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(57)An imaging system including an image bearing surface (16) and an intermediate transfer member (40) operative for transfer of liquid toner images from the image bearing surface (16) to a substrate (42) provides for first transfer engagement between the intermediate transfer member (40) and the image bearing surface (16) for transfer of an image from the image bearing surface to the intermediate transfer member (40) at a first pressure, producing deformation of the intermediate transfer member (40) to a first deformation degree. The system also provides for second transfer engagement between the intermediate transfer member (40) and the substrate (42) for transfer of the image from the intermediate transfer member to the substrate at a second pressure, producing deformation of the intermediate transfer member (40) to a second deformation degree. In one preferred embodiment the intermediate transfer member (40) includes a compressible layer having a transfer surface, a backing layer disposed away from the image bearing surface and a heating layer. The heating layer is disposed intermediate the backing layer and the transfer surface.



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number EP 97 20 1407

Category	Citation of document with indicat	tion, where appropriate,	Relevant	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	ep 0 046 958 A (HOECHS * page 4, line 11 - li * page 5, line 11 - li	ne 28; claims 1-4	1-5,8,10 G03G5/06	
Χ	DE 21 54 145 A (FUJI)		1-4,10, 11	
х	* claims 1-21 * DE 18 14 644 A (FUJI) * page 1, paragraph 2 1; claim 1 * * page 8, paragraph 1	18 14 644 A (FUJI) page 1, paragraph 2 - page 5, paragraph claim 1 *		
X	DE 21 17 058 A (HITACHI) * page 18, paragraph 1 - page 19, paragraph 2; claim 2 *		1,2,10	
X	* page 10, paragraph 3 - page 12, paragraph 2; claims 1-3,7 * * page 19, paragraph 3 - page 20, paragraph 1 *		1-4,7, 10,11	
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X	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 8608 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A04, AN 86-051965 XP002042379 & JP 61 005 253 A (MATSUSHITA) , 11 January 1986 * abstract *		1-5,8-11	
	The present search report has been	drawn up for all claims		
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Į.	Examiner
	THE HAGUE	2 October 1997	7 Van	hecke, H
X : parl Y : parl doci A : tech	ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS icularly relevant if taken alone icularly relevant if combined with another ument of the same category incopical background invertiten disclosure	E : earlier pater after the filin D : document o L : document	ited in the application ted for other reasons	shed on, or