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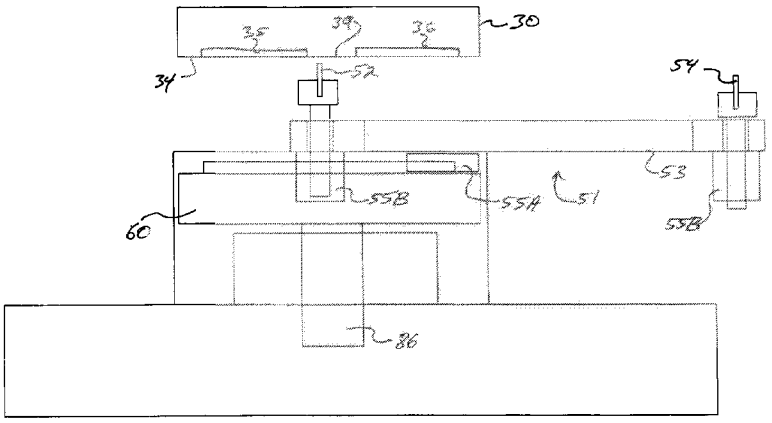
(54) **Title**: MULTICOLOR PRINTHEAD MAINTENANCE STATION

Fig. 3



(57) **Abstract**: A maintenance station apparatus for an ink jet printhead is provided. The printhead includes a plurality of jetting modules disposed side by side in a row and inclined relative to a direction of print media motion, each of the plurality of jetting modules including a nozzle face, each nozzle face including a first nozzle array configured to eject a first liquid and a second nozzle array configured to eject a second liquid. The maintenance station apparatus includes a wiping unit including a first wiper, a second wiper, and a wiper moving mechanism, the first wiper being associated with the first nozzle array of each jetting module and the second wiper being associated with the second nozzle array of each jetting module, and a capping unit including a plurality of cap pairs corresponding to the plurality of jetting modules, one cap of each cap pair being associated with the first nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module, the other cap of the cap pair being associated with the second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module.

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MULTICOLOR PRINTHEAD MAINTENANCE STATION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to maintenance stations and, more particular, to maintenance stations for printheads including jetting modules that eject more than one liquid.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In an inkjet printer, a line printhead includes a plurality of jetting modules, each jetting module having a nozzle plate in the form of a long narrow rectangular plate and with an array of liquid, for example, ink, ejecting nozzles. When the printhead is not in use, liquid in the nozzles and located on the nozzle plate may dry and/or attract contaminants, for example, dust or other debris, which may cause nozzle clogging and even nozzle failure resulting in decreased print quality. Maintenance stations are used to remove the liquid so as to minimize the likelihood of liquid drying in and around the nozzles of a jetting module or becoming contaminated with dust.

When jetting modules are arranged in a line printhead configuration, narrow gaps between adjacent jetting modules may also create maintenance issues. For example, wiping of the jetting modules may result in ink accumulation in the gaps between adjacent jetting modules which may drip onto a print media. Ink accumulation may also attract ink contaminants, for example, dust or other debris, which may help to clog nozzles of the jetting modules or otherwise help to reduce print quality.

EP 0799135A1 discloses a maintenance station, also referred to as a cleaning and sealing station, for a printing head. The cleaning and sealing station includes a cap unit provided with sealing chambers and means for establishing a sealing contact between the sealing chamber and the printing head. The cleaning and sealing station includes a wiping member for cleaning a main surface of each printing head. The wiping member is slidably mounted relative to the cap unit in such a manner that, during a displacement, the wiping member moves along the front of the sealing chamber. Guide means are provided for displacing the cleaning and sealing station in a direction perpendicular to the top face of the cap unit. The sealing chambers include aeration valves and means to

ensure that the aeration valves are opened before the sealing chambers move away from the printing heads.

Traditionally, the jetting modules of a line printhead are configured to eject the same liquid through each jetting module. As such, the wiping units of conventional maintenance stations are configured to wipe along the entire length or width of the jetting modules of a line printhead.

However, a need exists for a maintenance station that effectively removes liquids, for example, inks, and contaminants from jetting modules of a line printhead that are configured to eject more than one type of liquid during the same printing operation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention, a maintenance station apparatus for a printhead including a plurality of jetting modules disposed side by side in a row and inclined relative to a direction of print media motion, each of the plurality of jetting modules including a nozzle face, each nozzle face including a first nozzle array configured to eject a first liquid and a second nozzle array configured to eject a second liquid is provided. The maintenance station apparatus includes a wiping unit including a first wiper, a second wiper, and a wiper moving mechanism. The first wiper being associated with the first nozzle array of each jetting module and the second wiper is associated with the second nozzle array of each jetting module. The first wiper is disposed on the wiper moving mechanism such that the first wiper contacts each nozzle face at a first location between the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array of each jetting module and moves across the first nozzle array of each jetting module to a second location removed from the first nozzle array of each jetting module. The second wiper is disposed on the wiper moving mechanism such that the second wiper contacts each nozzle face at a third location between the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array of each jetting module and moves across the second nozzle array of each jetting module to a fourth location removed from the second nozzle array of each jetting module.

The maintenance station includes a capping unit including a plurality of cap pairs corresponding to the plurality of jetting modules. One cap of

each cap pair is associated with the first nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module. The other cap of the cap pair is associated with the second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module. The capping unit is moveable between the first wiper and the second wiper to a first position in which each of the plurality of cap pairs is in contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module and to a second position removed from contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module.

According to another feature of the present invention, a method of maintaining a printhead including a plurality of jetting modules disposed side by side in a row and inclined relative to a direction of print media motion, each of the plurality of jetting modules including a nozzle face, each nozzle face including a first nozzle array configured to eject a first liquid and a second nozzle array configured to eject a second liquid is provided. The method includes providing a wiping unit including a first wiper, a second wiper, and a wiper moving mechanism, the first wiper being associated with the first nozzle array of each jetting module and the second wiper being associated with the second nozzle array of each jetting module, the first wiper being disposed on the wiper moving mechanism, the second wiper being disposed on the wiper moving mechanism; causing the first wiper to contact each nozzle face at a first location between the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array of each jetting module; moving the first wiper across the first nozzle array of each jetting module to a second location removed from the first nozzle array of each jetting module; causing the second wiper to contact each nozzle face at a third location between the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array of each jetting module; and moving the second wiper across the second nozzle array of each jetting module to a fourth location removed from the second nozzle array of each jetting module.

The method can also include providing a capping unit including a plurality of cap pairs corresponding to the plurality of jetting modules, one cap of each cap pair being associated with the first nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module, the other cap of the cap pair being associated with the second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module; and causing the capping unit to move between the first wiper and the second wiper to a first position in which

each of the plurality of cap pairs is in contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module and a second position removed from contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the detailed description of the example embodiments of the invention presented below, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic side view of an example embodiment of the present invention showing a printhead and a maintenance station in a parked position;

Fig. 2 is a schematic top view of the printhead of Fig. 1 showing a portion of the maintenance station;

Figs. 3-5 are schematic side views of the printhead of Fig. 1 showing a wiping unit of the maintenance station moving from the parked position shown in Fig. 1 through a partial wiping cycle of the printhead;

Figs. 6 and 7 are schematic side views of the printhead of Fig. 1 showing a capping unit of the maintenance station moving from the parked position shown in Fig. 1 to a capping position;

Figs. 8-15 are schematic side views of the printhead of Fig. 1 showing another example embodiment of a wiping unit of the maintenance station moving from a parked position through a complete wiping cycle of the printhead;

Figs. 16-18 are schematic side views of the printhead of Fig. 1 showing another example embodiment of a wiping unit of the maintenance station moving from a parked position through a complete wiping cycle of the printhead;

Fig. 19 is a schematic top view of the printhead of Fig. 1 showing one of the wipers of the present invention;

Fig. 20 is a schematic side view of an example embodiment of the wiper shown in Fig. 19; and

Fig. 21 is a schematic side view of an example embodiment of a wiper base.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present description will be directed in particular to elements forming part of, or cooperating more directly with, apparatus in accordance with the present invention. It is to be understood that elements not specifically shown or described may take various forms well known to those skilled in the art.

Referring to Fig. 1, a schematic side view of an example embodiment of the present invention showing a printhead 30 and a maintenance station 40 in a parked position is shown. Printhead 30, extending into and out of the figure, is positioned over maintenance station 40. Movement of printhead 30 is accomplished by translating printhead 30 along rails or tracks from a printing position over a print media to a position over maintenance station 40 when it is time to perform a maintenance operation. However, other movement techniques known in the art can also be used.

Maintenance station 40, also referred to as a purging wiping capping (PWC) station, includes a wiping unit 50 and a capping unit 60. Wiping unit 50 includes a first wiper 52 and a second wiper 54. Wiping unit 50 and capping unit 60 are supported by a frame structure 42 of maintenance station 40. Maintenance station 40, as shown in Fig. 1, is in a parked or home position so as to accommodate movement of printhead 30 to maintenance station 40 and movement of capping unit 60 toward printhead 30.

Typically, capping occurs before purging or prior to a temporary shut down of printhead 30 while wiping occurs after purging. Purging helps to remove air bubbles that become trapped within printhead 30 during liquid, for example, ink, filling or changing operations; clean the liquid circuit; and recover failing jets.

Referring to Fig. 2, a schematic top view of printhead 30, first wiper 52, and second wiper 54 of wiping unit 50 of maintenance station 40 are shown. Printhead 30 includes a plurality of jetting modules 31 disposed side by side in a row (represented by arrow 32) and inclined relative to a direction of print media motion (represented by arrow 33). Each of the plurality of jetting modules 31 includes a nozzle face 34 with each nozzle face 34 including a first nozzle array 35 configured to eject a first liquid and a second nozzle array 36 configured

to eject a second liquid. First nozzle array 35 is supplied with the first liquid, for example, a first color ink, and second nozzle array 36 is supplied with the second liquid, for example, a second color ink, independently of the other. Ejection of the first liquid through nozzle array 35 and ejection of the second liquid through second nozzle array 36 is accomplished using known techniques, for example, by using a piezoelectric actuator(s) or a heater(s). First wiper 52 is associated with first nozzle array 35 of each jetting module 31. Second wiper 54 is associated with second nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31.

The first liquid can be a first color ink and the second liquid can be a second color ink with the first and second colors being different from each other in some aspect, for example, color, density, and viscosity. Alternatively, first and second liquids can be any printing liquids that are distinct enough from each other such that it is preferable to separately desirable to separately maintain the nozzle arrays ejecting each liquid.

In Fig. 2, first nozzle array 35 includes two rows of nozzles positioned on a first side 37 of nozzle face 34 of jetting module 31 and second nozzle array 36 includes two rows of nozzles positioned on a second side 38 of nozzle face 34 of jetting module 31. A gap 39 exists between first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36.

Referring to Figs. 3-5, schematic side views of printhead 30 and wiping unit 50 of maintenance station 40 moving from the parked position shown in Fig. 1 through a partial wiping cycle of printhead 30 are shown. In addition to first wiper 52 and second wiper 54, wiping unit 50 includes a wiper moving mechanism 51.

Wiper moving mechanism 51 includes a frame 53 and an actuator(s) 55 that move first wiper 52 and second wiper 54 through a wiping cycle of printhead 30. The motion of first wiper 52 and second wiper 54 is perpendicular and lateral to the nozzle face of printhead 30 and is provided by one or more conventional actuators 55, for example, a motor or solenoid appropriately linked or geared to wiping unit 50. Wiper moving mechanism 51 can include separate actuators 55 that accomplish lateral motion, actuator 55A, and perpendicular motion, actuator 55B.

Alternatively, wiper moving mechanism 51 can include only a lateral motion actuator 55A and use the vertical actuator 86 associated with the capping unit 60 to provide perpendicular motion. This is accomplished by causing capping unit 60 to contact the wiping unit 50 and then move vertically so that first wiper 52 contacts printhead 30 as described above. Lateral motion actuator 55A then moves first wiper 52 across each first nozzle array 35. The vertical actuator associated with the capping unit 60 then lowers capping unit 60 and first wiper 52. The process is then repeated with second wiper 54.

First wiper 52 is disposed on wiper moving mechanism 51. First wiper 52 is caused by wiper moving mechanism 51 to move from its parked position (shown in Fig. 1) to a location between first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31 and removed from nozzle face 34 of each jetting module 31 (shown in Fig. 3). Wiper moving mechanism 51 causes first wiper 52 to contact each nozzle face 34 at a first location (gap 39) between first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31 (shown in Fig. 4). First wiper 52 is then caused by wiper moving mechanism 51 to move across first nozzle array 35 of each jetting module 31 to a second location removed from first nozzle array 35 of each jetting module 31 (shown in Fig. 5). First wiper 52 then returns to its home or parked position (shown in Fig. 1) without contacting first nozzle array 35.

The wiping cycle by first wiper 52 of first nozzle array 35 of each jetting module 31 is from the inside or center of each jetting module 31 to the outside edge of each jetting module 31. This wiping motion helps to reduce the likelihood of liquid accumulation in the gap 39 area of nozzle face 34. The wiping cycle of first nozzle array 35 by first wiper 52 is also shown in more detail with reference to Figs. 8-15.

Second wiper 54 is also disposed on wiper moving mechanism 51. Wiper moving mechanism causes second wiper 54 to move from its parked position and contact each nozzle face 34 at a third location (gap 39) between first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31. Second wiper 54 is then caused by wiper moving mechanism 51 to move across second

nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31 to a fourth location removed from second nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31.

The wiping cycle by second wiper 54 of second nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31 is from the inside or center of each jetting module 31 to the outside edge of each jetting module 31. This wiping motion helps to reduce the likelihood of liquid accumulation in the gap 39 area of nozzle face 34. The wiping cycle of second nozzle array 36 by second wiper 54 is also shown in more detail with reference to Figs. 8-15.

The second location removed from first nozzle array 35 of each jetting module 31 is on one side of each jetting module 31 while the fourth location removed from second nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31 is on another side of each jetting module 31. Second wiper 54 then returns to its home or parked position (shown in Fig. 1) without contacting second nozzle array 36.

The wiping cycle by first wiper 52 of first nozzle array 35 is considered to be in a direction opposite that of the wiping cycle direction of second nozzle array 36 by second wiper 54.

Referring to Figs. 6 and 7, schematic side views of printhead 30 and capping unit 60 of maintenance station 40 moving from the parked position shown in Fig. 1 to a capping position are shown. Capping unit 60 includes a plurality of cap pairs 62 corresponding to the plurality of jetting modules 31 with one cap 64 of each cap pair 62 associated with first nozzle array 35 of the corresponding jetting module 31 and the other cap 66 of the cap pair 62 associated with second nozzle array 36 of the corresponding jetting module 31. Capping unit 60 is moveable between first wiper 52 and second wiper 54 to a first position in which each of the plurality of cap pairs 62 is in a sealing contact with first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of the corresponding jetting module 31 and a second position removed from contact with first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of the corresponding jetting module 31. The motion of capping unit 60 is perpendicular to printhead 30 and is provided by a conventional actuator 86, for example, a motor or solenoid appropriately linked or geared to capping unit 60.

A gasket made from a suitable compliant material, for example, rubber, can be provided with each cap 64 and 66 to help provide a fluidic seal with first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of the corresponding jetting module 31. Each cap 64 and 66 or each cap pair 62 can be mounted on a spring which helps to maintain the fluidic seal with first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of the corresponding jetting module 31.

Each cap 64, 66 of the plurality of cap pairs 62 includes a base 68 with an opening 69. Opening 69 is in fluid communication, for example, through a tube, with a waste tank (not shown) to allow for evacuation of liquid through opening 69. During capping, vacuum can be applied to each cap 64, 66 of each cap pair 62 using a puck to help suck liquid away from each first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36.

When capping unit 60 is in contact with jetting modules 31, purging can occur. Purging can include providing a back pressure at the meniscus of the first liquid and the second liquid causing the liquids to be expelled from printhead 30 while each of the plurality of cap pairs 62 is in contact with the first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of the corresponding jetting module 31 of printhead 30. The sequence of jetting module 31 purging can include purging each jetting module 31 individually, purging groups of jetting modules 31 in succession, or purging all of the jetting modules 31 simultaneously.

Wiping can occur after capping unit 60 is removed from jetting modules 31. Wiping can include providing a positive pressure at the meniscus of the first liquid and the second liquid which helps to expel the liquids during this operation. Applying a negative pressure at the meniscus of the first liquid and the second liquid which helps to draw the liquids back into each nozzle after the wiping operation is complete.

Referring to Figs. 8-15, schematic side views of printhead 30 and another example embodiment of wiping unit 50 of maintenance station 40 moving from a parked position through a complete wiping cycle of printhead 30 are shown. In these figures, printhead 30 extends into and out of the figure. Wiper moving mechanism 51 includes a moveable frame 53 to which first wiper 52 and second wiper 54 are affixed. In this frame 53 configuration, first wiper 52 and

second wiper 54 move laterally as a unit. Frame 53 includes an opening through which capping unit 60 passes through when moving from its parked position to a capping position.

Initially, wiping unit 50 is at its home position (position 1 in Fig. 8). Wiping unit 50 moves laterally to position first wiper 52 between first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of each corresponding jetting module 31. Wiping unit 50 moves vertically so that first wiper 52 contacts each nozzle face 34 (position 2 in Fig. 9). First wiper 52 moves across first nozzle array 35 of each jetting module 31 while maintaining contact with each first nozzle array 35 (position 3 in Fig. 10). First wiper 52 then moves away from first nozzle array 35 of each jetting module 31 toward frame 42 of maintenance station 40 to a location removed from first nozzle array 35 of each jetting module 31 (position 4 in Fig. 11).

Next, wiping unit 50 moves laterally in an opposite direction to position second wiper 54 between first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 of each corresponding jetting module 31 (position 5 in Fig. 12). Wiping unit 50 then moves vertically so that second wiper 54 contacts each nozzle face 34 (position 6 in Fig. 13). Second wiper 54 moves across second nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31 while maintaining contact with each second nozzle array 36 (position 7 in Fig. 14). Second wiper 54 then moves away from second nozzle array 36 of each jetting module 31 toward frame 42 of maintenance station 40 to a location removed from first nozzle array 35 of each jetting module 31 (position 8 in Fig. 15), ultimately, wiper unit 50 returns to its home position (position 1 in Fig. 8).

Referring to Figs. 16-18, schematic side views of printhead 30 and another example embodiment of a wiping unit 50 of maintenance station 40 moving from a parked position through a complete wiping cycle of printhead 30 are shown. In this example embodiment, first wiper 52 and second wiper 54 move from a home position (Fig, 16) to a location between first nozzle array 35 and second nozzle array 36 (Fig. 17). The movement of first wiper 52 and second wiper 54 can occur either in series or in parallel. First wiper 52 wipes first nozzle array 35 and second wiper 54 wipes second nozzle array 36 as described above.

After the wiping cycle is complete, first wiper 52 and second wiper 54 return to their respective home positions.

Referring to Fig. 19, a schematic top view of printhead 30 and first wiper 52 is shown. And, referring to Fig. 20, a schematic side view of an example embodiment of first wiper 52, also shown in Fig. 19, is shown. First wiper 52 is positioned parallel to the row of jetting modules 31. Second wiper 54 can also be positioned in the same manner. First wiper 52 (and second wiper 54) are moveable in the direction of the inclination of the plurality of jetting modules 31 by wiper moving mechanism 51. First wiper 52 (and second wiper 54) is a blade type 76 wiper that continuously spans the length of printhead 30.

Optionally, first wiper 52 (and second wiper 54) includes a plurality of wiper blades 70 that span the row of jetting modules 31. Additionally, or alternatively, first wiper 52 (and second wiper 54) includes a segmented or notched wiper blade 72 with each segment 74 being contactable only with the first nozzle array 35 (second nozzle array 36) of the corresponding jetting module 31. Each segment 74 of segmented wiper blade 72 can be positioned parallel to the row of jetting modules 31. Additionally, notch 73 is positioned in the areas between first nozzle arrays 35 (second nozzles arrays 36) so as to minimize liquid accumulation in these areas during wiping. Wiper blades 70 and 72 accomplish wiping by deforming slightly after contacting nozzle face 34. Typically, wiper blades 70 and 72 are made from a suitable elastically deformable material, for example, a rubber material having an appropriate hardness and environmental compatibility.

Referring to Fig. 21, a schematic side view of an example embodiment of a wiper base is shown. In this embodiment, first wiper 52 includes a blade type wiper 76 affixed to a wiper blade base 78. Wiper blade base 78 includes a catch basin 80 to collect liquid from wiper 76. Catch basin 80 leads to a drain 82 that is in fluid communication with a waste tank 84. Catch basin 80 spans the length of wiper base 76. However, other configurations of catch basin 80 are permitted and depend on the specific type of wiper being used.

The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, but it will be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the scope of the invention.

PARTS LIST

30 printhead

31 plurality of jetting modules

32 arrow

33 arrow

34 nozzle face

35 first nozzle array

36 second nozzle array

37 first side

38 second side

39 gap

40 maintenance station

42 frame structure

51 wiper moving mechanism

52 first wiper

53 frame

54 second wiper

55 actuator(s)

62 plurality of cap pairs

64 one cap

66 other cap

68 base

69 opening

70 plurality of wiper blades

72 segmented wiper blade

74 each segment

76 blade type wiper

78 wiper blade base

82 drain

84 waste tank

86 actuator

CLAIMS:

1. A maintenance station apparatus for a printhead including a plurality of jetting modules disposed side by side in a row and inclined relative to a direction of print media motion, each of the plurality of jetting modules including a nozzle face, each nozzle face including a first nozzle array configured to eject a first liquid and a second nozzle array configured to eject a second liquid, the maintenance station apparatus comprising:

a wiping unit including a first wiper, a second wiper, and a wiper moving mechanism, the first wiper being associated with the first nozzle array of each jetting module and the second wiper being associated with the second nozzle array of each jetting module, the first wiper being disposed on the wiper moving mechanism such that the first wiper contacts each nozzle face at a first location between the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array of each jetting module and moves across the first nozzle array of each jetting module to a second location removed from the first nozzle array of each jetting module, the second wiper being disposed on the wiper moving mechanism such that the second wiper contacts each nozzle face at a third location between the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array of each jetting module and moves across the second nozzle array of each jetting module to a fourth location removed from the second nozzle array of each jetting module; and

a capping unit including a plurality of cap pairs corresponding to the plurality of jetting modules, one cap of each cap pair being associated with the first nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module, the other cap of the cap pair being associated with the second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module, the capping unit being moveable between the first wiper and the second wiper to a first position in which each of the plurality of cap pairs is in contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module and a second position removed from contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the wiper moving mechanism includes a moveable frame to which the first wiper and the second wiper are affixed such that the first wiper and the second wiper move laterally as a unit.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the moveable frame includes an opening, the capping unit being moveable through the opening of the frame.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first wiper includes a plurality of wiper blades that span the row of jetting modules.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first wiper includes a segmented wiper blade, each segment being contactable only with the first nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each segment of the segmented wiper blade is positioned parallel to the row of jetting modules.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein first wiper and the second wiper are moveable in the direction of the inclination of the plurality of jetting modules.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each cap of the plurality of cap pairs includes a base with an opening, the opening being in fluid communication with a waste tank to allow for evacuation of liquid through the opening.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first liquid is a first color ink and the second liquid is a second color ink.

10. A method of maintaining a printhead including a plurality of jetting modules disposed side by side in a row and inclined relative to a direction of print media motion, each of the plurality of jetting modules including a nozzle face, each nozzle face including a first nozzle array configured to eject a first liquid and a second nozzle array configured to eject a second liquid, the method comprising:

providing a wiping unit including a first wiper, a second wiper, and a wiper moving mechanism, the first wiper being associated with the first nozzle array of each jetting module and the second wiper being associated with the second nozzle array of each jetting module, the first wiper being disposed on the wiper moving mechanism, the second wiper being disposed on the wiper moving mechanism;

causing the first wiper to contact each nozzle face at a first location between the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array of each jetting module;

moving the first wiper across the first nozzle array of each jetting module to a second location removed from the first nozzle array of each jetting module;

causing the second wiper to contact each nozzle face at a third location between the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array of each jetting module; and

moving the second wiper across the second nozzle array of each jetting module to a fourth location removed from the second nozzle array of each jetting module.

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

providing a capping unit including a plurality of cap pairs corresponding to the plurality of jetting modules, one cap of each cap pair being associated with the first nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module, the other cap of the cap pair being associated with the second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module; and

causing the capping unit to move between the first wiper and the second wiper to a first position in which each of the plurality of cap pairs is in

contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module and a second position removed from contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module.

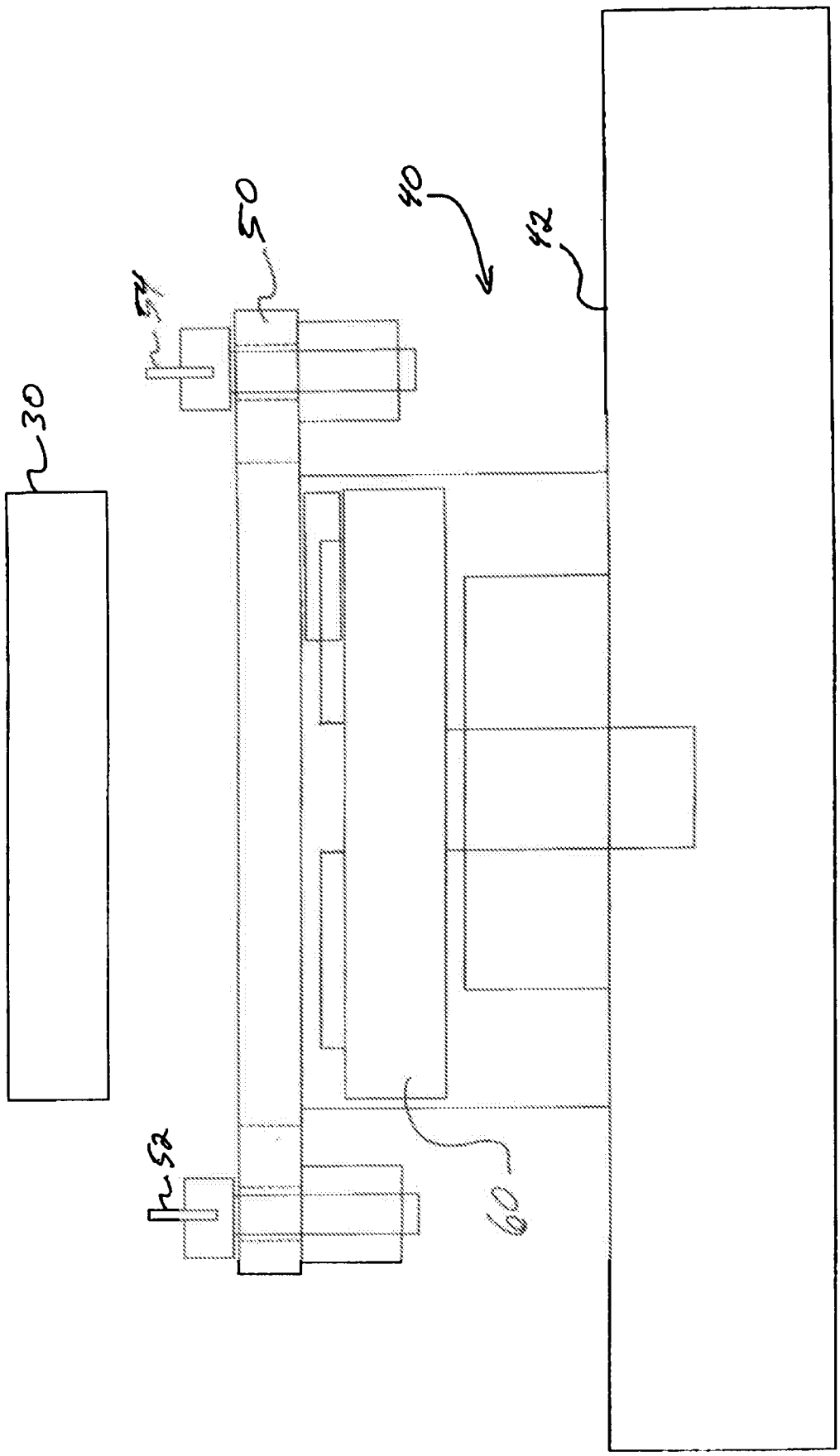
12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

purging the printhead of the first liquid and the second liquid by applying a vacuum to the capping unit while each of the plurality of cap pairs is in contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module of the printhead.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

purging the printhead of the first liquid and the second liquid while each of the plurality of cap pairs is in contact with the first nozzle array and second nozzle array of the corresponding jetting module of the printhead.

Fig. 1



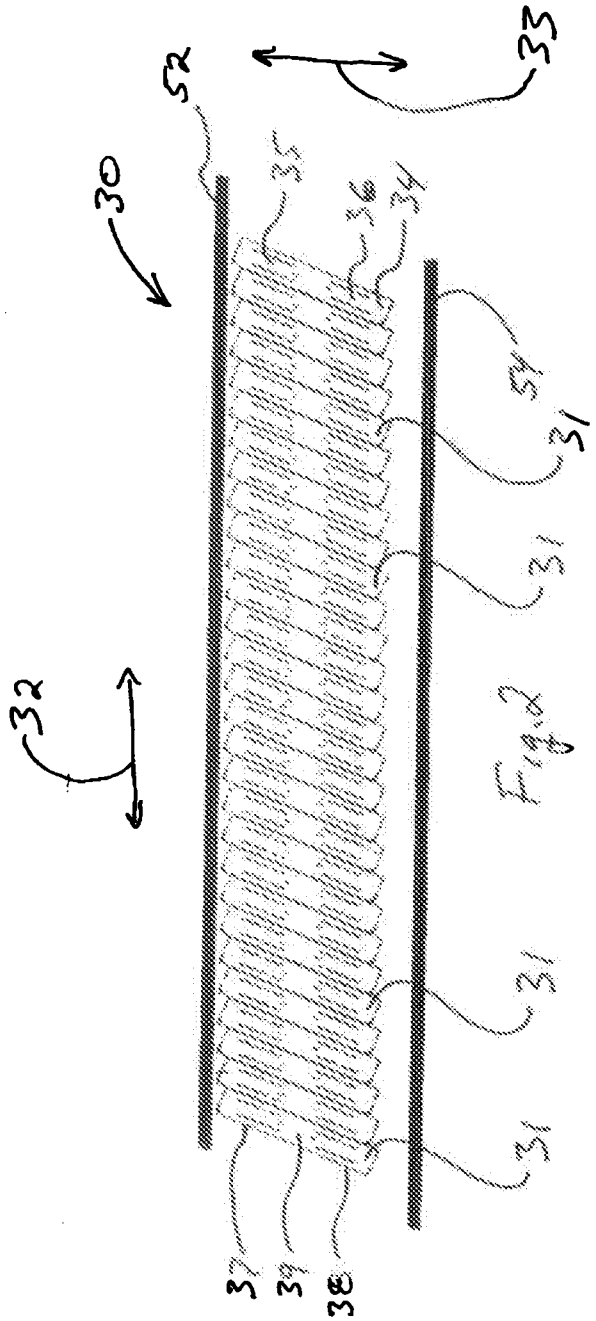


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

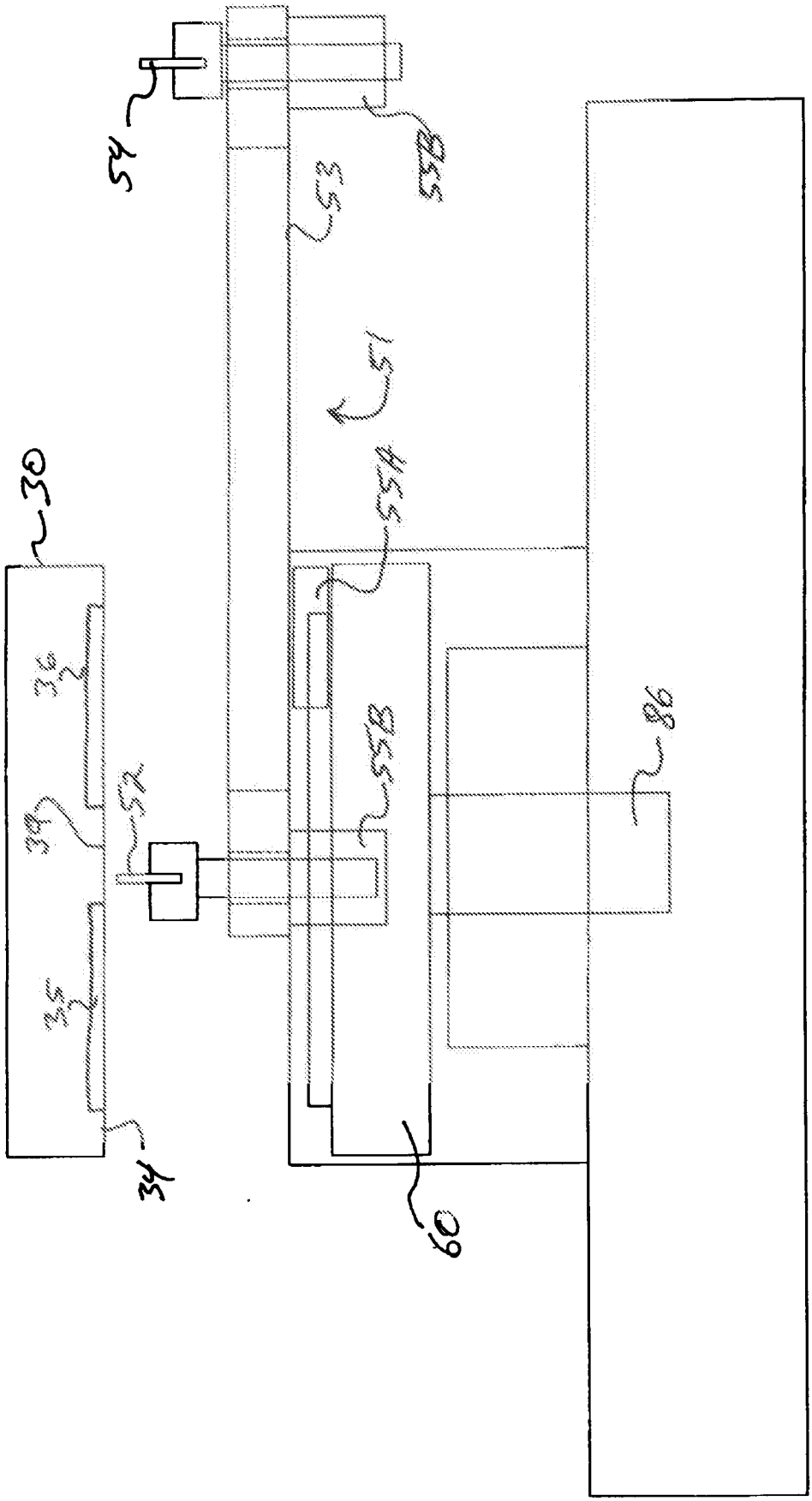
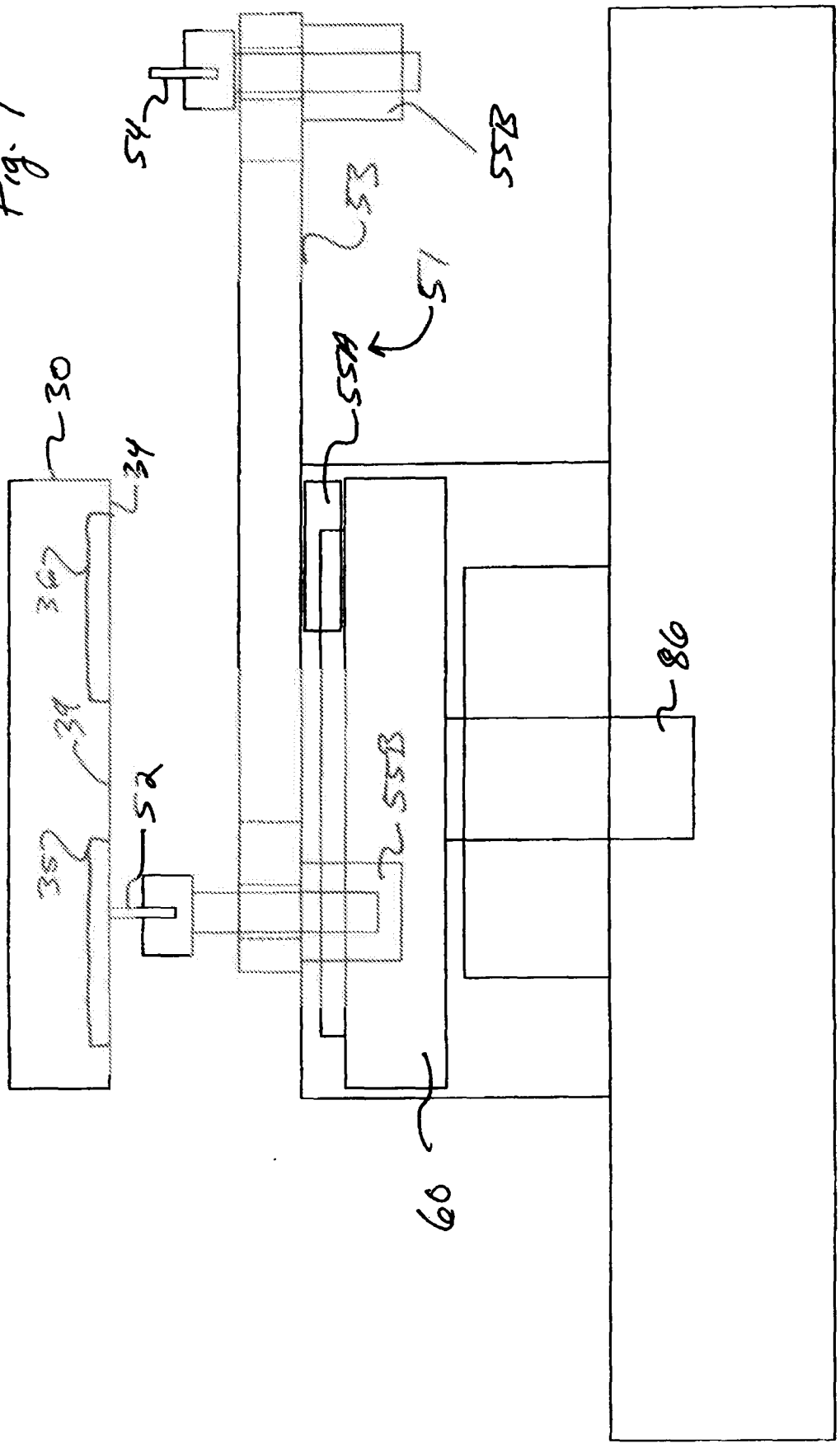


Fig. 1



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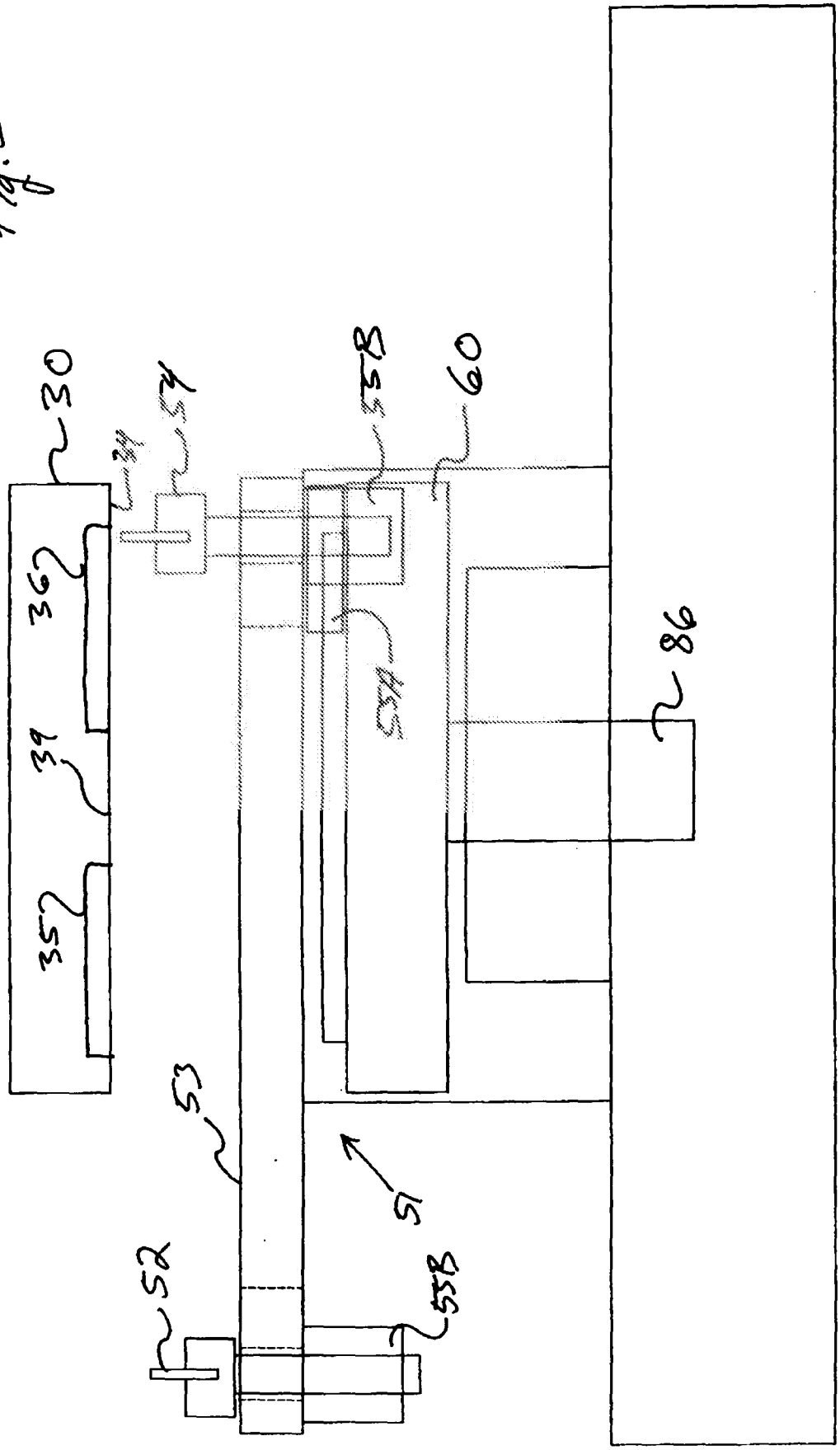


Fig 6

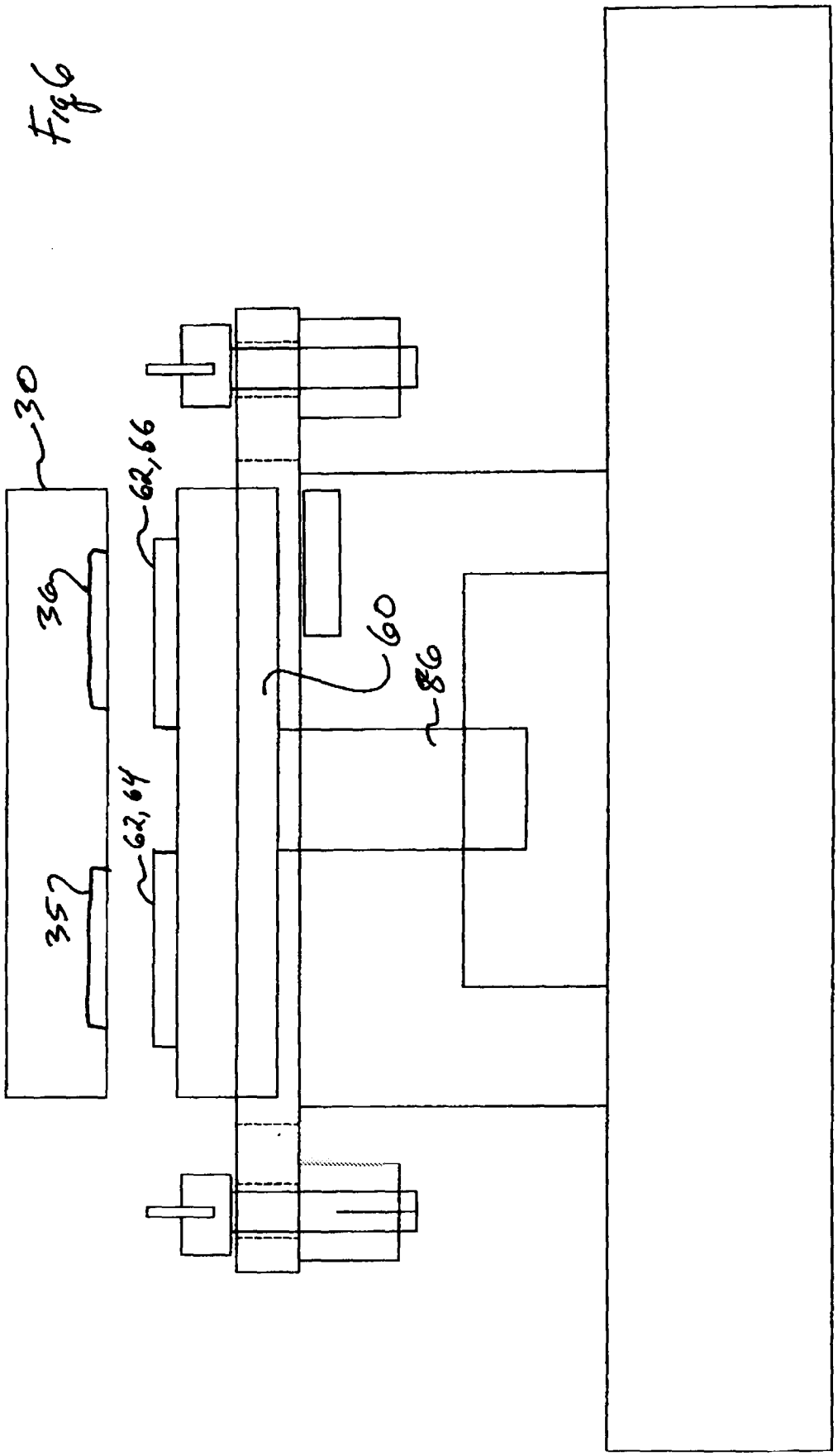
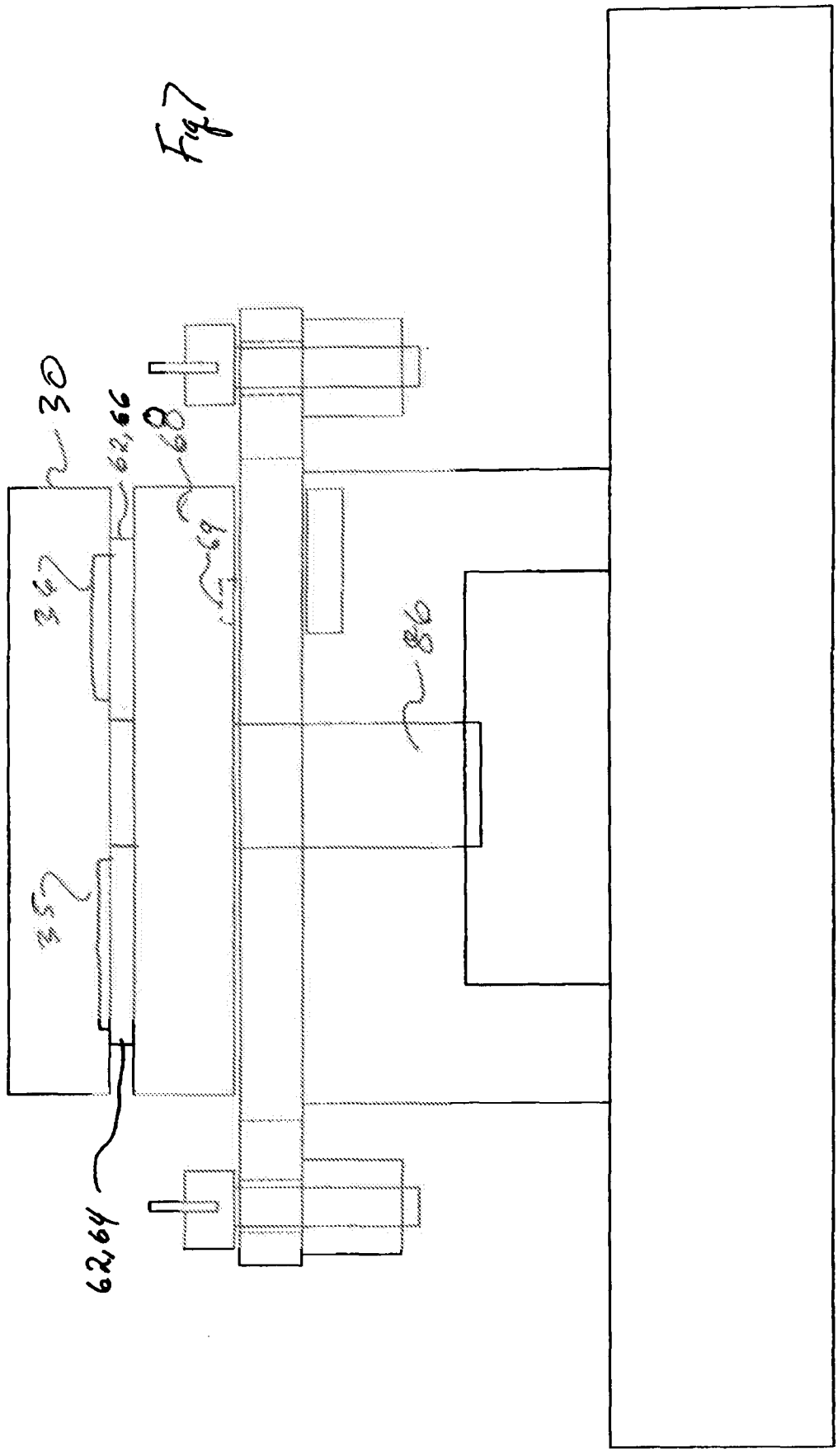


Fig 7



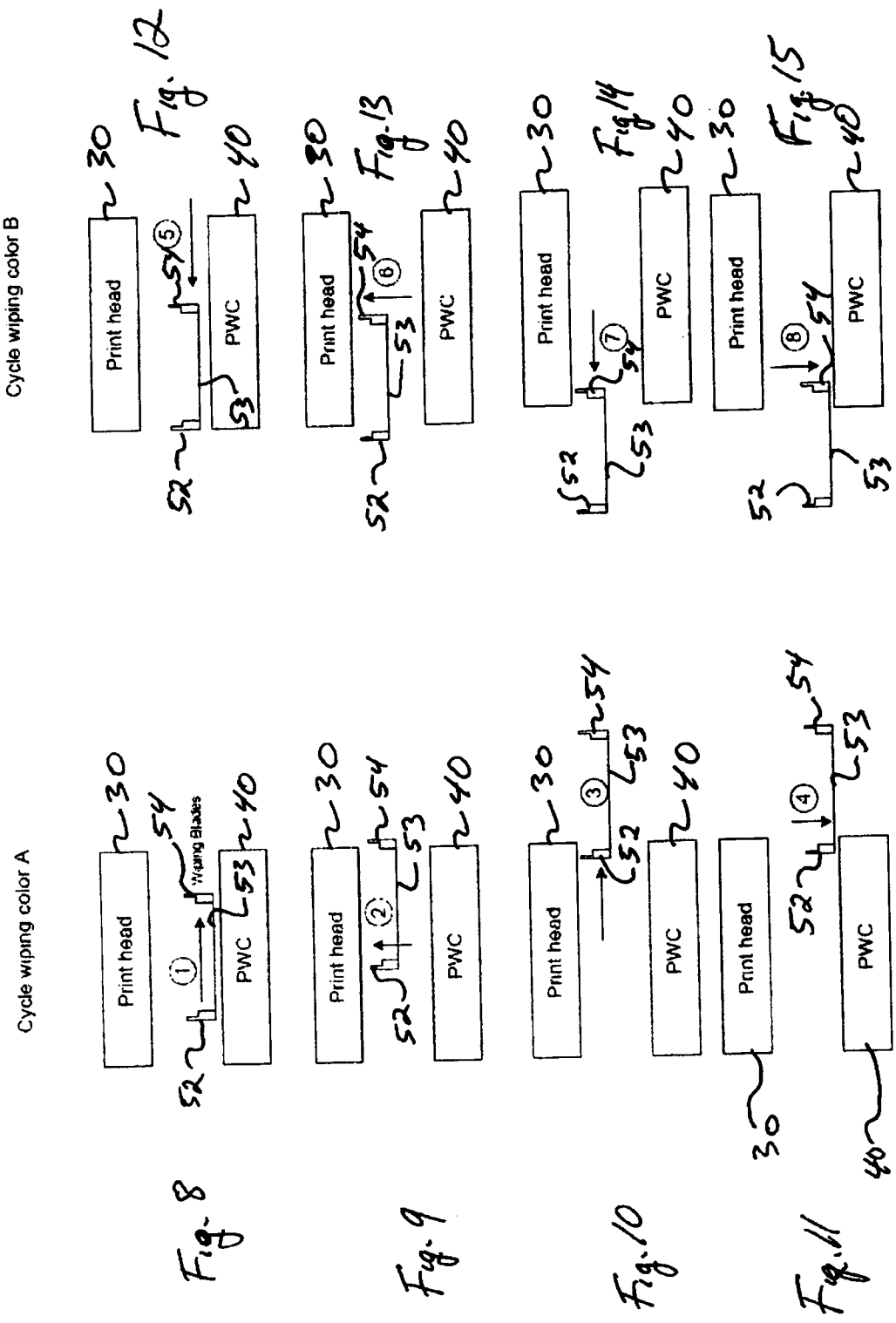


Fig. 8 Fig. 9 Fig. 10 Fig. 11 Fig. 12 Fig. 13 Fig. 14 Fig. 15

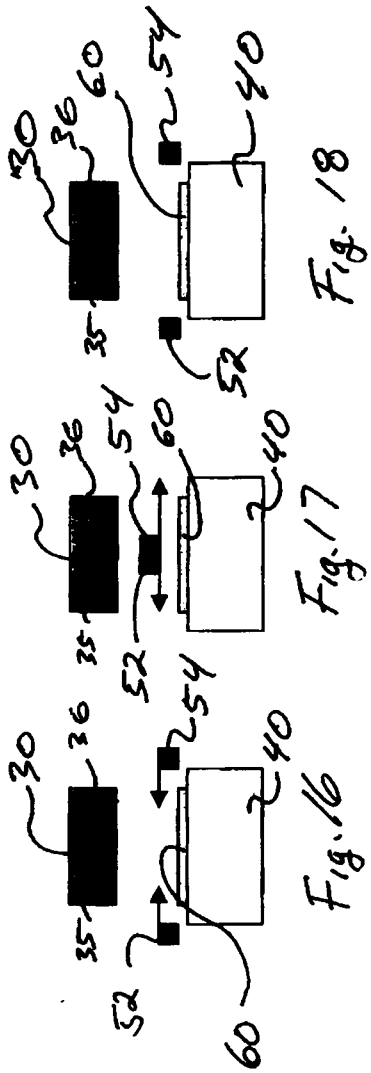


Fig. 18

Fig. 17

Fig. 16

Fig. 19

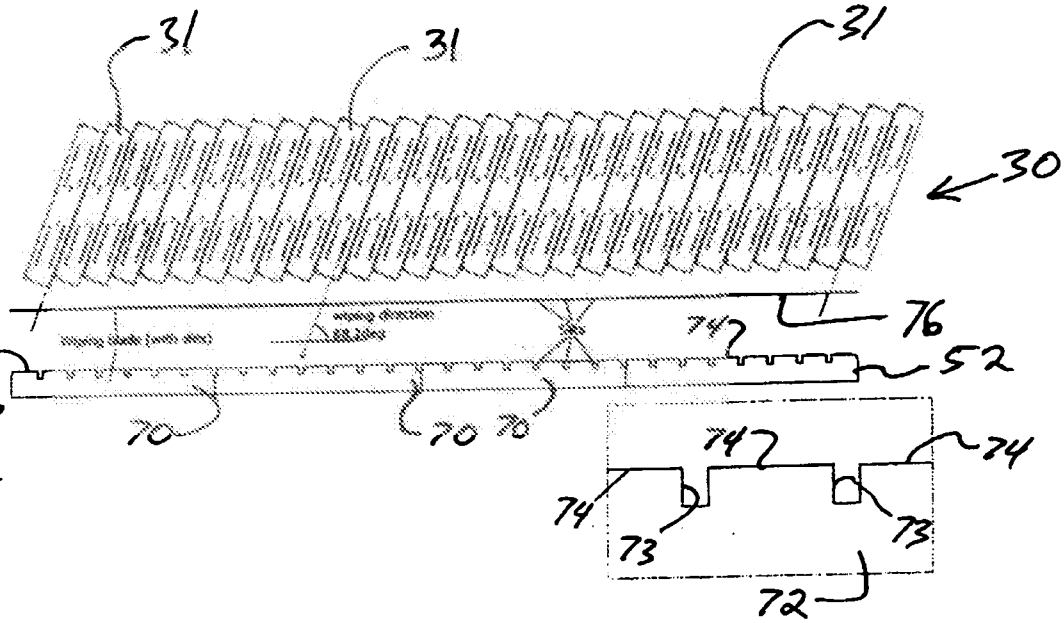


Fig 20

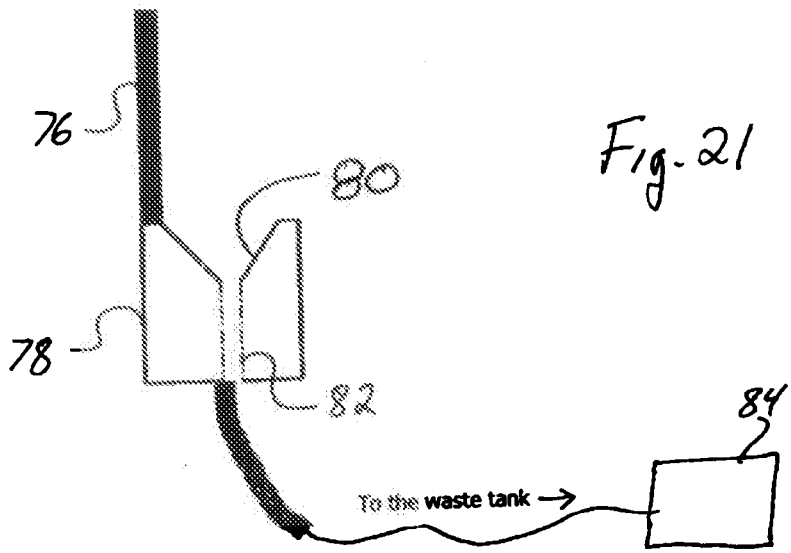


Fig. 21

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2009/056356

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B41J2/165

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
B41J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2007/077597 A (SHARP KK [JP]; NAKAJIMA YOSHINORI; SAKAMOTO YASUHIRO; HIGUCHI KAORU; A) 12 July 2007 (2007-07-12)	1-9
A	paragraph [0055]; figure 7 & EP 1 972 385 A (SHARP KK [JP]) 24 September 2008 (2008-09-24) paragraph [0055]; figure 7	10-13
A	WO 96/15908 A (TECHNIKU B V [NL]; FRANCOTYP POSTALIA GMBH [DE]; SCHUT PAULUS MARIA [N) 30 May 1996 (1996-05-30) cited in the application abstract	1,10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" 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 to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
30 June 2009	10/07/2009

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	De Groot, Ronald

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/EP2009/056356

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		EP 0799135 A1	08-10-1997
		NL 9401941 A	01-07-1996