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(54) **Method and article for electroforming process for an ink jet nozzle plate**

(57) A method is provided for manufacturing a nozzle plate (75) that includes the steps of providing a film (3) over a substrate (1), and forming a plurality of relief patterns (30) in the film, which may be either circular holes extending completely through the film, or disk-shaped "islands" of the film over the substrate. A post structure (34) is then provided on a top center portion of the relief patterns, each of which has a width (D1) less than the width of the pattern and a height (H1) above the film no greater than the height of the pattern. The combination of substrate, film, relief patterns, and posts form a mandrel (70) over which metal may be electrodeposited until a metal layer (72) is formed having openings with a width (76) defined by the width of the post structures. In the final step of the method, the metal layer is separated from the mandrel, resulting in a nozzle plate having precisely and uniformly dimensioned nozzles which may be used to direct an ink jet onto a printing medium.

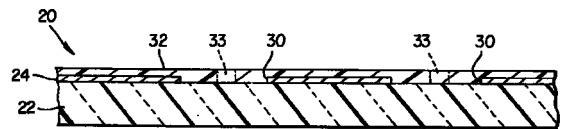


FIG. 2C

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 20 3680

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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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 THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15 December 2000	Examiner Verhoef, P
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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