CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for dispensing at least one segment on a printed media sheet with a plurality of segments, the apparatus including:

a first detector being configured for determining a presence of the at least one segment;

a driving mechanism for moving the media sheet, the driving mechanism being configured to back-track the media sheet when the at least one segment is singulated from the media sheet;

an output drive roller;

a movable structure for contacting a second surface of the media sheet, the movable structure being able to grip the media sheet together with the output drive roller; and

a second detector being configured for determining a mode of the movable structure, the mode including a non-contact mode and a contact mode,

wherein the movable structure is configured to contact the second surface of the media sheet when the first detector determines the presence of the at least one segment at a predetermined position, the predetermined position being at a dispensing opening, and when the second detector determines the contact mode of the movable structure.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first detector includes a light sensor or a load sensor.

3. The apparatus as claimed in either claim 1 or 2, wherein the at least one segment is singulated from the media sheet when the at least one segment is held at the predetermined position.

~~4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the driving mechanism is configured to back-track the media sheet when the at least one segment is singulated from the media sheet.~~

54. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 43, wherein the non-contact mode being when the movable structure is not in contact with the second surface of the media sheet and the contact mode being when the movable structure is in contact with the second surface of the media sheet.

65. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 54, wherein the second detector is a sensor which is configured to be triggered when the movable structure is in one of the modes.

76. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 65, wherein the at least one segment is a printed label.

87. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 76, wherein movement of the movable structure is modulated with a biasing mechanism.

98. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 87, wherein the at least one segment is ejected subsequent to being held at the predetermined position.

109. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 98, wherein the output drive roller is configured to move in a single direction, the single direction being enabled when the output drive roller is coupled to a one-way clutch.

1110. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 9 being coupled to a printer, a printer head of the printer being capped when the at least one segment is held at the predetermined position.

~~12. A method for dispensing at least one segment on a printed media sheet with a plurality of segments in a dispenser of the at least one segment, the method including:~~

~~printing on at least one segment of the media sheet at a print zone;~~

~~singulating the at least one printed segment of the media sheet;~~

~~holding onto the at least one printed segment of the media sheet; and~~

~~capping the print head at the print zone when the at least one printed segment is held beyond a predetermined period.~~

~~13. The method as claimed in claim 12, further including either ejecting or removing the at least one printed segment of the media sheet.~~

~~14. The method as claimed in either claim 12 or 13, further including retreating of the media sheet away from the print zone.~~

~~15. The method as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the at least one printed segment is a printed label.~~

~~16. The method as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein capping the print head minimizes exposure of the print head.~~

~~17. The method as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 16, wherein the predetermined period is between five and thirty seconds.~~

~~18~~11. A method for dispensing at least one segment on a printed media sheet with a plurality of segments in the apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to ~~11~~10, the method including:

detecting a presence of the at least one segment at a predetermined position, the predetermined position being at a dispensing opening;

detecting a contact mode of the movable structure of the apparatus; ~~and~~

holding onto the at least one printed segment of the media sheet at the predetermined position;

singulating the at least one printed segment of the media sheet; and

back-tracking the media sheet when the at least one segment is singulated from the media sheet.

~~19. The method as claimed in claim 18, further including either ejecting or removing the at least one printed segment of the media sheet.~~

~~20~~12. The method as claimed in either claim ~~18 or 19~~1, wherein the at least one printed segment is a printed label.