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ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: TRANSFER PRINTING PROCESS WITH EDIBLE INKS

(57) Abstract: A decorating kit including a transfer sheet having printed thereon a substantially non-tacky layer of an edible ink. The ink may be used in a transfer printing process for forming an image layer on a surface of an edible article. The transfer process includes providing a transfer sheet with a substantially non-tacky layer of an edible ink thereon; contacting the layer of edible ink with the surface of the edible article; and removing the transfer sheet such that the ink releases therefrom and forms an image layer on the surface of the edible article.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC 7	B44C1/17	B44C1/16
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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)		
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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 practical, search terms used)		
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 02 085995 A (WRIGHT ANGELA ; CANDLER ANDREW (GB); RUSSELL JOHN (GB); DECOPAC INC) 31 October 2002 (2002-10-31) page 7, line 25 - page 8, line 28 claim 37	1-3,15, 17-21,24
X	----- WO 95 01735 A (STEWART DOUGLAS ROBERT) 19 January 1995 (1995-01-19) page 4, line 12 - line 20	1
A	page 5, line 3 - line 17 page 10, line 3 - page 11, line 19 ----- -/--	2,3, 15-24
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* 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 document 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
5 September 2003		18. 12. 03
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Patosuo, S.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 186 782 A (BIGIN MARKETING LIMITED) 26 August 1987 (1987-08-26) page 1, line 65 - line 67 page 2, line 14 - line 32 page 2, line 53 - line 59	1
A	page 1, line 65 - line 84	2,3, 15-24
A	----- US 4 578 273 A (KRUBERT GEORGE J) 25 March 1986 (1986-03-25) column 1, line 59 - line 64 column 3, line 53 - column 4, line 64 -----	1-3, 15-24
A	US 5 435 840 A (HILBORN G ROLAND) 25 July 1995 (1995-07-25) column 2, line 16 - line 27 -----	1-3, 15-24

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 02/30170

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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 II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

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 an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

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.:

1-3, 15-24

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-3, 15-24

Independent claims 1 and 21 define a decoration kit comprising a transfer sheet having printed thereon a substantially non-tacky layer of an edible ink.

Independent claim 15 defines a transfer printing process comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a transfer sheet with a substantially non-tacky layer of an edible ink thereon;
- (b) contacting the layer of edible ink with the surface of the edible article; and
- (c) removing the transfer sheet such that the ink releases therefrom and forms an image layer on the surface of the edible article.

Independent claim 20 defines an edible article comprising an image layer on a surface, wherein the image layer is applied with the transfer printing process of claim 15.

Independent claim 24 defines a process for making a decorated edible article, comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing an edible article;
- (b) applying a coating to a surface of the edible article;
- (c) contacting the coating with a substantially non-tacky ink layer on a transfer sheet; and
- (d) removing the transfer sheet such that the ink releases therefrom and forms an image layer on the coating.

2. claims: 4-14

Independent claim 4 defines an edible ink comprising a film former, an emulsifier, a humectant and a drying agent.

Independent claim 10 defines an ink composition comprising water, a pigment, about 15% by weight to about 25% by weight of a film former, about 10% by weight to about 15% by weight of an emulsifier, about 0.5% by weight to about 5% by weight of a humectant, and less than about 1% by weight of a non-aqueous drying agent, with the total of 100% by weight.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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