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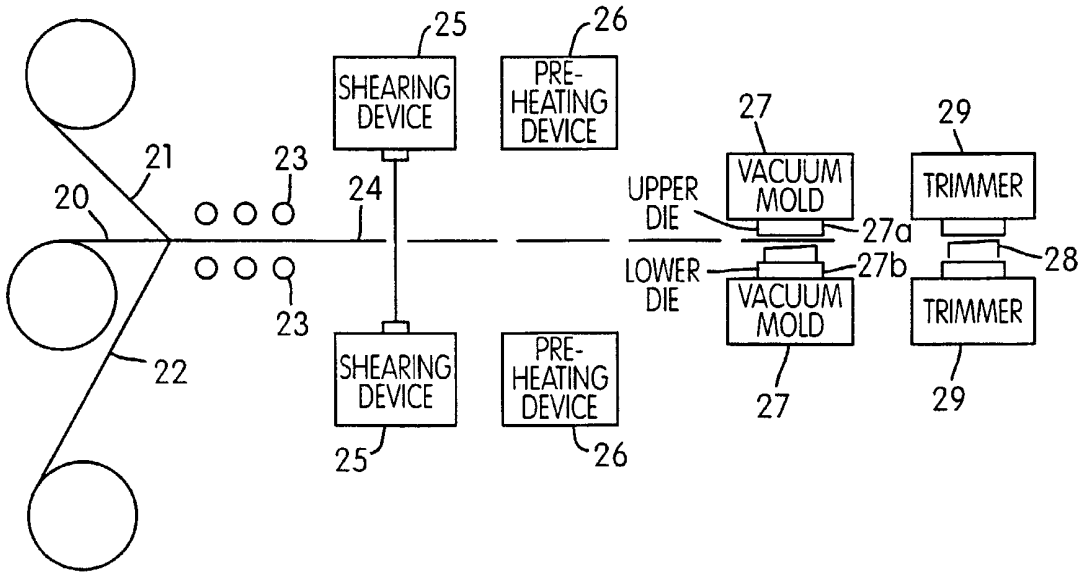
(54) Title: EXTERIOR VACUUM MOLDED BODY PANELS



(57) Abstract: Decorative exterior body panels (54) for use on motor vehicles and methods for making the same are presented. Layers (20, 21, 22) of thermoplastic material are sandwiched to produce a laminate (19). The laminate (14) is then heated and vacuum formed into a selected body panel shape. To further ease the process of production of the vehicle body, the panel may (54) have integral decorative material (11). Such a panel (54) does not require paint or other extra steps to provide a finished look to the vehicle body. The top layer of the laminate is transparent, allowing the second layer to be seen. The second layer is a decorative material (11) such as fabric or any colored, textured or reflective material.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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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)
IPC 7 B29C

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	WO 00 51829 A (SONG QUAN ;HUFFER SCOTT (US); REXAM IND CORP (US)) 8 September 2000 (2000-09-08) abstract; figures 1-10	1,2,5-11
X	EP 0 285 071 A (AVERY INTERNATIONAL CORP) 5 October 1988 (1988-10-05)	1,2,5,6, 8-11
Y	page 1, line 1 - line 12 page 12, line 45 -page 13, line 17 page 13, line 45 - line 54; figures 1-9	3,4,7
X	US 5 968 657 A (DUHME FREDERICK E ET AL) 19 October 1999 (1999-10-19)	1,2,5,6, 8-11
Y	column 1, line 1 - line 12 column 2, line 5 - line 29 column 9, line 28 - line 52; figures 1-7	3,4,7

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

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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