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DeMoore et al.

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[54] METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HANDLING PRINTED SHEET MATERIAL

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[57] ABSTRACT

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A transfer cylinder for supporting freshly printed sheet material between printing units or at the delivery unit of a printing press is provided with an ink repellent, flexible jacket covering for supporting and transporting the sheet material without transfer of wet ink from one sheet to a successive sheet and without smearing the ink or causing indentations on the surface of the sheet material. The circumferential support surface of the transfer cylinder is covered with a conductive, fluoropolymer layer secured to the surface of the transfer cylinder beneath the protective, wash-free disposable flexible jacket covering. The low friction properties of the conductive base covering permit free movement of the ink repellent, flexible jacket covering relative to the transfer cylinder surface. Electrostatic charges delivered to the flexible jacket covering by the printed sheet material are drawn away from the flexible jacket covering and are discharged into the transfer cylinder by the conductive base covering.

Related U.S. Application Data

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- [51] Int. Cl.⁶ **B41L 15/10; B41F 5/00**
- [52] U.S. Cl. **101/492; 101/419**
- [58] Field of Search 101/416.1, 419,
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11 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

