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(72) Inventors:  
• **Simon, Robert J.**  
**Bellbrook, Ohio 45305 (US)**  
• **Cleary, Joseph P.**  
**Kettering, Ohio 45429 (US)**

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(74) Representative:  
**Freed, Arthur Woolf et al**  
**Reginald W. Barker & Co.,**  
**Clifford's Inn,**  
**Fetter Lane**  
**London EC4A 1BY (GB)**

(71) Applicant:  
**Scitex Digital Printing, Inc.**  
**Dayton, Ohio 45420-4099 (US)**

(54) **Apparatus and method for controlling a charging voltage in ink jet printers**

(57) The present invention provides for adjustment of the charging voltage to a discrete section of the array, increasing the operating range of the printhead. The array of charging electrodes (22) are broken into segments with relative voltage adjustment to each segment. The voltage to the charge plate electrodes is then switchably controlled by discrete high voltage driver chips (56) to enable drop selection for printing. The integrated circuit within each chip converts serial input data at low voltages to parallel outputs at high voltage. The supplied high voltage to each of these chips is varied to compensate for impact variations on the catcher face caused by non-uniform parts. The compensation levels required for a set of aligned parts are stored within the printhead memory. The printhead will then function with the correct compensation levels on any system in which it is installed.

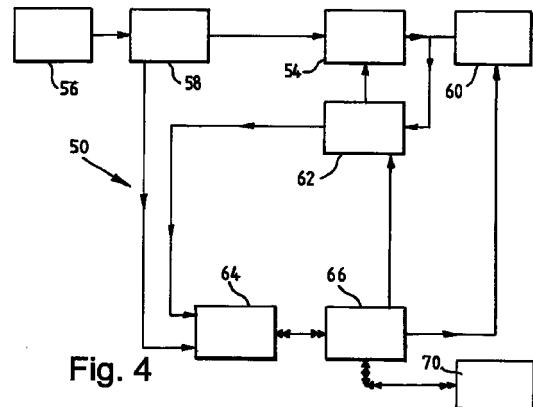


Fig. 4



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims				
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 November 2000	Examiner Adam, E	
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>				

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<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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