

## Title (en)

Thermal transfer color printing method and apparatus

## Title (de)

Thermotransferfarbdruckverfahren und -vorrichtung

## Title (fr)

Procédé et dispositif d'impression en couleurs d'un support par transfert thermique

## Publication

**EP 1260376 A3 20031112 (FR)**

## Application

**EP 02356097 A 20020523**

## Priority

FR 0106821 A 20010523

## Abstract (en)

[origin: EP1260376A2] Procedure uses parallel ribbons in primary Colors passing beneath a printing block (B) between feed and take up spools and thermal transfer head(s) that moves between retracted and printing positions. It has a system for holding the ribbons under tension during the block's advancing movement, and a mechanism for moving the support before each advancing movement of the block. <?>Procedure uses two or more parallel ribbons in primary Colors passing beneath a printing block (B) between feed (36) and take up (38) spools and at least one thermal transfer head that moves between retracted and printing positions. It has a system for holding the ribbons under tension during the block's advancing movement to ensure partial rewinding as the block returns, and a mechanism (14) for moving the support before each advancing movement of the block by an amount equal to at least the width of the ribbons. Each ribbon spool has a hub containing a torque limiter in the form of a sleeve of a cellular synthetic material.

## IPC 1-7

**B41J 2/325**; B41J 35/22; B41J 33/382; B41J 35/08

## IPC 8 full level

**B41J 35/22** (2006.01)

## CPC (source: EP)

**B41J 35/22** (2013.01)

## Citation (search report)

- [A] GB 2335163 A 19990915 - MARKING INT LTD [GB]
- [X] US 5622440 A 19970422 - YAMAMOTO JUNICHI [JP], et al
- [PX] EP 1138507 A2 20011004 - BROTHER IND LTD [JP]
- [X] EP 0450402 A2 19911009 - MITA INDUSTRIAL CO LTD [JP]
- [X] US 6019529 A 20000201 - YAMAMOTO JUNICHI [JP], et al
- [A] PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 010, no. 331 (M - 533) 11 November 1986 (1986-11-11)
- [A] PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 008, no. 284 (M - 348) 26 December 1984 (1984-12-26)
- [A] PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 009, no. 303 (M - 434) 30 November 1985 (1985-11-30)
- [A] PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 010, no. 176 (M - 491) 20 June 1986 (1986-06-20)
- [X] PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 10 31 August 1998 (1998-08-31)

## Cited by

EP1775135A1

## Designated contracting state (EPC)

AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE TR

## DOCDB simple family (publication)

**EP 1260376 A2 20021127**; **EP 1260376 A3 20031112**; FR 2825046 A1 20021129; FR 2825046 B1 20031031

## DOCDB simple family (application)

**EP 02356097 A 20020523**; FR 0106821 A 20010523