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Publication number:

0 360 218 A3

12

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: 89117297.5

51 Int. Cl.⁵: **B41M 5/26**

22 Date of filing: 19.09.89

30 Priority: 20.09.88 JP 235406/88

43 Date of publication of application:
28.03.90 Bulletin 90/13

84 Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB

88 Date of deferred publication of the search report:
20.03.91 Bulletin 91/12

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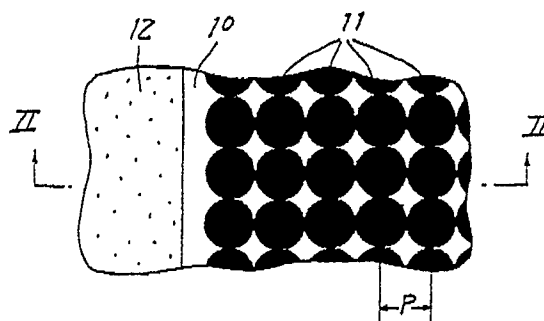
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54 **Heat-sensitive hot-melt image transfer sheet.**

57 A heat-sensitive hot-melt image transfer sheet transfers an ink image to a recording sheet when selectively heated by the heating element of the thermal head of a thermal printer. The image transfer sheet comprises a base coated on a surface thereof with a matrix of circular hot-melt ink dots at a regular pitch. The hot-melt ink dots are selectively meltable with heat applied through the base by the heating elements for transferring an ink image to the recording sheet held against the matrix of hot-melt ink dots.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 89 11 7297

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.5)
X	US-A-4 250 511 (W.W.STEIN ET AL.) * column 3, lines 14 - 28; figure 2 * - - -	1-8	B 41 M 5/26
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 11, no. 289 (M-625)(2736) 18 September 1987, & JP-A-62 83186 (CANON INC.) 16 April 1987, * the whole document * - - -	1-8	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 10, no. 40 (M-454)(2097) 18 February 1986, & JP-A-60 192692 (SUWA SEIKOSHA K.K.) 01 October 1985, * the whole document * - - -	1-8	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 8, no. 64 (M-285)(1501) 27 March 1984, & JP-A-58 212993 (CANON K.K.) 10 December 1983, * the whole document * - - -	1-8	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 9, no. 77 (M-369)(1800) 06 April 1985, & JP-A-59 207285 (RICOH K.K.) 24 November 1984, * the whole document * - - - - -	1-8	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) B 41 M
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 12 January 91	Examiner BACON,A.J.
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			