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54 **Numbered documents.**

57 This invention relates to documents, such as banknotes, which are produced and used in large numbers and which, for a given series, are identical one with another except for a unique multi-digit number upon each individual document, the number thus uniquely identifying that document within the series. According to the present invention, to render unauthorised reproduction of the document more difficult, on each document the numerical or alphabetical characters in the identifying number are provided one above the other. In addition, at least two characters in the identifying number may differ from each other (in addition to any differences in the letters or digits which they represent) in one or more visible characteristics. Thus the differing characters may have different heights or widths or be in different styles of type. Preferably, the identifying number appears twice on each document, in diagonally opposite corners, and preferably the variation of physical characteristics of the characters along the

length of one of the numbers is reversed in direction in the other of the numbers.

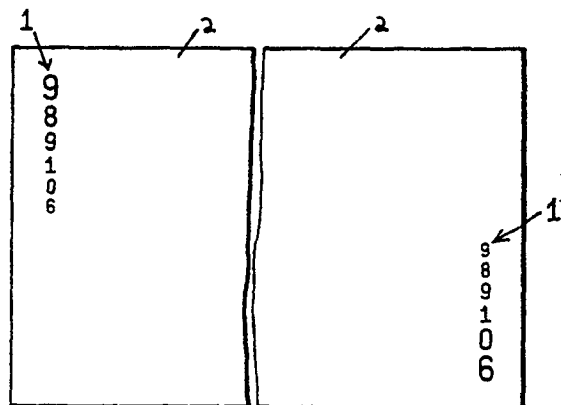


Fig. 1

EP 0 334 390 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	FR-A-1177718 (YATTA) * the whole document * ---	1, 2, 10	B42D15/00
Y	US-A-2085023 (REID) * page 1, right-hand column, lines 1 - 29; figure 1 * ---	1-5, 9, 10	
Y	DE-C-74923 (DUPONT) * page 2, left-hand column, lines 8 - 39; figures 1-3 * ---	3-5, 9	
A	US-A-2850819 (PAYNE) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			B42D A63F B41F B41K B41B G09F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 27 JUNE 1990	Examiner LONCKE J.W.
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	