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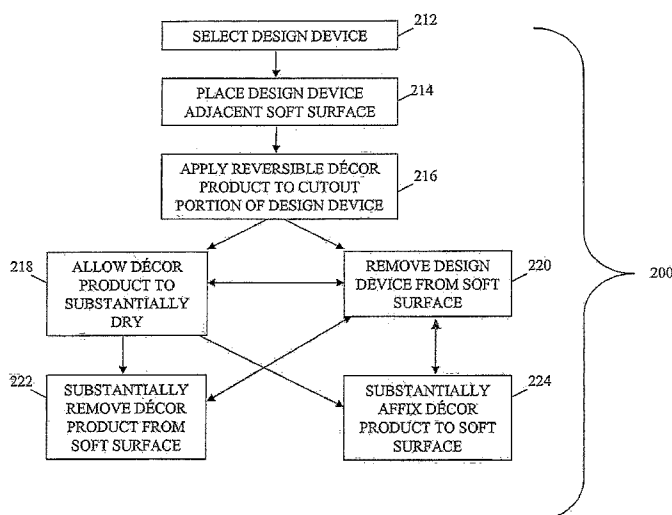
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF APPLYING A DESIGN TO A SURFACE



(57) Abstract: Compositions, methods, apparatuses, kits, and combinations are described for permanently or temporarily re-designing, decorating, and/or re-coloring a surface. The compositions useful in the present disclosure include a decor product that is formulated to be applied and affixed to a surface. If desired, the decor product may be substantially removed from the surface before being affixed thereto. If a user desires to remove the decor product, the decor product is formulated to be removed by a number of methods including, for example, vacuuming, wet extraction, chemical application, and the like. If the user desires to affix the decor product to the surface in a permanent or semi-permanent manner, the decor product may be affixed to the surface by applying energy thereto in the form of, for example, heat, pressure, emitted waves, an emitted electrical field, a magnetic field, and/or a chemical. The decor product may also be utilized in the form of a kit or in conjunction with a design device, such as a stencil, to control the application of the decor product to create, for example, a pattern on the surface.

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B05D5/06 D06P1/52 D06P1/54 D06P5/00 C09D11/02  
B44C1/00 B44C1/20 B44D5/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

B05D D06P C09D B44C B44D D06Q

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 006 273 A (WOLINSKI ET AL) 1 February 1977 (1977-02-01) column 2, lines 18-34 - column 3, lines 14-19 column 5, lines 35-45 - column 6, lines 49-60 column 8, line 58 - column 9, line 8 -----	1-11
X	GB 669 739 A (INTERCHEMICAL CORPORATION) 9 April 1952 (1952-04-09) page 1, lines 55-83 - page 2, lines 9-25 page 3, lines 69-111 page 5, line 7 - page 6, line 112 -----	1-11
A	US 6 136 046 A (FUKUNISHI ET AL) 24 October 2000 (2000-10-24) the whole document ----- -/-	1-11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents:

\*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

\*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

\*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

\*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*G\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 February 2007

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08/03/2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

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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.
X	US 2001/051222 A1 (STEVENSON MICHAEL J [US] ET AL) 13 December 2001 (2001-12-13) paragraphs [0009], [0020] - [0025], [0027], [0028], [0031], [0042], [0043] -----	12-36
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X	US 4 560 604 A (SHIMIZU GORO [JP] ET AL) 24 December 1985 (1985-12-24) column 2, line 11 column 2, line 66 - column 3, line 30 column 3, line 59 - column 4, line 9 column 4, line 30 - line 50 -----	12-36
Y	US 3 929 068 A (BUDDEN BRIAN THOMAS) 30 December 1975 (1975-12-30) the whole document -----	13-16, 27,33
Y	US 2004/118305 A1 (MARTINEZ JOSE M [US] ET AL) 24 June 2004 (2004-06-24) the whole document -----	13-16, 27,33
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A	DE 21 22 714 B (EDUARD KUESTERS MASCHINENFABRIK, 4150 KREFELD) 5 October 1972 (1972-10-05) the whole document -----	12-36

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2006/022184

### Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

#### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

## 1. claims: 1-11

A method of applying a (colorant) composition to a surface, the method comprising the step of applying energy to substantially dry particles attached to the surface to achieve a film greater than about 0.1 micron in thickness on the surface (said particles being previously formed by drying the composition applied). The composition comprises a surface-active agent, at least one of a polymer or a resin, and at least about 70 wt% of the liquid (in addition to the colorant).

The potential special technical features solve the objective technical problem of providing a method capable of forming a film comprising i.a. a colorant on a surface as specified in claim 1.

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## 2. claims: 12-36

A method of applying a colorant composition to a surface, wherein the liquid-based composition is "formulated to be applied in the effective amount to a nylon test carpet", and (after drying to form particles greater than about 1 micron in size attached to the surface), "upon vacuuming of the nylon test carpet resulting in a delta E of about 20 or less".

The potential special technical features solve the objective technical problem of providing a (change in color) delta E of about 20 or less for (a surface of) a nylon test carpet.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/022184

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