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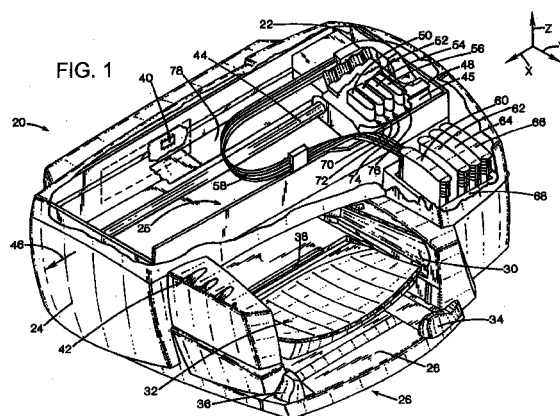
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(54) **Ink solvent dispenser system for inkjet printheads**

(57) An ink solvent dispenser system (100; 120) is provided for cleaning a printhead (70, 72, 74, 76) in an inkjet printing mechanism (20). The dispenser (100; 120) has an enclosure shell (102; 122) defining a reservoir (104; 124) filled with an ink solvent (110), such as polyethylene glycol ("PEG"). A back-pressure device (105; 125), such as a porous body (106) or a spring-bag structure (126, 128), is located inside the reservoir (104; 124) to prevent ink solvent leakage. The dispenser (100; 120) has a sintered, high density polyethylene plastic applicator (108; 135) in fluid communication with the ink solvent (110) stored within the reservoir (104; 124) in a space-efficient manner. The applicator (108; 135) uses capillary forces to extract the ink solvent (110) from the reservoir (104; 124) for application to a printhead wiper (90, 92, 94, 96) contacting the applicator (108; 135). The wiper (90, 92, 94, 96) wipes across the printhead (70, 72, 74, 76), after which ink residue (112) is scraped (114) from the wiper (90, 92, 94, 96) prior to receiving the next dose of solvent (110). A method is also provided of dispensing ink solvent (110), along with an inkjet printing mechanism (20) having provisions for replaceably receiving the ink solvent dispenser system (100; 120).



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B41J
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 3 March 2000	Examiner Bridge, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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