

ABSTRACT**MODULAR PRINthead ASSEMBLY**

A printhead assembly for use in an inkjet printer with an elongate support member for mounting within the printer housing transverse to the media movement path; a plurality of printhead modules detachably mounted along the support member, each of the printhead modules having a printhead chip with an array of nozzles and respective drop ejection actuators, such that, the printhead chip of each module partially overlaps at least one adjacent module in a direction transverse to the media movement path; wherein, adjacent printhead modules abut each other along respective side surfaces, the side surfaces of each printhead module having a step formation that mates with a complementary step formation in the side surface of the abutting printhead module.

The complementary step formations in the abutting side surfaces of adjacent printhead modules helps to maintain the position of the adjacent modules relative to each other as well provide a convenient structure for overlapping the respective chips. However, the step structure is not an impediment to the attachment or removal of individual modules from the elongate support member.

Figure 5