

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, and 3-21 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 11-21 are allowed.

Claims 3-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. While Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 3-9 include allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no need to amend these claims in independent form since they are dependent on claim 1, which has been amended and is now itself in condition for allowance.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103**

Claims 1 is rejected under pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2008-230126 to Komori (hereafter "Komori"); and claim 10 is rejected under pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Komori in view Akamatsu. By this amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 102(b) and Section 103(a) rejections.

Claim 1 is an independent claim to which claim 10 depends.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a thermal head and as now amended includes the following feature:

an edge of the protection film being not disposed above the edge of the substrate, and being positioned between the electrodes and the edge of the substrate. (Emphasis added).

It is Applicants' contention that none of the references of record either teach or suggest the above identified feature of Applicants' claim 1. The support for this feature of claim 1 is found throughout the originally filed application; for example see paragraphs [0054] and [0063] of the published version of the subject application, as well as Figures 1 to 4.

The Komori reference in general relates to a thermal print head. With reference to Figure 2, the Komori reference shows an edge (17a), a protection film (17), and an edge (12a) of the substrate (12). But in the Komori reference, the edge (17a) of the protection film (17) is not positioned between the electrodes (15d) and the edge (12a) of the substrate 12. Thus, the Komori reference does not teach or suggest the above-noted feature of Applicants' claim 1.

While the Akamatsu reference in general relates to a thermal printer head, it does not rectify the deficiencies heretofore discussed with respect to the Komori reference. Thus it is Applicants' contention that independent claim 1, as well as claim 10, are in condition for allowance and request that the Section 102 and 103 rejections be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

**Applicants:** Matsusaki et al.  
**Application No.:** 13/981,633

**Conclusion**

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephonic interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Matsusaki et al.

By /Daniel N. Calder/  
Daniel N. Calder  
Registration No. 27,424

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.  
United Plaza  
30 South 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-4009  
Telephone: (215) 568-6400  
Facsimile: (215) 568-6499

DNC/mts