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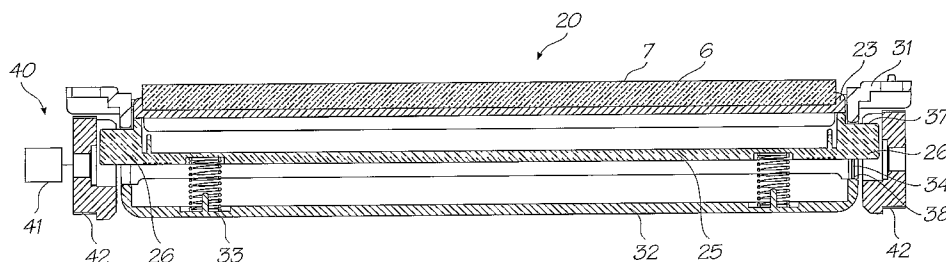
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(54) Title: PRINthead MAINTENANCE STATION



(57) Abstract: A printhead maintenance station (20) for maintaining a printhead (5) in an operable condition is provided. The maintenance station (20) comprises an elastically deformable pad (6) having a contact surface (7) for sealing engagement with an ink ejection face (8) of the printhead (5). The maintenance station (20) also comprises engagement mechanism (25) for moving the pad (6) between a first position in which the contact surface (7) is sealingly engaged with the face (8), and a second position in which the contact surface (7) is disengaged from the face (8). The maintenance station (20) is configured such that the contact surface (7) is progressively contacted with the face (8) during sealing engagement and peeled away from the face (8) during disengagement.

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