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(71) Applicant: **AGFA-GEVAERT N.V.**  
**2640 Mortsel (BE)**

(72) Inventors:  
• **Horemans, Luc,**  
**c/o Agfa-Gevaert N.V.**  
**B-2640 Mortsel (BE)**  
• **Kaerts, Eric,**  
**c/o Agfa-Gevaert N.V.**  
**B-2640 Mortsel (BE)**

(54) **Thermal dye transfer printing process**

(57) A thermal dye transfer printing process for making transparent prints, which comprises bringing a dye-bearing donor ribbon (17) in contact with a dye-receiving polymer print sheet (15) at a print zone, supporting both materials on a backing support (14) in said zone and contacting the donor ribbon with a print head (18) for image-wise heating the ribbon and cause dye

transfer to the print sheet, wherein the rear side of the print sheet is uniformly heated on a drum (30) after removal of the sheet from the backing support, thereby to reduce curling of the sheet caused by the image-wise heating of its front side.

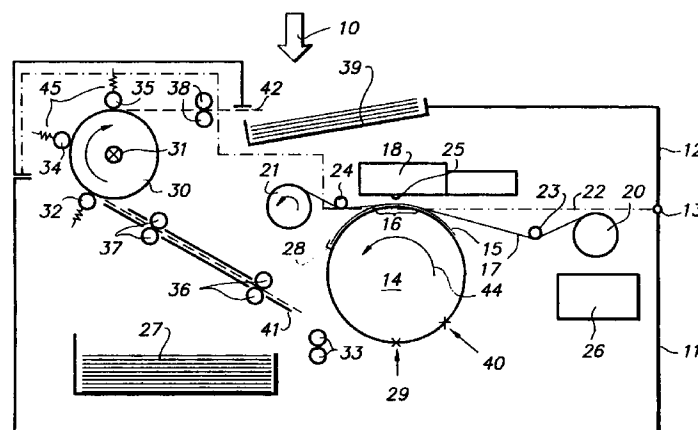


FIG. 1

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 95 20 0407

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.6)
X	WO 91 09740 A (EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY) * the whole document *	1-10	B41J2/325 B41J29/00
X	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 008, no. 174 (M-316), 10 August 1984 & JP 59 067065 A (SEIKO DENSHI KOGYO KK), 16 April 1984, * abstract *	1,2,5,6	
A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 008, no. 203 (M-326), 18 September 1984 & JP 59 093319 A (USHIO DENKI KK), 29 May 1984, * abstract *	3,7	
A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 009, no. 063 (M-365), 20 March 1985 & JP 59 196285 A (MITSUBISHI SEISHI KK), 7 November 1984, * abstract *	1-10	
X	--- US 5 113 201 A (MANO SHIGERU ET AL) 12 May 1992 * column 5, line 42 - line 48; figure 9 *	1,2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) B41J
A	--- EP 0 307 848 A (SCHAFT VOLKER) 22 March 1989 * the whole document *	1-10	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 August 1997	Examiner Joosting, T
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			

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