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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SONY CHEMICALS CORPORATION OF AMERICA [US/US]; 1001 Technology Drive, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666-1766 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): TAYLOR, Jeffrey, F. [US/US]; 813 Stonebridge Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601 (US). WHALEN, John, T. [US/US]; 2100 Windgap Drive, North Huntingdon, PA 15642 (US).

(74) Agents: ANDERSON, Debra, Z. et al.; Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, 600 Grant Street, 44th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (US).

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- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

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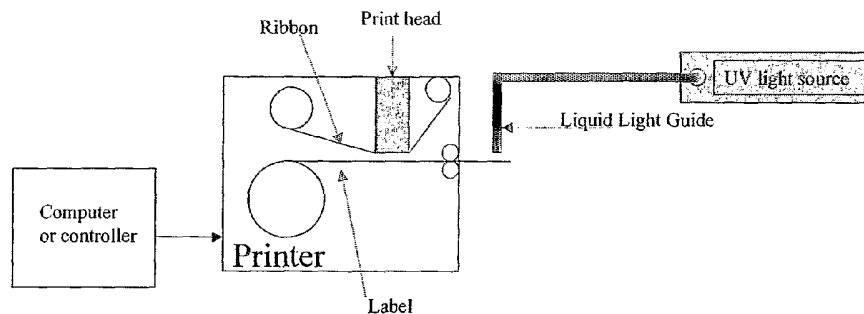
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHODS OF THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTING AND THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTERS

Use of UV curing source with liquid light guides:



(57) Abstract: A radiation-curable ink (2), a method of making the ink, a thermal transfer printer ribbon having a radiation-curable ink layer (20), and a thermal transfer printer (22) with an actinic energy source are provided. A method of thermal transfer printing using an ink ribbon having radiation-curable components is also provided, as well as a thermal transfer printer which utilizes these ribbons. The radiation curable components of the ink can be thermally dried and are cured after printing of an image on a receiving article. A liquid light guide is used to transmit actinic energy from a source to the printed image.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : B41J 2/315; G03C 1/725; B41F 23/04

US CL : 347/102, 105, 175-176, 212, 212, 215, 217; 346/134; 101/483, 487; 430/280.1

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)

U.S. : 347/102, 105, 175-176, 212, 215, 217

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 practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6365323 B1 (Narang et al.) entire reference	1-11

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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"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

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

K. Feggins

Telephone No. 571-272-2254

Lidia Seue For