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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR CREATING PRINTS ON A SURFACE

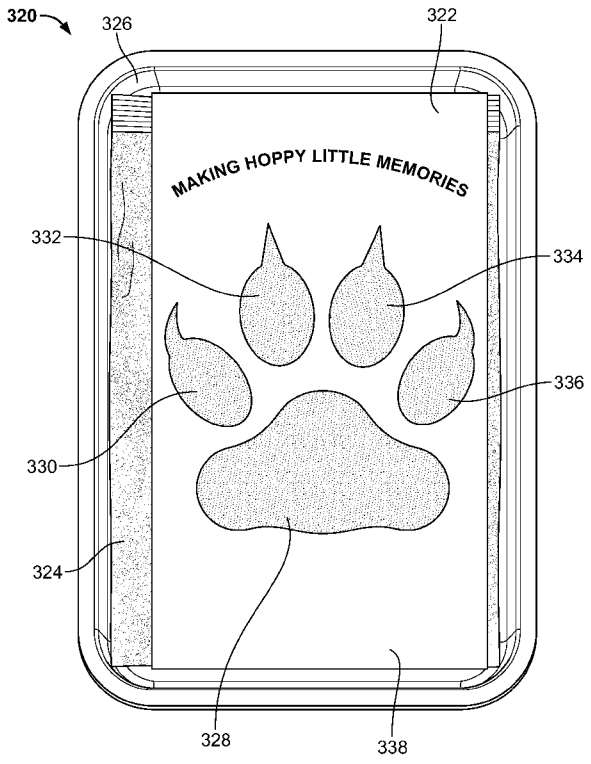


FIG. 3B

(57) Abstract: An apparatus and kit for creating prints on a surface is provided. The kit includes at least one stamp and a material for depositing the stamp on a surface. The stamp has one or more pieces of sponge adhered to a front surface of a rigid backing material, the pieces of sponge forming a shape desired for printing. A back surface of the backing material has a handle for holding the stamp. The material is a powder that may be partially water-soluble, forming a paint¬ like mixture or that may form a suspension when mixed. Prints are made by dipping the front surface of the backing material in the paint-like mixture causing the one or more pieces of sponge to absorb the paint-like mixture and pressing the sponge pieces against the surface.

WO 2015/188043 A3

WO 2015/188043 A3

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

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28 January 2016

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 15/34367

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - C09D 11/02, C09D 11/00, C09D 11/03, C09D 11/037 (2015.01)
CPC - C09D 11/02, C09D 11/00, C09D 11/03, C09D 11/037
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(8): C09D11/* (2015.01)
CPC: C09D11/*

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
IPC(8): C09D*, B41M* (2015.01)
CPC: C09D*, B41M*

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
PatBase, Google Patents, Google Web
Keywords: stamp, rubber, foam, adhesive, glue, backing, ink, print, sponge, powder, granule, particle, particulate, cover, lid, handle, grip

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 3,971,315 A (HANSEN) 27 July 1976 (27.07.1976), entire document	1-6, 8-10
Y	US 5,431,098 A (WINSTON) 11 July 1995 (11.07.1995), entire document	1-10
Y	US 3,023,118 A (DONNET) 27 February 1962 (27.02.1962), entire document	4
Y	US 5,049,432 A (OOMS et al.) 17 September 1991 (17.09.1991), entire document	1, 7
Y	US 5,313,885 A (WINSTON) 24 May 1994 (24.05.1994), entire document	10
A	US 2009/0257816 A1 (CZUBAROW et al.) 15 October 2009 (15.10.2009), entire document	4

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

* 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 application or patent 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
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
21 October 2015 (21.10.2015)	24 NOV 2015
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-8300	Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2015)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 15/34367

Box No. 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 No. 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:
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: Claims 1-10 directed to a kit for creating a colored shape on a surface comprising a solid, granular material.

Group II: Claims 11-17 directed to a kit for creating a colored shape on a surface comprising a container comprising a liquid material.

Group III: Claims 18-20 directed to a method for creating a colored shape on a surface comprising the steps of measuring, adding, mixing or dipping.

---See Supplemental Box---

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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

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.:
Claims 1-10

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

---Continued from Box III---

The inventions listed as Groups I-III 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 technical features for the following reasons:

Group I does not include the technical feature of a container comprising a liquid material, as required by Group II, or a method for creating a colored shape on a surface comprising the steps of measuring, adding, mixing or dipping, as required by Group III.

Group II does not include the technical features of a solid, granular material, as required by Group I, or a method for creating a colored shape on a surface comprising the steps of measuring, adding, mixing or dipping, as required by Group III.

Group III does not include the technical features of a solid, granular material, as required by Group I, or a container comprising a liquid material, as required by Group II.

The common features between Groups I, II and III of:
at least one stamping device, comprising a rigid carrier having a front surface and a back surface and an absorbent material adhered to the front surface, the absorbent material being shaped into a predefined form and being adhered such that it extends outward from the front surface, thereby creating a raised pattern;
a material; and
a tray having a top periphery and a base defining a recessed area
are taught by: US 5,431,098 A to WINSTON (hereinafter 'Winston').

Winston teaches a kit for creating a colored shape on a surface comprising:
at least one stamping device (ink applicator assembly 10), comprising a rigid carrier (a base portion 12) having a front surface and a back surface and an absorbent material (ink sponge 16) adhered to the front surface (col 3, lns 64-67: The ink sponge 16 is adhered to the base portion 12), the absorbent material being shaped into a predefined form (col 4, lns 3-8: The shape of the ink sponge 16 is unique and important to the implementation of the present invention. Specifically, walls 16a and 16b are convex such that the outline of these walls 16a and 16b when viewed from the top is generally in the shape of an oval having pointed ends) and being adhered such that it extends outward from the front surface, thereby creating a raised pattern (see Figures);
a material (col 5, lns 52-55: The ink sponge 16 is formed from open cell foam impregnated with colored ink); and
a tray (a lid portion 14) having a top periphery (top portion of lid 14 engaging perimeter ridge 48 of base portion 12) and a base defining a recessed area (base portion of lid 14 defining recessed area of lid 14).

Therefore, the common features are not an improvement over the prior art.

Unity of invention is lacking under PCT Rule 13.2, because Groups I, II and III do not share a same or corresponding special technical feature providing a contribution over prior art.