

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
19 April 2007 (19.04.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/041753 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
B41J 2/165 (2006.01)

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Darling Street, Balmain, New South Wales 2041 (AU).

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/AU2006/000972

(22) International Filing Date: 10 July 2006 (10.07.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
11/246,689 11 October 2005 (11.10.2005) US
2006201084 15 March 2006 (15.03.2006) AU

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

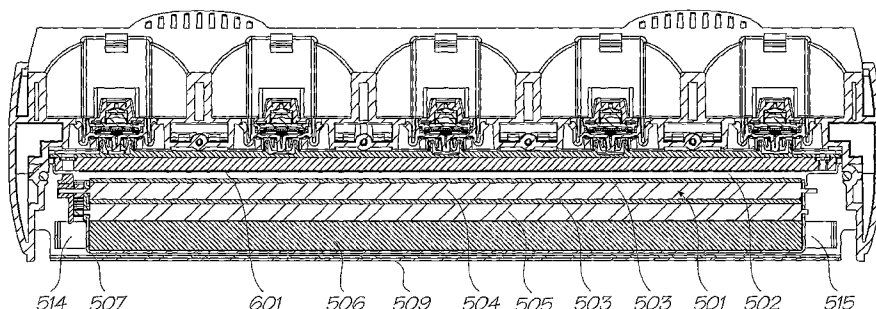
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **PRINthead MAINTENANCE ASSEMBLY COMPRISING MAINTENANCE ROLLER AND CLEANING MECHANISM**



(57) Abstract: A printhead maintenance assembly for maintaining a printhead in an operable condition is provided. The maintenance assembly comprises: (a) a maintenance roller having an elastically deformable contact surface for sealing engagement with an ink ejection face of the printhead; (b) an engagement mechanism for moving the roller between a first position in which the contact surface is sealingly engaged with the face, and a second position in which the contact surface is disengaged from the face; and (c) a cleaning mechanism for cleaning the contact surface. The cleaning mechanism comprises a motor for rotating the maintenance roller, and an ink removal system for removing ink from the contact surface when the maintenance roller is rotated.

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