

Title (en)  
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A LEATHER-LIKE SHEET-SHAPED OBJECT

Title (de)  
VERFAHREN ZUR HERSTELLUNG EINES LEDERÄNLICHEN FOLIENFÖRMIGEN OBJEKTS

Title (fr)  
PROCÉDÉ POUR PRODUIRE UN OBJET IMITANT LE CUIR EN FORME DE FEUILLE

Publication  
**EP 2927368 A1 20151007 (EN)**

Application  
**EP 13859092 A 20131127**

Priority  
• JP 2012261805 A 20121130  
• JP 2013081891 W 20131127

Abstract (en)  
The present invention provides a process for producing a sheet-shaped material having both an elegant, napped appearance and a soft texture and exhibiting a good abrasion resistance, the process comprising the successive steps of: (i) dissolving, in water, a polyvinyl alcohol having a degree of saponification of 98% or more and a degree of polymerization of 800 to 3500 to prepare a polyvinyl alcohol aqueous solution in which the concentrations of methyl acetate, acetic acid and methanol are 50 ppm or less, (ii) adding the polyvinyl alcohol aqueous solution to a fibrous substrate comprising microfiber-generating fibers as its main constituent, so that the fibrous substrate has the polyvinyl alcohol in an amount of 0.1 to 50% by mass based on the mass of the fibers contained in the fibrous substrate, (iii) generating microfibers having an average single fiber diameter of 0.3 to 7  $\mu$ m from the microfiber-generating fibers contained in the fibrous substrate as its main constituent, (iv) adding a waterborne polyurethane to the fibrous substrate comprising the microfibers as its main constituent and having the added polyvinyl alcohol, and (v) removing the polyvinyl alcohol from the fibrous substrate comprising the microfibers as its main constituent and having the added waterborne polyurethane.

IPC 8 full level  
**D06N 7/00** (2006.01); **D06C 11/00** (2006.01); **D06M 11/05** (2006.01); **D06M 15/333** (2006.01); **D06M 15/564** (2006.01); **D06N 3/00** (2006.01); **D06N 3/14** (2006.01)

CPC (source: EP US)  
**D06M 15/333** (2013.01 - EP US); **D06M 15/564** (2013.01 - EP US); **D06N 3/0004** (2013.01 - EP US); **D06N 3/14** (2013.01 - EP US); **D06N 2201/10** (2013.01 - EP US); **D06N 2209/103** (2013.01 - EP US); **D06N 2209/105** (2013.01 - EP US); **D06N 2211/10** (2013.01 - US); **D06N 2211/14** (2013.01 - EP US); **D06N 2211/26** (2013.01 - EP US); **D06N 2211/28** (2013.01 - EP US); **Y10T 428/268** (2015.01 - EP US)

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IT201700089038A1; WO2019025964A1

Designated contracting state (EPC)  
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

Designated extension state (EPC)  
BA ME

DOCDB simple family (publication)  
**EP 2927368 A1 20151007**; **EP 2927368 A4 20160629**; **EP 2927368 B1 20171011**; CN 104838063 A 20150812; CN 104838063 B 20160928; JP 6225917 B2 20171108; JP WO2014084253 A1 20170105; KR 102090355 B1 20200317; KR 20150090122 A 20150805; TW 201439398 A 20141016; TW I580840 B 20170501; US 2015315741 A1 20151105; WO 2014084253 A1 20140605

DOCDB simple family (application)  
**EP 13859092 A 20131127**; CN 201380062155 A 20131127; JP 2013081891 W 20131127; JP 2014549860 A 20131127; KR 20157015928 A 20131127; TW 102143744 A 20131129; US 201314647923 A 20131127