

(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):

independent colour plane images (Red, Green and Blue). Advantageously, the grayscale image components derived from the original image may be stored, printed and otherwise processed on an individual basis while still preserving the collective information needed to reproduce the original image. More specifically, each image component may be separately printed on a document, for example in a covert manner, using ultraviolet (or infrared) ink, in order to provide increased security to a document. To produce a reconstructed colour image from the separately printed grayscale image components each image is scanned and associated with a colour corresponding to the colour plane associated therewith. The colour-associated image components are then processed and forwarded to an output device for combining them in their associated colours to form the reconstructed colour image.

