

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 January 2002 (10.01.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/02328 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B41J 2/045**,
2/05, B81B 7/02, 7/04

(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/00749

(22) International Filing Date: 30 June 2000 (30.06.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

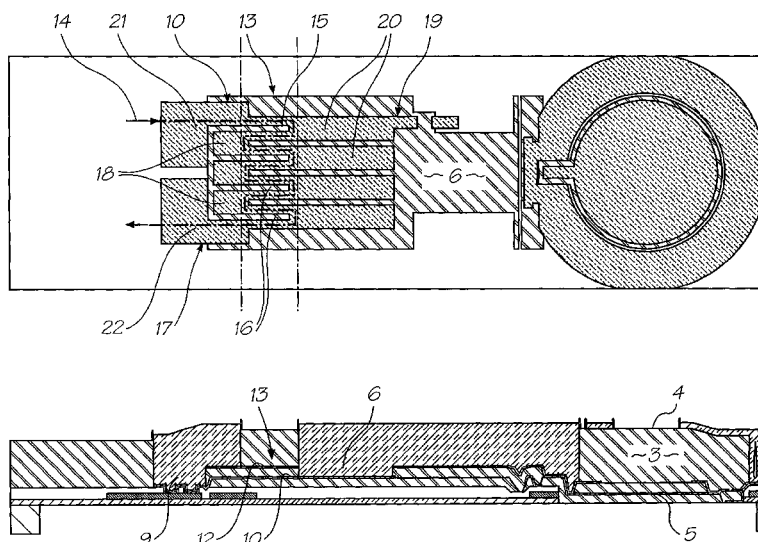
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, 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: BUCKLE RESISTANT THERMAL BEND ACTUATORS



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a thermal bend actuator (7) including: a first anchor portion (9) for securing to a fixed substrate (2); a first thermally conductive active beam member (10) secured at a proximal end to said first anchor portion (9) and extending to a movable distal end; a second beam member (12) similarly anchored at a proximal end to said first anchor portion (9) so as to extend parallel to said first active beam member (10), each of said first and second beam members being directly or indirectly interconnected at their respective proximal ends remote said first anchor portion (9); wherein said first thermally conductive active beam member (10) is configured to define a labyrinthine conductive pathway (14) having a combined effective length in a direction extending between said fixed proximal end and said movable distal end that exceeds twice the effective direct linear path therebetween.