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(54) **Method and apparatus for producing ceramic products**

(57) The present invention relates to a method of and an apparatus for producing natural rock-imitating ceramic products. The method of producing a natural-stone-imitating ceramic product includes steps of using a hopper for delivering raw ceramic material onto a spreader, using the spreader to spread the raw ceramic material onto a surface of virgin ceramic material located in a pressing position of a pressing machine, pressing the raw ceramic material into the virgin ceramic material using the pressing machine, and sintering the pressed virgin ceramic material and finally processing the sintered virgin ceramic material. The apparatus for producing the natural-stone-imitating ceramic product includes a hopper, a spreader, and a pressing machine provided with an upper punch and a lower punch.

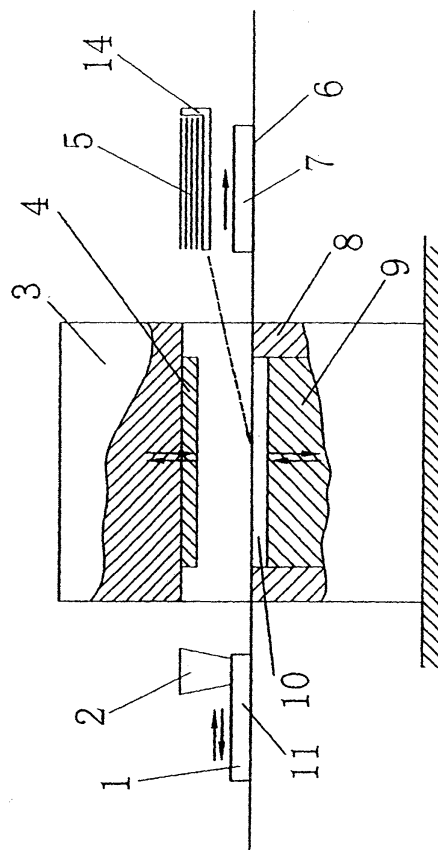


Fig. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 07 7767

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Y	US 4 451 307 A (ZIMMER ET AL) 29 May 1984 (1984-05-29) * column 4, line 41 - column 5, line 21; figures 1-3 *	1,2,4,5	
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A	DE 198 05 886 A1 (KUEHNHACKL GMBH) 19 August 1999 (1999-08-19) * claim 1 *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B28B B44C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 16 September 2005	Examiner Boone, J
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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EPC FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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