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54 **Improvements in or relating to printing plates.**

57 A plate is prepared by uniformly coating a substrate with a powdered material which is capable of being melted by the action of laser light. The plate is then image-wise exposed with a laser to melt the coating in selected areas. The exposed plate is used in lithographic printing plate manufacture. Thus the non-melted powder may be removed from the substrate to leave a lithographic printing image constituted by the laser light struck areas of the plate. Alternatively, the non-melted powder may be transferred and fixed to a transparent substrate which is then used to expose radiation sensitive material to form a lithographic printing plate.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
X	GB-A-1 157 918 (RCA) * Whole document *	1-10	B 41 M 5/26 B 41 C 1/10
X	FR-A-2 103 839 (AGFA-GEVAERT) * Whole document *	1-10	
A	DE-A-2 512 105 (SIEMENS) * Whole document *	1-10	
A	FR-A-1 444 565 (A.B. DICK) * Whole document *	1-10	
A	DE-B-1 271 196 (TELEFUNKEN) * Whole document *	1-10	
A	IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 15, no. 1, June 1972, pages 213-214, New York, US; T.J. HARRIS et al.: "Thermal printer" * Article *	1-10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3) B 41 M 5/26 B 41 C 1/10
A	DE-A-2 129 926 (FUJI) * Whole document *	1-10	
A	ELECTRO CONF. RECORD, vol. 4, 24th April 1979, pages 1-6; R.M. LANDSMAN: "Laser platemaking" * Article *		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 12-07-1985	Examiner RASSCHAERT A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	