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(54) **Thread**

(57) A stiffening thread (20) for use in increasing the durability of a crease (12) in a panel of fabric (10) comprises at least one ply of thermofusible material having a melting point between 75°C and 125°C and at least

one carrier ply of material which is not thermofusible, having a melting point above 125°C, wherein the at least one thermofusibile ply is a monofilament thermofusibile ply.

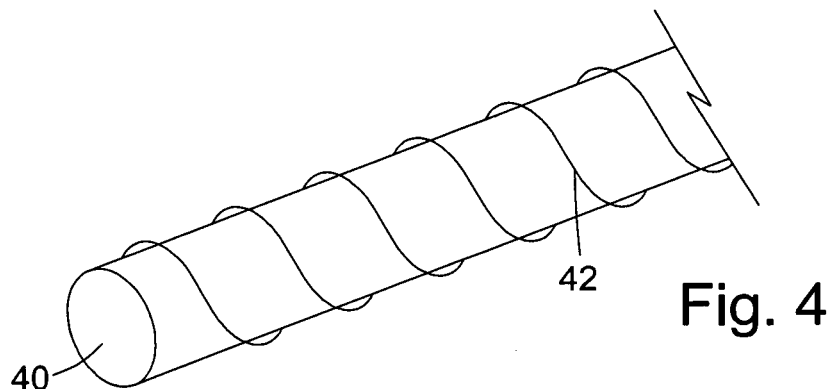


Fig. 4

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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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X	WO 87/04197 A2 (BIRKIN & CO LTD [GB]) BIRKIN & CO LTD [GB]; STOCKS FREDERICK BARRY DAWS) 16 July 1987 (1987-07-16) * page 2, line 28 - page 4, line 17; figure 1 *	1,3,9	
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A	JP H06 166905 A (FURUKAWA SAKAE; TOMOTA MICHIHARU; TOMOTA HITOSHI; HAYASHI HIROHISA) 14 June 1994 (1994-06-14) * abstract *	1	D02G A41D D06J B42B A41H D03D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 5 February 2015	Examiner Pollet, Didier
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):

☐ 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:

☒ 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:

1-13(partially)

☐ 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: 1-13(partially)

A stiffening thread for use in increasing the durability of a crease in a panel of fabric, the thread comprising at least one ply of thermofusible material having a melting point between 75°C and 125°C and at least one carrier ply of material which is not thermofusible, having a melting point above 125°C, the at least one thermofusible ply is a monofilament thermofusible ply.

2. claims: 1-9, 11-13(all partially)

A stiffening thread for use in increasing the durability of a crease in a panel of fabric, the thread comprising at least one ply of thermofusible material having a melting point between 75°C and 125°C and at least one carrier ply of material which is not thermofusible, having a melting point above 125°C, the thread is of wrapped construction with the carrier ply providing a core and the thermofusible ply being wrapped around the carrier ply.

3. claims: 1-13(partially)

A stiffening thread for use in increasing the durability of a crease in a panel of fabric, the thread comprising at least one ply of thermofusible material having a melting point between 75°C and 125°C and at least one carrier ply of material which is not thermofusible, having a melting point above 125°C, the carrier ply is of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and is soluble in water at temperatures of above 40°C.

4. claims: 1-10, 12, 13(all partially)

A stiffening thread for use in increasing the durability of a crease in a panel of fabric, the thread comprising at least one ply of thermofusible material having a melting point between 75°C and 125°C and at least one carrier ply of material which is not thermofusible, having a melting point above 125°C, the thread is of braided construction.

**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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05-02-2015

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