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Kanazawa et al.

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(54) **MAINTENANCE UNIT AND LIQUID EJECTING APPARATUS**

(71) Applicant: **SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION**, Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventors: **Yuji Kanazawa**, Shirojiri (JP); **Satoru Kobayashi**, Matsumoto (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Seiko Epson Corporation**, Tokyo (JP)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***B41J 2/16511*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 347/29
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Jason Uhlenhake
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Workman Nydegger

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A maintenance unit is a unit that maintains a liquid ejecting head and includes a cap holder that has a cap member capable of abutting against the liquid ejecting head, guide pins that guide the cap holder in a movable manner in an approaching/separating direction in which the cap member approaches and is separated from the liquid ejecting head, an engagement portion that is capable of being engaged with the cap holder, and a displacement operating portion that displaces the engagement portion between a restricting position at which the engagement portion restricts drawing of the cap holder out of the guide pins and an allowing position at which the engagement portion allows the cap holder to be drawn out of the guide pins.

13 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets

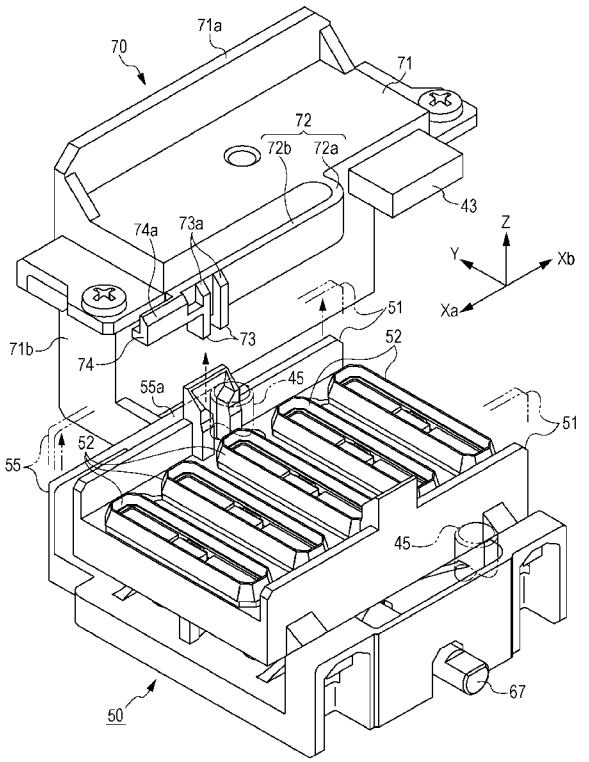


FIG. 1

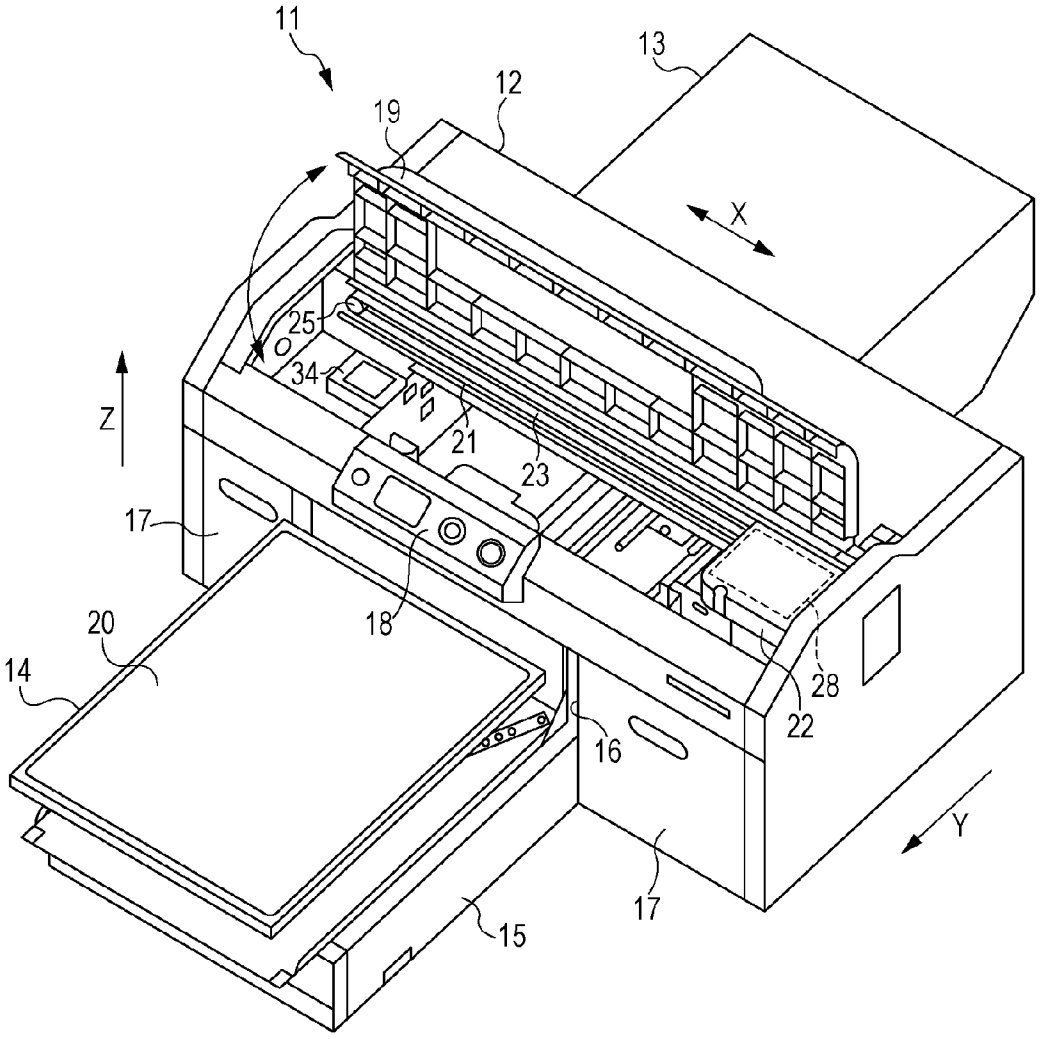
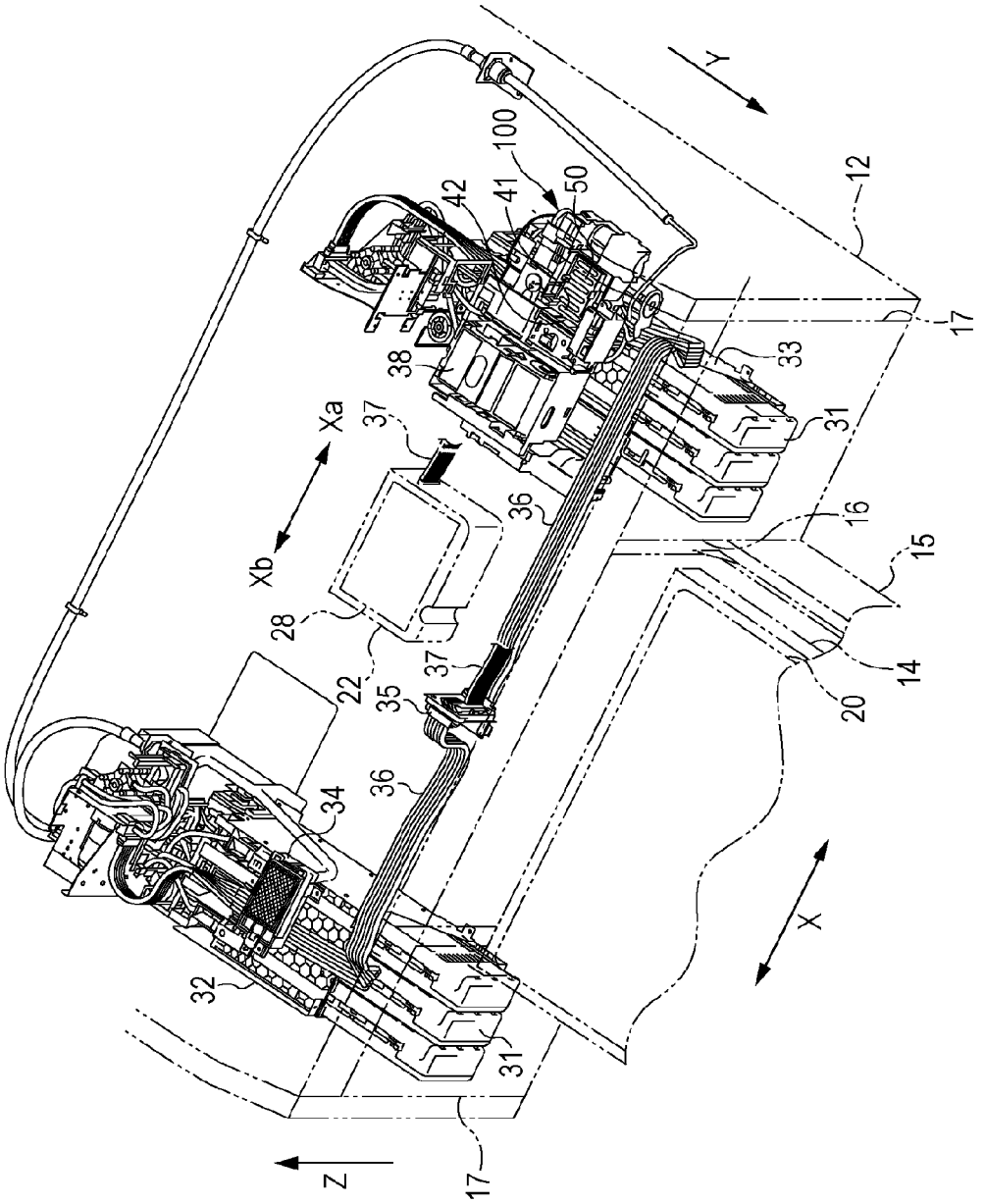


FIG. 2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17
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33
Xa
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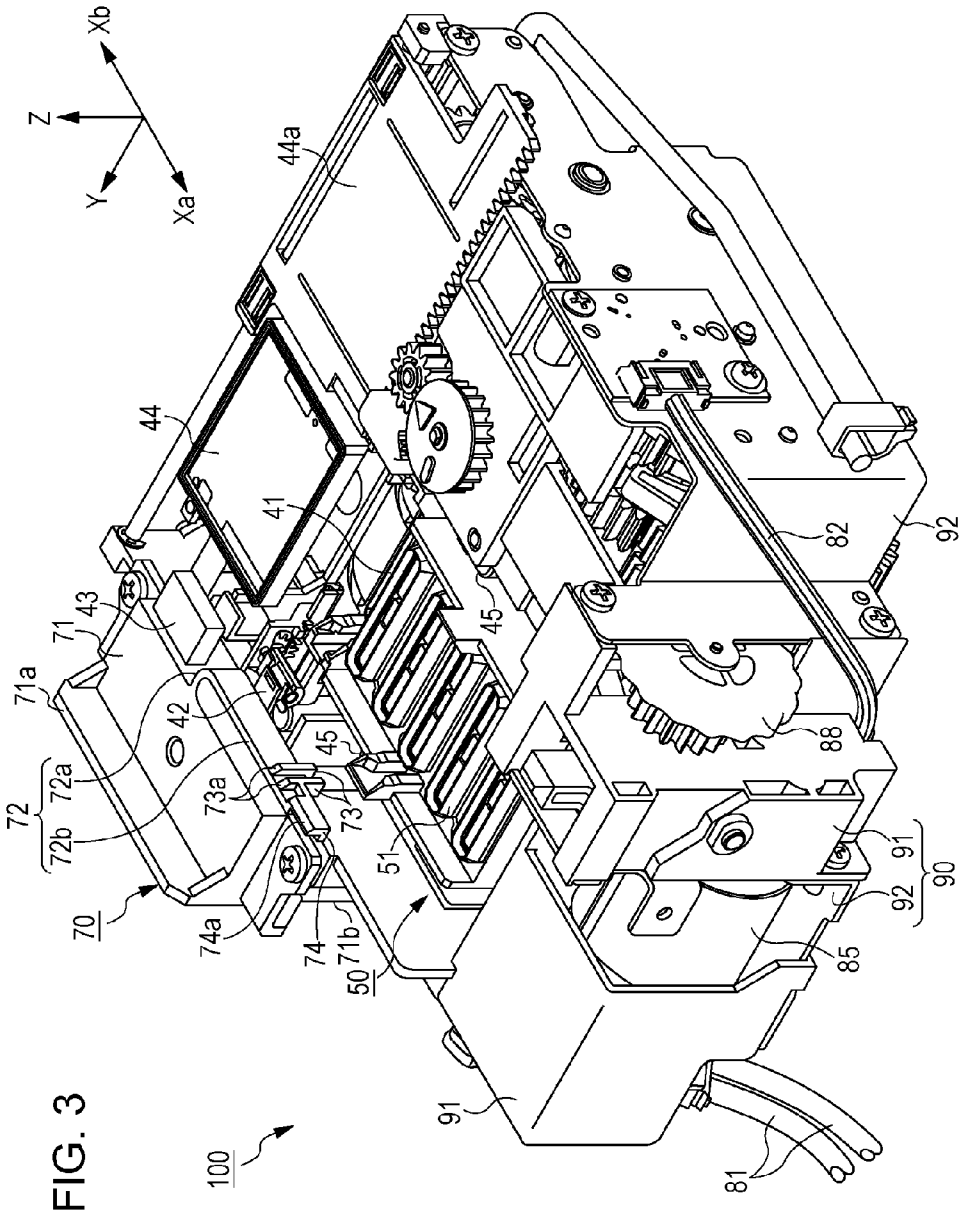
22
35
14
20
36
34
X
32
31
Z
17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Xa
44a
44
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72
72a
72b
73a
73
45
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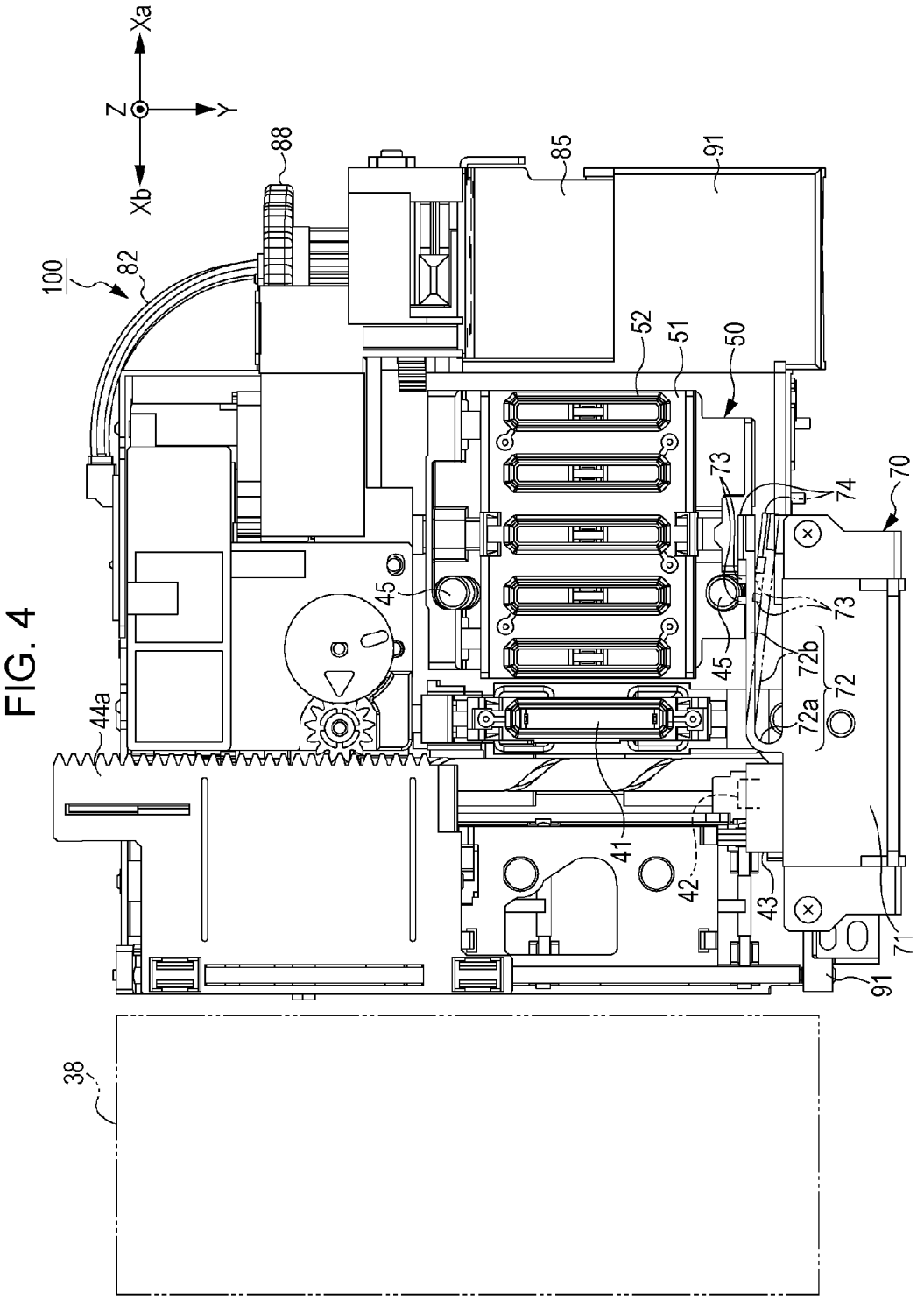
74a
74
71b
50
100
91
81
82
92
88
85
90

FIG. 3

FIG. 4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73
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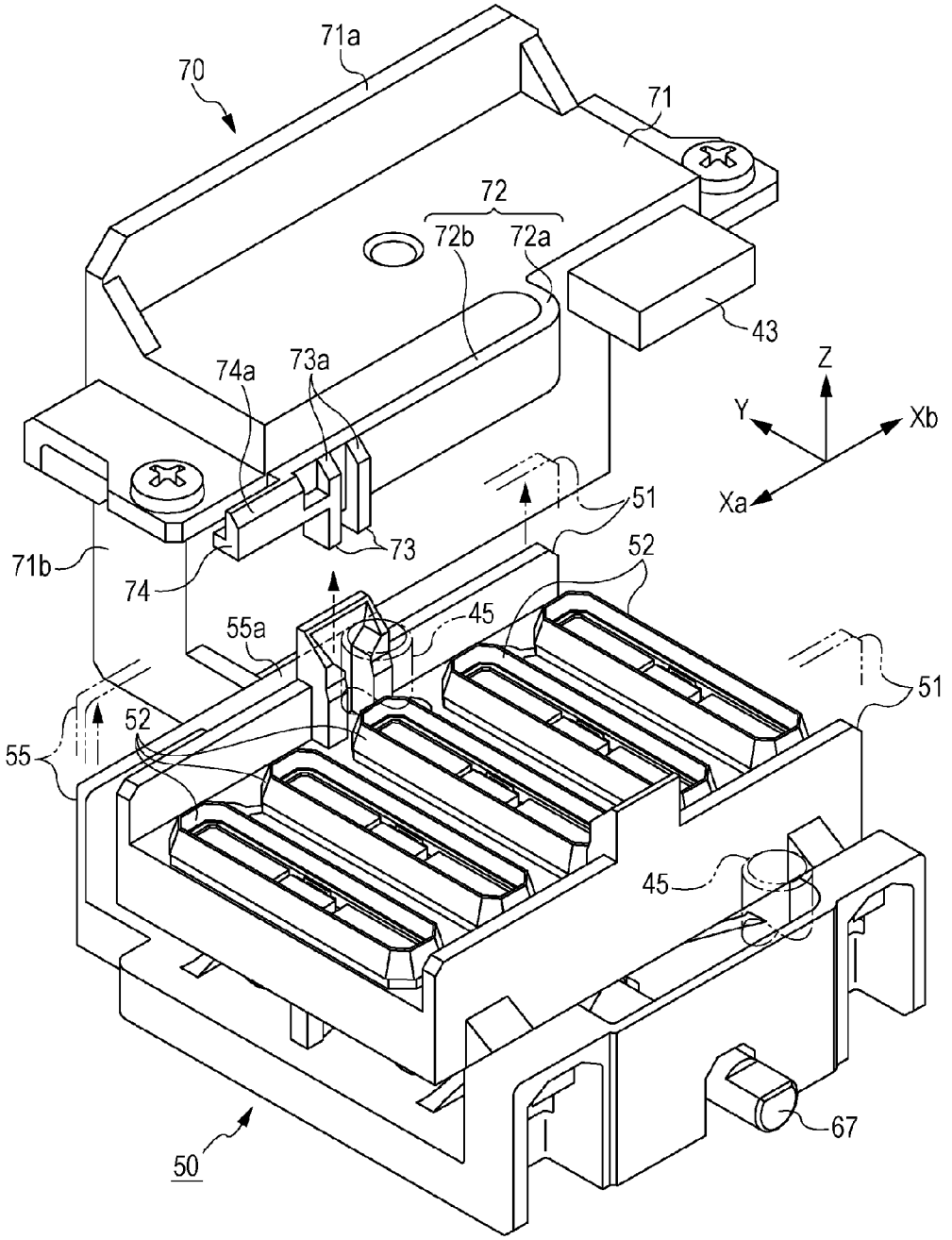
72
72a
44a
41
42
43
71
91
38

FIG. 5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72b
72a
43
74a
73a
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Y
Xb
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51
71b
73
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55a
45
51
55
52
45
67
50

FIG. 6

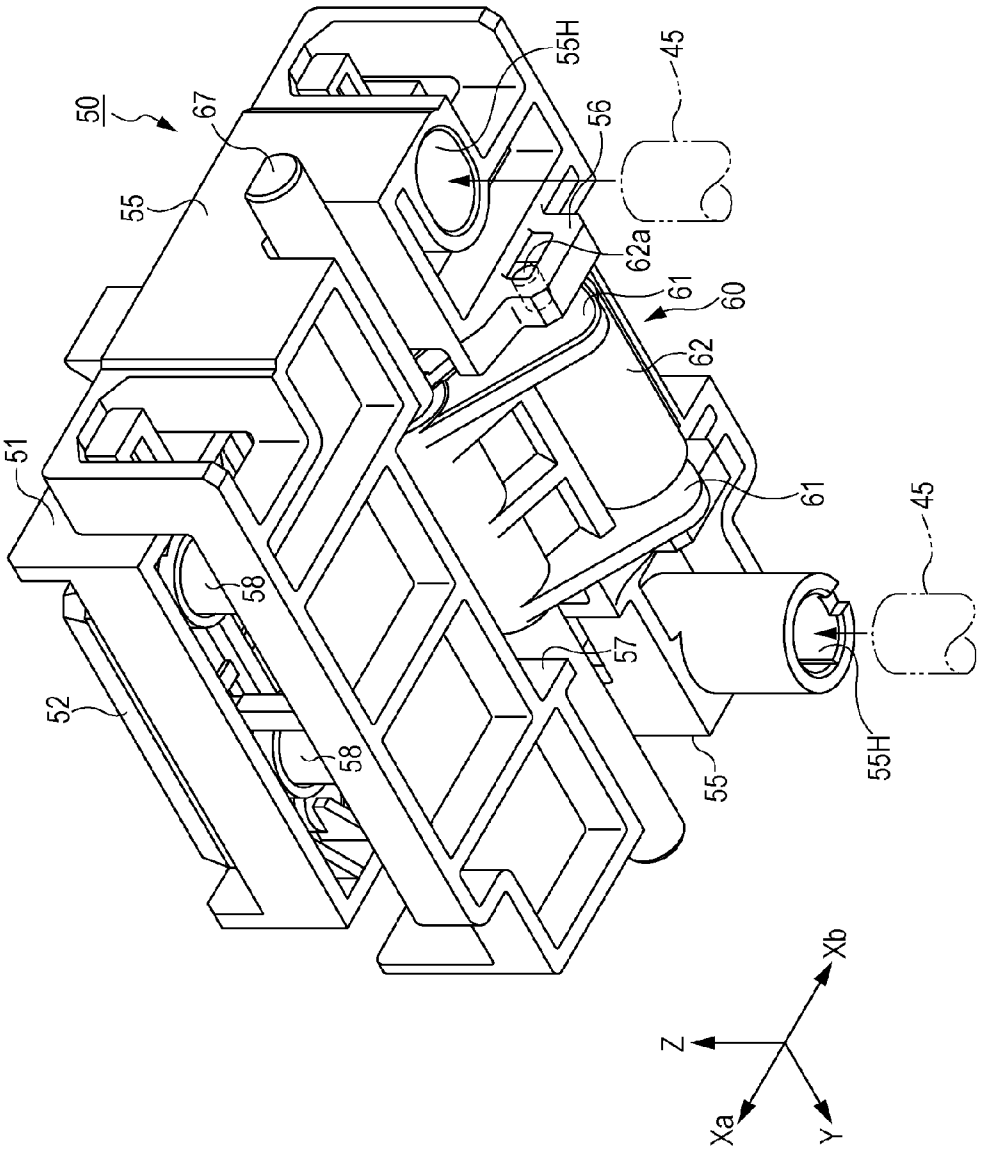
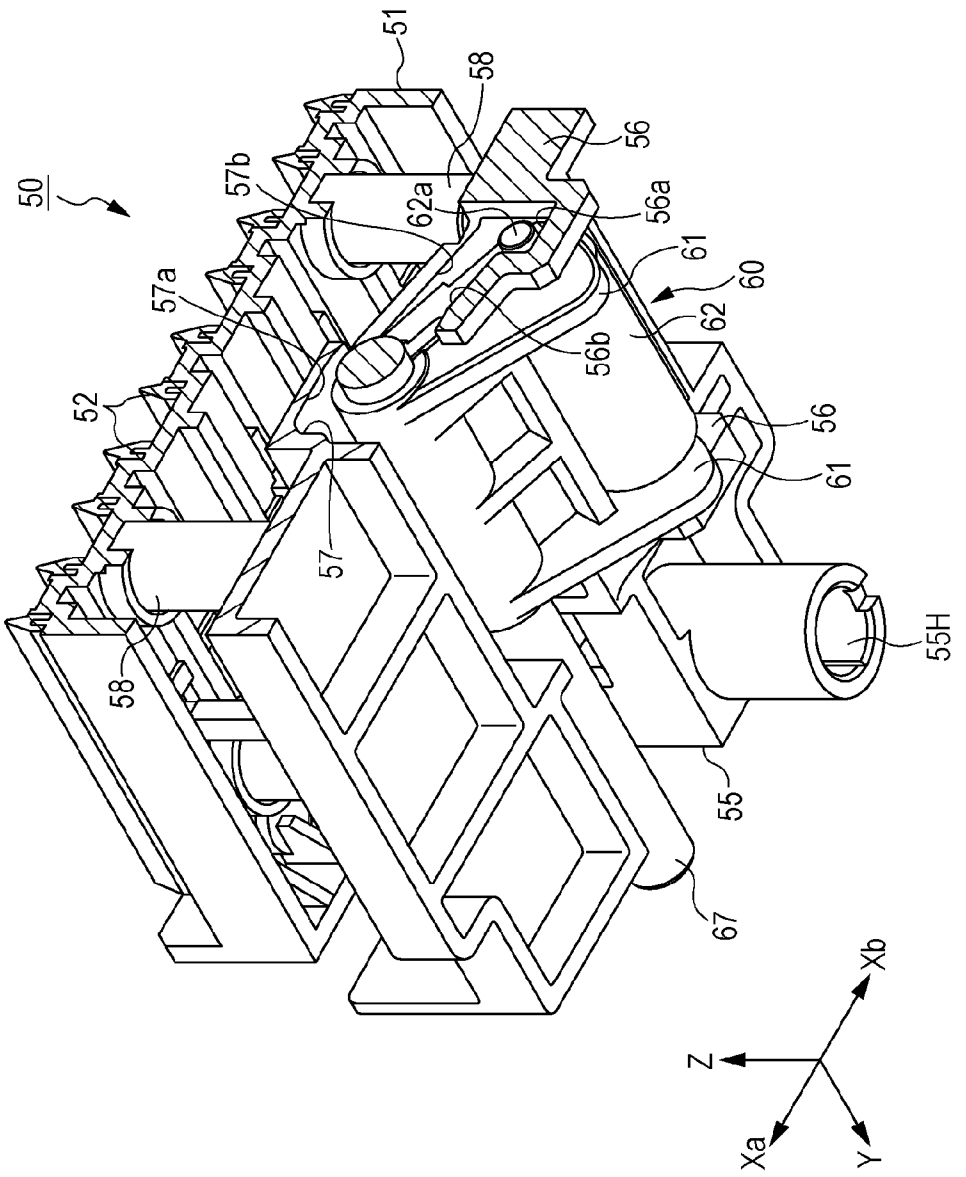


FIG. 7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57b
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Xb
Z
Xa
Y

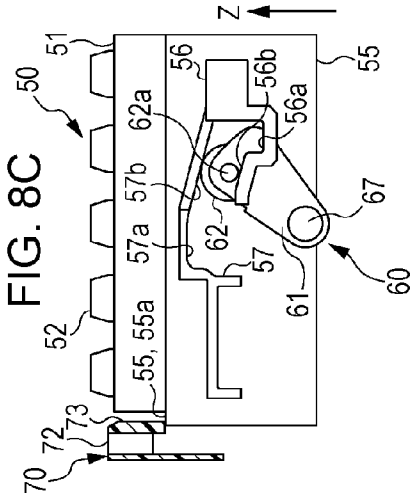
FIG. 8C
Z
50
51
52
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55, 55a
56
56a
56b
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57a
57b
60
61
62
62a
67
70
72
73

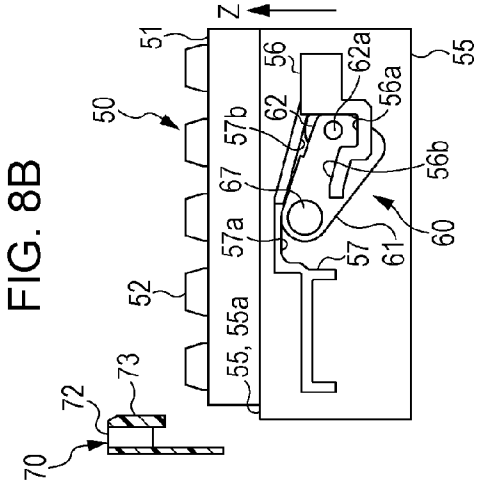
FIG. 8B
Z
50
51
52
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55, 55a
56
56a
56b
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57a
57b
60
61
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62a
67
70
72
73

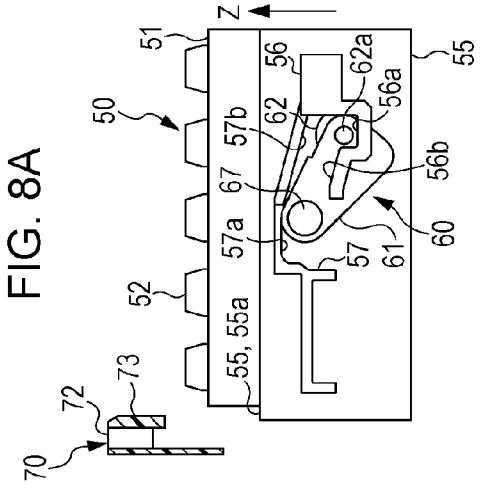
FIG. 8A
Z
50
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55, 55a
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56a
56b
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57a
57b
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62a
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73

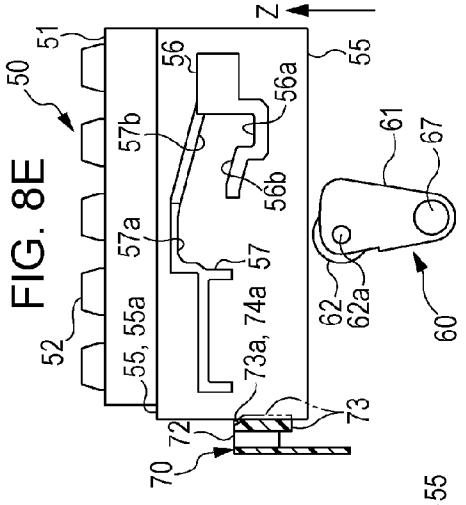
FIG. 8E
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52
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57b
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62a
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73a, 74a

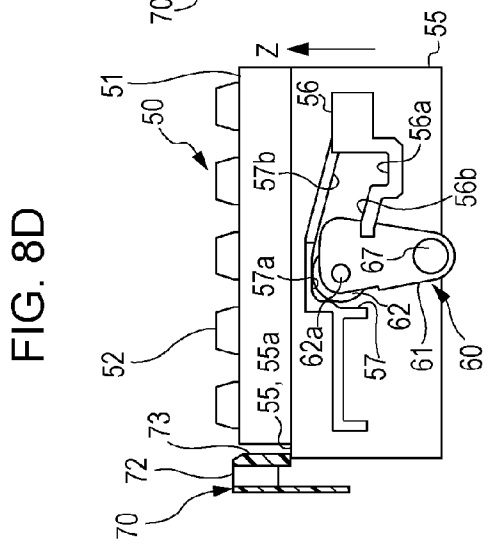
FIG. 8D
Z
50
51
52
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56a
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57a
57b
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62a
67
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72
73

FIG. 9

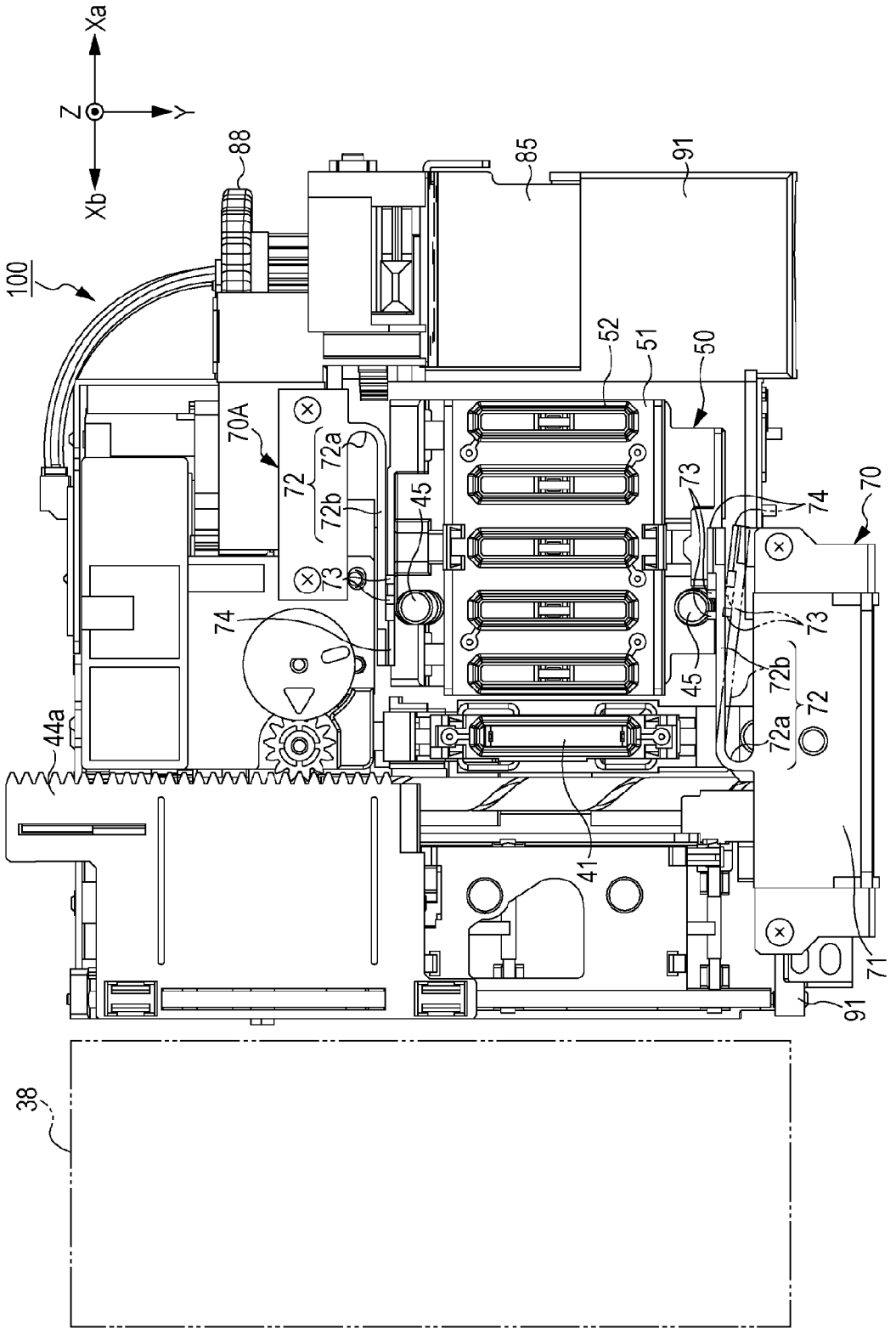

FIG. 10

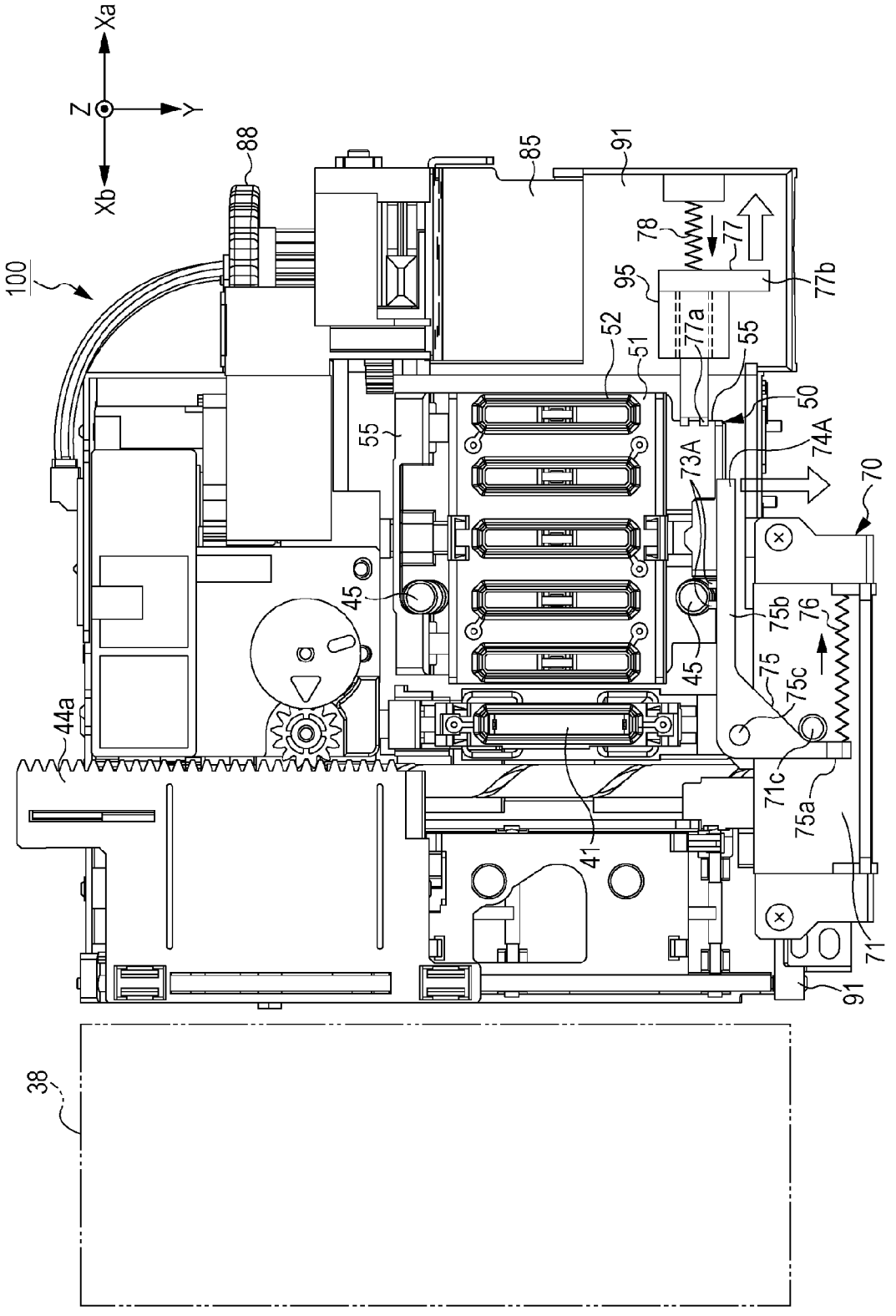
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FIG. 11C

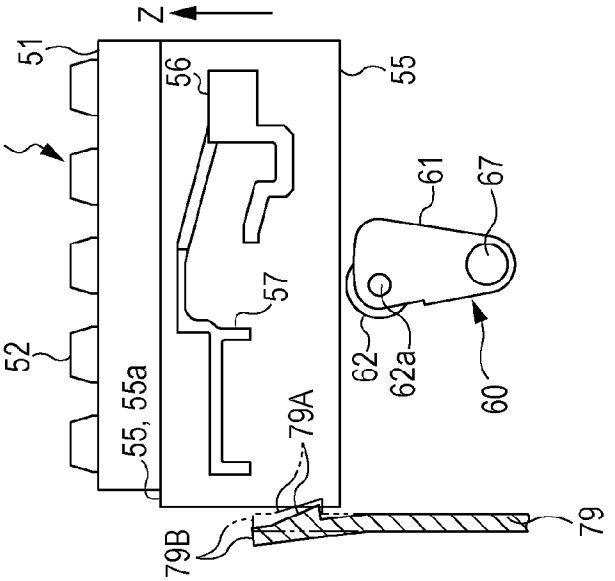


FIG. 11B

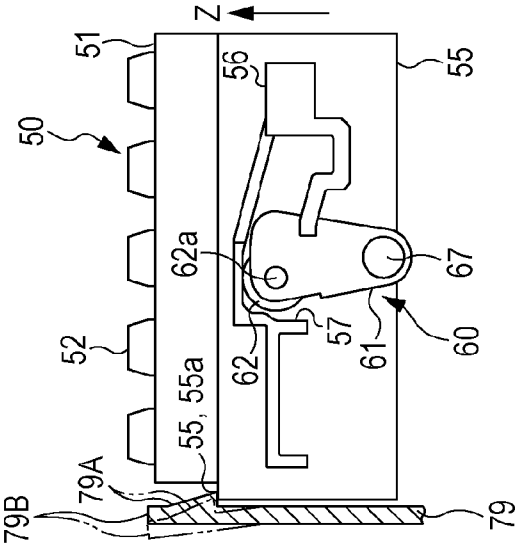
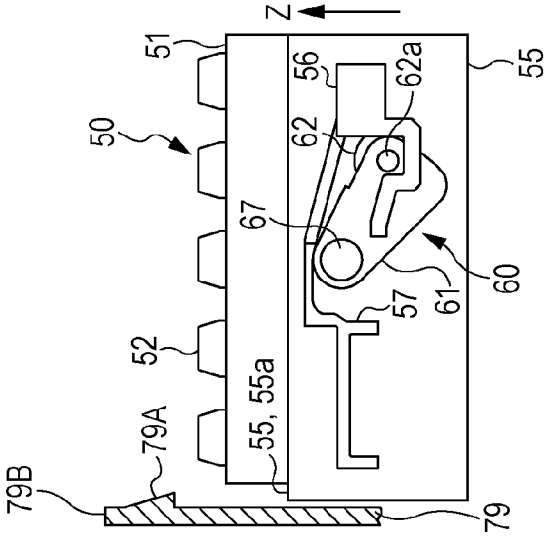


FIG. 11A



MAINTENANCE UNIT AND LIQUID EJECTING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

The present invention relates to a maintenance unit that maintains a liquid ejecting head for ejecting liquid and a liquid ejecting apparatus including the maintenance unit.

2. Related Art

In general, a liquid ejecting apparatus including a liquid ejecting head for ejecting liquid onto an ejection target member to form an image and the like includes a maintenance unit for maintaining ejection performance to eject liquid from the liquid ejecting head properly (for example, see JP-A-2012-121296).

The maintenance unit includes a plurality of maintenance functions normally. That is to say, the liquid ejection performance of the liquid ejecting head is maintained by operating various functional components for maintaining the liquid ejecting head. For example, when liquid having increased viscosity or liquid in which foreign matters are mixed is present in nozzles, a suction cap is made to abut against the liquid ejecting head so as to cover the openings of the nozzles. Then, a suction pump is operated to suck the liquid having the increased viscosity from the nozzles. With this, the ejection performance is recovered such that the liquid can be ejected through the openings of the nozzles properly. Further, unnecessary liquid attached to the openings of the nozzles is wiped away with movement of a wiping member.

In the liquid ejecting apparatus, the liquid ejecting head is left in a state where the liquid is not ejected through the nozzles for a long period of time when a state where an image is not formed on the ejection target member lasts long. In the liquid ejecting head being left in such state, in order to suppress drying and increase in the viscosity of the liquid in the nozzles which are provided on the liquid ejecting head and through which the liquid is ejected, a leaving cap (cap member) for covering the nozzles so as to surround them is made to abut against the nozzle surface of the liquid ejecting head. Further, a space including the nozzles, which is covered by the abutting leaving cap, is made to communicate with the air through an air communication hole provided in the leaving cap so as to suppress evaporation of the liquid in the liquid ejecting head into the air (into the atmosphere) from the nozzles.

The suction cap and the wiping member are easy to be contaminated because they suck and wipe away a large amount of liquid. Accordingly, a configuration capable of exchanging the suction cap and the wiping member easily is employed in the maintenance unit. On the other hand, the frequency that ink attaches to the leaving cap covering the nozzles is low. Therefore, the configuration capable of exchanging the leaving cap easily is not employed in the maintenance unit in many cases. For example, in the case of detaching the leaving cap, another constituent component of the maintenance unit is required to be detached.

However, for example, if ink remains on the nozzle surface frequently, the frequency that the ink attaches to the leaving cap is increased when the leaving cap (cap member) abuts against the nozzle surface of the liquid ejecting head. When the attached ink reaches the air communication hole and is solidified, it is difficult for the leaving cap to cover the nozzles without breaking menisci formed in the nozzles, resulting in increase in the exchange frequency of the leaving cap. In this case, there arises a problem that the leaving cap (cap member) cannot be exchanged easily.

The above-mentioned circumstances are generally common to the maintenance units that have the cap member and maintain the liquid ejecting head having the nozzle surface in which the nozzles for ejecting liquid onto the ejection target member are formed.

SUMMARY

An advantage of some aspects of the invention is to provide a maintenance unit that enables a cap member to be exchanged easily and a liquid ejecting apparatus including the maintenance unit.

A maintenance unit according to an aspect of the invention is a unit which maintains a liquid ejecting head in which nozzles for ejecting liquid onto an ejection target member are formed, and includes a cap holder that has a cap member capable of abutting against the liquid ejecting head so as to surround the nozzles, a pair of guide pins that are inserted into the cap holder and guide the cap holder in a movable manner in an approaching/separating direction in which the cap member approaches and is separated from the liquid ejecting head, an engagement portion that is capable of being engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction, and a displacement operating portion that displaces the engagement portion between a restricting position at which the engagement portion restricts drawing of the cap holder out of the guide pins and an allowing position at which the engagement portion is not engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction and allows the cap holder to be drawn out of the guide pins.

With this configuration, the displacement operating portion displaces the engagement portion so as to draw the cap holder out of the maintenance unit. Accordingly, the cap holder (cap member) can be exchanged easily without detaching members from the maintenance unit.

In the maintenance unit according to the above-mentioned aspect of the invention, it is preferable that the maintenance unit include a head maintenance portion that maintains the liquid ejecting head by discharging the liquid from the nozzles, and the displacement operating portion be provided at a position separated from the head maintenance portion relative to the engagement portion.

With this configuration, the displacement operating portion is provided at the position separated from the head maintenance portion. Therefore, a possibility that the liquid discharged from the liquid ejecting head attaches to the displacement operating portion lowers. This suppresses a problem that a user's hand becomes dirty when the user operates the displacement operating portion.

In the maintenance unit according to the above-mentioned aspect of the invention, it is preferable that the cap holder be provided with guide holes into which the guide pins are inserted, and the guide holes be through-holes penetrating the cap holder.

With this configuration, the guide pins can be inserted into the guide holes of the cap holder easily while checking the positions of the guide pins through the through-holes. Accordingly, an exchange operation of the cap holder is performed easily.

In the maintenance unit according to the above-mentioned aspect of the invention, it is preferable that the engagement portion be provided at a position at which at least a part of the engagement portion overlaps with the pair of guide pins to be inserted into the cap holder in a direction in which the guide pins are aligned.

With this configuration, when the user tries to draw the cap holder out of the guide pins in a state where the engagement

portion is located at the restricting position, the pair of guide pins and the engagement portion are aligned substantially in line. Therefore, a force of inclining the cap holder with respect to the guide pins is difficult to be applied. This suppresses deformation of the cap holder, for example.

A liquid ejecting apparatus according to another aspect of the invention includes a liquid ejecting head that ejects liquid onto an ejection target member and the maintenance unit having the above-mentioned configuration.

With this configuration, the liquid ejecting apparatus that enables the cap holder (cap member) to be exchanged easily is provided.

In the liquid ejecting apparatus according to the above-mentioned aspect of the invention, it is preferable that the liquid ejecting apparatus further include a discharge portion that discharges the ejection target member onto which the liquid has been ejected, and the displacement operating portion be located at a downstream side in a discharge direction in which the ejection target member is discharged in the maintenance unit.

With this configuration, the displacement operating portion can be operated from the side in the discharge direction in which the ejection target member onto which the liquid ejecting head has ejected the liquid is discharged. Accordingly, the displacement operating portion is operated from the front side of the liquid ejecting apparatus, which normally corresponds to the discharge direction of the ejection target member, thereby making it possible to perform an exchange operation easily when the cap holder (cap member) is exchanged.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein like numbers reference like elements.

FIG. **1** is a perspective view illustrating the schematic configuration of a printer according to an embodiment.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view illustrating the configuration of an inner portion of a housing in a state where a carriage is moved from a maintenance unit in the printer in a see-through manner.

FIG. **3** is a perspective view illustrating the schematic configuration of the maintenance unit.

FIG. **4** is a plan view illustrating the maintenance unit when seen from the above in the vertical direction.

FIG. **5** is a perspective view illustrating positional relation between a leaving cap and an engagement portion.

FIG. **6** is a perspective view illustrating the leaving cap when seen from the obliquely lower side.

FIG. **7** is a perspective view illustrating the leaving cap and a cam mechanism that moves up and down the leaving cap in a cut state when seen from the obliquely lower side.

FIGS. **8**A to **8**E are operation views illustrating the leaving cap that is moved up and down by the cam mechanism.

FIG. **9** is a plan view illustrating a variation on an engagement portion that is engaged with a leaving cap.

FIG. **10** is a plan view illustrating another configuration of an engagement portion which is engaged with the leaving cap.

FIGS. **11**A to **11**C are plan views schematically illustrating an engagement portion having another configuration which is engaged with the leaving cap, and operation thereof.

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT

Hereinafter, an embodiment of a liquid ejecting apparatus will be described with reference to the drawings.

As illustrated in FIG. **1**, a printer **11** serving as an example of a liquid ejecting apparatus in the embodiment includes a first housing portion **12** and a second housing portion **13**. The first housing portion **12** has a substantially rectangular box shape elongated in a lengthwise direction. The second housing portion **13** is provided in parallel with the first housing portion **12**, on a side in one direction intersecting with the lengthwise direction of the first housing portion **12**. In the embodiment, in the printer **11**, the side at which the first housing portion **12** is provided with respect to the second housing portion **13** is referred to as a front side and the side at which the second housing portion **13** is provided with respect to the first housing portion **12** is referred to as a rear side. For ease in explanation, the direction extending toward the first housing portion from the second housing portion **13**, which intersects with (in the embodiment, is orthogonal to) the vertical direction, is referred to as a Y direction in the respective drawings to be referred to. Further, the direction along the lengthwise direction of the first housing portion **12** is referred to as an X direction and the antigravity direction in the vertical direction is referred to as a Z direction.

A medium transportation portion **15** is fixed to the first housing portion **12** in a state of projecting to the front side from the first housing portion **12**. The medium transportation portion **15** supports a medium supporting tray **14** so as to transport it along the Y direction. An opening **16** is formed in the front surface of the first housing portion **12**. The opening **16** allows front-rear movement of the medium supporting tray **14** along the Y direction. A space (not illustrated) for allowing the movement of the medium supporting tray **14** is formed in the first housing portion **12** and the second housing portion **13** across the first housing portion **12** and the second housing portion **13**. In the following description, the space formed across the first housing portion **12** and the second housing portion **13** and the opening formed in the front surface of the first housing portion **12** are collectively referred to as the opening **16**.

Open/close covers **17** are attached to the front surface of the first housing portion **12** at both sides of the opening **16** in the X direction in a rotationally movable manner. The open/close covers **17** are moved rotationally about rotational shafts (not illustrated) provided at the side of the lower ends thereof such that the upper ends thereof are moved in a swing manner. With the rotational movement, the open/close covers **17** are arranged at close positions as illustrated in FIG. **1** and open positions. The upper end portions of the open/close covers **17** are moved to the front lower side in the swing manner, so that the open/close covers **17** are arranged at the open positions to expose the inner portions.

Further, an input panel **18** for inputting commands relating to the operations of the printer **11** is attached to the upper side of the opening **16**. An upper cover **19** is provided at the rear side of the input panel **18** in a rotationally movable manner. The upper cover **19** is moved rotationally about a rotational shaft (not illustrated) provided at the side of the base end of the housing portion. With the rotational movement, the upper cover **19** is arranged at an open position as illustrated in FIG. **1** and a close position. The front end of the upper cover **19** is moved to the front lower side from the open position in the swing manner, so that the upper cover **19** is arranged at the close position to cover accommodated members in the housing portion **12**.

A guide shaft **21** extending along the lengthwise direction (X direction) of the first housing portion **12** is provided in the first housing portion **12**. A carriage **22** is supported on the guide shaft **21** so as to reciprocate along the X direction. Further, a pair of pulleys **25** (in FIG. **1**, only one of them is

illustrated) are supported in the first housing portion **12** in a rotatable manner. A timing belt **23** a part of which is fixed to the carriage **22** is wound around the pair of pulleys **25**.

A liquid ejecting head **28** is mounted on the lower surface of the carriage **22**, which is a surface at the gravity direction side. The liquid ejecting head **28** has a nozzle surface in which a plurality of nozzles capable of ejecting ink are formed. If one of the pulleys **25** rotates by driving of a motor and the timing belt **23** revolves around the pulleys **25**, the liquid ejecting head **28** reciprocates along the X direction together with the carriage **22**.

As illustrated in FIG. **2**, cartridge holders **32** and **33** are provided in the first housing portion **12** at both sides of the opening **16** in the lengthwise direction (X direction). Ink cartridges **31** accommodating ink serving as an example of liquid are attached to the cartridge holders **32** and **33** in a detachable manner. Therefore, when the open/close covers **17** are arranged at the open positions, the cartridge holders **32** and **33** or the ink cartridges **31** attached to the cartridge holders **32** and **33** are exposed. It should be noted that at least one (in the embodiment, three) ink cartridge **31** can be attached to each of the cartridge holders **32** and **33**.

The printer **11** includes an ink supply portion. The ink supply portion supplies the ink accommodated in the ink cartridges **31** attached to the cartridge holders **32** and **33** to the liquid ejecting head **28** side. To be specific, the ink supply portion is configured by a junction path portion **35**, bifurcating tubes **36**, and junction tubes **37**. The junction path portion **35** is located above the opening **16**. The bifurcating tubes **36** and the junction tubes **37** are connected through the junction path portion **35**.

One end of each of the bifurcating tubes **36** is connected to any one of the cartridge holders **32** and **33** and the other end thereof is connected to the junction path portion **35**. Further, the plurality of junction tubes **37** are provided in a band form and one end of each junction tube **37** is connected to the junction path portion **35** and the other end thereof is connected to the liquid ejecting head **28**. Accordingly, ink accommodated in the ink cartridges **31** attached to the holders **32** and **33** is supplied to the liquid ejecting head **28** as an ink consumption portion through the bifurcating tubes **36**, the junction path portion **35**, and the junction tubes **37**.

The medium supporting tray **14** reciprocates to the front and rear sides along the Y direction between a medium set position and a print start position by driving of a transportation motor (not illustrated). The medium set position is a position at which the medium supporting tray **14** is exposed from the first housing portion **12** to the front side thereof and an ejection target member **20** can be set on the medium supporting tray **14**. Further, the medium set position is also a position at which the ejection target member **20** onto which ink has been ejected is discharged. Accordingly, in this case, the medium transportation portion **15** functions as a discharge portion.

A flushing box **34** serving as an example of a liquid receiver capable of receiving the ink ejected from the liquid ejecting head **28** is provided in the first housing portion **12**. To be specific, the flushing box **34** is provided in a movement region in which the liquid ejecting head **28** can be moved. A maintenance unit **100** is provided in the movement region of the liquid ejecting head **28** at a position (home position) at the side opposite to the side at which the flushing box **34** is provided with the opening **16** interposed therebetween. The maintenance unit **100** performs maintenance processing on the liquid ejecting head **28** to maintain ink ejection performance through the nozzles.

That is to say, the maintenance unit **100** includes a leaving cap **50** and a suction cap **41**. The leaving cap **50** is used for suppressing evaporation of the ink in the respective nozzles of the liquid ejecting head **28** when printing is stopped or the printer **11** is not used, and so on. The suction cap **41** sucks the ink from the nozzles to perform cleaning. Further, the maintenance unit **100** includes a wiper **42**. The wiper **42** abuts against the nozzle surface while being deformed elastically so as to wipe the nozzle surface. In the embodiment, an absorbing member **38** is provided so as to be adjacent to the maintenance unit **100** at the side at which the flushing box **34** is provided. The absorbing member **38** abuts against the nozzle surface so as to absorb the ink attached to the nozzle surface. It should be noted that the absorbing member **38** may be provided as a part of the maintenance unit **100**.

In the embodiment, the suction cap **41** and the wiper **42** are provided in the maintenance unit **100** in a detachable manner so as to be exchanged. As will be described later, the leaving cap **50** is also provided so as to be exchanged. Therefore, the leaving cap **50**, the suction cap **41**, and the wiper **42** in the maintenance unit **100** are arranged such that a user can access them through an opening formed by displacing the upper cover **19** to the open position as illustrated in FIG. **1**. This enables the user to exchange the leaving cap **50**, the suction cap **41**, and the wiper **42** from the front side of the printer **11** easily. In the embodiment, the absorbing member **38** and the flushing box **34** can be also exchanged easily from the front side through the opening in the same manner.

Further, the maintenance unit **100** includes movement mechanisms that individually make the leaving cap **50** and the suction cap **41** reciprocate between abutment positions at which they can abut against the liquid ejecting head **28** and separate positions at which they are separated from the liquid ejecting head **28**. In addition, the maintenance unit **100** also includes a movement mechanism that moves the wiper **42** in the front-rear direction with respect to the nozzle surface of the liquid ejecting head **28**. These movement mechanisms are controlled by a controller (not illustrated) that controls operations of the printer **11**, and operate in accordance with commands input to the input panel **18**, for example.

That is to say, the controller controls the maintenance unit **100** to perform a cleaning processing operation on the liquid ejecting head **28**. The cleaning processing operation is an operation for removing the ink attached to the nozzle surface of the liquid ejecting head **28** by wiping with the wiper **42** and sucking and discharging the ink having the increased viscosity, which remains in the nozzles, with the suction cap **41**. Accordingly, each of the wiper **42** and the suction cap **41** functions as a head maintenance portion.

Moreover, in the printer **11**, the controller controls to remove the ink attached to the nozzle surface of the liquid ejecting head **28** by contact with the absorbing member **38** and eject the ink having the increased viscosity into the flushing box **34** to discharge the ink from the nozzles. Further, the printer **11** performs printing on the ejection target member **20** that is transported in the front-rear direction along the Y direction with the transportation of the medium supporting tray **14** in the following manner. That is, the carriage **22** (liquid ejecting head **28**) is moved in the X direction and the ink is ejected through the nozzles at a timing based on image data to be printed so as to make the ink land on the ejection target member **20**. Then, the medium supporting tray **14** is returned to the medium set position, so that the ejection target member **20** on which printing has been performed is moved to the front side (Y direction side) of the printer **11** as the discharge direction side of the target member. For convenience of explanation, the X direction as the movement direc-

tion of the carriage **22** is distinguished so that the rightward direction is referred to as an Xa direction and the leftward direction is referred to as an Xb direction when seen from the Y direction side as the discharge direction side of the ejection target member **20**.

Next, the configuration of the maintenance unit **100** will be described in detail with reference to FIG. **3** and FIG. **4**.

As illustrated in FIG. **3** and FIG. **4**, the maintenance unit **100** includes the leaving cap **50**. The leaving cap **50** forms a closed space by abutting against the liquid ejecting head **28** which is left in a state where it does not eject ink onto the ejection target member **20** so as to surround the nozzles. That is to say, the leaving cap **50** forms the closed space between the leaving cap **50** and the nozzle surface of the liquid ejecting head **28** in which the nozzles are formed when the printer **11** is powered OFF and so on, thereby suppressing drying of the ink in the openings of the nozzles. Further, the leaving cap **50** is moved in the up-down direction by being guided by guide pins **45** so as to approach or be separated from the liquid ejecting head **28**, so that the liquid ejecting head **28** is capped with a cap member **51**. The guide pins **45** are fixed to a frame structure **90**. In the embodiment, the cap member **51** covers five nozzle rows (row groups) provided on the liquid ejecting head **28** so as to shield the nozzle openings in the respective nozzle rows (row groups) from the air.

The maintenance unit **100** includes the suction cap **41** and a suction pump (not illustrated) for sucking, for example, the ink having the increased viscosity from the nozzle openings so as to recover the ink ejection performance. The suction cap **41** is moved in the up-down direction so as to approach or be separated from the liquid ejecting head **28**, thereby capping the liquid ejecting head **28**. The suction cap **41** forms a closed space by abutting against one nozzle row (row group) among the five nozzle rows (row groups) provided on the liquid ejecting head **28** so as to surround it. The closed space is formed for shielding the nozzle openings of the nozzle row (row group) from the air. In the state where the closed space is formed in this manner, the suction pump decompresses the closed space covered by the suction cap **41** so as to suck the ink from the nozzle openings and discharges the sucked ink to a waste ink tank (not illustrated) through discharge tubes **81**. The waste ink tank is provided in the first housing portion **12** of the printer **11**, for example.

Further, in addition to discharging ink to the flushing box **34**, the maintenance unit **100** makes it possible to execute an operation of ejecting ink forcibly, that is, a flushing operation in order to discharge air bubbles mixed in the ink and the ink having the increased viscosity from the nozzles. That is to say, as illustrated in FIG. **3**, the maintenance unit **100** can be provided with an ink receiver **44** as a functional component for receiving the ink ejected by the flushing operation. Accordingly, the maintenance unit **100** includes a receiver cover **44***a* that covers the ink receiving surface of the ink receiver **44** to prevent drying of the ink in the ink receiver **44**. The receiver cover **44***a* can be moved in the front-rear direction for closing and opening an upper portion of the ink receiver **44** at the time of the printer **11** being not used such as when the printer **11** does not eject the ink onto the ejection target member **20** to form an image, and so on. Needless to say, the ink receiver **44** is configured so as to be detachable from the maintenance unit **100**, and FIG. **2** and FIG. **4** illustrate a state where the ink receiver **44** has been detached from the maintenance unit **100**.

The maintenance unit **100** includes the wiper **42** that wipes away unnecessary ink attached to the nozzle surface of the liquid ejecting head **28**. The wiper **42** is configured to reciprocate in the front-rear direction. The wiper **42** is moved from the rear side to the front side along the alignment direction of the nozzle row with respect to the liquid ejecting head **28** so as to catch and wipe away the unnecessary ink from the nozzle surface.

The maintenance unit **100** further includes an ink absorber **43** that is arranged at an end portion in the movement direction of the wiper **42** moving to the front side. The ink absorber **43** can absorb the ink caught by the wiper **42**. That is to say, the wiper **42** is made to abut against at least a part of the ink absorber **43**, so that the ink caught by the wiper **42** is passed to and absorbed by the ink absorber **43**.

In the embodiment, the ink absorber **43** is attached to a unit frame body **70** arranged in the maintenance unit **100** at the front (Y direction) end portion. In the embodiment, there arises no problem even if the maintenance unit **100** is not necessarily provided with the wiper **42**. In this case, the ink absorber **43** is not required to be provided on the unit frame body **70**.

The unit frame body **70** includes a frame body portion **71** having a substantially rectangular shape. The lengthwise direction of the frame body portion **71** is set along the X direction when seen from the above. An upper wall portion **71***a* projecting upward and a lower wall portion **71***b* projecting downward are provided at the front end of the frame body portion **71** at the Y direction side. On the other hand, an extending portion **72** is provided at the rear end of the frame body portion **71**. The extending portion **72** is configured such that members thereof extend so as to protrude to the rear side in a predetermined shape.

The extending portion **72** is a plate-formed section having a substantially uniform predetermined width in the vertical direction (Z direction) and includes a bent plate section **72***a* and a flat plate section **72***b*. The bent plate section **72***a* extends from the frame body portion **71** and has a substantially circular semi-cylindrical shape when seen from the above. The flat plate section **72***b* extends from the bent plate section **72***a* following the Xa direction in the lengthwise direction (X direction) substantially linearly when seen from the above. The flat plate section **72***b* has a predetermined length. That is to say, the extending portion **72** has a substantially J shape formed by the bent plate section **72***a* and the flat plate section **72***b* when seen from the lower side (Z direction side). Further, the extending portion **72** is formed on the frame body portion **71** in a cantilever state while the flat plate section **72***b* is a free end. The extending portion **72** is formed so as to extend in the direction intersecting with the vertical direction.

Two projection ribs **73** of which lengthwise direction extends along the vertical direction are formed on halfway of the flat plate section **72***b* so as to project from both the rear surface and the lower surface of the flat plate section **72***b*. A step part **74** is formed at a tip end portion of the flat plate section **72***b*. The step part **74** has a step surface whose plate surface (rear surface) is shifted to the rear side. Inclined surfaces **73***a* and an inclined surface **74***a* sloped downward to the rear side are formed on the upper ends of the two projection ribs **73** and the step part **74**, respectively. In the embodiment, at least the extending portion **72** is made of a material (for example, resin material) that can be deformed elastically.

The maintenance unit **100** includes the frame structure **90** which is constituted by a plurality of frame members **91** made of a resin and a plurality of frame plates **92** made of a metal, and in which constituent components such as the above-mentioned leaving cap **50** are arranged. The unit frame body **70** is fixed to the frame structure **90** (frame member **91**) by screwing both end portions thereof in the lengthwise direction. When the unit frame body **70** is fixed, a user holds the upper wall portion **71***a* of the frame body portion **71**, causes

the lower wall portion **71***b* to be in contact with the frame member **91**, and so on, in order to perform a fixing operation of the unit frame body **70** easily.

In a state where the unit frame body **70** has been fixed in this manner, as illustrated in FIG. **4**, the extending portion **72** of the unit frame body **70** is in a state where at least parts of the two projection ribs **73** formed on the flat plate section **72***b* overlap with the leaving cap **50** in the approaching/separating direction (in this example, vertical direction), that is, an engaged state. Accordingly, the two projection ribs **73** function as an engagement portion.

As illustrated in FIG. **4**, the two projection ribs **73**, as the engagement portion, of the extending portion **72** are provided at positions at which at least parts thereof overlap with the pair of guide pins **45** in the alignment direction (Y direction) of the guide pins **45**. Therefore, in order to detach the leaving cap **50** from the maintenance unit **100**, as indicated by a two-dot chain line in FIG. **4**, the flat plate section **72***b* is displaced by moving the step part **74** to the front side (Y direction side) so as to make a state where the two projection ribs **73** are not engaged with the leaving cap **50** when seen from the approaching/separating direction. That is to say, the step part **74** functions as a displacement operating portion. When the user displaces the step part **74**, the two projection ribs **73** as the engagement portion are displaced so as to be disengaged from the leaving cap **50** when seen from the approaching/separating direction. In the disengaged state, the leaving cap **50** is in a state capable of being drawn to the upper side along the approaching/separating direction out of the maintenance unit **100**.

In other words, the extending portion **72** includes the projection ribs **73** and the step part **74** so as to function as a drawing restricting member that restricts the drawing of the leaving cap **50**. In the embodiment, on the extending portion **72**, the step part **74** is provided at a position separated from the wiper **42** and the suction cap **41** functioning as the head maintenance portions relative to the projection ribs **73** as the engagement portion.

As illustrated in FIG. **3**, the maintenance unit **100** in the embodiment is configured such that the plurality of constituent components as described above in the maintenance unit **100** operate by rotation driving of a motor **85** as a driving source. The motor **85** rotates in accordance with an electric signal supplied through input wiring **82**. Then, a cam mechanism **60** (see FIG. **6**) operates by the rotation driving of the motor **85** controlled by the controller. With this, the leaving cap **50** is moved upward by being guided by the pair of guide pins **45** along the approaching/separating direction so as to be detached from the maintenance unit **100**. A hand-turned wheel **88** for operating the constituent components, which is used when the motor **85** is not driven rotationally, is provided.

Next, the configuration of the leaving cap **50** will be described with reference to FIG. **5** to FIG. **7**. In FIG. **5**, the unit frame body **70** is illustrated for showing positional relation with the leaving cap **50** in the maintenance unit **100** for the convenience of explanation.

As illustrated in FIG. **5** and FIG. **6**, the leaving cap **50** includes the cap member **51** and a cap holder **55**. The cap member **51** is provided with five abutment portions **52** abutting against the nozzle rows (nozzle groups) of the liquid ejecting head **28**. The cap holder **55** includes the cap member **51** in a state of holding the cap member **51** through a biasing member. The cap holder **55** includes two guide holes **55**H with the cap member **51** interposed therebetween in the front-rear direction (Y direction). The guide pins **45** are inserted into the respective guide holes **55**H. In the embodiment, the guide pins **45** (guide holes **55**H) are aligned in parallel so as to overlap with each other in the Y direction. The cap holder **55** is moved in the up-down direction by the cam mechanism **60** while the guide holes **55**H are guided by the pair of guide pins **45**. In the embodiment, the two guide holes **55**H are formed as through-holes penetrating the cap holder **55** in the approaching/separating direction (vertical direction) thereof.

The cam mechanism **60** includes a cam frame **61** having an elongated substantially triangular shape when seen from the side. A base end portion of the cam frame **61** is fixed to an intermediate portion of a rotating shaft **67** that rotates by the rotation driving of the motor **85**. Further, a shaft portion **62***a* of a cam roller **62** is axially supported on a tip end portion of the cam frame **61** in a rotationally movable manner. The shaft portion **62***a* of the cam roller **62** is configured so as to penetrate the cam frame **61** in the front-rear direction and project from both the front and rear side surfaces of the cam frame **61** in the front-rear direction. Accordingly, when the cam frame **61** rotates about the rotating shaft **67** with the rotation of the rotating shaft **67**, the cam roller **62** that is axially supported on the tip end portion of the cam frame **61** revolves about the rotating shaft **67**. In the embodiment, the cam frame **61** and the cam roller **62** having the shaft portion **62***a* supported on the cam frame **61** in the cam mechanism **60** function as an elevating member that moves up and down the leaving cap **50** (cap holder **55**) with the rotation.

Further, a recess **57** is formed in the cap holder **55** of the leaving cap **50** at a substantially center portion of the bottom surface thereof so as to open to the lower side. The cam mechanism **60** for the leaving cap **50** is inserted into the recess **57** from the lower side. Accordingly, the guide holes **55**H are provided in the cap holder **55** at positions that do not overlap with the cam mechanism **60** and the rotating shaft **67**. The guide pins **45** are inserted into the guide holes **55**H in a loosely fitted state, so that the cap holder **55** is guided while suppressing inclination thereof in the up-down direction. As indicated by a dashed line arrow in FIG. **5**, the cap holder **55** can be smoothly moved in a sliding manner (moved up and down) until a front upper surface portion **55***a* of the cap holder **55** abuts against the projection ribs **73** of the unit frame body **70**.

Further, the cap member **51** of the leaving cap **50** is attached to an upper portion of the cap holder **55** through coil springs **58** as the biasing member. The coil springs **58** allow the cap member **51** to be moved downward so as to be closer to the cap holder **55** relatively after abutting against the nozzle surface of the liquid ejecting head **28**. Thus, the leaving cap **50** is configured such that the cap holder **55** and the cap member **51** biased by the coil springs **58** can be moved up and down integrally as indicated by two-dot chain lines in FIG. **5**.

To be more specific, as illustrated in FIG. **7**, a flat surface part **57***a* and an inclined surface part **57***b* are formed on the bottom surface of the recess **57** of the cap holder **55**. The flat surface part **57***a* is located at the right side (Xa direction side). The inclined surface part **57***b* forms a slope descending to the left side (Xb direction side) from the flat surface part **57***a*. A pair of wall portions **56** are provided on a portion of the bottom surface of the cap holder **55** at the left side (Xb direction side) so as to be along the vertical direction. These wall portions **56** include recessed surface portions **56***a* and inclined surface portions **56***b*. The recessed surface portions **56***a* have a shape recessed downward in the vicinity of the left inner side surface of the recess **57**. The inclined surface portions **56***b* each extend to the diagonally upper right side from the recessed surface portions **56***a* in a slanted manner. The tip ends (right ends in FIG. **7**) of the inclined surface portions **56***b* of the wall portions **56** are located at the left side relative to the flat surface part **57***a* located at the right side in the recess **57**.

Further, these wall portions **56** are arranged so as to be separated from each other in the front-rear direction by a distance that is substantially the same as the dimension of the cam frame **61** in the front-rear direction.

The shaft portion **62***a* of the cam roller **62** is arranged in the recessed surface portions **56***a* of the wall portions **56** in a state where the cap holder **55** is attached to the cam mechanism **60**, as illustrated in FIG. **7**. Therefore, even when the cap holder **55** is tried to be lifted or moved to the right and left sides in this state, the detachment operation of the cap holder **55** from the cam mechanism **60** is restricted because the shaft portion **62***a* of the cam roller **62** locks the recessed surface portions **56***a* of the wall portions **56** in the upper direction and the right-left direction. In other words, the leaving cap **50** cannot be detached from the maintenance unit **100** in this state.

On the other hand, in the cap holder **55**, the flat surface part **57***a* as a part of the bottom surface of the recess **57** facing downward is a non-overlapping region. To be specific, the flat surface part **57***a* as the non-overlapping region does not overlap with the surface formed by the recessed surface portion **56***a* and the inclined surface portion **56***b* of the wall portion **56** facing upward and opposing the recess **57** in the right-left direction orthogonal to both the elevating direction of the leaving cap **50** and the axial direction of the rotating shaft **67**. Accordingly, in the state where the cam roller **62** axially supported on the tip end portion of the cam frame **61** of the cam mechanism **60** makes the circumferential surface thereof in contact with the flat surface part **57***a* as the part of the bottom surface of the recess **57** in the cap holder **55**, the cam roller **62** supports the cap holder **55** from the lower side. In this state, the cam roller **62** can pass through the non-overlapping region. In other words, the cap holder **55** (leaving cap **50**) can be detached from the maintenance unit **100** in this state.

Next, an action in the embodiment, that is, the drawing operation of the leaving cap **50** out of the maintenance unit **100** will be described with reference to FIGS. **8**A to **8**E. For example, when a user inputs a command to exchange the leaving cap **50** through the input panel **18**, this operation is executed. In FIGS. **8**A to **8**E, the leaving cap **50**, the cam mechanism **60**, and the unit frame body **70** are illustrated schematically for making the explanation easy to understand.

First, as illustrated in FIG. **8**A, in the state where the leaving cap **50** is attached to the maintenance unit **100**, that is, in the state where the cap holder **55** is attached to the cam mechanism **60**, the shaft portion **62***a* of the cam roller **62** is arranged in the recessed surface portions **56***a* of the wall portions **56**. The cap holder **55** is coupled to the cam mechanism **60** in a state where rattling of the cap holder **55** in the up-down direction and the right-left direction is suppressed. To be more specific, the cap holder **55** is coupled to the cam mechanism **60** in a state where the flat surface part **57***a* of the recess **57** is supported by the base end portion of the cam frame **61** from the lower side while the recessed surface portions **56***a* of the wall portions **56** are locked by the shaft portion **62***a* of the cam roller **62** from the upper side. In this state, the projection ribs **73** of the unit frame body **70** are located at positions separated to the upper side from the front upper surface portion **55***a* of the cap holder **55**.

Next, as illustrated in FIG. **8**B, when the drawing operation is started, the rotating shaft **67** starts rotating in the counterclockwise direction from the state as illustrated in FIG. **8**A and the shaft portion **62***a* of the cam roller **62** revolves about the rotating shaft **67** so as to be separated upward from the inner side surfaces of the recessed surface portions **56***a* of the wall portions **56** in the cap holder **55**. Then, the cap holder **55** having the flat surface part **57***a* of the recess **57**, which is supported by the circumferential surface of the base end portion of the cam frame **61**, is made in a state where the flat surface part **57***a* of the recess **57** is supported from the lower side by the base end portion of the cam frame **61** while the cam roller **62** makes contact with the inclined surface part **57***b* of the recess **57** from the lower side. That is to say, the bottom surface of the recess **57** of the cap holder **55** is supported at two positions, that is, by the cam roller **62** and the cam frame **61** from the lower side. At this time, the projection ribs **73** of the unit frame body **70** are still separated from the cap holder **55**.

Thereafter, as illustrated in FIG. **8**C, when the rotating shaft **67** further rotates in the counterclockwise direction from the state as illustrated in FIG. **8**B, the cam roller **62** moves along the inclined surface part **57***b* of the recess **57** in a rolling manner. Then, the cap holder **55** slides by being guided by the guide pins **45**, and a portion of the cam roller **62** which supports the inclined surface part **57***b* of the recess **57** rises higher in the approaching direction (Z direction) of the approaching/separating direction. In this state, the shaft portion **62***a* of the cam roller **62** is located at a position opposing the inclined surface portions **56***b* of the wall portions **56** of the cap holder **55** in the up-down direction. Accordingly, even when the cap holder **55** is lifted in this state, the detachment of the cap holder **55** from the cam mechanism **60** is restricted because the shaft portion **62***a* of the cam roller **62** locks the inclined surface portions **56***b* of the wall portions **56** from the upper direction. The projection ribs **73** of the unit frame body **70** are made in a state of abutting against the lifted cap holder **55** as illustrated in FIG. **8**C or a state of being closer to the lifted cap holder **55** with a slight space therebetween in this state.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIG. **8**D, when the rotating shaft **67** further rotates in the counterclockwise direction from the state as illustrated in FIG. **8**C, the cam roller **62** moves along the recess **57** in the rolling manner so as to move to the flat surface part **57***a* from the inclined surface part **57***b*. With the movement, the circumferential surface of the cam roller **62** makes contact with the flat surface part **57***a* of the recess **57** of the cap holder **55** to support the cap holder **55** from the lower side. That is to say, the shaft portion **62***a* of the cam roller **62** is located in the non-overlapping region in the recess **57** of the cap holder **55**, which does not overlap with the wall portions **56** in the right-left direction. Accordingly, the cam mechanism **60** is in a state capable of moving out of the inner side of the recess **57** through a lower space area of the flat surface part **57***a*. Also in this state, the projection ribs **73** of the unit frame body **70** are in the state of abutting against the cap holder **55** or the state of being closer to the cap holder **55** with the slight space therebetween. That is to say, the projection ribs **73** in the state of being engaged with the cap holder **55** in the approaching/separating direction are located at the restricting position to restrict the drawing of the cap holder **55** out of the guide pins **45**.

Then, as illustrated in FIG. **8**E, the user displaces the extending portion **72** of the unit frame body **70** by pulling the step part **74** to the front side so as to move the projection ribs **73** to positions at which they are not engaged with the cap holder **55** in the approaching/separating direction (Z direction) of the leaving cap **50**. That is to say, the user moves the projection ribs **73** to the allowing position at which the ribs are not engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction and allow the cap holder **55** to be drawn out of the guide pins **45**. This movement operation by the user enables the cap holder **55** to be drawn out of the cam mechanism **60**, that is, drawn out of the maintenance unit **100** and exchanged.

Meanwhile, in the state as illustrated in FIG. **8**D, when the user tries to detach the leaving cap **50** from the maintenance unit **100**, a drawing force acts on the projection ribs **73** of the extending portion **72** from the lower side. Therefore, in the embodiment, the shape of the extending portion **72** is set such that the extending portion **72** has strength so as not to be plastic-deformed against the drawing force to an extent that the user can determine to be incapable of drawing the leaving cap **50** with the currently applying drawing force. In addition, the plate thickness, the plate width, and the like of the extending portion **72** are set such that the extending portion **72** can be elastically deformed and moved to the front side to the position at which the projection ribs **73** are not engaged with the cap holder **55** in the approaching/separating direction (Z direction) of the leaving cap **50** by pulling the step part **74** to the front side.

Although detail description is omitted here, the operation of attaching the replacement leaving cap **50** to the maintenance unit **100** is an operation performed in the reversed order of the detachment operation. That is to say, the operation is performed in the order from the state as illustrated in FIG. **8**E to the state as illustrated in FIG. **8**A. In the operation of attaching the leaving cap **50**, position adjustment between the guide holes **55**H of the cap holder **55** and the guide pins **45** to be inserted into the guide holes **55**H is performed by visually checking the guide pins **45** through the guide holes **55**H as the through-holes. Further, when the guide pins **45** are inserted into the guide holes **55**H, as illustrated in FIG. **8**E, the cap holder **55** abuts against the inclined surfaces **73***a* of the projection ribs **73** (and the inclined surface **74***a* of the step part **74**) from the upper side so as to displace the projection ribs **73** to the front side (Y direction) with the downward movement of the cap holder **55**. With the displacement, the projection ribs **73** are moved to the allowing position at which the ribs are not engaged with the cap holder **55** in the approaching/separating direction of the leaving cap **50**. Further, as illustrated in FIG. **8**B or FIG. **8**C, in the state where the guide pins **45** have been inserted into the guide holes **55**H of the cap holder **55**, the abutment of the projection ribs **73** against the cap holder **55** is cancelled, so that the projection ribs **73** are returned to the restricting position at which they are engaged with the cap holder **55** in the approaching/separating direction of the leaving cap **50**, with the elastic force of the extending portion **72**.

With the above-mentioned embodiment, the following effects can be obtained.

1. The projection ribs **73** as the engagement portion are displaced with the step part **74** as the displacement operating portion, so that the cap holder **55** can be drawn out of the maintenance unit **100**. Accordingly, the cap holder **55** (cap member **51**) can be exchanged easily without detaching any members from the maintenance unit **100**, for example.

2. The step part **74** as the displacement operating portion is located at the position separated from the suction cap **41** and the wiper **42** as the head maintenance portions. Therefore, a possibility that the liquid discharged from the liquid ejecting head **28** attaches to the step part **74** is lowered. This suppresses a problem that a user's hand becomes dirty when the user operates the step part **74**.

3. The guide pins **45** can be inserted into the guide holes **55**H of the cap holder **55** easily while checking the positions of the guide pins **45** through the guide holes **55**H as the through-holes. Accordingly, the leaving cap **50** (the cap holder **55**, the cap member **51**, and the like) can be exchanged easily.

4. In the case where the cap holder **55** is intended to be drawn out of the guide pins **45** in a state where the projection ribs **73** as the engagement portion are located at the restricting position, since the pair of guide pins **45** and the projection ribs **73** are aligned substantially in line, a force of inclining the cap holder **55** with respect to the guide pins **45** is difficult to be applied. This suppresses deformation of the cap holder **55**, for example.

5. The printer **11** that enables the leaving cap **50** (the cap holder **55**, the cap member **51**, and the like) to be exchanged easily can be provided.

6. The step part **74** as the displacement operating portion can be operated from the discharge direction side to which the ejection target member **20** onto which the liquid ejecting head **28** has ejected ink is discharged. Accordingly, the step part **74** is operated from the front side of the printer **11** as the discharge direction of the ejection target member **20** normally, so that the exchange operation in which the cap holder **55** (cap member **51**) is exchanged can be performed easily.

It should be noted that the above-mentioned embodiment may be modified as follows.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the member that can be displaced between the restricting position and the allowing position for drawing the leaving cap **50** is not necessarily limited to the unit frame body **70** arranged at the front (Y direction) end portion in the maintenance unit **100**.

For example, as illustrated in FIG. **9**, in the maintenance unit **100**, another unit frame body **70**A on which the extending portion **72** same as that in the above-mentioned embodiment is provided may be fixed on the rear side of the leaving cap **50** in addition to the unit frame body **70** in the above-mentioned embodiment. In this case, the projection ribs **73** provided on the extending portion **72** of another unit frame body **70**A are preferably arranged at positions at which at least one of the projection ribs **73** overlaps with the pair of guide pins **45** in the alignment direction of the guide pins **45**. FIG. **9** (and FIG. **10**) illustrate(s) a state where the wiper **42** is not provided in the maintenance unit **100**, that is, a state where the ink absorber **43** is not provided on the unit frame body **70**.

The step part **74** as the displacement operating portion in another unit frame body **70**A is located at a position closer to the suction cap **41** relative to the projection ribs **73**. Accordingly, in such a case, although not illustrated in the drawings, the position of the displacement operating portion (step part **74**) is preferably changed such that it is formed at a position farther from the suction cap **41** on the extending portion **72** of another unit frame body **70**A in the following manner. That is, the displacement operating portion (step part **74**) is provided at a position between the bent plate section **72***a* and the projection ribs **73** on the extending portion **72**. Further, only the extending portion **72** (projection ribs **73**) of another unit frame body **70**A in FIG. **9** may be provided in the maintenance unit **100** while the unit frame body **70** is detached. Alternatively, although not illustrated in the drawings, there arises no problem even if the unit frame body **70** (unit frame body **70**A) may be fixed on the right side (Xa direction side) of the leaving cap **50** in the maintenance unit **100**.

As illustrated in FIG. **10**, the engagement portion and the displacement operating portion may be provided with the configuration different from that of the unit frame body **70** in the above-mentioned embodiment. For example, in the unit frame body **70**, a rotating member **75** is axially supported on the frame body portion **71** in a rotatable manner about a rotating shaft **75***c* instead of the extending portion **72**. The rotating member **75** has a substantially L shape when seen from the above. One end side **75***a* of the L shape of the rotating member **75** is biased by a tension spring **76** so as to be made in a state of abutting against a contact pin **71***c* provided on the frame body portion **71**, and the engagement portion

and the displacement operating portion are provided on the other end side **75***b* of the L shape. That is to say, a protrusion part **73**A protruding to the rear side is formed as the engagement portion on halfway of the other end side and a tip end portion **74**A of the other end side **75***b* is formed as the displacement operating portion. Accordingly, the user moves the tip end portion **74**A to the front side (Y direction) as indicated by an outlined arrow in FIG. **10** so as to rotate the rotating member **75** and displace the protrusion part **73**A to the allowing position from the restricting position.

Alternatively, as illustrated in FIG. **10**, a movable body **77** is provided. The movable body **77** is attached to a base **95** fixed to the frame member **91** of the maintenance unit **100** in a state capable of reciprocating along the X direction. Further, the movable body **77** is biased to the left side (Xb direction) by a compression spring **78** all the time. A left end portion **77***a* of the movable body **77** is formed as the engagement portion and a projecting portion **77***b* formed so as to project to the front side at a right end portion of the movable body **77** is formed as the displacement operating portion. Accordingly, the user moves the projecting portion **77***b* to the right side (Xa direction) as indicated by an outlined arrow in FIG. **10** so as to move the movable body **77** and displace the left end portion **77***a* to the allowing position from the restricting position.

In addition, a variation on the drawing restricting member of the leaving cap **50** including the engagement portion and the displacement operating portion, which has a configuration different from that of the extending portion **72** of the unit frame body **70** in the above-mentioned embodiment, will be described with reference to FIGS. **11**A to **11**C. It should be noted that FIG. **11**A corresponds to FIG. **8**A, FIG. **11**B corresponds to FIG. **8**D, and FIG. **11**C corresponds to FIG. **8**E. Description of the movement operation of the leaving cap **50** in the approaching/separating direction is omitted here.

As illustrated in FIG. **11**A, a hook-shaped portion **79** including a projecting portion **79**A is provided. The hook-shaped portion **79** is erected so as to extend upward (Z direction) from a base end side thereof fixed to the unit frame body **70** or the frame structure **90** in the vertical direction. The projecting portion **79**A is provided at a tip end side of the hook-shaped portion **79** toward the leaving cap **50**. The projecting portion **79**A has a cross section of a triangular shape with its lower side being the base. Further, an extension part **79**B having a predetermined length is provided on the hook-shaped portion **79** at a higher tip end side than the projecting portion **79**A.

As illustrated in FIG. **11**B, the projecting portion **79**A of the hook-shaped portion **79** is engaged with the cap holder **55** in a state where the leaving cap **50** can be drawn in the approaching/separating direction. That is to say, the projecting portion **79**A of the hook-shaped portion **79** functions as the engagement portion. In this state, the user moves the extension part **79**B of the hook-shaped portion **79** away from the leaving cap **50** so as to displace the projecting portion **79**A as indicated by a two-dot chain line in FIG. **11**B. That is to say, the extension part **79**B of the hook-shaped portion **79** functions as the displacement operating portion.

As illustrated in FIG. **11**C, the user displaces the projecting portion **79**A so as to move the projecting portion **79**A to the allowing position at which it is not engaged with the cap holder **55** in the approaching/separating direction of the leaving cap **50**, and then, draws the leaving cap **50** out of the maintenance unit **100** to exchange it. When the replacement leaving cap **50** is attached to the maintenance unit **100** again, the projecting portion **79**A of the hook-shaped portion **79** is bent and displaced from a state as indicated by the a two-dot chain line in FIG. **11**C to a state as indicated by a solid line so as to allow the leaving cap **50** to be attached. In this respect, the hook-shaped portion **79** functions as what is called a snap-fit.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the engagement portion (two projection ribs **73**) and the displacement operating portion (step part **74**) may not be necessarily provided integrally and may be configured as separate members. That is to say, the drawing restricting member may not be formed by an integrated member. Although not illustrated in the drawings, for example, a configuration in which the separate members are configured to operate together with a linking mechanism, a cam mechanism, or the like so that the engagement portion is displaced in response to the movement of the displacement operating portion may be employed.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the displacement operating portion (step part **74**) may not be necessarily located at the downstream side in the discharge direction of the ejection target member **20** to be discharged in the maintenance unit **100**. For example, like the extending portion **72** of another unit frame body **70**A as illustrated in FIG. **9**, the displacement operating portion may be located at the upstream side in the discharge direction of the ejection target member **20** in the maintenance unit **100**.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the engagement portion may not be necessarily provided at a position overlapping with the pair of guide pins **45** that are inserted into the cap holder **55** in the alignment direction of the guide pins **45**. For example, like the left end portion **77***a* of the movable body **77** as illustrated in FIG. **10**, the engagement portion may be located at a position at which it is not aligned with the pair of guide pins **45**, at the right side away from the suction cap **41** in the maintenance unit **100**.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, not both the two guide holes **55**H provided in the cap holder **55** may be through-holes. For example, one of them (for example, front one) may be a through-hole. Alternatively, when the guide holes **55**H have such shapes that the guide pins **45** are inserted thereinto easily, there arises no problem even if none of them is a through-hole.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the displacement operating portion may not be necessarily provided at the position separated from the head maintenance portion relative to the engagement portion. For example, when the suction cap is farther from the leaving cap, or when the possibility that ink attaches to the displacement operating portion is low, the displacement operating portion may be provided at a position closer to the head maintenance portion relative to the engagement portion as another unit frame body **70**A as illustrated in FIG. **9**.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the leaving cap **50** may not be necessarily elevated in the approaching/separating direction. Further, a configuration in which the cap holder **55** can be drawn to the upper side all the time regardless of the rotational movement position of the cam roller **62** in the cam mechanism **60** may be employed.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the engagement portion is engaged with the leaving cap **50**. However, the engagement portion is not necessarily limited to be engaged with the leaving cap **50**. For example, the engagement portion may be engaged with the suction cap **41**.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the drawing operation of the leaving cap **50** out of the maintenance unit **100** may be executed at the same time as the exchange time of the maintenance members in the maintenance unit **100**, that is, the suction cap **41**, the wiper **42**, the absorbing member **38**, and the flushing box **34**. In this case, even if the user does not input the command to exchange the leaving cap **50**, the cam

mechanism **60** may stand by in the state capable of being moved away from the inner side of the recess **57** as illustrated in FIG. **8**D when the maintenance members are exchanged.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the medium supporting tray **14** may be arranged in a fixed manner as long as the medium supporting tray **14** and the liquid ejecting head **28** can be moved relatively in the X direction and the Y direction. For example, the first housing portion **12** may be moved in the front-rear direction along the Y direction.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, a supply source of liquid that is ejected from the liquid ejecting head **28** may be the ink cartridges **31** or an ink accommodation member provided at the outer side of the first housing portion **12**. When ink is supplied to the liquid ejecting head **28** from the ink accommodation member, an ink supply tube for supplying the ink is required to be routed in the first housing portion **12**. Accordingly, it is preferable that a hole or a cutout be provided in the first housing portion **12** and the ink supply tube be inserted through the hole or the cutout. Alternatively, a configuration in which bosses or the like are erected so that open/close members such as the open/close cover **17** and the upper cover **19** provided on the first housing portion **12** in an openable/closable manner are not closed completely with respect to the first housing portion **12** and the ink supply tube is routed in the first housing portion **12** using spaces formed by the bosses may be employed.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, as the ejection target member **20**, any materials including paper, films, metal films, plate materials, seals, fabrics, clothes such as T-shirts, Japanese clothes such as kimonos, and three-dimensional materials can be selected arbitrarily as long as they can be set onto the medium supporting tray **14**.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the printer **11** may be a liquid ejecting apparatus that ejects and discharges liquid other than ink. The state of liquid which is discharged from the liquid ejecting apparatus as a trace amount of liquid droplets includes a granule form, a teardrop form, and a form that pulls tails in a string-like form therebehind. The term "liquid" here represents materials which can be ejected by the liquid ejecting apparatus. For example, any materials are included as long as the materials are in a liquid phase. For example, materials in a liquid state having high viscosity or low viscosity or a fluid state such as sol, gel water, other inorganic solvents, an organic solvent, a solution, a liquid resin or a liquid metal (molten metal) can be included as the liquid. Further, the liquid is not limited to liquid as one state of a material and includes a solution in which particles of a functional material made of a solid material such as pigment or metal particles are dissolved, dispersed, or mixed in a solvent. Typical examples of the liquid are ink described in the above embodiment and liquid crystals. The term "ink" here encompasses various liquid compositions such as common aqueous ink and oil ink, gel ink and hot melt ink. Specific examples of the liquid ejecting apparatus include a liquid ejecting apparatus which ejects liquid in a form of dispersion or dissolution of a material such as an electrode material or a coloring material. The material such as the electrode material or the coloring material is used for manufacturing a liquid crystal display, an electroluminescence (EL) display, a surface emitting display or a color filter, for example. Further, the specific examples of the liquid ejecting apparatus may include a liquid ejecting apparatus which ejects a bioorganic material to be used for manufacturing a biochip, a liquid ejecting apparatus which is used as a precision pipette and ejects liquid serving as a sample, a printing device, a micro dispenser, and so on. Other examples of the liquid ejecting apparatus may include a liquid ejecting apparatus which pinpoint-ejects lubricating oil into a precision machine, such as a watch or a camera. Further, a liquid ejecting apparatus which ejects a transparent resin solution of an ultraviolet curing resin or the like onto a substrate in order to form a hemispherical microlens (optical lens) to be used in an optical communication element and the like may be included as the liquid ejecting apparatus. In addition, a liquid ejecting apparatus which ejects an acid or alkali etching solution for etching a substrate or the like may be employed as the liquid ejecting apparatus.

The entire disclosure of Japanese Patent Application No. 2013-118571, filed Jun. 5, 2013 is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

What is claimed is:

1. A maintenance unit which maintains a liquid ejecting head in which nozzles for ejecting liquid onto an ejection target member are formed, the maintenance unit comprising:
- a cap holder that has a cap member capable of abutting against the liquid ejecting head so as to surround the nozzles;
- a pair of guide pins that are inserted into the cap holder and guide the cap holder in a movable manner in an approaching/separating direction in which the cap member approaches and is separated from the liquid ejecting head;
- an engagement portion that is capable of being engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction; and
- a displacement operating portion that displaces the engagement portion between a restricting position at which the engagement portion restricts drawing of the cap holder out of the guide pins and an allowing position at which the engagement portion is not engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction and allows the cap holder to be drawn out of the guide pins,
- wherein the engagement portion is provided at a position at which at least a part of the engagement portion overlaps with the pair of guide pins to be inserted into the cap holder in a direction in which the guide pins are aligned.

2. The maintenance unit according to claim **1**, further comprising a head maintenance portion that maintains the liquid ejecting head by discharging the liquid from the nozzles,
- wherein the displacement operating portion is provided at a position separated from the head maintenance portion relative to the engagement portion.

3. A liquid ejecting apparatus comprising:
- a liquid ejecting head that ejects liquid onto an ejection target member; and
- the maintenance unit according to claim **2**.

4. The maintenance unit according to claim **1**,
- wherein the cap holder is provided with guide holes into which the guide pins are inserted, and
- the guide holes are through-holes penetrating the cap holder.

5. A liquid ejecting apparatus comprising:
- a liquid ejecting head that ejects liquid onto an ejection target member; and
- the maintenance unit according to claim **4**.

6. A liquid ejecting apparatus comprising:
- a liquid ejecting head that ejects liquid onto an ejection target member; and
- the maintenance unit according to claim **1**.

7. The liquid ejecting apparatus according to claim **6**, further comprising:
- a discharge portion that discharges the ejection target member onto which the liquid has been ejected,

wherein the displacement operating portion is located at a downstream side in a discharge direction in which the ejection target member is discharged in the maintenance unit.

8. A liquid ejecting apparatus comprising:

a liquid ejecting head that ejects liquid onto an ejection target member; and

a maintenance unit that maintains a liquid ejecting head in which nozzles for ejecting liquid onto an ejection target member are formed, the maintenance unit comprising:

a cap holder that has a cap member capable of abutting against the liquid ejecting head so as to surround the nozzles;

a guide pin that is inserted into the cap holder and guide the cap holder in a movable manner in an approaching/separating direction in which the cap member approaches and is separated from the liquid ejecting head;

an engagement portion that is capable of being engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction; and

a displacement operating portion that displaces the engagement portion between a restricting position at which the engagement portion restricts drawing of the cap holder out of the guide pins and an allowing position at which the engagement portion is not engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction and allows the cap holder to be drawn out of the guide pins,

wherein the displacement operating portion is located at a downstream side in a discharge direction in which the ejection target member is discharged relatively in the maintenance unit.

9. A liquid ejecting apparatus comprising:

a liquid ejecting head that ejects liquid onto an ejection target member; and

a maintenance unit that maintains a liquid ejecting head in which nozzles for ejecting liquid onto an ejection target member are formed, the maintenance unit comprising:

a cap holder that has a cap member capable of abutting against the liquid ejecting head so as to surround the nozzles;

a guide pin that is inserted into the cap holder and guide the cap holder in a movable manner in an approaching/separating direction in which the cap member approaches and is separated from the liquid ejecting head;

an engagement portion that is capable of being engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction; and

a displacement operating portion that displaces the engagement portion between a restricting position at which the engagement portion restricts drawing of the cap holder out of the guide pins and an allowing position at which the engagement portion is not engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction and allows the cap holder to be drawn out of the guide pins,

wherein the displacement operating portion is located at an upstream side in a discharge direction in which the ejection target member is discharged relatively in the maintenance unit.

10. A maintenance unit which maintains a liquid ejecting head in which nozzles for ejecting liquid onto an ejection target member are formed, the maintenance unit comprising:

a cap holder that has a cap member capable of abutting against the liquid ejecting head so as to surround the nozzles;

a pair of guide pins that are inserted into the cap holder and guide the cap holder in a movable manner in an approaching/separating direction in which the cap member approaches and is separated from the liquid ejecting head, the guide pins being disposed in the approaching/separating direction;

an engagement portion that is capable of being engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction; and

a displacement operating portion that displaces the engagement portion between a restricting position at which the engagement portion restricts drawing of the cap holder out of the guide pins and an allowing position at which the engagement portion is not engaged with the cap holder in the approaching/separating direction and allows the cap holder to be drawn out of the guide pins.

11. The maintenance unit according to claim **10**, wherein the guide pins are arranged to extend in a direction along the approaching/separating direction.

12. A liquid ejecting apparatus comprising:

a liquid ejecting head that ejects liquid onto an ejection target member; and

the maintenance unit according to claim **11**.

13. A liquid ejecting apparatus comprising:

a liquid ejecting head that ejects liquid onto an ejection target member; and

the maintenance unit according to claim **10**.

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