WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for reducing ink color mixing effects in a printer, the system comprising:

a printhead having multiple ink color channels mounted within the printer at a first level; and

a plurality of ink containers mounted within the printer so as to be fluidically connected to the printhead and positioned in an array having a plurality of levels which are lower than the first level,

wherein the plurality of ink containers include:

at least one black ink container which supplies black colored ink to a black ink color channel of the printhead, the black ink container being disposed at a lowest level of the array; and

at least one yellow ink container which supplies yellow colored ink to a yellow ink color channel of the printhead, the yellow ink container being disposed at a highest level of the array.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of ink containers include two black ink containers each of which supplies black colored ink to a black ink color channel of the printhead, a cyan ink container which supplies cyan colored ink to a cyan ink color channel of the printhead, and a magenta ink container which supplies magenta colored ink to a magenta ink color channel of the printhead.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein the array has three rows and three columns, the black ink containers being disposed at the lowest row in the first and third columns of the array, the magenta and cyan ink containers being disposed at the middle row in the first and third

columns of the array and the yellow ink container being disposed at the highest row in the second column of the array.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for distributing fluid and gas within a printer, comprising:

a fluid container having three fluid ports;

a first fluid path connecting the first fluid port to a printhead of the printer;

a second fluid path connecting the second fluid port to the printhead; and

a third fluid path connecting the third fluid port to a gas vent,

wherein the first and second fluid ports are configured so that fluid from the fluid container flows between the first and second fluid paths via the printhead and the third fluid port is configured so that gas flows between the fluid container and gas vent.

2. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a valve connecting the first path to the printhead.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein the first and second paths, printhead and fluid container form a closed fluid flow loop in which fluid flows to and from the fluid container in either direction of the loop.

4. A system according to claim 3, further comprising a bi-directional pump on the first or second paths for driving said fluid flows to and from the fluid container in either direction of the loop.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein each of the first, second and third fluid ports of the fluid container incorporate a septum into which a septum needle of tubing of the corresponding first, second and third fluid paths is sealingly inserted.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein each septum comprises a first septum having a membrane which is piercable by the septum needle and a slit septum having slit through which the septum needle passes.