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(54) **Method and apparatus for preparing coloured materials in powder form for tile manufacture, and coloured materials obtained thereby**

(57) The method for preparing coloured materials in powder form for ceramic tile manufacture comprises feeding a mixing device (6) with a mass of atomized or granulated ceramic material the granules of which are

of statistically equal size and do not contain added colorants, and a metered quantity of fine coloured particles of much smaller size than said granules, then mixing the entirety until the outer surface of said granules is completely covered by said fine coloured particles.

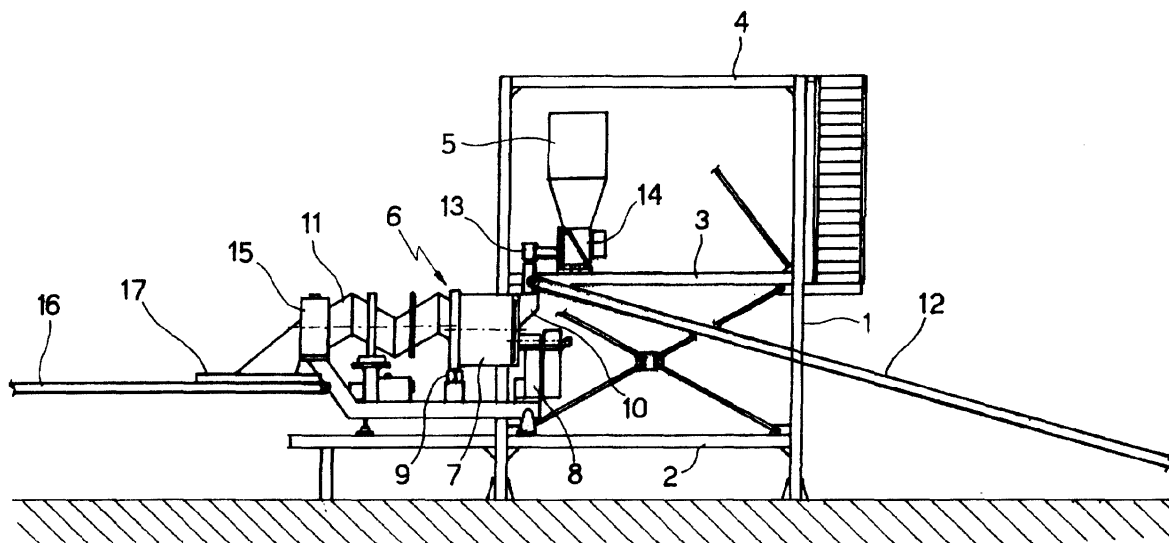


FIG.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 20 3671

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19 July 2000	Examiner Gourier, P
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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

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