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(54) **Photographic coupler dispersions.**

(57) The dark stability of a photographic dye image formed by reaction between a coupler, dispersed in admixture with an involatile solvent, and oxidized *p*-phenylenediame colour developing agent is impaired by the presence of a compound comprising a phenolic (or naphtholic) moiety in which the acidity of the phenolic hydroxyl group is enhanced by at least one electron-withdrawing substituent in ortho and/or para positions relative to that group. Such a compound may be the coupler itself or the involatile solvent used for its incorporation. This loss in stability can be reduced by introducing into the dispersion a lipophilic anionic surfactant which comprises a sulphate or sulphonate group as the sole hydrophilic group and either a single aliphatic hydrocarbon group having at least 15 carbon atoms or two or more aliphatic hydrocarbon groups which together contain at least 17 carbon atoms. A conventional, i.e. less lipophilic, anionic surfactant may also be used in preparing the coupler dispersion.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 85 30 8436

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.4)
X	DE-A-2 629 842 (FUJI PHOTO FILM) * Claims 1,11,16,17; page 13, last paragraph - page 16, line 1; page 21, lines 1-12; page 28, line 10 - page 29, line 20 *	1-13	G 03 C 7/32
X	RESEARCH DISCLOSURE, no. 145, May 1976, pages 33-34, abstract no. 14532, Industrial Opportunities, Havant, Hampshire, GB; J.R. MENDEL et al.: "Methods of increasing dye yield of oil-free (NS) coupler dispersions" * Whole document *	1-13	
X	DE-A-2 133 869 (AGFA-GEVAERT) * Example 1 *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
X	DE-A-1 805 880 (ILFORD) * Whole document *	1-13	G 03 C 7 G 03 C 1
X	DE-A-2 448 597 (FUJI PHOTO FILM) * Claims *	1-13	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	09-10-1987	PHILOSOPH L.P.

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

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