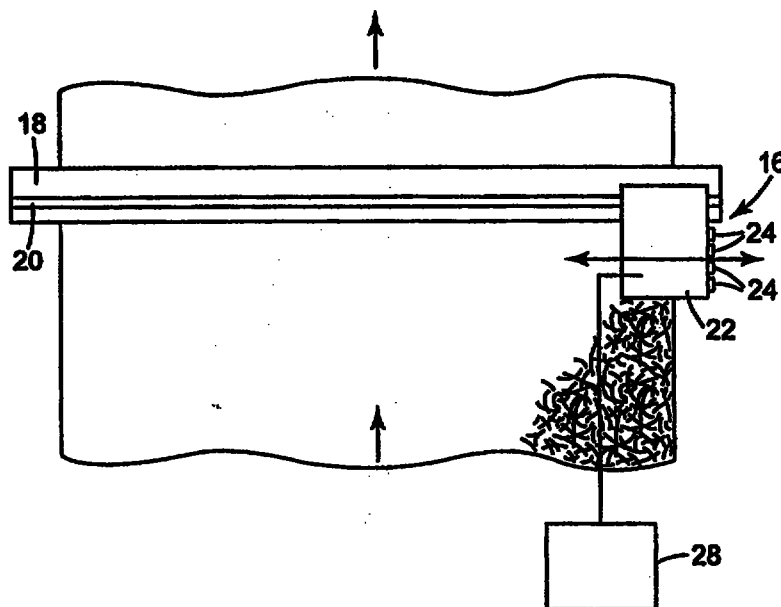




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : D06B 11/00, D06P 5/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/04080 (43) International Publication Date: 28 January 1999 (28.01.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/20999 (22) International Filing Date: 19 November 1997 (19.11.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/895,416 16 July 1997 (16.07.97) US (71) Applicant: MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY [US/US]; 3M Center, P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). (72) Inventors: OLSON, Gary, L.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). MARTIN, Philip, G.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). RIDLEHOOVER, Gerald, A.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). SCHICKLER, Randall, R.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). (74) Agents: PASTIRIK, Daniel, R. et al.; Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, Office of Intellectual Property Counsel, P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: METHOD OF CONTINUOUS TONE IMAGING TO PROVIDE AN IMAGED HIGH LOFT MAT PRODUCT

**(57) Abstract**

A method for continuous tone imaging on a mat product having a web material with a three-dimensional open structure provides a mat product with a sufficiently clear image. Moreover, it is a specific aspect of the present method to provide a clear image on such a three-dimensional structure without negatively affecting the characteristics of the web material having the three-dimensional structure. More specifically, the present invention is directed to a method for imaging a flexible high loft matting material which can be used in providing a floor covering mat product. The present invention is also directed to the imaged mat product produced in accordance with this method.