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22 April 2004

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.

(54) Title: DRY ERASE SURFACE

(57) Abstract: Dry erase surfaces and methods of production and use are provided. Improved dry erase surfaces may be produced from heat-cured resins. Existing dry erase surfaces such as white boards may be altered or repaired with sheets of dry erase material.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : B32B 31/00, 33/00, 35/00
US CL : 156/62, 94, 152; 428/40.1; 206/215
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)
U.S. : 156/62, 94, 152; 249, 278, 344; 428/40.1, 409; 206/215, 223, 582, 447, 460

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-20, 24, 26-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,024898 A (Pitts et al) 18 June 1991 (18.06.1991), entire document.</td>
<td>17-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-16, 21-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y, P</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-16, 27, 28, 33, 34-42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 24 January 2004 (24.01.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 19 FEB 2004

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)**

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

1. ◐ Claim Nos.:
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ◐ Claim 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. ◐ Claim Nos.:
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)**

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

Please See Continuation 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.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet(1)) (July 1998)
BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING
This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8, drawn to a method of repairing a dry erase surface.

Group II, claim(s) 9-16, drawn to a method of transforming a writing surface into a dry erase surface.

Group III, claim(s) 17-20, drawn to a dry erase surface with a particular surface tension.

Group IV, claim(s) 21-25, drawn to a dry erase surface with a particular gloss.

Group V, claim(s) 26-29, drawn to an article of a plurality of sheets.

Group VI, claim(s) 30-34, drawn to a method for writing on a first sheet of a plurality of sheets.

Group VII, claim(s) 35-42, drawn to a kit with a dry erase surface and instructions.

The inventions listed as Groups I-VII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Evidence of Lack of Unity between the groups is found in the reference WO 01/43961 which discloses all the features of claim 21 of Group IV and in the reference US 5024898 which discloses all the features of claim 17 of Group III. Additionally, the reference WO 01/43961 discloses all the possible common features of the independent claims of Groups I, II, V, VI, and VII (that of a sheet with one side of dry erase material and a second side of an adhesive). Consequently, any possible common special technical features of the claimed invention are not found to define a contribution over the prior art, and no single general inventive concept exists, contrary to the requirements of Rule 13.2 PCT.