



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
27.05.1998 Bulletin 1998/22

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **G03G 15/00, G03D 13/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
21.01.1998 Bulletin 1998/04

(21) Application number: **97202045.7**

(22) Date of filing: **05.07.1997**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE**

(71) Applicant: **AGFA-GEVAERT N.V.**
2640 Mortsel (BE)

(30) Priority: **17.07.1996 EP 96202032**

(72) Inventor: **Van de Wynckel, Werner**
2640 Mortsel (BE)

(54) **A multi-component apparatus with improved servicing characteristic**

(57) The apparatus, such as a photographic sheet material processing apparatus, comprises a plurality of operating components selected from output operating components such as a pump(22), a solenoid (30), a heater (25), an electrolysis cell (54), a fan (92), and a drive motor (96), and input operating components, such as a liquid level sensor (24). Operatively linked to these components is a CPU (100), containing information concerning a desired operating sequence for the apparatus, in the form of functional instructions independent of the characteristics of the operating components. Information concerning characteristics of each component is stored in separate memory means (122, 124, etc.). Means (122, 124, etc.) are provided for converting the functional instructions into physical instructions to operate the operating components. The operating components can easily be replaced during servicing without the need for re-programming of the CPU, even if a component is replaced by another having different characteristics.

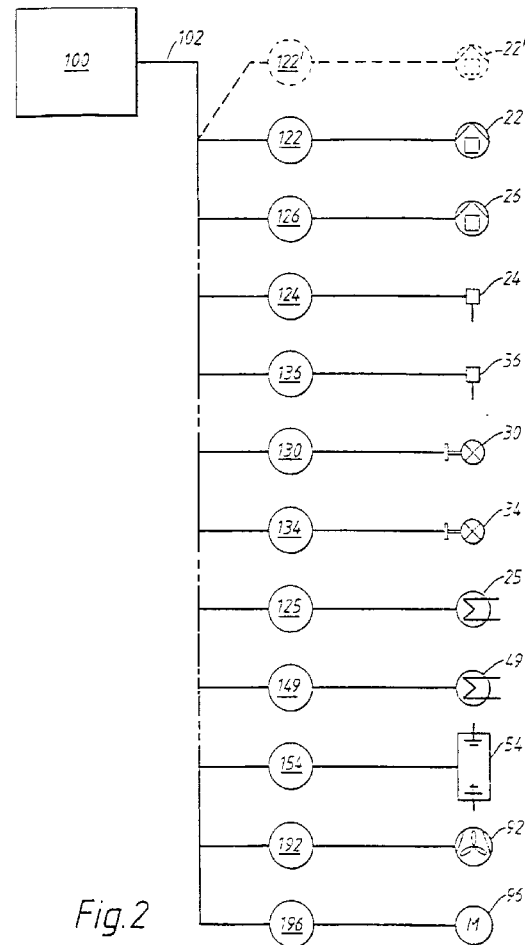


Fig. 2



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 20 2045

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.6)
D,P, A	EP 0 736 810 A (AGFA GEVAERT NV) * the whole document * ---	1,7	G03G15/00 G03D13/00
D,A	US 5 491 540 A (HIRST B MARK) * the whole document * ---	1,7	
A	EP 0 345 060 A (FUJITSU LTD) * the whole document * ---	1,7	
A	EP 0 645 677 A (NORITSU KOKI CO LTD) * figure 2 * ---	1,7	
A	US 5 272 503 A (LESUEUR ERIC J ET AL) * the whole document * -----	1,7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G03G G03D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 25 March 1998	Examiner Hoppe, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

E.P.O. FORM 1503 03/92 (PC/C031)