

ABSTRACT**PRINthead ASSEMBLY WITH CAPPING ARRANGEMENT**

A pagewidth inkjet printhead assembly is described which includes printhead 11 with a plurality of print nozzles 30 for ejecting ink drops towards a print medium. A space is defined between the nozzles and a nozzle guard 43 with a series of apertures 44 aligned with the nozzles.

During printing operation, positive air pressure is supplied to this space, the air exiting the space through the apertures, preventing blockage by paper dust. When not printing, the air supply is closed off by air valve member 66 and a capping member 80 on a rotary platen 14 contacts the printhead to maintain a closed atmosphere at the surface of the nozzles, reducing drying of ink on the nozzles.

Fig. 9B