

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PRINT MACHINE CORPORATION, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

COMPOSITION FOR FINGERPRINTING AND METHOD.

No Drawing.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED CHARLES OTTO BOCK, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Brooklyn, Kings
5 County, New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Compositions for Fingerprinting and Methods, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to compositions for
10 fixing the impressions of finger prints and the like upon a paper or other surface whereon a finger or other body has been impressed.

While the compound is especially useful
15 in connection with recording finger prints it may have use in recording other impressions.

It has been found that a highly desirable manner of recording prints is to apply a
20 powder to the impressed surface and afterward exposing it to heat whereby the substance of the powder is caused to adhere to or become incorporated with the substance of the impressed object.

I have found that a composition comprising a powder formed by pulverizing the red-
25 dish brown or rust colored resin of the dragon tree, which substance is known in commerce as "dragon's blood" is peculiarly adapted to be applied to a print, forms an
30 unusually sharply defined outline, is well adapted to the heat treatment for fixing and, when fixed, is permanent under almost all conditions.

The method employed in using the composition is to make the impression of the
35 finger upon a piece of paper, whereby the natural secretions of the finger or artificial adhesive material, such as oils, applied thereto, form lines upon the paper corresponding
40 to the lines of the finger printed, the dragon's blood powder is then applied to the impressed surface, the superfluous powder, that is to say that which does not adhere to
45 the lines, is removed and the paper then bearing the powder adhering to the finger lines only is subjected to sufficient heat to cause the resin to soften or liquefy and sink into the body of the paper so that on be-

coming cool it is incorporated with and fixed 50 therein.

The powder employed may be either pure dragon's blood or the commercial article which may have a slight amount of impurities mixed with it. Further the color may be 55 modified by mixing with the commercial dragon's blood an aniline dye of any desired color. A powder of the desired color may be produced by mixing a composition consisting of 99% commercial dragon's blood 60 with 1% of aniline dye of the desired color.

An aniline dye is not only useful as a coloring matter but also provides means for detecting an attempt to tamper with the impression. The aniline dye is soluble in 65 a large number of substances and almost any substance applied to the impression with the idea of dissolving it would cause the aniline dye to run and discolor the paper so that the attempted tampering would be apparent. 70

While the invention has been illustrated by a specific composition it may be embodied in other compositions without departing from its spirit and is not, therefore, limited to the precise proportions or ingredients 75 specified. Similarly the method is not limited to the precise details recited but may be varied therefrom without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. A powder for fixing prints comprising 80 dragon's blood and aniline dye of the color desired.

2. The method of recording a print which consists in making an impression, applying 85 to the impression a composition containing dragon's blood and subjecting the powdered impression to heat.

3. The method of recording a print which consists in making an impression, applying 90 thereto a powdered composition containing dragon's blood and an aniline dye of the color desired and subjecting the powdered impression to heat to fix the same.

In testimony whereof I have signed this 95 specification this 27th day of May 1921.

ALFRED CHARLES OTTO BOCK.