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the machine to perform method steps for removing scratch noise from a digitized image, the method steps comprising:

- inputting digitized image data;
- displaying said digitized image data on a display device;
- identifying a scratch noise area in said digitized image data displayed on said display device;
- generating binary mask data which distinguishes pixels within the area of said identified scratch noise from pixels within a remainder of said displayed image;
- storing said binary mask data;
- defining a repair window area on said displayed image, wherein said repair window area contains identified scratch noise areas;
- storing data representing values of pixels within said repair window area;
- defining a sample window area within said displayed image, wherein said sample window is chosen so as to resemble the features and values of said repair window area;
- storing data representing values of pixels within said sample window;
- calculating a fast Fourier transform of said data representing values of pixels within said repair window;
- calculating a fast Fourier transform of said data representing values of pixels within said sample window;
- generating new image data in accordance with said fast Fourier transformed pixel value data of said repair window and said fast Fourier transformed pixel value data of said sample window;
- calculating an inverse fast Fourier transform of said new image data;
- conforming the values of said new image data to pre-defined limits;
- generating new repair window data in accordance with said new image data, said repair window data and said binary mask data; and
- replacing said repair window data with said new repair window data.

32. A recording medium having digital data recorded thereon, the recording medium being prepared by the steps of:

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- inputting digitized image data;
- displaying said digitized image data on a display device;
- identifying a scratch noise area in said digitized image data displayed on said display device;
- generating binary mask data which distinguishes pixels within the area of said identified scratch noise from pixels within a remainder of said displayed image;
- storing said binary mask data;
- defining a repair window area on said displayed image, wherein said repair window area contains identified scratch noise areas;
- storing data representing values of pixels within said repair window area;
- defining a sample window area within said displayed image, wherein said sample window is chosen so as to resemble the features and values of said repair window area;
- storing data representing values of pixels within said sample window;
- calculating a fast Fourier transform of said data representing values of pixels within said repair window;
- calculating a fast Fourier transform of said data representing values of pixels within said sample window;
- generating new image data in accordance with said fast Fourier transformed pixel value data of said repair window and said fast Fourier transformed pixel value data of said sample window;
- calculating an inverse fast Fourier transform of said new image data;
- conforming the values of said new image data to pre-defined limits;
- generating new repair window data in accordance with said new image data, said repair window data and said binary mask data;
- replacing said repair window data with said new repair window data; and
- recording the new repair window data on the recording medium.

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