WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet printer comprising:
an inkjet printhead having a first port and a second port;
an ink container having an outlet port and a return port;
a first ink line interconnecting the first port with the outlet port;
a second ink line interconnecting the second port with the return port;
an air line connected to the first ink line, the air line having an inlet open to atmosphere;
a reversible pump positioned between the second port and the return port for pumping ink in the second ink line; and
a dual valve arrangement comprising:
a first valve for selectively controlling ink flow through the first ink line, the first valve being positioned in the first ink line between the ink container and the air line; and
a second valve for selectively controlling air flow through the air line,
wherein the pump is configured to draw either ink or air through the printhead depending on a state of the first and second valves, and wherein the dual valve arrangement comprises a dual pinch valve having first and second pinch elements defining the first and second valves, wherein the first pinch element is positioned for pinching engagement with the first ink line between the ink container and the air line, and the second pinch element is positioned for pinching engagement with the air line.

2. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the dual pinch valve comprises a pinch drive arrangement for selectively moving the first and second pinch elements.

3. The printer according to claim 2, wherein the first and second pinch elements are biased towards pinching engagement with the first ink line and the air line, respectively.

4. The printer according to claim 3, wherein the pinch drive arrangement comprises a cam mounted about a shaft and a motor for rotating the shaft, wherein the cam is positioned to urge either one of the first and second pinch elements out of pinching engagement with the first ink line and air line, respectively, upon rotation of the shaft.

5. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the printhead is a multi-channel printhead connected to a plurality of first ink lines and second ink lines, each first ink line being connected to a respective air line, wherein the first pinch element is positioned for simultaneous pinching engagement with the plurality of first ink lines and the second pinch element is positioned for simultaneous pinching engagement with the plurality of air lines.

6. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the pump is a reversible peristaltic pump positioned in the second ink line.

7. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the ink container is positioned at a height below the printhead.

8. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the ink container has a vent open to atmosphere.