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(54) Title: AUTOMATED SIMULTANEOUS MULTIPLE ARTICLE SUBLIMATION PRINTING PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR MARKETING

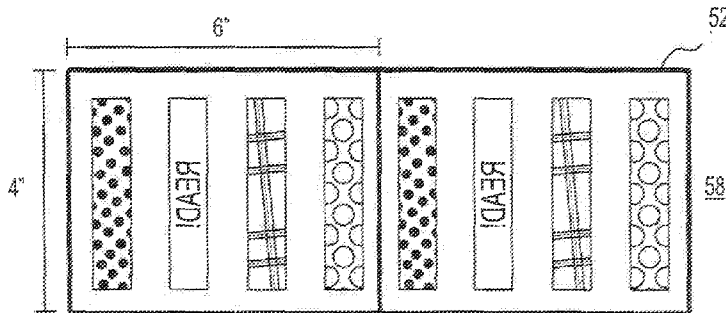


FIG. 5D

(57) Abstract: A process and apparatus for sublimating printed images (100, 300) onto two or more products substantially simultaneously are disclosed. Software components are configured to receive input of a desired number of products (50, 60) to sublimate, and then determine a spatial arrangement (54, 56, 62, 64, 66) of the printed images on transfer media (52) to sublimate the desired number of products substantially simultaneously. The apparatus is configured to print the images onto the media (52) according to the spatial arrangement, then position the media onto a substrate (36). The products are automatically placed on the media proximate to their corresponding printed images. The apparatus manipulates the media to substantially surround the products and places at least one image onto each side of each product to be sublimated. One or more heating platens (14) engage the media to sublimate the images. The heating platens are configured, using a control, to sublimate multiple products substantially simultaneously in a single thermal cycle.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 B41F B41M B44C G07F G06Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	US 8 308 891 B2 (JONATHAN DRAKE ET AL.) 13 November 2012 (2012-11-13)	46-50
A	see abstract; column 6, line 25 - column 17, line 63; figures 1-12	1-45, 51-54
Y	GB 2 130 144 A (KENNETH MAPSTONE) 31 May 1984 (1984-05-31)	46-50
A	page 1, line 3 - page 4, line 44; figures 1-7	1-45, 51-54
A	US 2005/248649 A1 (CLARENCE WAYNE FARRELL ET AL.) 10 November 2005 (2005-11-10) cited in the application the whole document	1-54
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	WO 00/07822 A1 (MAX IMAGING SYSTEMS LIMITED) 17 February 2000 (2000-02-17) the whole document -----	1-54
A	WO 2012/141985 A2 (SMART DESTINATIONS, INC.) 18 October 2012 (2012-10-18) the whole document -----	1-54
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