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(54) Ink jet printer for photofinishing

(57) An ink jet printer (10) for making photographic prints includes at least one paper supply (12, 12', 58, 58') for holding a supply of print paper and a sheet paper transport belt (30, 31) arranged to receive sheets of print paper (25) from the at least one paper supply and transport the sheets through the printer. A back printer (26) is located between the at least one paper supply and the paper transport belt for applying back prints to the print paper. A full print width color ink jet print head (36) located over a first portion of the transport belt (30) for printing an image on a paper sheet. A linear image sensor (46) located in front of the ink jet print head detects the edges of the paper sheet being transported under the print head and a controller (54) connected to the paper sensor generates a digital mask representing the area of the paper and applies the digital mask to a digital image being printed, thereby preventing overspill printing onto the belt. A paper dryer (48) is located over a second portion of the transport belt (31), the paper dryer including a source of flowing air (50) for drying the ink image on the paper.

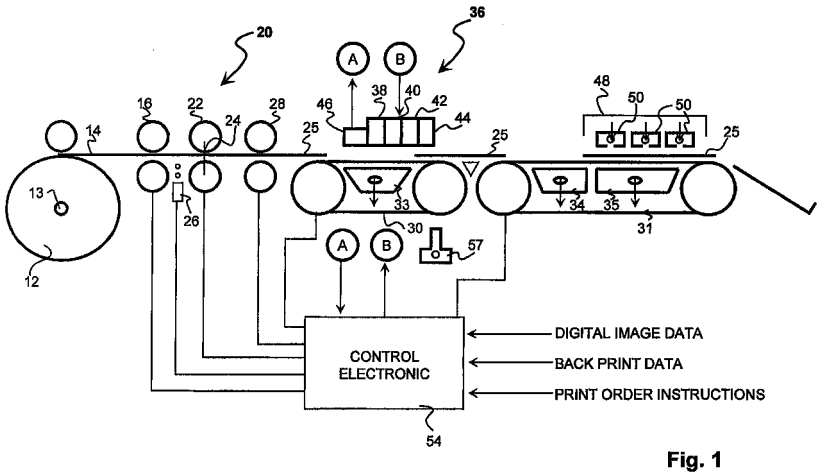


Fig. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 11 2468

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TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)

B41J

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	11 January 2001	Wehr, W

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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11-01-2001

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