

### REMARKS

The claims remaining in this patent application following amendment are Claims 1-5, 13, 15 and 16. Claim 14 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 1-5 are withdrawn as being directed to the non-elected invention. Claim 13 has been amended.

The objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) has been noted. In particular, it is pointed out that the "roller press" described in Claim 14 is not shown in the drawings. To overcome this objection, Claim 14 has been cancelled, and all of the features in the remaining claims are fully shown in the drawings. Therefore, the Examiner's objection should now be withdrawn.

Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 14 is cancelled and the rejection thereof is rendered moot. Independent Claim 13 has been amended to improve the accuracy thereof and thereby overcome the aforementioned rejection. Thus, it is believed that Independent Claim 13 as well as Claims 15 and 16, which depend therefrom, are now in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Hagmann. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed. In this regard, Hagmann refers to a cutting knife of a punching pattern 2 that is withdrawn entirely into an outer elastic layer 39 that surrounds a viewing window. It is not until a force is applied to the elastic layer 39 that the cutting knife 41 of Hagmann emerges from the elastic layer 39 to cut a shape from a sheet material. Therefore, when the punching pattern 2 of Hagmann is first placed on a sheet material, the cutting knife thereof does not lie against the sheet material and surround the shape to be cut therefrom. In other words, because the cutting knife 41 of the punching pattern 2 of Hagmann is

withdrawn from below the bottom plane of the elastic layer 39, such cutting knife will not be automatically registered against a sheet material to surround a shape to be cut therefrom when the punching pattern is initially laid on the sheet material.

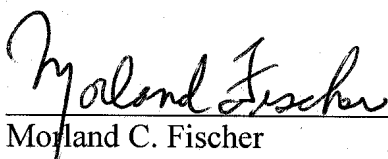
Taking into account the Examiner's remarks at Paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the editorial contents of Independent Claim 13 have been revised to improve the accuracy and details thereof. In particular, in the method recited by the applicant in Independent Claim 13, amended, a shape that is printed on a sheet material is cut out by means of a (first) die that includes a flat outside border having first and opposite faces that surround an inside opening and a cutting edge that projects from the first face of said flat outside border such that said cutting edge corresponds exactly to the shape that is printed on the sheet material and wherein the method comprises the steps of:

placing the cutting edge which projects from the first face of the flat outside border of said first die against the sheet material, and looking through the inside opening of said first die so that the shape printed on the sheet material is located entirely within the inside opening of said first die and the cutting edge which projects from the first face of said flat outside border is automatically registered so as to surround the shape to be cut from the sheet material, and applying a force to the opposite face of the flat outside border of said first die after said cutting edge has first been placed against the sheet material for pushing said cutting edge through said sheet material to cut the shape outwardly therefrom (emphases added).

Accordingly, it is submitted that Independent Claim 13, amended, recites a method which is distinguishable from any reasonable interpretation of Hagmann. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the aforementioned patent to Hagmann in view of the applicant's admitted prior art (APA). Claim 16 is rejected as being unpatentable over the aforementioned patent to Hagmann, in view of the APA, in further view of the patent to Eichenberg (5,255,586). As indicated above, Claim 14 has been cancelled. Inasmuch as Independent Claim 13 is believed to be patentable, Claims 15 and 16, which depend therefrom, are likewise believed to be patentable.

By virtue of this Amendment After Final Rejection, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, pursuant to AFCP 2.0 and in view of his remarks in Paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner is asked to enter this Amendment, withdraw his final rejection, and issue a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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