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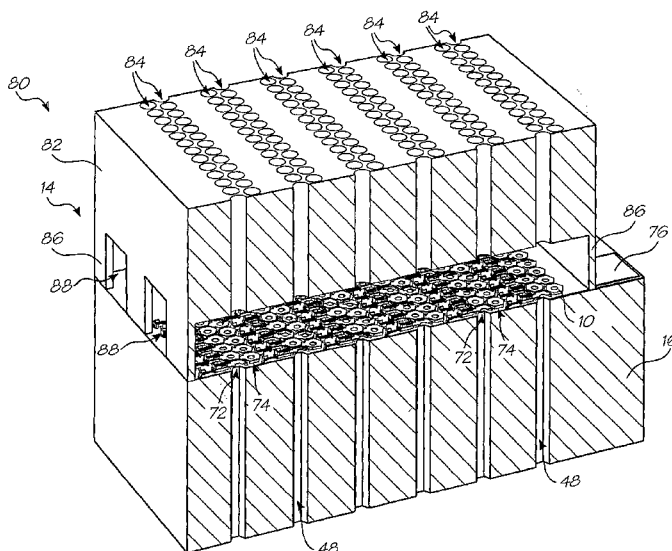
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- (74) Agent: **SILVERBROOK, KIA**; Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd, 393 Darling Street, Balmain, New South Wales 2041 (AU).
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD** [AU/AU]; 393 Darling Street, Balmain, New South Wales 2041 (AU).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **SILVERBROOK, KIA** [AU/AU]; Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd, 393 Darling Street, Balmain, New South Wales 2041 (AU).
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(54) Title: A NOZZLE GUARD FOR AN INK JET PRINthead



(57) **Abstract:** A printhead for an ink jet printer includes at least one printhead chip, which includes a substrate (16) and a plurality of nozzle arrangements (10) positioned on the substrate. Each nozzle arrangement (10) includes nozzle chamber walls and a roof wall that define a nozzle chamber. A nozzle guard (80) is positioned on the printhead chip and includes a body member (82) that is spaced from and spans the printhead chip and which defines a plurality of passages (84) that extend through the body member. The body member is positioned so that each passage (84) is aligned with one of the ink ejection ports. A support structure is interposed between the body member and the printhead chip. It is configured to permit the flow of air into a space (88) defined between the body member and the printhead chip and through each passage to keep the passages clear of particles.



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