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A3

(54) Title: HIGH SPEED EMBOSSING AND ADHESIVE PRINTING PROCESS AND APPARATUS

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a process which in a preferred embodiment includes the steps of (a) applying a hot melt adhesive to a heated roll rotating at an intitial tangential speed; (b) milling the adhesive to a reduced thickness and accelerating said adhesive through a series of metering gaps between a plurality of adjacent heated glue rolls; (c) applying the adhesive to a conformable glue application roll rotating at a tangential line speed which is higher than the initial tangential speed; (d) applying the adhesive to a first patterned embossing roll which is engaged with a second patterned embossing roll having a complementary pattern to the first embossing roll, the embossing rolls being heated; (e) passing a web of sheet material between the first and second embossing rolls at the tangential line speed to simultaneously emboss the web and apply the adhesive to the web, such that the adhesive forms an adhesive pattern between embossments; (f) transferring the web from the second embossing roll to the first embossing roll; (g) stripping the web from the first embossing roll; and (h) cooling the web.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US 00/09099 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B05D5/10 B05E B05D3/12 B05D1/28 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) B05D 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) PAJ, EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1,2 Α vol. 1996, no. 02, 29 February 1996 (1996-02-29) & JP 07 266526 A (DAINIPPON INK & CHEM INC; OTHERS: 01), 17 October 1995 (1995-10-17) abstract PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1 Α vol. 015, no. 085 (M-1087), 27 February 1991 (1991-02-27) & JP 02 303822 A (NISSHINBO IND INC), 17 December 1990 (1990-12-17) abstract -/--ΙXΙ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. ΙX Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents : "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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 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) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 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 "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 "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 06/10/2000 27 September 2000 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2

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