

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A can imprinting device configured to dispose ink on a plurality of can bodies, the can imprinting device comprising:

a blanket wheel comprising:

a plurality of blanket segments; and

a plurality of blankets, each blanket affixed to one of the plurality of blanket segments and each blanket having a printing surface, at least two of the printing surfaces including:

a first part having a first outer surface, the first outer surface defining a first raised portion and a first recessed portion, the first raised portion configured to form a positive image on a can body of the plurality of can bodies, the first raised portion of one of the at least two blankets being different in form from the first raised portion of another of the at least two blankets; and

a second part having a second outer surface, the second outer surface defining a second raised portion and a second recessed portion, the second recessed portion configured to form a negative image on the can body, the negative image being inverse to the positive image and the first part and the second part being disposed relative to each other such that the negative image aligns with the positive image on the can body;

a first ink station, the first ink station comprising a first printing plate configured to contact the first part of each blanket; and

a second ink station, the second ink station comprising a second printing plate configured to contact the second part of each blanket.

2. The can imprinting device of claim 1 wherein each of the printing surfaces of the plurality of blankets includes the first outer surface defining the first raised portion and the first recessed portion and the second outer surface defining the second raised portion and the second recessed portion.

3. The can imprinting device of claim 2 wherein the first raised portion of each blanket is different in form from the first raised portion of the other blankets of the plurality of blankets.
4. The can imprinting device of any of the preceding claims wherein the negative image aligns with the positive image on the can body such that a portion of the negative image overlaps a portion of the positive image.
5. The can imprinting device of any of the preceding claims wherein the positive image is a first positive image and the second raised portion and the second recessed portion are configured to form a second positive image within which the negative image is disposed.
6. The can imprinting device of claim 5 wherein the second raised portion of at least one of the plurality of blankets is different in form from the second raised portion of at least one other of the plurality of blankets.
7. The can imprinting device of any of the preceding claims wherein the positive image is a first positive image and the negative image is a first negative image, the first part further comprising a third raised portion and a third recessed portion, the third raised portion being configured to form a second positive image, and the second part further comprising a fourth raised portion and a fourth recessed portion, the fourth recessed portion being configured to form a second negative image, the second negative image being inverse to the second positive image and the first part and the second part being disposed relative to each other such that the second negative image aligns with the second positive image on the can body.
8. The can imprinting device of claim 7 wherein the first printing plate is configured to contact the first raised portion of the first part and the device further comprises a third ink station, the third ink station comprising a third printing plate, wherein the third printing plate is configured to contact the third raised portion.

9. The can imprinting device of claim 8 wherein the first ink station includes a first color ink and the third ink station includes a second color ink in that is different from the first color ink.
10. The can imprinting device of claims 7 to 9 wherein for at least one of the blankets, the first raised portion of the at least one of the blankets is different in form from the third raised portion of that blanket.
11. A method of disposing ink on a plurality of can bodies using a can imprinting device, the method comprising:
- rotating a blanket wheel, the blanket wheel comprising a plurality of blanket segments, and a plurality of blankets, each blanket affixed to one of the plurality of blanket segments and each blanket having a printing surface;
 - disposing a first ink onto a first part of a first printing surface, the first part having a first outer surface that defines a first raised portion and a first recessed portion;
 - disposing a second ink onto a second part of the first printing surface, the second part having a second outer surface that defines a second raised portion and a second recessed portion;
 - contacting a first can body of the plurality of can bodies with the first printing surface, the contacting the first can body resulting in forming a first positive image on the first can body with the first raised portion of the first printing surface and forming a first negative image on the first can body with the second recessed portion of the first printing surface, the first negative image being inverse to the first positive image and the first negative image being formed so as to align with the first positive image;
 - disposing the first ink onto a first part of a second printing surface, the first part having a first outer surface that defines a first raised portion and a first recessed portion;

disposing the second ink onto a second part of the second printing surface, the second part having a second outer surface that defines a second raised portion and a second recessed portion; and

contacting a second can body of the plurality of can bodies with the second printing surface, the contacting the second can body resulting in forming a second positive image on the second can body with the first raised portion of the second printing surface, the second positive image being different in form from the first positive image, and forming a second negative image on the second can body with the second recessed portion of the second printing surface, the second negative image being inverse to the second positive image and the second negative image being formed so as to align with the first positive image.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising steps of disposing the first ink on to a first outer surface of each printing surface of the plurality of blankets and disposing the second ink onto the second outer surface of each printing surface, and contacting each printing surface with an additional can body of the plurality of can bodies, the contacting the additional can bodies resulting in, for each additional can body, forming a positive image and forming a negative image, the negative image being inverse to the positive image and the negative image being formed so as to align with the positive image.

13. The method of claims 11 or 12 wherein the steps of contacting each printing surface result in forming a positive image on each additional can body of the plurality of can bodies that is different in form from positive images formed on the other can bodies.

14. The method of claims 11 to 13 wherein the step of contacting the first can body with the first printing surface results in a portion of the first negative image overlapping a portion of the first positive image.

15. The method of claims 11 to 14 wherein the step of contacting the first can body results in forming a third positive image with the second raised portion of the second part of the first printing plate such that the first negative image is disposed within the second positive image.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of contacting the second can body results in forming a fourth positive image with the second raised portion of the second part of the second printing plate such that the second negative image is disposed within the fourth positive image, the fourth positive image being different in form from the third positive image.

17. The method of claims 11 to 16 wherein the first part of the first printing surface further comprises a third raised portion and a third recessed portion, and the step of contacting the first can body results in forming a third positive image with the third raised portion and forming a third negative image with the third recessed portion, the third negative image being inverse to the third positive image and the third negative image being formed so as to align with the third positive image.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of disposing the first ink includes disposing the first ink onto the first raised portion of the first part of the first printing surface and the method further comprises a step of disposing a third ink onto the third raised portion of the first printing surface.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the first ink is a different color from the third ink.

20. The method of claims 17 to 19 wherein the first part of the second printing surface further comprises a third raised portion and a third recessed portion, and the step of contacting the second can body results in forming a fourth positive image with the third raised portion, the fourth positive image being different in form from the third positive image and forming a fourth negative image with the third recessed portion, the fourth negative image being inverse to the

fourth positive image and the fourth negative image being formed so as to align with the fourth positive image.