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(54) **Method for evaluating image and method for controlling quality of lithographic printing plate**

(57) An image-evaluating method comprising:

- (i) a step of forming plural lithographic printing plates for evaluation by subjecting image-forming materials comprising a support having provided thereon a light-sensitive layer containing both an alkaline aqueous solution-soluble resin and a compound which absorbs a light to generate heat, to exposure under a plurality of conditions with stepwise changing plate surface energy;
- (ii) a step of preserving the exposed plural lithographic printing plates for evaluation at a temperature of 15 to 23 °C;
- (iii) a step of developing at least one of the plural lithographic printing plates for evaluation with a standard developing solution having a standard formulation to prepare a lithographic printing plate having been treated with the standard developing solution;
- (iv) a step of developing other lithographic printing

plates for evaluation than the above-described lithographic printing plate having been developed with the standard developing solution, with a developing solution to be evaluated according to the necessity of evaluation to thereby prepare lithographic printing plates having been treated with the developing solution to be evaluated; and

(v) a step of comparing the state of image areas or non-image areas formed under predetermined exposure conditions in the lithographic printing plate having been treated with the standard developing solution with that in the lithographic printing plates having been treated with the developing solution to be evaluated.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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)
D,A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 16, 8 May 2001 (2001-05-08) & JP 2001 013692 A (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD), 19 January 2001 (2001-01-19) * abstract *	1,2	B41C1/10 G03F7/30
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G03F B41C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 October 2003	Examiner Heywood, C
<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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82