

61 floppy disk
70 image
80 photographic paper
90 microdots

I claim:

1. A method for removing yellow microdots from a color image, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a color image having a plurality of microdots arranged in a predetermined array within image data;
- (b) comparing a blue code value at a location in the color image with an estimate of the blue code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations, in order to determine whether the location may contain a microdot that requires correction;
- (c) comparing a second code value for a second color at the location in the color image with an estimate for the second code value at the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations, in order to verify that the location contains a microdot;
- (d) comparing a third code value for a third color at the location in the color image with an estimate of the third code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations, in order to verify that the location contains a microdot; and
- (e) replacing the blue, second, and third code values at the location with the estimated code values only if the results of steps (b), (c) and (d) meet predetermined criteria, thereby removing the effect of a microdot at the location.

2. The method in claim 1, wherein step (c) includes providing a red code value as the second code value.

3. The method in claim 1, wherein step (d) includes providing a green code value as the third code value.

4. A method for removing microdots from a color image, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a color image having a plurality of microdots arranged in a predetermined array within image data;
- (b) calculating a difference between a blue code value at a location in the color image with an estimate of the blue code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations;
- (c) comparing the difference calculated in step (b) to one or more thresholds in order to determine whether the location may contain a microdot that requires correction;
- (d) calculating a difference between a second code value for a second color at the location in the color image with an estimate of the second code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations;
- (e) comparing the difference calculated in step (d) to one or more thresholds in order to verify that the location contains a microdot;
- (f) calculating a difference between a third code value for a third color at the location in the color image with an estimate of the third code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations;
- (g) comparing the difference calculated in step (f) to one or more thresholds in order to verify that the location contains a microdot;
- (h) replacing the blue, second, and third code values at the location with estimated code values only if the results of steps (c), (e) and (g) satisfy the thresholds, thereby removing the effect of a microdot at the location.

5. A computer program product for removing yellow microdots from a color image, comprising a computer

readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon for performing the steps of:

- (a) processing a color image having a plurality of microdots arranged in a predetermined array within image data;
- (b) comparing a blue code value at a location in the color image with an estimate of the blue code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations, in order to determine whether the location may contain a microdot that requires correction;
- (c) comparing a second code value for a second color at the location in the color image with an estimate for the second code value at the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations, in order to verify that the location contains a microdot;
- (d) comparing a third code value for a third color at the location in the color image with an estimate of the third code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations, in order to verify that the location contains a microdot; and
- (e) replacing the blue, second, and third code values at the location with the estimated code values only if based on the results of steps (b), (c) and (d) meet predetermined criteria, thereby removing the effect of a microdot at the location.

6. The computer program product in claim 5, wherein step (c) includes providing a red code value as the second code value.

7. The computer program product in claim 5, wherein step (d) includes providing a green code value as the third code value.

8. A computer program product for removing microdots from a color image, comprising a computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon for performing the steps of:

- (a) processing a color image having a plurality of microdots arranged in a predetermined array within image data;
- (b) calculating a difference between a blue code value at a location in the color image with an estimate of the blue code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations;
- (c) comparing the difference calculated in step (b) to one or more thresholds in order to determine whether the location may contain a microdot that requires correction;
- (d) calculating a difference between a second code value for a second color at the location in the color image with an estimate of the second code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations;
- (e) comparing the difference calculated in step (d) to one or more thresholds in order to verify that the location contains a microdot;
- (f) calculating a difference between a third code value for a third color at the location in the color image with an estimate of the third code value for the location obtained from one or more surrounding locations;
- (g) comparing the difference calculated in step (f) to one or more thresholds in order to verify that the location contains a microdot;
- (h) replacing the blue, second, and third code values at the location with estimated code values only if the results of steps (c), (e) and (g) satisfy the thresholds, thereby removing the effect of a microdot at the location.