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(54) **Thermal transfer recording medium.**

(57) A thermal transfer recording medium (2) for use with a thermal transfer printer (7, 8, 9) comprises a substrate (5), and a thermal transfer ink layer (1) coated on the substrate (2). The substrate includes a plurality of first minute regions randomly coated with the thermal transfer ink layer (1), and a plurality of second minute regions uncoated therewith. The thermal transfer ink layer (1) may comprise a plurality of minute concave and convex portions randomly provided on the first minute regions.

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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 89 12 2716

| 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) |
| P,X                                                                              | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 13, no. 193<br>(M-822)(3541) 09 May 1989,<br>& JP-A-01 16684 (FUJI KAGAKUSHI KOGYO COMPANY LIMITED) 20 January 1989,<br>* the whole document *       | 1-9                                                                     | B 41 M<br>5/38                                |
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| X                                                                                | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 13, no. 67<br>(M-798)(3415) 15 February 1989,<br>& JP-A-63 268693 (FUJI KAGAKUSHI KOGYO COMPANY LIMITED) 07 November 1988,<br>* the whole document * | 1-9                                                                     |                                               |
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|                                                                                  | -----                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                         |                                               |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                       |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                         | TECHNICAL FIELDS<br>SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)      |
|                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                         | B 41 M                                        |
| Place of search                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                     | Date of completion of search                                            | Examiner                                      |
| The Hague                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                     | 16 February 91                                                          | BACON,A.J.                                    |
| <b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b>                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                         |                                               |
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| O : non-written disclosure                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                     | -----                                                                   |                                               |
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