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## **PCT**

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(54) Title: YARNS AND FABRICS HAVING A WASH-DURABLE NON-ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE TOPICALLY AP-

PLIED METAL-BASED FINISH

(57) Abstract: Durable non-electrically conductive metal treatments (such as coatings or finishes) for yarns and textile fabrics. Such treatments preferably comprise silver and/or silver ions; however, other metals, such as zinc, iron, copper, nickel, cobalt, aluminum, gold, manganese, magnesium, and the like, may also be present or alternatively utilized. Such a treatment provides, as one example, an antimicrobial fiber and/or textile fabric which remains on the surface and does not permit electrical conductivity over the surface. The treatment is extremely durable on such substrates; after a substantial number of standard launderings and dryings, the treatment does not wear away in any appreciable amount and thus the substrate retains its antimicrobial activity (or other property). The method of adherence to the target yarn and/or fabric may be performed any number of ways, most preferably through the utilization of a binder system or through a transfer method from a donor fabric to a target textile fabric in the presence of moisture and upon exposure to heat. The particular methods of adherence, as well as the treated textile fabrics and individual fibers are also emcompassed within this invention.

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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

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 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ IPC & 7 & D06M \end{array}$ 

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, PAJ, WPI Data

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in 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	<ul> <li>*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</li> <li>*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</li> <li>*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.</li> <li>*&amp;* document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office. P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.  Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  Koegler-Hoffmann, S

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