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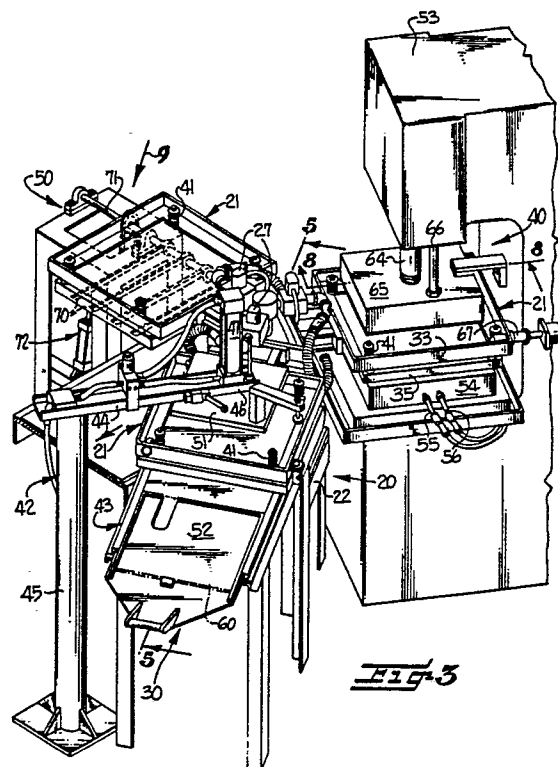
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## 54 Method and apparatus for printing carpet tiles.

57 An apparatus for accurate, precise and successive registration, indexing and printing of individual pre-cut backed carpet tiles includes a central control and transport mechanism (20) and a plurality of tile processing stations (30, 40, 50) adjacent one another and surrounding the central control and transport mechanism. A plurality of tile carriers (21) are movably and sequentially carried by the central control mechanism (20) for sequentially carrying individual carpet tiles to one or more of the processing stations. The processing stations comprise a tile registration station (30), a printing station (40) and a tile unloading station (50). The apparatus also includes a steamer for fixing printed colorant on carpet tiles, a vacuum device for removing excess moisture from carpet tiles and a dryer for drying the carpet tiles.



**FIG. 3**

EP 0 203 792 A3



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)
Y	EP-A-0 101 754 (M. MITTER) * Claims 1-7,10-12; figure 1; page 2, line 8 - page 3, line 4 *	1,17-20	B 41 F 17/00
A	---	2-16	
Y	US-A-3 854 398 (M.S. MARTIN ) * Abstract; claim; figures 1,2,8,12,13,15,18; column 1, lines 12-22 *	1	
A	---	2-4,10	
Y	US-A-4 165 547 (D.B. PARLIN et al.) * Whole document *	17-20	
A	---	2,7-10	
A	US-A-2 609 747 (S.B. SCHWARTZ et al.) * Claim 1; figures 1-3; column 4, lines 16-56; column 4, line 9 - column 5, line 5 *	1-4	
A	WO-A-8 000 145 (T. VIDALIS) * Abstract; figures 1,4; claim 1; page 9, line 28 - page 11, line 19 *	1,2,6,9 ,10	
A	DE-A-1 815 981 (SCHNELLPRESSENFABRIK FRANKENTHAL) * Claim; figures 1-3; page 1, line 31 - page 2, line 24 *	2,3,4,9	
A	AT-A- 318 529 (P. ZIMMER) * Claim; figure; page 2, lines 1-28 *	2,10,13 -15	
A	CH-A- 439 198 (REGGIANI S.p.A.) * Claims; figure *	10,15, 16	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 31-03-1988	Examiner GREINER E.F.
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b>			
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			