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(54) **Painting apparatus**

(57) An apparatus comprises at least a painting roller (2, 102), rotating around a rotation axis (R, R') and provided with a side wall (3, 103) suitable for contacting a portion to be painted (50a, 50b) of an element (50) for

applying to said portion to be painted (50a, 50b) a liquid solution, in particular paint, said side wall (3, 103) comprising at least a portion having a conical shape, arranged for contacting said portion to be painted (50a).

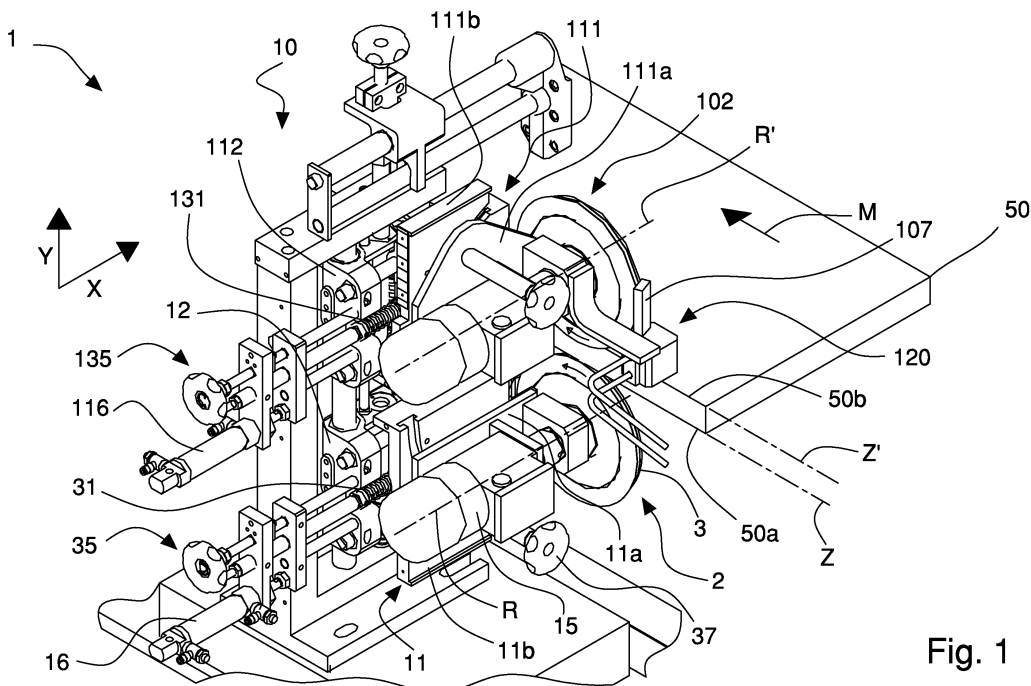


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 11 August 2010	Examiner Pöll, Andreas
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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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 (IPC)
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5 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 11 August 2010	Examiner Pöll, Andreas
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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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

- ☒ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

16-19

- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

- ☒ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

1-9, 11-19

- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

- ☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-9

An apparatus wherein a painting roller is movable along a first direction, between an operating position, in which said side wall is in contact with said portion to be painted, and an excluding position, in which said painting roller is disengaged and spaced apart from said portion to be painted.

The problem solved by this feature is to be able to remove the painting roller from the operation zone.

2. claim: 10

Apparatus, wherein said painting roller is rotated around said rotation axis by motor means at a speed that is such that a peripheral speed of said side wall is less than a moving speed of said element along a moving direction by a defined value.

The problem solved by this feature is to ensure better distribution of the paint (see page 18, line 31- page 19, line 1 of the application: The element to be painted tends to drag the painting rollers which roll thereupon, thus ensuring better distribution of the paint).

3. claims: 11-17

Apparatus wherein a side wall is provided with at least a peripheral groove suitable for receiving and retaining said liquid solution.

The problem solved by this feature is to find a way of receiving and retaining said liquid solution, preventing undesired accumulations thereof on the side wall (see page 6, lines 16-32 of the application).

4. claims: 18, 19

Apparatus comprising at least a rotating painting roller and an applying element arranged for contacting said painting roller and transferring thereupon said liquid solution, reservoir means containing said liquid solution, provided with an inlet and an outlet to enable said liquid solution to circulate and arranged for housing a portion of said applying element, wherein said reservoir means comprises a first chamber, bearing said inlet and said outlet, and a second chamber, connected to said first chamber and arranged for housing said portion of said applying element, said chambers being separated at least partially by a baffle. The problem solved by this feature can be said to be to



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 08 16 7360

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

provide a painting apparatus that enables an applying element to be used to be inserted partially into the reservoir means to draw paint, without having to cut and shape an end of the applying element (see page 7, lines 2-24 of the application).

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

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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

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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