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(54) **Apparatus for coloring an article by transfer printing.**

(57) Apparatus for coloring an article comprises means (22) for heating a sheet of transfer material (1') including a design layer to be transfer-printed, means (23) for selectively placing and removing said sheet of transfer material (1'), a transfer pad (8) capable of receiving said design layer from said sheet (1') on the surface thereof and releasing said design layer from said pad surface, and means (32 to 35) for moving said transfer pad (8) so as to bring said pad surface (8b) into contact with said sheet so that said design layer is transferred from said sheet to said pad surface and subsequently bring said pad into contact with the surface of an article to be transfer-printed so that said design layer is transferred from said pad surface to said surface of said article, characterized in that said heating means (22) comprise a heating plate (22a) on which said sheet (1') is placed in direct contact therewith, and a heater for heating said heating plate (22a), said sheet (1') is placed on and removed from said heating plate (22a) by said means (23) and said pad surface (8b) is brought into contact with said sheet (1') on said heating plate (22a).

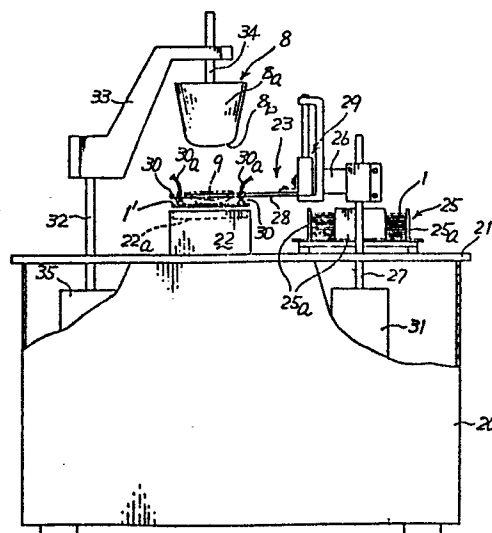
The apparatus of claim 1, characterized in that said pad moving means (32 to 35) moves said transfer pad (8) vertically between a position on said heating plate (22a) and a position higher than said position.

The apparatus of claim 1, characterized in that said pad moving means (32 to 35) moves said transfer pad (8) additionally horizontally between a position above said

heating plate (22a) and a position laterally away therefrom.

The apparatus of claim 1, characterized in that said sheet placing and removing means (23) moves said sheet (1') reciprocally along a linear path.

*Fig. 6a*





European Patent  
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

**0185895**  
Application number

EP 85 11 3888

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)
A	US-A-3 986 920 (M. WEARING) * Column 2, lines 24-63 *	1,5	B 65 C 9/25 B 65 C 9/14 B 44 C 1/16
A	--- US-A-3 926 710 (S. WEINGRAD) * Column 1, lines 26-62; column 3, line 40 - column 4, line 42 *	1,4,6	
A,D	--- US-A-3 967 021 (S. WEINGRAD) * Column 2, lines 31-68 *	1,26	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			B 44 C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 29-05-1986	Examiner FRIDEN N.
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	