slower refill process is unrestricted, and does not result in eddies.	 The refill rate is not as restricted as the long inlet method. Reduces crosstalk 	 Design complexity May increase fabrication complexity (e.g. Tektronix hot melt Piezoelectric print heads). 	 ◆ HP Thermal Ink Jet ◆ Tektronix piezoelectric ink jet
Flexible flap restricts inlet	In this method recently disclosed by Canon, the expanding actuator (bubble) pushes on a flexible flap that restricts the inlet.	◆ Significantly reduces back-flow for edge-shooter thermal ink jet devices	 Not applicable to most ink jet configurations Increased fabrication complexity Inelastic deformation of polymer flap results in creep over extended use 	♦ Canon

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Inlet filter	A filter is located between the ink inlet and the nozzle chamber. The filter has a multitude of small holes or slots, restricting ink flow. The filter also removes particles which may block the nozzle.	 Additional advantage of ink filtration Ink filter may be fabricated with no additional process steps 	◆ Restricts refill rate ◆ May result in complex construction	◆ IJ04, IJ12, IJ24, IJ27, IJ29, IJ30
Small inlet compared to nozzle	The ink inlet channel to the nozzle chamber has a substantially smaller cross section than that of the nozzle, resulting in easier ink egress out of the nozzle than out of the inlet.	♦ Design simplicity	 ♦ Restricts refill rate ♦ May result in a relatively large chip area ♦ Only partially effective 	◆ IJ02, IJ37, IJ44
Inlet shutter	A secondary actuator controls the position of a shutter, closing off the ink inlet when the main actuator is energized.	◆ Increases speed of the ink-jet print head operation	Requires separate refill actuator and drive circuit	◆ IJ09
The inlet is located behind the ink-pushing surface	The method avoids the problem of inlet backflow by arranging the ink-pushing surface of the actuator between the inlet and the nozzle.	◆ Back-flow problem is eliminated	◆ Requires careful design to minimize the negative pressure behind the paddle	◆ IJ01, IJ03, 1J05, IJ06, IJ07, IJ10, IJ11, IJ14, IJ16, IJ22, IJ23, IJ25, IJ28, IJ31, IJ32, IJ33, IJ34, IJ35, IJ36, IJ39, IJ40, IJ41
Part of the actuator moves to shut off the inlet	The actuator and a wall of the ink chamber are arranged so that the motion of the actuator closes off the inlet.	 Significant reductions in backflow can be achieved Compact designs possible 	Small increase in fabrication complexity	◆ IJ07, IJ20, IJ26, IJ38
Nozzle actuator does not result in ink oack-flow	In some configurations of ink jet, there is no expansion or movement of an actuator which may cause ink back-flow through the inlet.	◆ Ink back-flow problem is eliminated	♦ None related to ink back-flow on actuation	◆ Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications ◆ Valve-jet ◆ Tone-jet

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Normal nozzle firing	All of the nozzles are fired periodically, before the ink has a chance to dry. When not in use the nozzles are sealed (capped) against air. The nozzle firing is usually performed during a special clearing cycle, after first moving the print head to a cleaning station.	◆ No added complexity on the print head	♦ May not be sufficient to displace dried ink	♦ Most ink jet systems ♦ IJ01, IJ02, IJ03, IJ04, IJ05, IJ06, IJ07, IJ09, IJ10, IJ11, IJ12, IJ14, IJ16, IJ20, IJ22, IJ23, IJ24, IJ25, IJ26, IJ27, IJ28, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ32, IJ33, IJ34, IJ36, IJ37, IJ38, IJ39, IJ40,, IJ41, IJ42, IJ43, IJ44, IJ45
Extra power to ink heater	In systems which heat the ink, but do not boil it under normal situations, nozzle clearing can be achieved by over- powering the heater and boiling ink at the nozzle.	◆ Can be highly effective if the heater is adjacent to the nozzle	 Requires higher drive voltage for clearing May require larger drive transistors 	◆ Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications
Rapid success-ion of actuator pulses	The actuator is fired in rapid succession. In some configurations, this may cause heat build-up at the nozzle which boils the ink, clearing the nozzle. In other situations, it may cause sufficient vibrations to dislodge clogged nozzles.	 Does not require extra drive circuits on the print head Can be readily controlled and initiated by digital logic 	◆ Effectiveness depends substantially upon the configuration of the ink jet nozzle	♦ May be used with: IJ01, IJ02, IJ03, IJ04, IJ05, IJ06, IJ07, IJ09, IJ10, IJ11, IJ14, IJ16, IJ20, IJ22, IJ23, IJ24, IJ25, IJ27, IJ28, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ32, IJ33, IJ34, IJ36, IJ37, IJ38, IJ39, IJ40, IJ41, IJ42, IJ43, IJ44, IJ45
Extra power to ink pushing actuator	Where an actuator is not normally driven to the limit of its motion, nozzle clearing may be assisted by providing an enhanced drive signal to the actuator.	◆ A simple solution where applicable	Not suitable where there is a hard limit to actuator movement	May be used with: IJ03, IJ09, IJ16, IJ20, IJ23, IJ24, IJ25, IJ27, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ32, IJ39, IJ40, IJ41, IJ42, IJ43, IJ44, IJ45

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Acoustic resonance	An ultrasonic wave is applied to the ink chamber. This wave is of an appropriate amplitude and frequency to cause sufficient force at the nozzle to clear blockages. This is easiest to achieve if the ultrasonic wave is at a resonant frequency of the ink cavity.	 ◆ A high nozzle clearing capability can be achieved ◆ May be implemented at very low cost in systems which already include acoustic actuators 	High implementation cost if system does not already include an acoustic actuator	◆ IJ08, IJ13, IJ15, IJ17, IJ18, IJ19, IJ21
Nozzle clearing plate	A microfabricated plate is pushed against the nozzles. The plate has a post for every nozzle. A post moves through each nozzle, displacing dried ink.	◆ Can clear severely clogged nozzles	 ◆ Accurate mechanical alignment is required ◆ Moving parts are required ◆ There is risk of damage to the nozzles ◆ Accurate fabrication is required 	Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications
Ink pressure pulse	The pressure of the ink is temporarily increased so that ink streams from all of the nozzles. This may be used in conjunction with actuator energizing.	◆ May be effective where other methods cannot be used	 Requires pressure pump or other pressure actuator Expensive Wasteful of ink 	◆ May be used with all IJ series ink jets
Print head wiper	A flexible 'blade' is wiped across the print head surface. The blade is usually fabricated from a flexible polymer, e.g. rubber or synthetic elastomer.	 ◆ Effective for planar print head surfaces ◆ Low cost 	 Difficult to use if print head surface is non-planar or very fragile Requires mechanical parts Blade can wear out in high volume print systems 	◆ Many ink jet systems
Separate ink boiling heater	A separate heater is provided at the nozzle although the normal drop e-ection mechanism does not require it. The heaters do not require individual drive circuits, as many nozzles can be cleared simultaneously, and no imaging is required.	 ◆ Can be effective where other nozzle clearing methods cannot be used ◆ Can be implemented at no additional cost in some ink jet configurations 	◆ Fabrication complexity	◆ Can be used with many IJ series ink jets

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
NOZZLE PLA	TE CONSTRUCTION	<u> </u>		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Electro- formed nickel	A nozzle plate is separately fabricated from electroformed nickel, and bonded to the print head chip.	♦ Fabrication simplicity	◆ High temperatures and pressures are required to bond nozzle plate ◆ Minimum thickness constraints ◆ Differential thermal expansion	◆ Hewlett Packard Thermal Ink jet
Laser ablated or drilled polymer	Individual nozzle holes are ablated by an intense UV laser in a nozzle plate, which is typically a polymer such as polyimide or polysulphone	 No masks required Can be quite fast Some control over nozzle profile is possible Equipment required is relatively low cost 	 ◆ Each hole must be individually formed ◆ Special equipment required ◆ Slow where there are many thousands of nozzles per print head ◆ May produce thin burrs at exit holes 	◆ Canon Bubblejet ◆ 1988 Sercel et al., SPIE, Vol. 998 Excimer Beam Applications, pp. 76-83 ◆ 1993 Watanabe et al., USP 5,208,604
Silicon micro- machined	A separate nozzle plate is micromachined from single crystal silicon, and bonded to the print head wafer.	High accuracy is attainable	 ◆ Two part construction ◆ High cost ◆ Requires precision alignment ◆ Nozzles may be clogged by adhesive 	◆ K. Bean, IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices, Vol. ED-25, No. 10 1978, pp 1185-1195 ◆ Xerox 1990 Hawkins et al., USF 4,899,181
Glass capillaries Fine glass capillaries are drawn from glass tubing. This method has been used for making individual nozzles, but is difficult to use for bulk manufacturing of print heads with thousands of nozzles.		 No expensive equipment required Simple to make single nozzles 	 ♦ Very small nozzle sizes are difficult to form ♦ Not suited for mass production 	◆ 1970 Zoltan USF 3,683,212
Monolithic, surface micro- machined using VLSI litho- graphic processes	The nozzle plate is deposited as a layer using standard VLSI deposition techniques. Nozzles are etched in the nozzle plate using VLSI lithography and etching.	 High accuracy (<1 µm) Monolithic Low cost Existing processes can be used 	 Requires sacrificial layer under the nozzle plate to form the nozzle chamber Surface may be fragile to the touch 	◆ Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications ◆ IJ01, IJ02, IJ04, IJ11, IJ12, IJ17, IJ18, IJ20, IJ22, IJ24, IJ27, IJ28, IJ29, IJ30, IJ31, IJ32, IJ33, IJ34, IJ36, IJ37, IJ38, IJ39, IJ40, IJ41, IJ42, IJ43, IJ44

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Monolithic, etched through substrate	The nozzle plate is a buried etch stop in the wafer. Nozzle chambers are etched in the front of the wafer, and the wafer is thinned from the back side. Nozzles are then etched in the etch stop layer.	 High accuracy (<1 µm) Monolithic Low cost No differential expansion 	 ◆ Requires long etch times ◆ Requires a support wafer 	◆ IJ03, IJ05, IJ06, IJ07, IJ08, IJ09, IJ10, IJ13, IJ14, IJ15, IJ16, IJ19, IJ21, IJ23, IJ25, IJ26
No nozzle plate	Various methods have been tried to eliminate the nozzles entirely, to prevent nozzle clogging. These include thermal bubble mechanisms and acoustic lens mechanisms	◆ No nozzles to become clogged	 ◆ Difficult to control drop position accurately ◆ Crosstalk problems 	 ◆ Ricoh 1995 Sekiya et al USP 5,412,413 ◆ 1993 Hadimioglu et al EUP 550,192 ◆ 1993 Elrod et al EUP 572,220
Frough Each drop ejector has a trough through which a paddle moves. There is no nozzle plate.		◆ Reduced manufacturing complexity ◆ Monolithic	◆ Drop firing direction is sensitive to wicking.	◆ IJ35
Nozzle slit instead of individual nozzles	The elimination of nozzle holes and replacement by a slit encompassing many actuator positions reduces nozzle clogging, but increases crosstalk due to ink surface waves	◆ No nozzles to become clogged	 ◆ Difficult to control drop position accurately ◆ Crosstalk problems 	◆ 1989 Saito et al USP 4,799,068

DROP EJECT	DROP EJECTION DIRECTION					
	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples		
Edge ('edge shooter')	Ink flow is along the surface of the chip, and ink drops are ejected from the chip edge.	 Simple construction No silicon etching required Good heat sinking via substrate Mechanically strong Ease of chip handing 	 Nozzles limited to edge High resolution is difficult Fast color printing requires one print head per color 	 Canon Bubblejet 1979 Endo et al GB patent 2,007,162 Xerox heater-in- pit 1990 Hawkins et al USP 4,899,181 Tone-jet 		
Surface ('roof shooter')	Ink flow is along the surface of the chip, and ink drops are ejected from the chip surface, normal to the plane of the chip.	 No bulk silicon etching required Silicon can make an effective heat sink Mechanical strength 	◆ Maximum ink flow is severely restricted	 → Hewlett-Packard TIJ 1982 Vaught et al USP 4,490,728 → IJ02, IJ11, IJ12, IJ20, IJ22 		

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Through chip, forward ('up shooter')	Ink flow is through the chip, and ink drops are ejected from the front surface of the chip.	 High ink flow Suitable for pagewidth print heads High nozzle packing density therefore low manufacturing cost 	◆ Requires bulk silicon etching	◆ Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications ◆ IJ04, IJ17, IJ18, IJ24, IJ27-IJ45
Through chip, reverse ('down shooter')	Ink flow is through the chip, and ink drops are ejected from the rear surface of the chip.	 ✦ High ink flow ✦ Suitable for pagewidth print heads ✦ High nozzle packing density therefore low manufacturing cost 	 ◆ Requires wafer thinning ◆ Requires special handling during manufacture 	◆ IJ01, IJ03, IJ05, IJ06, IJ07, IJ08, IJ09, IJ10, IJ13, IJ14, IJ15, IJ16, IJ19, IJ21, IJ23, IJ25, IJ26
Through actuator	Ink flow is through the actuator, which is not fabricated as part of the same substrate as the drive transistors.	◆ Suitable for piezoelectric print heads	 ◆ Pagewidth print heads require several thousand connections to drive circuits ◆ Cannot be manufactured in standard CMOS fabs ◆ Complex assembly required 	◆ Epson Stylus ◆ Tektronix hot melt piezoelectric ink jets

	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples	
Aqueous, dye	Water based ink which typically contains: water, dye, surfactant, humectant, and biocide. Modern ink dyes have high water-fastness, light fastness	◆ Environmentally friendly◆ No odor	 ♦ Slow drying ♦ Corrosive ♦ Bleeds on paper ♦ May strikethrough ♦ Cockles paper 	 ♦ Most existing ink jets ♦ All IJ series ink jets ♦ Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications 	
Aqueous, pigment	Water based ink which typically contains: water, pigment, surfactant, humectant, and biocide. Pigments have an advantage in reduced bleed, wicking and strikethrough.	 Environmentally friendly No odor Reduced bleed Reduced wicking Reduced strikethrough 	 Slow drying Corrosive Pigment may clog nozzles Pigment may clog actuator mechanisms Cockles paper 	 IJ02, IJ04, IJ21, IJ26, IJ27, IJ30 Silverbrook, EP 0771 658 A2 and related patent applications Piezoelectric inkjets (with significant restrictions) 	
Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK)	MEK is a highly volatile solvent used for industrial printing on difficult surfaces such as aluminum cans.	 Very fast drying Prints on various substrates such as metals and plastics 	◆ Odorous◆ Flammable	◆ All IJ series ink jets	
cans. Alcohol Alcohol based inks can be used where the printer must operate at temperatures below the freezing point of water. An example of this is in-camera consumer photographic printing.		 ◆ Fast drying ◆ Operates at subfreezing temperatures ◆ Reduced paper cockle ◆ Low cost 	♦ Slight odor♦ Flammable	◆ All IJ series ink jets	
Phase change (hot melt)	The ink is solid at room temperature, and is melted in the print head before jetting. Hot melt inks are usually wax based, with a melting point around 80 °C. After jetting the ink freezes almost instantly upon contacting the print medium or a transfer roller.	 No drying time-ink instantly freezes on the print medium Almost any print medium can be used No paper cockle occurs No wicking occurs No bleed occurs No strikethrough occurs 	 → High viscosity → Printed ink typically has a 'waxy' feel → Printed pages may 'block' → Ink temperature may be above the curie point of permanent magnets → Ink heaters consume power → Long warm-up time 	 ◆ Tektronix hot melt piezoelectric ink jets ◆ 1989 Nowak USP 4,820,346 ◆ All IJ series ink jets 	

INK TYPE	INK TYPE				
	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples	
Oil	Oil based inks are extensively used in offset printing. They have advantages in improved characteristics on paper (especially no wicking or cockle). Oil soluble dies and pigments are required.	 High solubility medium for some dyes Does not cockle paper Does not wick through paper 	 → High viscosity: this is a significant limitation for use in ink jets, which usually require a low viscosity. Some short chain and multi-branched oils have a sufficiently low viscosity. ◆ Slow drying 	◆ All IJ series ink jets	
Micro- emulsion	A microemulsion is a stable, self forming emulsion of oil, water, and surfactant. The characteristic drop size is less than 100 nm, and is determined by the preferred curvature of the surfactant.	 ♦ Stops ink bleed ♦ High dye solubility ♦ Water, oil, and amphiphilic soluble dies can be used ♦ Can stabilize pigment suspensions 	 ♦ Viscosity higher than water ♦ Cost is slightly higher than water based ink ♦ High surfactant concentration required (around 5%) 	◆ All IJ series ink jets	

I CLAIM

1. A camera system for recording images, said camera system comprising: an electronic image sensor for sensing an image;

a digital processing means for processing said sensed image in accordance with predetermined processing requirements;

a photo width ink jet printer means for printing said processed image on a surface of ink jet print media, said print media including a magnetic recording surface;

a magnetic recording means for recording associated information on said magnetic recording surface.

- 2. A camera system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said associated information comprises audio information associated with said sensed image.
- 3. A camera system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer means prints said sensed image on a first surface of said print media and the magnetic recording means records said associated information on a second surface of said print media.
 - 4. A camera system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said print media is stored on an internal detachable roll in said camera system, said camera system comprising a hand held portable camera device, said photo width ink jet printer being built into said hand held portable camera device.
 - 5. A camera system as claimed in claim 3 wherein said first and said second surfaces are on different faces of said print media.

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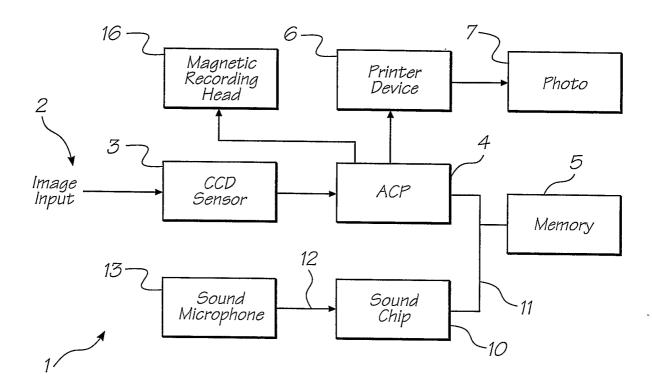


FIG. 1

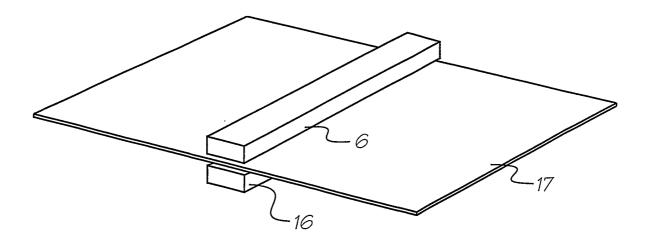
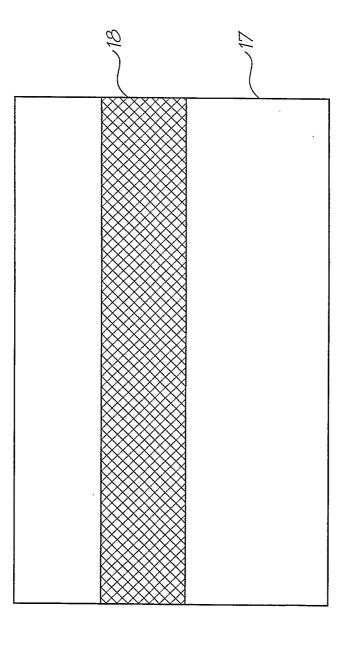


FIG. 2



F1G. 3

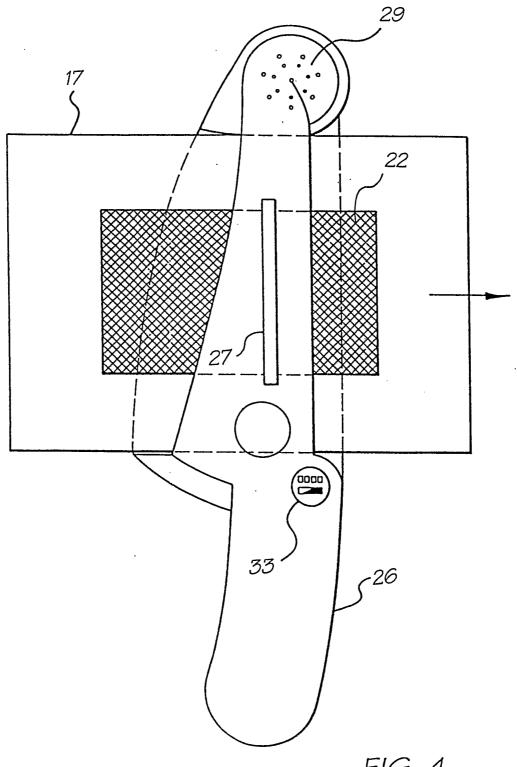


FIG. 4

WO 2004/001501 PCT/AU2002/001161



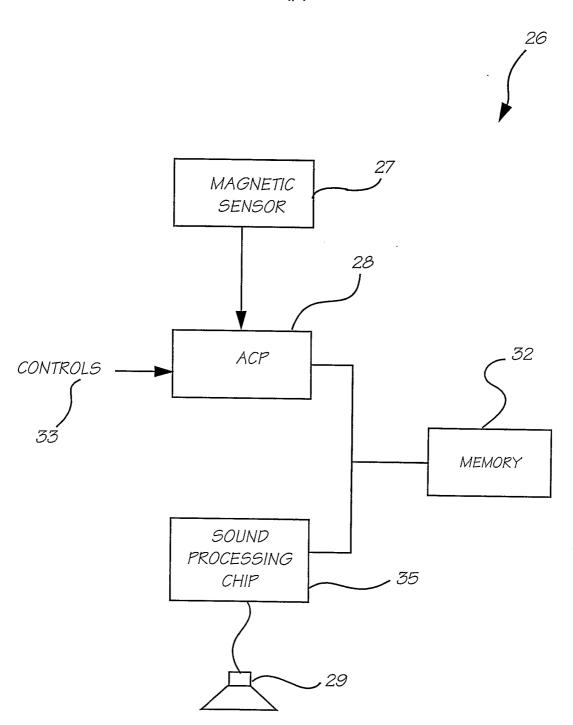


FIG. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU02/01161

A.	CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER					
Int. Cl. 7:	G03B 19/02; H04N 5/225; G06K 19/10					
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC						
В.	FIELDS SEARCHED		İ			
Minimum docu	mentation searched (classification system followed by cla	ssification symbols)				
Documentation	searched other than minimum documentation to the exten	nt that such documents are included in the fields search	ned			
	base consulted during the international search (name of duera, sensor, image, record, magnetic, print	ata base and, where practicable, search terms used)				
С.	DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appr	opriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
Y	US 2001/0030692-A1-(Yoneda) 18 October whole document	2001	1-5			
Y	EP 1 039 351-A2-(Eastman Kodak Company) 27 September 2000 whole document					
Y	US 4,905,029-A-(Kelley) 27 February 1990 whole document	· 1	1-5			
	Note: US 4,905,029 can be combined with eight	ther of US 2001/0030692 or EP 1 039 351				
X F	further documents are listed in the continuation	of Box C X See patent family annual	ex			
"A" docume which i relevan "E" earlier	is not considered to be of particular an or application or patent but published on or "X" do e international filing date co	ter document published after the international filing da d not in conflict with the application but cited to under theory underlying the invention ocument of particular relevance; the claimed invention insidered novel or cannot be considered to involve an	rstand the principle cannot be			
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, "&" when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family						
exhibit "P" docume	exhibition or other means					
Date of the act	ual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report	18 SEP 2002			
	ling address of the ISA/AU	Authorized officer				
AUSTRALIAN PO BOX 200, E-mail address	N PATENT OFFICE WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA : pct@ipaustralia.gov.au (02) 6285 3929	JAMES WILLIAMS Telephone No: (02) 6283 2599				

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU02/01161

ategory*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,381,418-B1-(Spurr et al) 30 April 2002 whole document	1-5
A	US 6,363,239-B1-(Tutt et al) 26 March 2002 whole document	1-5
	·	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU02/01161

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Pater	nt Document Cited in Search Report			Pate	ent Family Member	
US	20010030692	EP	1107278	JР	2001169437	
US	4905029	NONE				
US	6381418	EP	1076316	JР	2001143026	
US	6363239	EP	1079268	л	2001119320	
EP	1 039 351	JР	2000307983			
						END OF ANNEX