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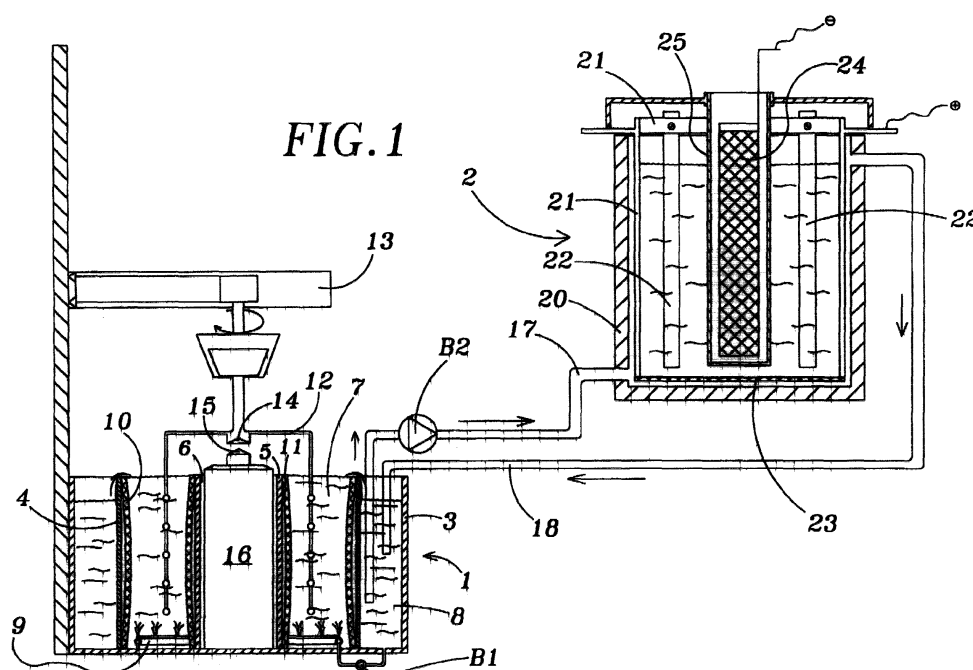
(54) **A method and an equipment for the electrolytic deposition of gold or gold alloys**

(57) Replenishing of gold is carried out by continuous recirculation of the cyanide-alkaline electrolyte between the electrodeposition electrolytic cell (1) and an auxiliary electrolytic cell (2) in whose anode (21) are placed gold sheets (22) so that free potassium cyanide formed in the electrolyte as a consequence of electrodeposition process, combines with gold in said auxiliary electrolytic cell (2) to produce the cyano-complex

(K(Au(CN)<sub>2</sub>).

The equipment comprises an electrodeposition electrolytic cell (1) and an auxiliary electrolytic cell (2) that allows the continuous replenishing of gold.

The features of the invention allow to produce an electroplate of uniform thickness and composition, keeping the costs, especially those of replenishing gold, at a low level.





European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 50 0086

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.7)
X	"Method for lowering free-cyanide concentration in gold-plating baths" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 29, no. 12, 12 May 1987 (1987-05-12), pages 5164-5166, XP002213699 * the whole document *	1,7	C25D21/14 C25D21/12 C25D17/12 C25D17/06
A	US 4 288 298 A (ROGERS OLBERT W) 8 September 1981 (1981-09-08) * column 5, line 23-47 *	8	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 547 (C-1262), 19 October 1994 (1994-10-19) & JP 06 192866 A (TOKURIKI HONTEN CO LTD), 12 July 1994 (1994-07-12) * abstract *		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			C25D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>17 September 2002</b>	Examiner <b>Van Leeuwen, R</b>
<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 &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03 B2 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 50 0086

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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17-09-2002

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