

The above described servicing system is not feasible for pagewidth printers because of the stationary printhead assembly that extends across the full width of the printing zone. The printhead assembly effectively defines the print zone and it cannot be moved outside of that zone for servicing. Furthermore, a pagewidth printhead has a significantly larger surface area and contains a vastly greater number of nozzles than a conventional inkjet printhead, especially in the case of a large format printer. These factors dictate that the servicing of printheads requires an entirely different approach to that of conventional scanning type printheads.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In a first aspect the present invention provides a printer comprising:

(a) a pagewidth print head assembly having-

(i) two pagewidth print heads disposed in confronting relationship when in a first printing position and

(ii) a plurality of nozzles located along each print head and arranged in use to deliver ink onto print media as it is transported past the print heads, and

(b) a capping mechanism having-

(i) two capping members each associated with a corresponding one of the print heads, each capping member having a length corresponding substantially to that of the corresponding print head,

(ii) a first actuating mechanism arranged to move the print heads in an arcuate direction from the first printing position to a second capping position and

(iii) a second actuating mechanism arranged to move the capping members in a direction normal to the printing zone of the corresponding print heads, when in said second capping position, to effect nozzle capping engagement of the respective print heads,

wherein:

the capping members are located adjacent to one side of the printheads when the printheads are in the first printing position, the printheads being moved in an arcuate direction when moving from said first position to said second position, one of the print heads being rotated in a clockwise direction while the other one of the prints heads being rotated in an anti-clockwise direction when moving from said first position to said second position.

In a ~~further~~^{first} aspect the present invention provides a printer comprising:

- (a) a pagewidth print head assembly having-
 - (i) at least one pagewidth print head and
 - (ii) a plurality of nozzles located along the at least one print head and arranged in use to deliver ink onto print media as it is transported past the at least one print head, and
- (b) a capping mechanism having-
 - (i) at least one capping member having a length corresponding substantially to that of the at least one print head,
 - (ii) a first actuating mechanism arranged to move the at least one print head in an arcuate direction from a first to a second position and
 - (iii) a second actuating mechanism arranged to move the at least one capping member in a direction normal to the at least one print head to effect nozzle capping engagement of the of the at least one print head when the at least one print head is in the second position.

Optionally at least one capping member is formed effectively as a one-piece member.

Optionally the at least one capping member comprises conjoined capping member portions having an aggregate length corresponding substantially to that of the at least one print head.

Optionally the at least one capping member comprises a body portion formed from a rigid material and a capping portion having a) an integrally formed elastomeric material lip portion and b) a cavity surrounded by the lip portion, and wherein the lip portion is peripherally configured to surround the nozzles collectively.

Optionally the print heads are disposed in confronting relationship when in the first position.

In a further aspect the present invention provides printer comprising:

- (a) a pagewidth print head assembly having-