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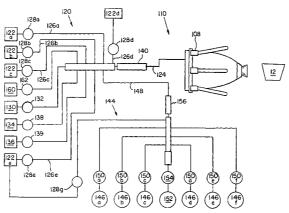
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING A POLYCHROMATIC COATING ONTO A SUBSTRATE



(57) Abstract: A method is provided for coating a substrate. A first waterborne coating material which is substantially free of effect pigment is applied over the substrate by one or more bell applicators. A second waterborne coating material comprising effect pigment is applied over the first coating material by one or more bell applicators. Between application of the first and second basecoat materials, the first basecoat material can be stabilized by exposing the first basecoat material to air having a temperature ranging from about 50 °F (10.0 °C) to about 90 °F (32.5 °C), a relative humidity of about 40 % to about 80 % and an air velocity at the surface of the coating material of about 20 FPM (0.10 m/s) to about 150 FPM (0.76 m/s) for a period of about 10 to about 180 seconds. A coating application system is also provided. The system includes a first supply of at least one first coating component which is substantially free of effect pigment and a second supply of at lest one effect-pigmented coating component. At least one mixer is provided for dynamically mixing the effect pigment-free coating component and/or the effect pigmented coating component to form a mixed coating material. The mixed coating material is received from the mixer and applied over the substrate by a bell applicator.



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#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US 00/30607 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B05D5/06 B05 B05D1/34 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 B05B 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, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° Relevant to claim No. χ GB 2 319 194 A (KANSAI PAINT CO LTD ; HONDA 1,4-6,MOTOR CO LTD (JP)) 8-12,20, 20 May 1998 (1998-05-20) 21 2,3,7 Α 13 - 19page 3, line 28 - line 35 page 4, line 3 - line 4 page 4, line 26 - line 28 page 7, line 7 - line 11 page 8, line 25 - line 28 page 9, line 2 - line 4 page 10, line 15 - line 16
page 10, line 33 - line 35
page 12, line 27 - line 28
page 18, line 23 -page 230, line 2 claims 1,12,14,25 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. 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 filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "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 docucitation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 21 June 2001 09/07/2001 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Slembrouck, I Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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