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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING A MATERIAL ONTO ARTICLES USING A CONTINUOUS TRANSFER COMPONENT

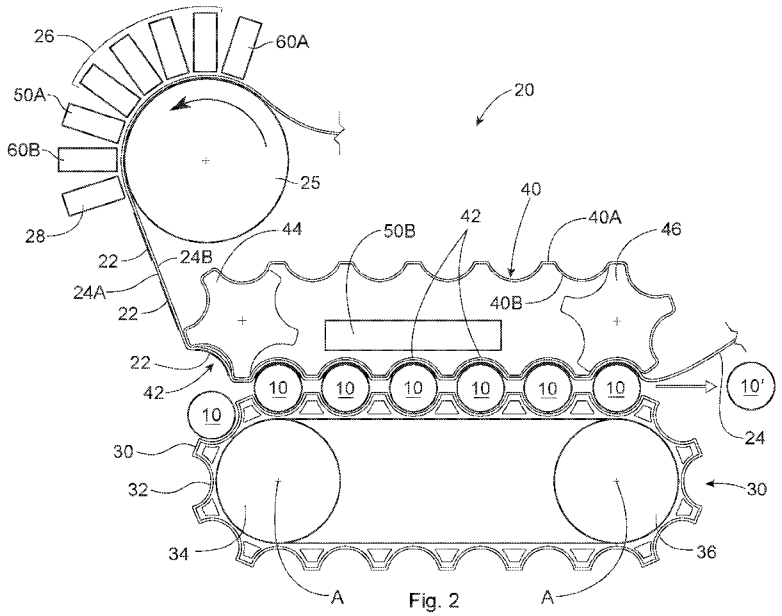


Fig. 2

(57) Abstract: Apparatuses and methods for applying a transfer material (22) onto the surface of an article (10) are disclosed, including apparatuses and methods of transfer printing on and/or decorating three-dimensional articles, as well as the articles printed and/or decorated thereby. In some cases, the apparatuses and methods involve providing a deposition device (26), such as a printing device; providing a transfer component (24); depositing a material (22; 52, 54, 56) onto a portion of the transfer component with the deposition device; modifying the portion of the transfer component with the transfer material thereon to conform the transfer component to at least a portion of the surface of the three-dimensional article; and transferring the transfer material onto the surface of the article.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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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)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	US 2012/031548 A1 (BROAD GAVIN J [US]) 9 February 2012 (2012-02-09) cited in the application	1-8
A	paragraphs [0012] - [0017], [0027]; figure	9-11

X	WO 2008/081500 A2 (NITTY GRITTY S R L [IT]; LAPELOSA MARCO [IT]) 10 July 2008 (2008-07-10)	1-3,5,6, 8,9,11
A	page 9, line 15 - page 10, line 13 page 12, line 26 - line 35 page 14, line 15 - page 15, line 33; figures 1,2,11,12,16	4,7,10

X	US 2002/168212 A1 (NEDBLAKE GREYDON W [US] ET AL) 14 November 2002 (2002-11-14)	1,6-9
A	paragraphs [0020], [0021], [0036] - [0038]; figures 1-8	2-5,10, 11

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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