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(54) **Method and apparatus for applying a coating material to sheets**

(57) The present invention relates to an apparatus
for applying a water-based coating material to a plurality
of sheet members comprising :

- (a) a conveyor (4) for conveying a plurality of the
sheet members in overlapped end to end relation
along a path;
- (b) a source of the coating material;
- (c) a dispenser (7) in fluid communication with the
source for controllably dispensing a quantity of the
water-based coating material at a desired rate ;
- (d) an intermediate carrier (20) supported adjacent
said dispenser, said intermediate carrier having a
transfer surface extending to said path of the sheet
members, wherein said transfer surface is adapted
for contact with the overlapped sheet members
along said path, said transfer surface being pre-
sented to said dispenser for receiving the coating
material at a location spaced from said transverse
contact with the overlapped sheet members, said
intermediate carrier being advancable to transfer
the coating material from said dispenser to said
overlapped sheet members;
- (e) a detachment roller (39) located adjacent the
path of the sheet members and adapted for contact

with the sheet members after application of the
coating material, said detachment roller being con-
nected to a source (40) of vacuum and adapted to
apply said vacuum to the sheet members for de-
taching the sheet members from the intermediate
carrier; and

(f) a means to reduce the water content of the coat-
ing material prior to transfer of the coating material
from the intermediate carrier to the overlapped
sheet members.

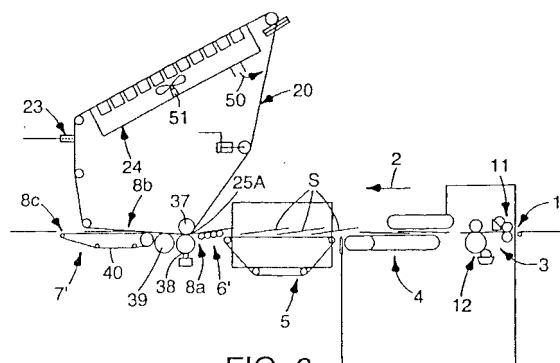


FIG. 6



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 07 6790

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	WO 87 05315 A (PAGENDARM ERICH) 11 September 1987 (1987-09-11) * page 7, line 6 - page 10, line 27; figures 1-6 *	1	B42C3/00 B42C9/00
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A	US 4 537 650 A (COONS JR ROBERT A) 27 August 1985 (1985-08-27) * column 3, line 66 - column 9, line 25; figures 1-4 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		12 August 2002	Evans, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 02 07 6790

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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