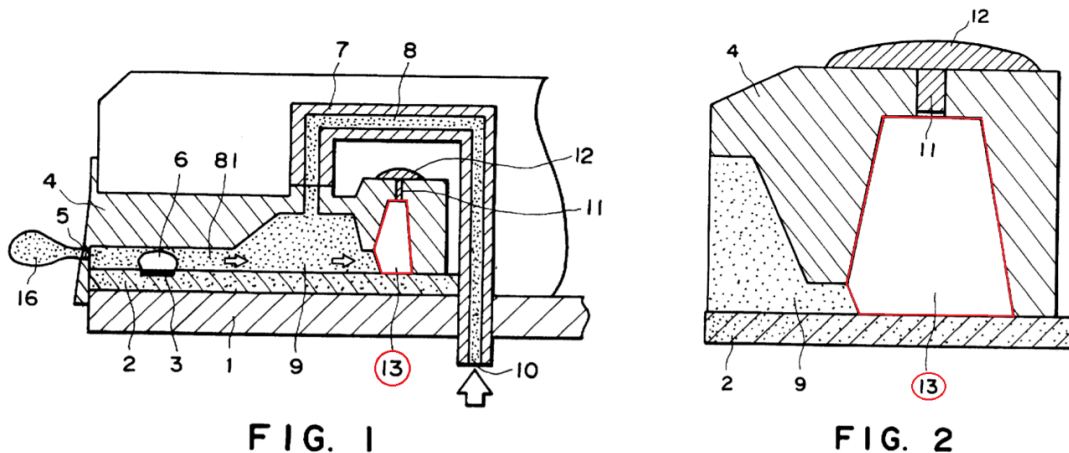


EXHIBIT A

metes and bounds.” For the reasons above, the specification provides sufficient guidance to inform a person of skill with reasonably certainty the “metes and bounds” of the term “buffer.”

38. Furthermore, the term “buffer” had a commonly understood meaning in the field of microfluidics in 2002 consistent with the above understanding. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,777,649 to Otsuka (“Otsuka”)—cited on the face of the ’528 Patent—is generally directed to an “ink jet printing head” and refers to a “buffer chamber” or “buffering chamber” that is a chamber structure used “for retaining air to absorb vibration of the ink” depicted as component 13 in Figures 1 and 2:



Otsuka at 6:24–39, Figs. 1 and 2 (annotated). A person of skill would have understood these openings—when configured to receive vibrations or pressure variations—as a typical example of a “buffer.”

39. Additionally, the term “buffer” has a plain an ordinary meaning, i.e., “something that absorbs or mitigates variations,” which underlies its use in a variety of contexts. For example, in chemistry, “buffer” is generally used to mean “a solution that mitigates pH variations.” In electronics, a “buffer” can be used to mean “a component that prevents variations in load impedance to affect upstream portions of a circuit.” And in mechanical engineering, a “buffer” is

EXHIBIT B

“buffer”

Otsuka Pat No. 5,777,649 Fig. 2 (annotated)

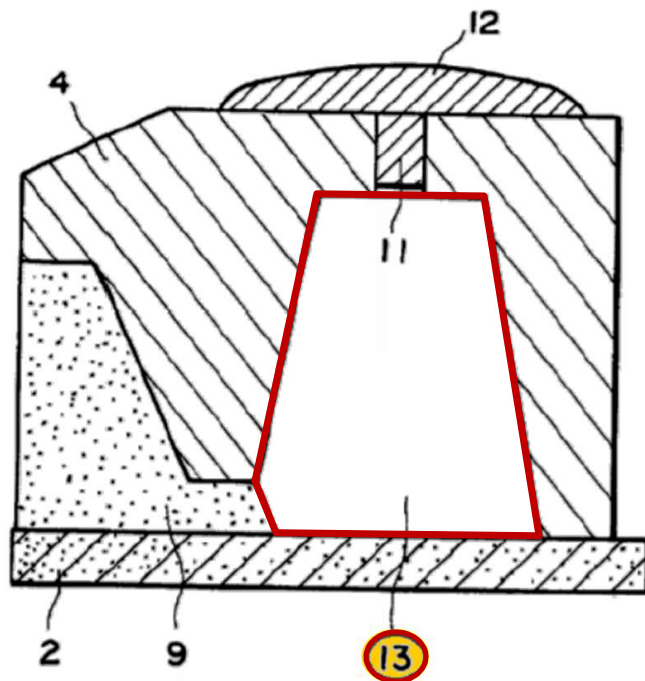


FIG. 2

FIG. 2 shows an enlarged buffer chamber 13 according to an embodiment of this invention. As shown, the buffering chamber 13 filled with the gases partly communicates with the common liquid chamber 9, and the gases function to absorb the pressure wave.

U.S. Patent No. 5,777,649 to Otsuka (cited reference);
D.I. 67, Joint App'x Ex. H ¶ 38

“Buffer” understood to refer to structure