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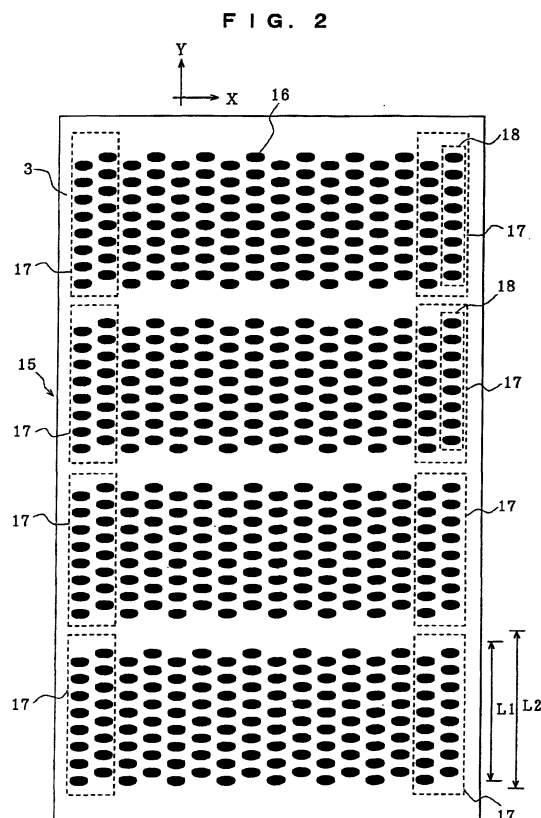
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(54) Ink-jet printer nozzle defect detection method and device

(57) A method and device designed to detect any defects in ink-jet nozzles such as blinding, satellite of ink, ink drop mislocation and uneven printing, wherein a test pattern 15 is printed on a test recording medium 3 with a printing head 4 and the said test pattern is scanned by sensor means 1 to capture an image of a column of ink drops 16 in the test pattern as a group 18, the image being processed to determine the average area of the ink drops, their X direction edge positions or Y direction center-to-center distances for comparison with specified criteria to judge any failure in the ink jetting on a group basis.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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 16 August 2000	Examiner Van den Meerschaut,G
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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