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(72) Inventors:
• **Gardner, Richard James Ernle**
Dinas Powys, Cardiff, CF64 4HE (GB)
• **Perry, Nigel Jon**
Tintern, Gwent, NP16 6ST (GB)

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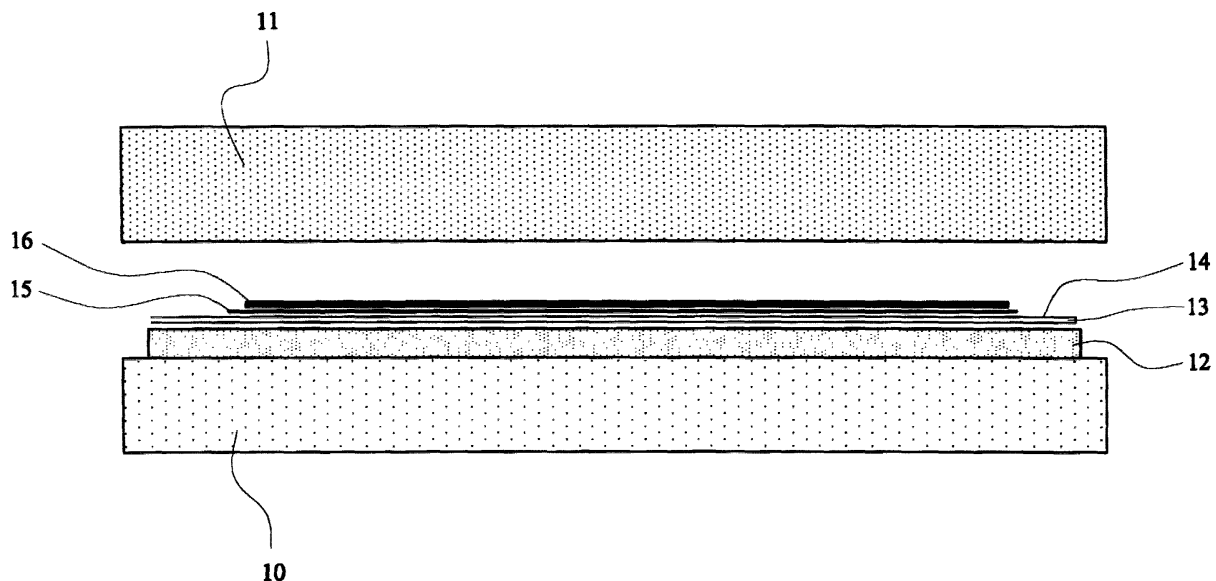
(74) Representative: **Evans, Huw David Duncan**
Urquhart-Dykes & Lord,
Three Trinity Court,
21-27 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0AA (GB)

(71) Applicant: **Gardners Digital Limited**
Cardiff CF1 8AQ (GB)

(54) **Method for Making Printed Metal Panels**

(57) A method of forming image-bearing panel members comprises providing a plurality of sheets 16 of metal coated on one side thereof with a layer of plastics material. The sheets 16 are then printed in a piecewise manner, by at least partially covering the plastics

coating of the sheet 16 to be printed with a transfer on which a reverse of the image is printed with a sublimation inks, and subjecting the transfer to conditions which cause the sublimation inks to migrate from the transfer to the plastics coating whilst the sheet remains stationary.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 31 1365

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.C1.7)
X	US 5 856 267 A (L.R.SHERMAN ET AL.) 5 January 1999 (1999-01-05) * column 2, line 19 - line 38 * * column 3, line 7 - column 4, line 16 * * claims 1-27; figure 4 *	1-12	B41M1/28 B41M5/035
X	GB 2 141 382 A (METAL BOX PLC) 19 December 1984 (1984-12-19) * page 1, line 5 - line 15 * * page 1, line 40 - line 76 * * page 1, line 113 - line 120 * * claims 1-3,11-13; examples 1,2 *	1-9	
X	GB 2 095 619 A (PETER MUSER) 6 October 1982 (1982-10-06) * page 1, line 127 - page 2, line 23 * * claim 1 *	1-6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.C1.7)
			B41M B44C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 14 February 2003	Examiner Bacon, A
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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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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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82