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(54) Title: THERMAL TRANSFER ELEMENT WITH A PLASTICIZER-CONTAINING TRANSFER LAYER AND THERMAL TRANSFER PROCESS

(57) Abstract: A plasticizer-containing layer can be used in a thermal transfer element to facilitate transfer to a receptor for the formation of a variety of articles. In one method, a receptor is brought into contact with a thermal transfer element that includes a transfer unit having at least one layer with a binder composition and a plasticizer. A portion of the transfer unit is thermally transferred to the receptor. This thermal transfer can be accomplished using, for example, a thermal print head or radiative (e.g., light or laser) thermal transfer. After transfer, the binder composition and the plasticizer (in the portion of the transfer unit that is transferred to the receptor) are reactively coupled.

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