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(54) **Bleach regenerator composition and its use to process reversal color photographic elements**

(57) A ferric-EDTA bleach regenerator composition can be mixed with bleach overflow to provide a bleach replenisher for reversal color silver halide photographic processes. The bleach regenerator composition has a critically controlled pH between 6.0 and 6.5, and comprises a total bromide ion concentration of at least 210 g/l, and ferric ion in an amount of at least 50 g/l. At least 50% of the bleach overflow and the bleach regenerator composition are mixed in at least a 1:1 volume ratio. After pH adjustment to from 5.4 to 5.6, the pH adjusted replenisher is supplied to the bleach tank for use in the process.

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 20 2980

| 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) |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | EP 0 553 569 A (KONICA CORPORATION) 4 August 1993<br>* see claim 1 and page 20, line 55 to page 21, line 25 * | 1-12                                              | G03C7/44                                     |
| X                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | US 4 232 118 A (KONISHIROKU PHOTO INDUSTRY CO. LTD.) 4 November 1980<br>* see example 3 *                     | 7,8                                               |                                              |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | -----                                                                                                         | 1-6,9-12                                          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                               |                                                   | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                               |                                                   | G03C                                         |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                               |                                                   |                                              |
| Place of search<br>MUNICH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                               | Date of completion of the search<br>13 March 1997 | Examiner<br>OKUNOWSKI, F                     |
| <p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br/> Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br/> A : technological background<br/> O : non-written disclosure<br/> P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br/> E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br/> D : document cited in the application<br/> L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> |                                                                                                               |                                                   |                                              |

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