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(54) **INK JET PRINT HEAD PROTECTIVE GUIDE SYSTEM**

(71) Applicant: **XEROX CORPORATION**, Norwalk, CT (US)

(72) Inventors: **Douglas K. Herrmann**, Webster, NY (US); **Jason M. LeFevre**, Penfield, NY (US); **Derek A. Bryl**, Webster, NY (US)

(73) Assignee: **XEROX CORPORATION**, Norwalk, CT (US)

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See application file for complete search history.

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*Primary Examiner* — Geoffrey Mruk

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — MH2 Technology Law Group LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for printing includes the use of a protective guide system that protects a print head nozzle plate from physical contact with objects such as a curled print medium. The print head nozzle plate includes a nozzle array including a plurality of nozzles arranged in a plurality of subarrays. The plurality of subarrays are spaced from each other by a plurality of intranozzle areas devoid of nozzles. The protective guide system includes a frame and a plurality of cross members aligned with the intranozzle areas between the subarrays. The protective guide system thus protects the print head nozzle plate without obstructing the ink during printing.

**13 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**

