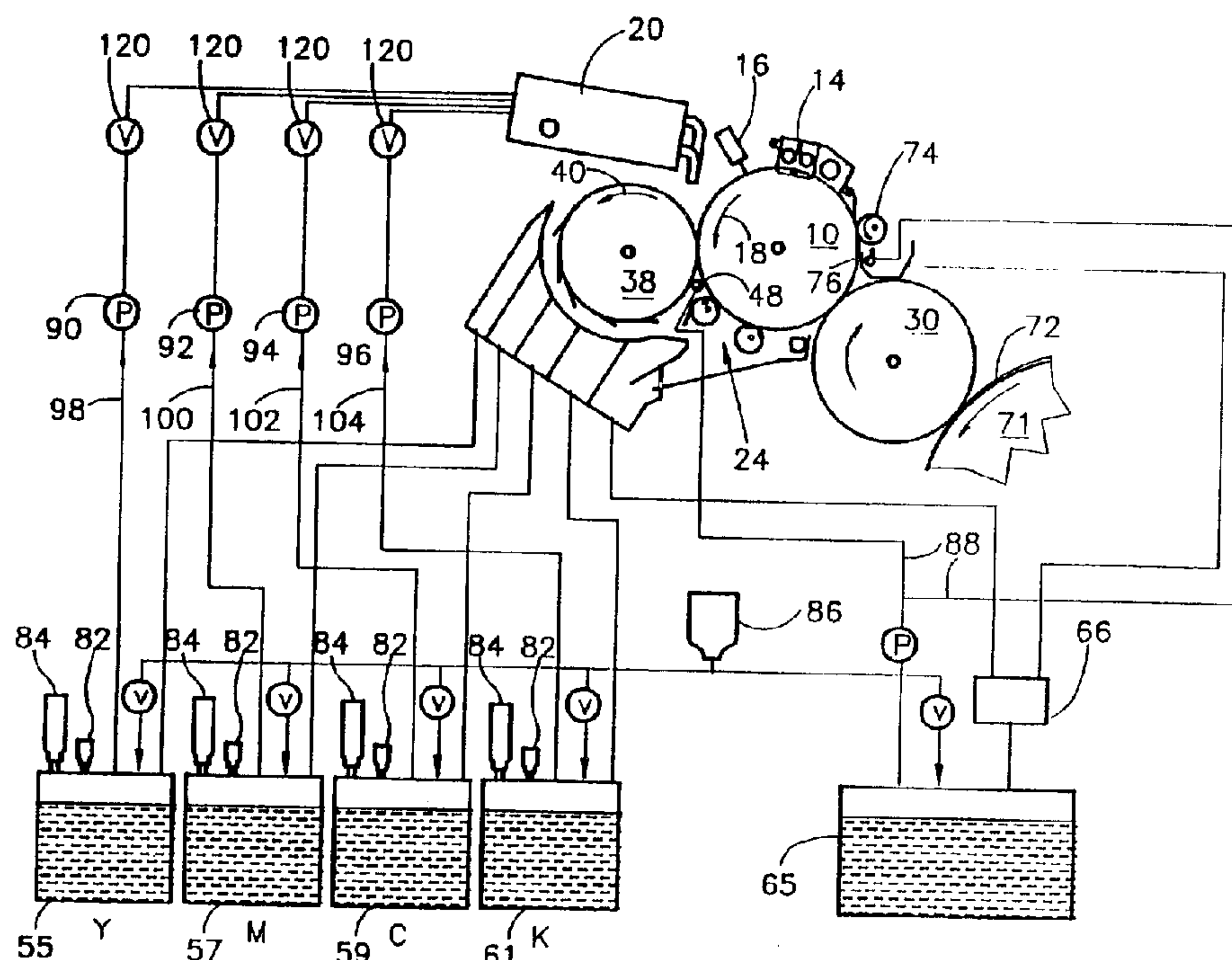




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(54) Title: LIQUID TONER DEVELOPER



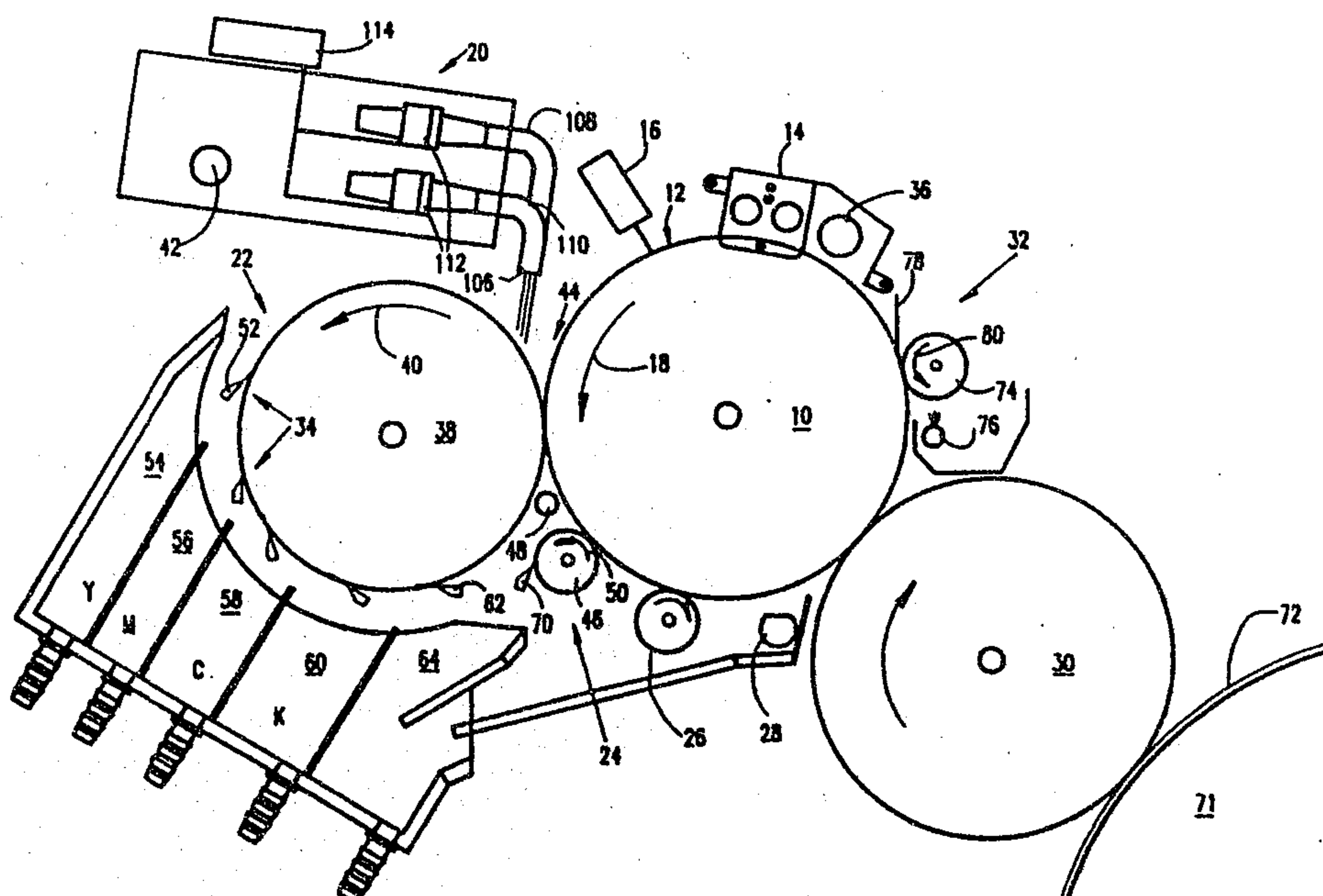
(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Imaging apparatus including an electrostatic imaging surface (10), latent image forming (16) apparatus for forming an electrostatic latent image on said electrostatic imaging surface (10) and development apparatus (22) for developing said electrostatic latent image which includes supply apparatus (20) for supplying a liquid toner to the image forming surface (10), the supply apparatus (20) including a multiplicity of independently controllable outlets (106), preferably spray outlets, and a development surface (38) for developing the electrostatic latent image using the liquid toner. The supply apparatus (20) is preferably a multicolor supply apparatus and the multiplicity of outlets (106) includes a plurality of the individually controllable outlets, for supplying liquid toner of each of a plurality of colors.



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(21) International Application Number: PCT/NL92/00012 (22) International Filing Date: 21 January 1992 (21.01.92) (30) Priority data: 643,483 22 January 1991 (22.01.91) US (71) Applicant: SPECTRUM SCIENCES B.V. [NL/NL]; Zijdweg 6, NL-2244 BG Wassenaar (NL). (72) Inventors: ADAM, Yossi ; 57 Derech Yavne, Rehovot (IL). GAZIT, Alon ; 2 Renez Street, 70 400 Nes Ziona (IL). (74) Agent: DE BRUIJN, Leendert, C.; Nederlandsch Octro- oibureau, Scheveningseweg 82, P.O. Box 29720, NL-2502 LS The Hague (NL).		2100566 (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, KR, LU (European patent), MC (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: LIQUID TONER DEVELOPER**(57) Abstract**

Imaging apparatus including an electrostatic imaging surface (10), latent image forming (16) apparatus for forming an electrostatic latent image on said electrostatic imaging surface (10) and development apparatus (22) for developing said electrostatic latent image which includes supply apparatus (20) for supplying a liquid toner to the image forming surface (10), the supply apparatus (20) including a multiplicity of independently controllable outlets (106), preferably spray outlets, and a development surface (38) for developing the electrostatic latent image using the liquid toner. The supply apparatus (20) is preferably a multi-color supply apparatus and the multiplicity of outlets (106) includes a plurality of the individually controllable outlets, for supplying liquid toner of each of a plurality of colors.

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LIQUID TONER DEVELOPER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to color electrostatic imaging and particularly to apparatus for developing color electrostatic images.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Systems for color liquid toner electrostatic image reproduction are known in the art. These systems comprise apparatus for creating a latent electrostatic image on a surface through the formation of image and background areas, apparatus for developing the latent image including contacting the latent image with a liquid toner and a background cleanup apparatus that minimizes the undesirable deposition of toner on background surfaces. The development systems described in PCT patent application WO 90/14619 employ a reverse roller as a development surface with the reverse roller voltage intermediate the voltages on the image and background regions of the latent image bearing surface. Further, these systems include spray apparatus for supplying toner to the development rollers which spray apparatus includes a plurality of spray outlets connected to a common manifold.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

There is provided in accordance with the present invention imaging apparatus having an electrostatic imaging surface, latent image forming apparatus for forming an electrostatic latent image on said electrostatic imaging surface, and development apparatus for developing the electrostatic latent image including supply apparatus for supplying a liquid toner to the image forming surface, the supply apparatus having a multiplicity of independently controllable outlets, preferably spray outlets and a development surface for developing the electrostatic latent image using the liquid toner. Preferably the apparatus is a multi-color supply apparatus and the multiplicity of outlets includes a plurality of individually controllable outlets, for supplying liquid toner of each of a plurality of colors.

There is further provided imaging apparatus having an electrostatic imaging surface, latent image forming

1 apparatus for forming an electrostatic latent image on the
2 electrostatic imaging surface and development apparatus for
3 developing the electrostatic latent image including supply
4 apparatus for supplying a liquid toner to the image forming
5 surface, the supply apparatus including a multiplicity of
6 outlets, preferably spray outlets, for supplying the liquid
7 toner, at least one manifold for supplying liquid toner to
8 the multiplicity of outlets and apparatus for preventing
9 flow from the outlets to the manifold. Preferably, the
10 supply apparatus is a multi-color supply apparatus and the
11 multiplicity of outlets includes a plurality of individually
12 controllable outlets, for supplying liquid toner of each of
13 a plurality of colors and the at least one manifold includes
14 separate manifolds for each the color.

15 In a preferred embodiment of the invention the
16 apparatus for preventing includes at least one one-way valve
17 which allows for toner flow only from the manifold to the
18 outlets.

19 In a preferred embodiment of the invention the
20 multiplicity of spray outlets form a single row. Preferably
21 the single row of spray outlets comprises a linear array of
22 interdigitated spray outlets for liquid toner of different
23 colors.

24 In a preferred embodiment of the invention the system
25 also includes a filter to remove paper fibers, fused toner,
26 etc., from the toner to avoid clogging the valves.

1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

2 The present invention will be more fully understood and
3 appreciated from the following detailed description, taken
4 in conjunction with the drawings in which:

5 Fig. 1 is a generalized schematic illustration of an
6 imaging system constructed and operative in accordance with
7 a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

8 Fig. 2 is a schematic illustration of a portion of the
9 apparatus of Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 3 is a front perspective illustration of a
11 pivotable multicolor liquid developer spray assembly;

12 Fig. 4 is a side perspective illustration of the
13 background cleaning station;

14 Fig. 5 is a schematic illustration of a portion of an
15 alternative preferred embodiment of the invention; and

16 Fig. 6 is a schematic illustration of a portion of
17 another alternative preferred embodiment of the invention;

18 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

19 Reference is now made to Figs. 1 and 2 which illustrate
20 a multicolor electrostatic imaging system constructed and
21 operative in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the
22 present invention. As seen in Figs. 1 and 2 there is
23 provided an image bearing surface 12 typically embodied in a
24 rotating photoconductive drum 10. Drum 10 is driven in any
25 appropriate manner (not shown) in the direction of arrow 18
26 past charging apparatus 14, preferably a corotron, adapted
27 to charge the surface of the photoconductive drum 10. The
28 image to be reproduced is focused by imaging apparatus 16
29 upon the charged surface 12 at least partially discharging
30 the photoconductor in the areas struck by light and forming
31 the electrostatic latent image. Thus the latent image
32 normally includes image areas at a first electrical
33 potential and background areas at another electrical
34 potential.

35 Photoconductive Drum 10 and photoconductor charging
36 apparatus 14 may be any suitable drum and charging apparatus
37 such as are well known in the art.

38 Imaging apparatus 16 may be a modulated laser beam
39 scanning apparatus, an optical focusing device for imaging a

1 copy on a drum or other imaging apparatus such as is known
2 in the art. Alternatively, drum 10 may have a fixed
3 electrostatic latent image thereon or may be a dielectric
4 material onto which charge is deposited in an image form.

5 Also associated with photoconductive drum 10 are a
6 multicolor liquid developer spray assembly 20, a developing
7 assembly 22, color specific cleaning blade assemblies 34, a
8 background cleaning station 24, an electrified squeegee 26,
9 a background discharge device 28, an intermediate transfer
10 member 30, cleaning apparatus 32, and a neutralizing lamp
11 assembly 36.

12 Developing assembly 22 preferably includes a
13 development roller 38. Development roller 38 is preferably
14 spaced from photoconductive drum 10 thereby forming a gap
15 between development roller 38 and drum 10 which is typically
16 40 to 150 μm and is charged to an electrical potential
17 intermediate that of the image and background areas of
18 photoconductive drum 10. Development roller 38 is thus
19 operative when maintained at a proper voltage to apply an
20 electric field to aid development of the latent
21 electrostatic image.

22 Development roller 38 typically rotates in the same
23 sense as drum 10 as indicated by arrow 40. This rotation
24 provides for the surface of drum 10 and development roller
25 38 to have opposite velocities in their region of
26 propinquity.

27 Multicolor liquid developer spray assembly 20, which is
28 described in more detail herein below, is preferably mounted
29 on axis 42 to allow assembly 20 to be pivoted in such a
30 manner that a spray of liquid toner containing electrically
31 charged pigmented toner particles can be directed either
32 onto a portion of the development roller 38, a portion of
33 the photoconductive drum 10 or directly into a development
34 region 44 between drum 10 and development roller 38.

35 Color specific cleaning blade assemblies 34 are
36 operatively associated with developer roller 38 for separate
37 removal of residual amounts of each colored toner remaining
38 thereon after development. Each one of blade assemblies 34
39 is selectably brought into operative association with

1 developer roller 38 only when toner of a color corresponding thereto is supplied to
2 development region 44 by spray assembly 20. The construction and operation of
3 cleaning blade assembly 34 is described in PCT International Publication number WO
4 90/14619.

5 Each of cleaning blade assemblies 34 includes a toner directing member
6 52 which serves to direct the toner removed by the cleaning blade assemblies 34 from
7 the developer roller 38 to separate collection containers 54, 56, 58 and 60 and thus to
8 prevent contamination of the various developers by mixing of the colors. The toner
9 collected by collection containers 54, 56, 58 and 60 is recycled to a corresponding toner
10 reservoir (55, 57, 59 and 61). A final toner directing member 62 always engages the
11 developer roller 38 and the toner collected thereby is supplied into collection container
12 64 and thereafter to reservoir 65 via separator 66 which is operative to separate
13 relatively clean carrier liquid from the various colored toner particles. The separator
14 66 may be typically of the type described in PCT International Publication Number
15 WO 90/10896.

16 Background cleaning station 24, which is more clearly shown in Fig. 4,
17 includes a reverse roller 46 and a fluid spray apparatus 48. Reverse roller 46 which
18 rotates in a direction indicated by arrow 50 is electrically biased to potential
19 intermediate that of the image and background areas of photoconductive drum 10.
20 Reverse roller 46 is preferably spaced apart from photoconductive drum 10 thereby
21 forming a gap between reverse roller 46 and drum 10 which is typically 40 to 150 μ m.

22 Fluid spray apparatus 48 receives liquid toner from reservoir 65 via
23 conduit 88 and operates to provide a supply of clear non-polar liquid to the gap between
24 photoconductive drum 10 and reverse roller 46. The liquid supplied by fluid spray
25 apparatus 48 replaces the liquid removed from drum 10 by development assembly 22
26 thus allowing the reverse roller 46 to remove charged pigmented toner particles by
27 electrophoresis from the background areas of the latent image. Excess fluid is removed
28 from reverse roller 46 by a liquid directing member 70 which continuously engages
29 reverse roller 46 to collect excess liquid containing toner particles of various colors
30 which is in turn supplied to reservoir 65 via a collection container 64 and separator 66.

1 An electrically biased squeegee roller 26 such as that described in U.S.
2 Patent 4,286,039 is preferably urged against the surface of drum 10 and is operative to
3 remove substantially all of the liquid carrier from the background regions and to
4 compact the image and remove liquid carrier therefrom in the image regions. The
5 squeegee roller 26 is preferably formed of resilient slightly conductive polymeric
6 material, and is charged to a potential of several hundred to a few thousand volts with
7 the same polarity as the polarity of the charge on the toner particles.

8 Discharge device 28 is operative to flood the drum 10 with light which
9 is operative to discharge the voltage remaining on drum 10 mainly to reduce electrical
10 breakdown and improve transfer of the image to intermediate transfer member 30.

11 Intermediate transfer member 30 may be any suitable intermediate
12 transfer member such as those described in PCT International Publication WO
13 90/08984 and is maintained at a suitable voltage and temperature for electrostatic
14 transfer of the image thereto from the image bearing surface and therefrom to a final
15 substrate 72. Intermediate transfer member 30 is preferably associated with a pressure
16 roller 71 for transfer of the image onto a final substrate 72, such as paper, preferably
17 by heat and pressure.

18 Cleaning apparatus 32 is operative to scrub clean the surface of
19 photoconductive drum 10 and includes a cleaning roller 74, a sprayer 76 to spray a non
20 polar cleaning liquid to assist in the scrubbing process and a wiper blade 78 to complete
21 the cleaning of the photoconductive surface. Cleaning roller 74 which may be formed
22 of any synthetic resin known in the art for this purpose is driven in a

1 direction of rotation opposite to that of drum 10 as
2 indicated by arrow 80. Any residual charge left on the
3 surface of photoconductive drum 10 is removed by flooding
4 the photoconductive surface with light from neutralizing
5 lamp assembly 36.

6 In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the
7 invention, after developing each image in a given color, the
8 single color image is transferred to intermediate transfer
9 member 30. Subsequent images in different colors are
10 sequentially transferred in alignment with the previous
11 image onto intermediate transfer member 30. When all of the
12 desired images have been transferred thereto, the complete
13 multi-color image is transferred from transfer member 30 to
14 substrate 72. Impression roller 71 only produces operative
15 engagement between intermediate transfer member 30 and
16 substrate 72 when transfer of the composite image to
17 substrate 72 takes place. Alternatively, each single color
18 image is transferred to the substrate after its formation.
19 In this case the substrate is fed through the machine once
20 for each color or is held on a platen and contacted with
21 intermediate transfer member 30 during image transfer.
22 Alternatively, the intermediate transfer member is omitted
23 and the developed single color images are transferred
24 sequentially directly from drum 10 to substrate 72.

25 Reference is now made additionally to Figs. 1, 2 and 3
26 in which it is seen that the multicolor toner spray
27 assembly 20 receives separate supplies of colored toner
28 typically from four different reservoirs 55, 57, 59 and 61.
29 Figure 1 shows four different colored toner reservoirs 55,
30 57, 59 and 61 typically containing the colors Yellow,
31 Magenta, Cyan and optionally Black respectively. Pumps 90,
32 92, 94 and 96 may be provided along respective supply
33 conduits 98, 100, 102 and 104 for providing a desired amount
34 of pressure to feed the colored toner to multicolor spray
35 assembly 20. Alternatively, multicolor toner spray assembly
36 20, which is preferably a three level spray assembly,
37 receives supplies of colored toner from six different
38 reservoirs (not shown) which allows for custom colored
39 toners in addition to the standard process colors.

1 Associated with each of reservoirs 55, 57, 59, and 61
2 are typically provided containers of charge director and
3 toner concentrate, indicated respectively by reference
4 numerals 82 and 84 as well as a supply of carrier liquid,
5 indicated generally by reference numeral 86.

6 Each of the reservoirs 55, 57, 59 and 61 also typically
7 receives an input of recycled toner of a corresponding color
8 from developer assembly 22 as described above.

9 Reference is now made to Figs. 2 and 3 which
10 illustrate one embodiment of a multicolor toner spray
11 assembly 20. In the embodiment of Fig. 3 it is seen that
12 there is provided a linear array of spray outlets 106, each
13 of which communicates with one of the four conduits 98, 100,
14 102, and 104. The outlets 106 leave the conduits 98, 100,
15 102 and 104 at one of two levels 108 and 110 to permit the
16 minimization of separation between the outlets 106.

17 The spray outlets 106 are preferably interdigitated
18 such that when four toner colors are used preferably every
19 fourth outlet 106 sprays the same color toner and that
20 every group of four adjacent outlets includes outlets 106
21 which spray four different colors. When six toner colors are
22 used preferably every sixth outlet 106 sprays the same color
23 toner and that every group of six adjacent outlets 106
24 includes outlets 106 which spray six different colors.

25 Colored toner is sprayed under pressure from each of
26 the outlets 106 into the development region 44. The spacing
27 of the spray outlets 106 and their periodicity is selected
28 to enable the toner for each individual given color to
29 substantially uniformly fill region 44. This can result in a
30 uniform array or preferably the colors are grouped in
31 clusters each of which contains one outlet for each color.
32 Typically these clusters have a center to center spacing of
33 between 40-60 mm.

34 In a particular embodiment of Fig. 3 the center to
35 center spacing between two adjacent outlets 106 in the
36 linear array is 6.5 mm, and the spray outlets have an inner
37 diameter of 4 mm. It may be appreciated, however, that the
38 distance between outlets 106 may vary widely in other
39 embodiments of the invention as long as the distribution of

1 liquid toner is sufficient to allow for uniform development.

2 The flow of toner to each of the outlets 106 from
3 conduits 98, 100, 102 and 104 is regulated by valves 112
4 which are controlled by controller 114. The valves 112 may
5 be electrically controlled valves which are opened or closed
6 by controller 114, as for example type 200 valves available
7 from Burkert, Ingelfingen, Germany. In an alternate
8 preferred embodiment of the invention, valves 112 are check
9 (one-way) valves which only allow for flow toward outlets
10 106 and controller 114 is omitted. In a preferred embodiment
11 of the invention a spring loaded non-return valve is used.
12 In this preferred embodiment overall toner flow is
13 controlled by a single valve 120 for each of the colors.
14 Valves 120 include a filter preferably a polyester mesh
15 filter having 200-300 micron openings. The purpose of this
16 filter is to remove paper fibers, fused toner, etc. which
17 may clog valves 112. In either event, the provision of
18 valves 112 prevents siphoning which would cause dripping
19 from the outlet after the main flow of toner is shut off.
20 Were the toner supply to be shut off only by shutting the
21 supply to the conduits 98, 100, 102 and 104 dripping would
22 occur which would result in the mixing of colors, or in a
23 long "dead" time between colors. This individual shut off of
24 each spray outlet or the provision of check valves in each
25 outlet allows for almost instantaneous change of developer
26 color at the development region 44.

27 In any event, the amount of toner that is applied to
28 drum 10 or development roller 38 in accordance with the
29 present invention is sufficient to provide a layer of toner
30 of thickness that at least substantially fills the gap
31 between drum 10 and development roller 38.

32 Reference is again made to Figs. 1 and 2 which
33 illustrate a development assembly 22 and a reverse roller 46
34 constructed and operative in accordance with a preferred
35 embodiment of the invention. The development assembly 22
36 includes development roller 38 which operatively engages
37 photoconductor drum 10 in spaced relationship therewith and,
38 due to its rotation in the same sense as photoconductor drum
39 10, acts inter alia as a metering device. This metering

1 effect ensures that very little liquid carries through the
2 nip of the development region.

3 As noted above, it is known in the art to employ an
4 electrically biased development roller in a liquid toner
5 electrophotographic imaging system. The roller is charged to
6 a suitable voltage somewhere between the voltages of image
7 and background areas of the photoconductive drum. At such a
8 suitable voltage the roller produces good image development
9 without toner deposition on the background.

10 It has been found by the inventors that when the speed
11 of the drum and the development roller are increased to
12 increase the speed of operation of the system there is an
13 unacceptable level of deposition of toner on the background
14 surface at the boundary area between the image and
15 background surfaces downstream of the image areas. This
16 unwanted deposition is hereinafter referred to as
17 "smearing".

18 This phenomenon appears to be the result of the
19 dynamics of toner particle migration in the development zone
20 44 where an electrostatic field is set up between
21 electrically charged development roller 38 and electrically
22 charged image areas and background areas of drum 10.
23 Increasing the voltage difference between background areas
24 of drum 10 and development roller 38 decreases background
25 smearing but, since it also decreases the voltage difference
26 between the image areas of drum 10 and development roller 38
27 it also degrades the image. This image degradation appears
28 to be caused by inhibiting migration of toner particles to
29 the image areas of drum 10 resulting in a reduction in image
30 optical density.

31 When development roller 38, maintained at a voltage
32 which gives good developed image density, but which by
33 itself would result in background smearing, is used in
34 conjugation with background cleaning station 24 improved
35 images are obtained.

36 Background cleaning station 24 comprises a reverse
37 roller 46 typically maintained at a voltage different from
38 the background area of drum 10 which is greater than that of
39 development roller 38. A fluid spray apparatus 48 sprays

1 liquid toner to the region between reverse roller 46 and drum
2 10 to fill the gap between roller 46 and drum 10 so as to
3 permit electrophoretic migration of toner particles from the
4 background areas of drum 10 to reverse roller 46.

5 Other means can be used for wetting this gap. For
6 example as shown in Fig. 5, a roller 122 is partially placed
7 in a container 124 containing clear liquid, and is rotated
8 to pump clear liquid to the surface of drum 10. Roller 122
9 is either a forward or a reverse roller.

10 Alternatively, as shown in Fig. 6, roller 46 is a
11 forward roller rotating in the direction of arrow 126.
12 Roller 46 is partially placed in a container 128, containing
13 clear liquid and pumps same to the gap between roller 46 and
14 drum 10. Squeegee roller 26 is then operative to remove
15 liquid remaining on the drum therefrom.

16 Roller 46 is maintained at a voltage intermediate the
17 image and background voltages so that toner particles from
18 the image areas of drum 10 are not removed, thereby
19 permitting operation of a color electrostatic imaging system
20 at rates which exceed those which could previously be
21 attained.

22 In a typical system operating at a process speed of 60
23 cm/sec, the image areas of drum 10 are at a voltage of -60
24 volts, the background areas are at a voltage of -1000 volts.
25 Development roller 38 is set to a voltage of -500 volts, is
26 spaced from drum 10 by 60 μm and has a surface speed of 100
27 cm/sec. Roller 46 is a reverse roller at a voltage of -150
28 volts, is spaced from drum 10 by 50 μm and has a surface
29 speed of 95 cm/sec. Negatively charged toner is used in a
30 write-black mode. These voltages and spacings are not fixed
31 values, but depend on process speed, toner charge, mobility
32 and viscosity, photoconductor type and image light discharge
33 power, the spacing of the rollers from each other, and on
34 other factors.

35 The above mentioned voltages are suitable for the use
36 of negatively charged toner and an organic photoconductor
37 drum. If it is desired to use a positively charged toner or
38 another type of photoconductor material, correspondingly
39 different voltages will be appropriate.

1 This embodiment utilizes multicolor spray assembly 20 in which the
2 spray is directed to the development region 44 between the drum 10 and development
3 roller 38. Alternatively the spray can be directed toward the surface of photoconductor
4 drum 10 or either generally onto development roller 38 or more preferably toward
5 upper surface of development roller 38. It should be noted that the rotation of
6 development roller 38 is such as to carry the developer liquid away from a development
7 region 44. Nevertheless the multicolor spray assembly produces a sufficient amount
8 of force to assure that there is a supply of liquid developer at the development region.

9 A preferred type of toner for use with the present invention is that
10 described in Example 1 of U.S. Patent 4,794,651. Other toners may alternatively be
11 employed. For colored liquid developers, carbon black is replaced by color pigments
12 as is well known in the art.

13 While the invention has been described utilizing a roller developer and
14 a drum photoconductor, it is understood that the invention can be practiced utilizing a
15 belt developer and/or a belt photoconductor.

16 It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that the present
17 invention is not limited by what has been particularly shown and described
18 hereinabove. Rather the scope of the present invention is defined only by the claims
19 which follow:

CLAIMS

- 1
2 1. Imaging apparatus comprising:
3 an electrostatic imaging surface;
4 latent image forming means for forming an electrostatic
5 latent image on said electrostatic imaging surface; and
6 development means for developing said electrostatic
7 latent image including:
8 supply means for supplying a particular liquid toner to
9 the image forming surface, said supply means comprising a
10 plurality of independently controllable outlets for
11 supplying said particular liquid toner; and
12 a development surface for developing said electrostatic
13 latent image using said particular liquid toner.
14
- 15 2. Imaging apparatus comprising:
16 an electrostatic imaging surface;
17 latent image forming means for forming an electrostatic
18 latent image on said electrostatic imaging surface; and
19 development means for developing said electrostatic
20 latent image including supply means for supplying a liquid
21 toner to the image forming surface, said supply means
22 comprising:
23 a multiplicity of outlets for supplying said
24 liquid toner;
25 at least one manifold for supplying liquid toner
26 to said multiplicity of outlets including means for
27 effecting and halting the flow of the liquid toner to the
28 manifold; and
29 means for preventing further discharge of liquid toner
30 from the outlets after the flow is halted comprising means
31 for preventing flow from said outlets to said manifold.
32
- 33 3. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said means for
34 preventing includes at least one one-way valve which allows
35 for toner flow only from said manifold to said outlets.
36
- 37 4. Apparatus according to claim 3 and also including a
38 filter operative to remove particles from said toner which
39 clog said one-way valves.

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- 1 5. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims
2 wherein said supply means is a multi-color supply means and
3 said multiplicity of outlets includes a plurality of
4 individually controllable outlets, for supplying liquid
5 toner of each of a plurality of colors and said at least one
6 manifold includes separate manifolds for each said color.
7
- 8 6. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims
9 wherein said multiplicity of outlets comprise a multiplicity
10 of spray outlets.
11
- 12 7. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims
13 wherein said multiplicity of outlets comprise a multiplicity
14 of spray outlets.
15
- 16 8. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims
17 wherein said multiplicity of outlets form a single row.
18
- 19 9. A system according to claim 8 wherein said single line
20 of outlets comprises a linear array of interdigitated
21 outlets for liquid toner of different colors.

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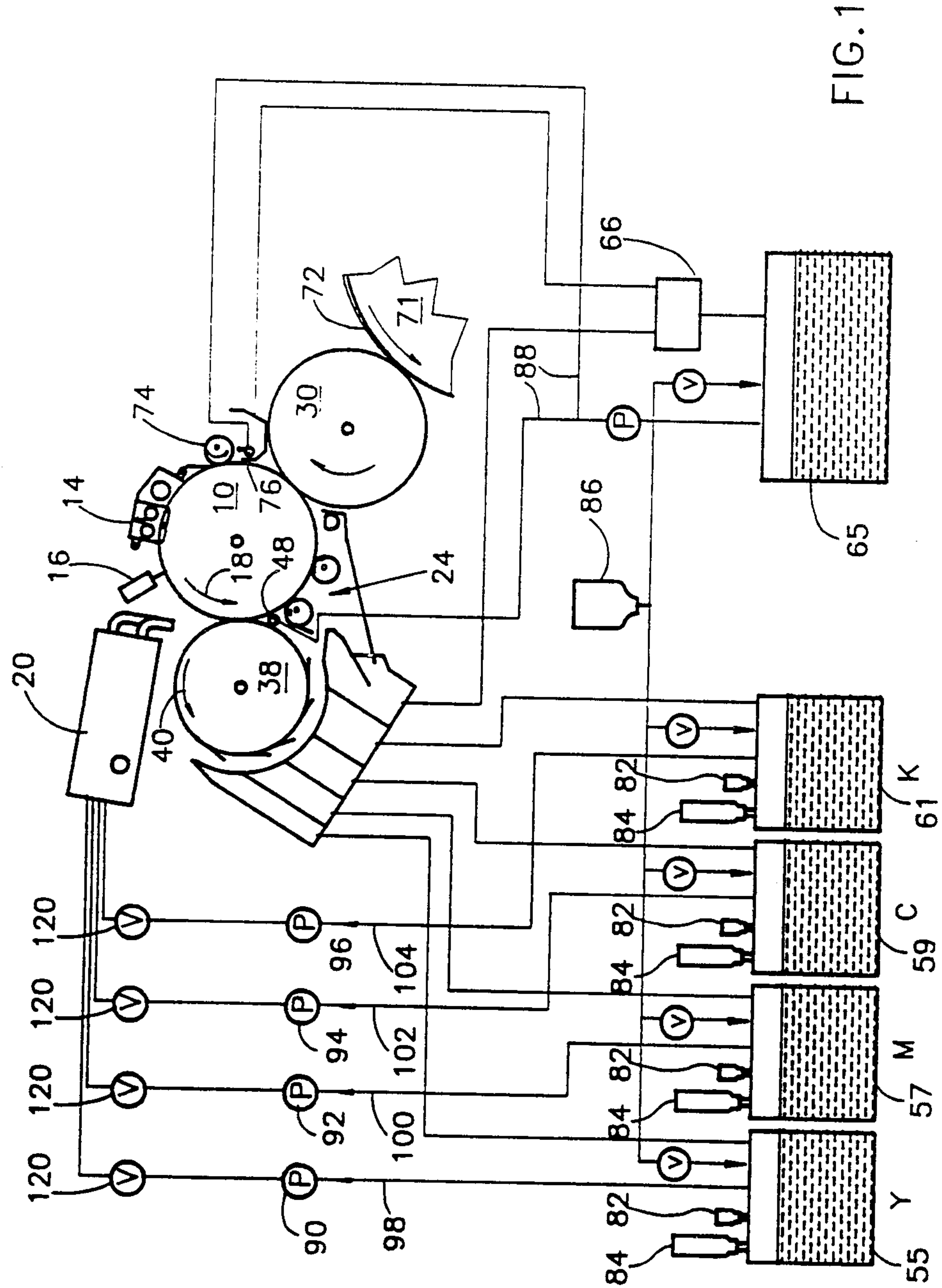
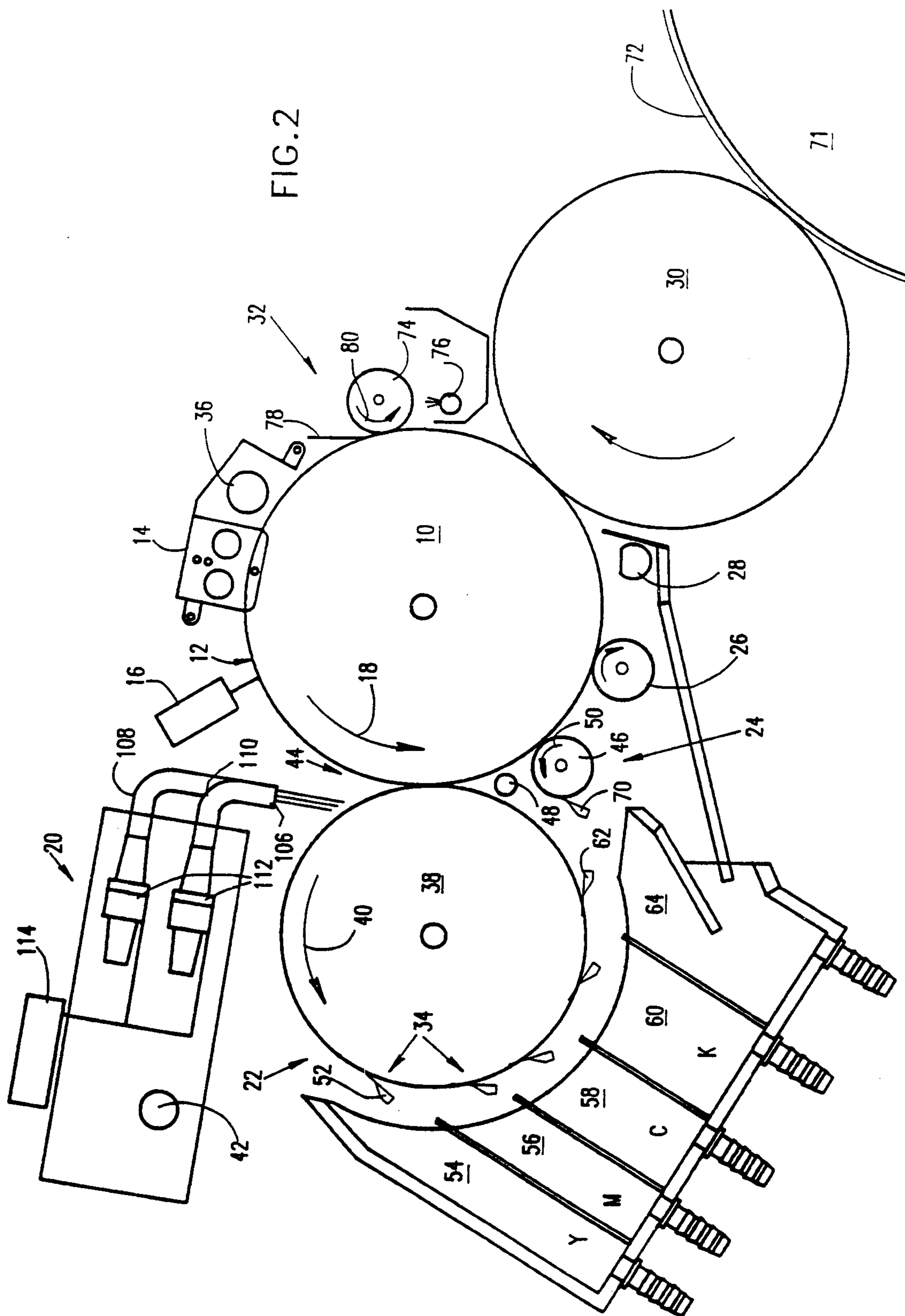


FIG. 1

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FIG. 2



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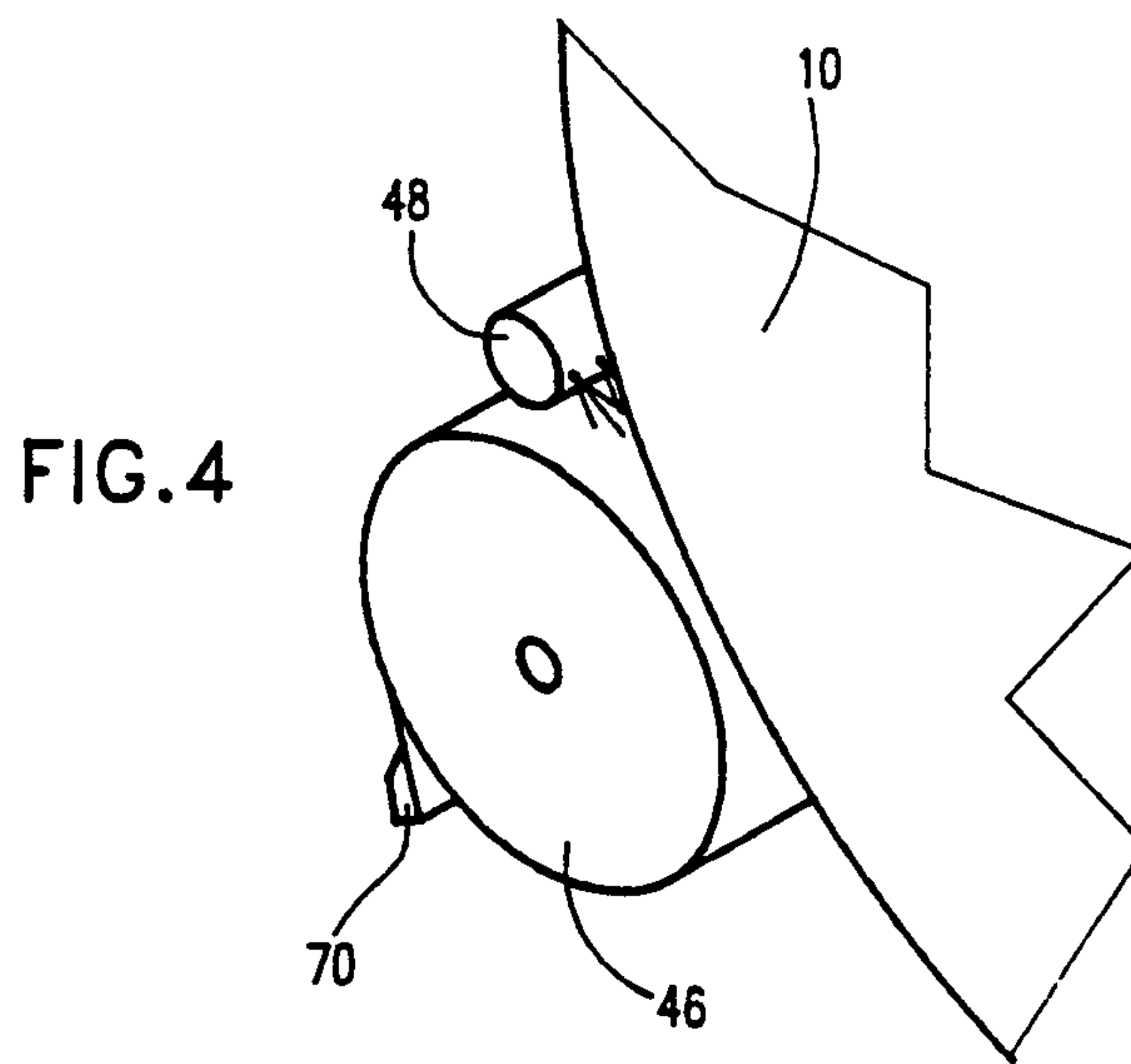
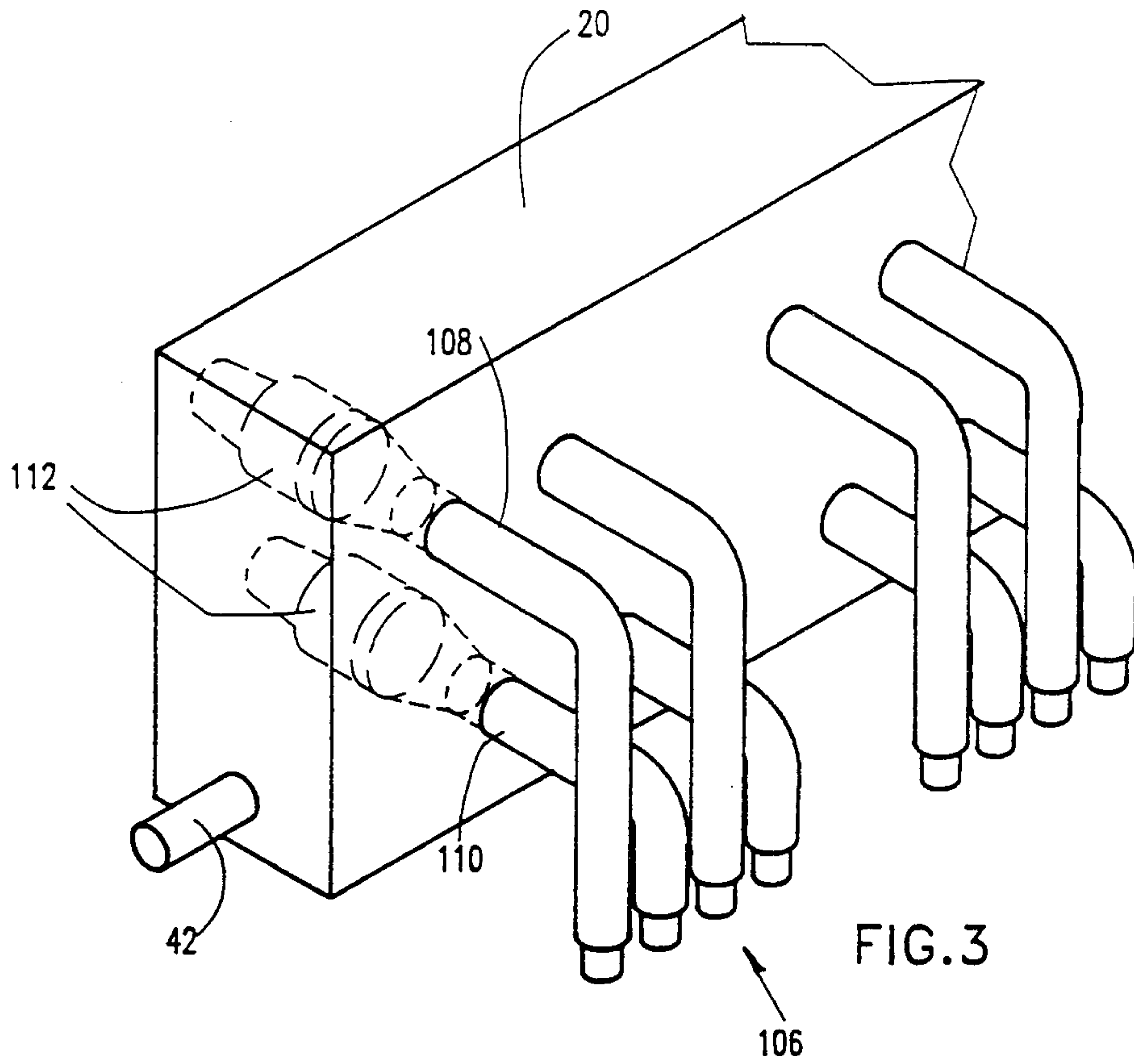


FIG. 5

