

ABSTRACT

MODULAR INKJET PRINthead ASSEMBLY

A printhead assembly for an inkjet printer with an elongate support member for mounting within the printer adjacent a media path;

an ink reservoir mounted to the support member, the reservoir having a plurality of ink outlets;

a plurality of printhead modules, each module having a printhead chip with an array of nozzles and respective drop ejection actuators, each of the modules having an inlet for detachable engagement with one of the ink outlets from the reservoir, the inlet being in fluid communication with the nozzles;

a resilient member for forming a fluid tight seal between the outlets of the reservoir and corresponding inlets of the modules to prevent ink leakage as ink flows from the reservoir to the modules; wherein,

the modules and the support member are configured for detachable interengagement such that the resilient member biases the corresponding module into engagement with the support member. This design uses the elastomeric seal between the ink reservoir and the module together with the snap locking engagement between the module and the support member, to maintain a fluid tight seal as well as push the module firmly into engagement. The dual purpose of the elastomeric member reduces the number of parts in the assembly.

Figure 5