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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2010 AUG 12 AM 11: 09 FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA OCALA DIVISION OCALA FLORIDA

LEWIS CHURNICK

Plaintiff,

v.

ICING IMAGES, LLC, a Maryland Limited Liability Company, DEBORAH COUGHLIN, and Various JOHN and JANE DOES,

Defendants.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Case No: 5:10-CV-383-0C-10685

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES WITH INJUNCTIVE RELIEF SOUGHT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, Lewis Churnick, sues the Defendants, Icing Images, LLC, Deborah Coughlin, and various John and Jane Does, and in support therefore, alleges as follows:

THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, Lewis Churnick is an individual residing in the state of Florida and having a corresponding address of 21051 NE Highway 27, Williston, FL 32696.
- 2. Defendant Icing Images, LLC is a Maryland limited liability company having a registered business address of 1217 Old Bethel Church Road, Winchester, Virginia and a principle place of business located at 161 Prosperity Drive #106, Winchester, Virginia (hereinafter "Icing Images").
- 3. Defendant, Deborah Coughlin is an individual residing at 1214 Old Bethel Church Road, Winchester, Virginia.

4. Defendant John and Jane Does are individuals and/or business entities whose identities and addresses are presently unknown to Plaintiff.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This is a civil action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, namely the United States Patent Act of 1952, as amended, 35 U.S.C. §271 et seq.
- 6. The District Court for the Middle District of Florida has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a), as it involves substantial claims arising under the United States Patent Act of 1952, as amended, and 35 U.S.C. §271 et seq.
- 7. Defendant Icing Images is conducting business on a systematic and continuous basis within the United States and abroad, including the state of Florida and this judicial district.
- 8. Defendant Icing Images makes, imports, uses, offers to sell, and/or sells within the United States products including products which when used by Defendant and Defendant's customers infringe the patent at issue in this action. Defendant Icing Images' products are targeted to customers, such as bakeries, all over the world, including in the state of Florida and this District. The Defendant's website, www.icingimages.com through which Defendant's goods are offered for sale and sold, is available and accessible within the Middle District of Florida. Additionally, Defendant Icing Images has, on a systematic and continuous basis, purchased goods for subsequent resale from vendors located within the State of Florida and this district.

- 9. Defendant Icing Images is subject to personal jurisdiction in this judicial district because it has established minimum contacts with the forum, such that the exercise of jurisdiction would not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice and is inducing others to commit acts of infringement in this judicial district.
- 10. Defendant Deborah Coughlin, on information and belief and at all times material hereto, a) is the founder and managing member and controls the day to day operations of Defendant Icing Images, LLC, b) controls the content of the website www.icingimages.com, and c) aided, participated in, approved, ratified and/or induced Defendant Icing Images' infringing acts as set forth herein. The courts have found that "corporate officers who actively aid and abet their corporation's infringement may be personally liable for inducing infringement under §271(b) regardless of whether the corporation is the alter ego of the corporate officer" Insituform Techonologies, Inc. v. CAT
 Contracting, Inc., 385 F 3d 1360, 1375, C.A. Fed., 2004. See also, Power Lift, Inc. v. Lang
 Tools, Inc., 774 F.2d 478 (Fed.Cir.1985), and Nissim Corp. v. Clearplay, Inc., et al., 351 F.Supp.2d 1343 (S.D.FL., 2004).
- 11. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1391(b) and (c) and 1400.

THE PATENT-IN-SUIT

12. The Plaintiff, Lewis Churnick, owns all right, title and interest in and to United States Patent No. 7,528,985, ("the '985 Patent") entitled "Method of Image Cropping and Location Affixing For Enhanced Duplication Reproductions On Edible Media", which was duly issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on May 5, 2009 and

presumed valid under 35 U.S.C. §282. The '985, which is also referred to herein as "the Patent-in-Suit", at all times pertinent, was, and is, enforceable. A true and correct copy of the '985 Patent is attached to this Complaint as **Exhibit A** and is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

- 13. The field of art of which the '985 Patent is a part relates generally to the reproduction of high quality pictorial images on edible media using, inter alia, a stand-alone (no computer necessary) color copier/ink-jet printer. The edible media bearing the reproduced image is used to decorate foodstuffs, such as cakes, cupcakes, cookies, chocolates and the like. The edible media is typically an edible starch-based paper substantially covering a sheet of wax paper or similar "backing sheet" that is fed through the printer.
- 14. At least as early as February, 2005, Lewis Churnick developed methods of reproducing a pictorial image onto an edible substrate using, inter alia, a cropping tool (also known as a "masking template" or just "template") and a sheet of edible media specially adapted for use with said template.
- 15. Mr. Churnick (hereinaster "Plaintiff") has been awarded a United States patent covering his methods namely the '985 Patent-in-Suit.
 - 16. Plaintiff is the owner of the entire right, title and interest in the '985 Patent.
- 17. Defendant Icing Images, LLC does not have a license under the '985 Patent to practice or permit others to practice the methods claimed therein.
- 18. Defendant Deborah Coughlin does not have a license under the '985 Patent to practice or permit others to practice the methods claimed therein.

19. Defendant Icing Images, under the auspices and control of Defendant Deborah Coughlin (together, the "II/DC Defendants"), have infringed and continue to infringe; have induced and continue to induce members of the public, presently unknown to Plaintiff, and identified herein as the Does, to infringe; and/or have committed and continue to committed acts of contributory infringement, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, of one or more claims of the '985 Patent.

DIRECT INFRINGEMENT OF THE PATENT-IN-SUIT BY THE II/DC DEFENDANTS

- 20. Each of the foregoing paragraphs is incorporated herein by reference.
- 21. The II/DC Defendants have offered for sale and continue to offer for sale, sold and continue to sell, in the form of a kit or "system", all of the components necessary to practice Plaintiff's '985 Patent, said system including, inter alia, a stand-alone printer, edible ink cartridges therefore, templates and edible media specially adapted for use with said templates (together, the "Icing Images System"). A copy of a webpage of the II/DC Defendants' website, www.icingimages.com, which offers for sale the Icing Images System is attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.
- 22. Upon information and belief, the II/DC Defendants have, part and parcel to their bakery printing supply shop business, used the lcing Images System to carry out at least one of Plaintiff's patented methods.
- 23. The II/DC Defendants have profited from the commercial exploitation of Plaintiff's patented technology.
- 24. By using without license the Icing Images System to carry out at least one of Plaintiff's patented methods, the II/DC Defendants have directly infringed Plaintiff's patent.

25. The II/DC Defendants' infringing activities have damaged and continue to damage Plaintiff. Upon information and belief, the II/DC Defendants will continue to infringe the '985 Patent, causing irreparable harm to Plaintiff unless enjoined by this Court.

CONTRIBUTORY INFRINGEMENT OF THE PATENT-IN-SUIT BY THE II/DC DEFENDANTS

- 26. Each of the foregoing paragraphs is incorporated herein by reference.
- 27. The templates and edible media components of the Icing Images System are used in practicing Plaintiff's patented methods, constitute material parts of Plaintiff's invention, and are not staple articles or commodities of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use.
- 28. Upon information and belief, the II/DC Defendants have imported and continue to import into the United States the templates and/or edible media components of the Icing Images System.
- 29. The II/DC Defendants knew that the templates and edible media components of the Icing Images System are especially made or especially adapted for use in carrying out Plaintiff's patented methods.
- 30. By offering to sell and/or selling within the United States, and/or importing into the United States, the aforesaid material and/or apparatus for use in practicing Plaintiff's patented method without license the II/DC Defendants have contributed to the infringement of Plaintiff's '985 Patent.

INDUCEMENT TO INFRINGE THE PATENT-IN-SUIT BY THE II/DC DEFENDANTS

31. Each of the foregoing paragraphs is incorporated herein by reference.

- 32. Upon information and belief, the II/DC Defendants include with the sale of each Icing Images System, instructions for using the Icing Images System for practicing Plaintiff's patented methods.
- 33. The II/DC Defendant knew and intended that the templates and edible media components would be used by its customers to carry out Plaintiff's patented methods.
- 34. By selling the Icing Images System generally, and the template and edible media components thereof in particular, and by providing instructions for using them for carrying out Plaintiff's patented methods, the II/DC Defendants have induced members of the public, the Does, to infringe Plaintiff's '985 Patent.

DIRECT INFRINGEMENT OF THE PATENT-IN-SUIT BY THE DOE DEFENDANTS

- 35. Each of the foregoing paragraphs is incorporated herein by reference.
- 36. Upon information and belief the Does have used and continue to use the Icing Images System to carry out at least one of Plaintiff's patented methods without license.
- 37. By using without license the Icing Images System to carry out at least one of Plaintiff's patented methods, Does have directly infringed Plaintiff's patent.

NOTICE, KNOWLEDGE AND WILLFULNESS

- 38. Each of the foregoing paragraphs is incorporated herein by reference.
- 39. Plaintiff or its authorized licensees have complied with all applicable provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 287 regarding marking and notice of the Patent-in-Suit.
- 40. The II/DC Defendants' infringement has occurred with knowledge of the Patent-in-Suit and willfully and deliberately in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 284.

- 41. For example, the II/DC Defendants were given actual notice of the Patents-in-Suit on or about March 25, 2010 and July 24, 2010, when Plaintiff and Plaintiff's legal representative, respectively, sent notices of the Patent-in-Suit to the II/DC Defendants.
- 42. Even after receiving the March 25, 2010 and July 24, 2010 letters and subsequent follow-up correspondence by Plaintiff's counsel, the II/DC Defendants have failed to adequately respond to Plaintiff's allegations of infringement and, upon information and belief, have not taken necessary steps to avoid infringement.
- 43. Instead, the II/DC Defendants have continued to infringe, and have continued to induce others to infringe, the Patent-in-Suit, in an objectively reckless manner, with complete disregard of Plaintiff's rights in the Patent-in-Suit. Such willfulness makes this a special case as to damages, allowing triple damages in addition to attorney's fees and costs.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF CHURNICK respectfully prays for judgment and relief as follows:

- 1. A judgment that the Defendants have infringed, induced infringement of, and/or contributorily infringed, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, the '985 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271;
- 2. An award of compensatory damages adequate to compensate Plaintiff for Defendants' infringement of the '985 Patent in an amount no less than a reasonable royalty, in a sum to be determined at trial;
- 3. A permanent injunction preventing Defendant Icing Images, its principles, officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and other persons in active concert or

participation with Icing Images from further infringement of the '985 Patent;

4. An order that Defendant Icing Images deliver to Plaintiff for destruction all materials and apparatus in Defendant's possession especially made or especially adapted for use in carrying out Plaintiff's patented methods;

5. Alternatively, a continuing royalty sufficient to compensate Plaintiff for any future infringement of the '985 Patent;

6. A declaration that this case is exceptional pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;

7. An award of treble damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;

8. An award of Plaintiff's cost, expenses, and attorneys' fees incurred in bringing and prosecuting this action pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;

9. An award of pre-judgment interest; and

10. Any other relief to which this Court deems Plaintiff is entitled in law or in equity.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable under the law as provided by

Rule 38(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Dated: August 12, 2010

/s/Douglas Wm. Massinger

Douglas Wm. Massinger

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EXHIBIT A

US007528985B2

(12) United States Patent Churnick

(10) Patent No.: Use (45) Date of Patent:

US 7,528,985 B2 May 5, 2009

(54) METHOD OF IMAGE CROPPING AND LOCATION AFFIXING FOR ENHANCED DUPLICATION REPRODUCTIONS ON EDIBLE MEDIA

(76) Inventor: Lewis Churnick, 21029 NE. Hwy 27,

Williston, FL (US) 32696

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 737 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 11/063,874

(22) Filed: Feb. 24, 2005

(65) Prior Publication Data

US 2005/0271782 A1 Dec. 8, 2005

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/576,456, filed on Jun. 3, 2004.

(51) Int. Cl. H04N 1/40 (2006.01)

(52) U.S. CL 358/1.18; 358/500

(56) References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,910,661	Α	٠	3/1990	Barth et al 700/66
5,017,394	Α	٠	5/1991	Macpherson et al 426/302
6,030,134	Α	٠	2/2000	Stewart 400/600.2
6,147,743	Α	٠	11/2000	Fredlund et al 355/29
6,299,374	B1	٠	10/2001	Naor et al 401/198
6,582,742	B2	٠	6/2003	Stewart 426/383
7,286,258	B2	٠	10/2007	Schnoebelen et al 358/1.18

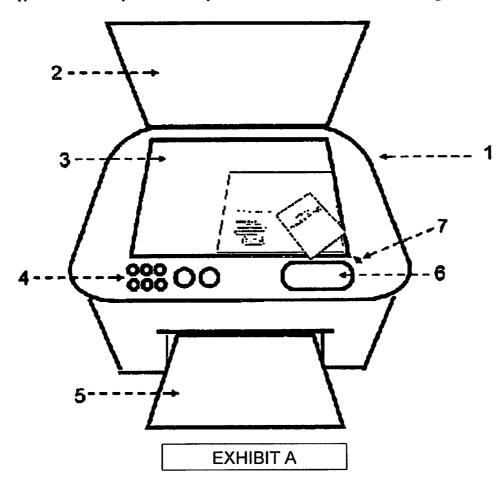
* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Thomas D Lee
Assistant Examiner—Stephen M Brinich

(57) ABSTRACT

This method utilizes a template as a tool for cropping an image and locating it at specific coordinates on a copier or other image reproduction device using edible ink, utilizing the device's enlargement feature to size & place the reproduction printout at a precise position on the output page. It is also used in conjunction with the device's tile printing or "image repeat" feature to reproduce multiples of the original image with precise size & placement of the multiple output reproductions on edible media for use in decorating food-stuffs.

19 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



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Figure 1

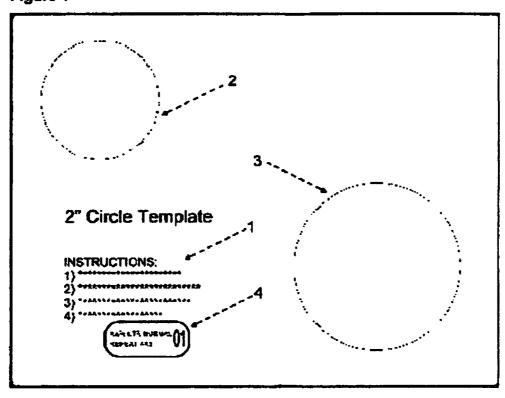
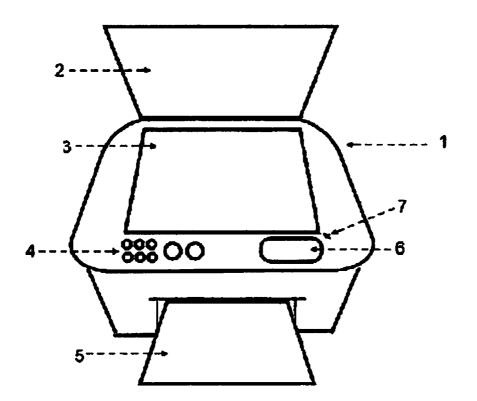


Figure 2



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Figure 3

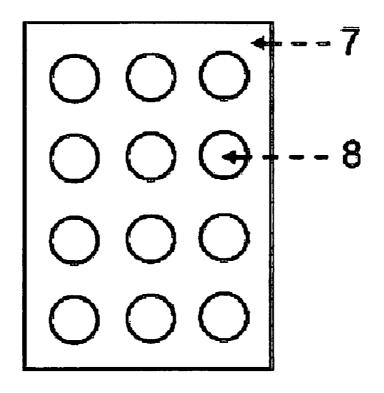
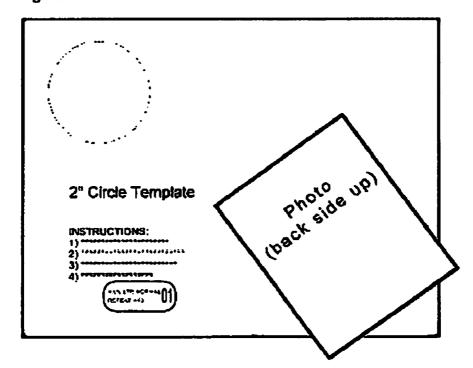


Figure 4

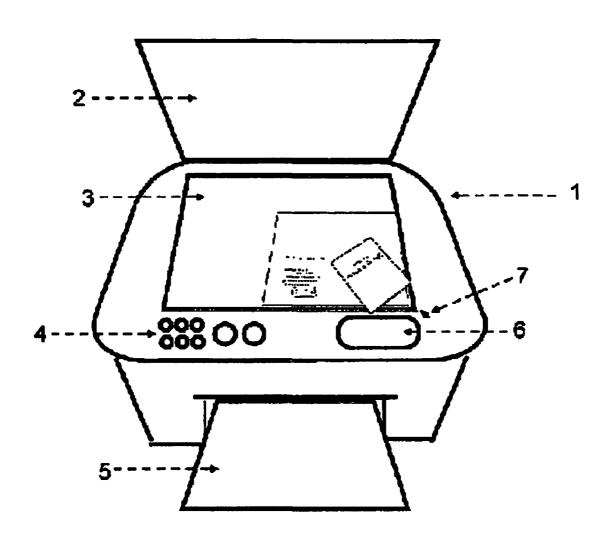


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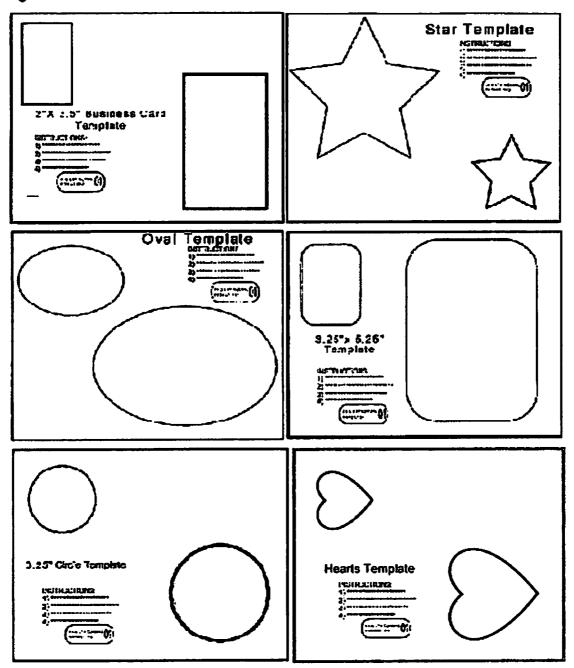
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Figure 5



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Figure 6



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METHOD OF IMAGE CROPPING AND LOCATION AFFIXING FOR ENHANCED DUPLICATION REPRODUCTIONS ON EDIBLE MEDIA

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Continuation of a previously filed Provisional Application having Ser. No. 60/576,456 filed Jun. 10 3, 2004.

STATEMENT REGARDING FED SPONSORED R & D

(none)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The inventive method will allow precision control of size, 20 position and multiples in the reproduction of images onto pre-designed edible media shapes. The edible items or media can be made in a variety of pre-formed shapes or sizes thus eliminating the need for cutting either before or after the adornment is applied. Said edible media may then be readily applied to foodstuffs.

Previous to this method in order to achieve multiple reproductions of an image it was necessary to repeat the steps of a copying process or utilize a computer program with tile printing capability. Repetitive copying wasted considerable time and material while computer operation required specialized skills. The duplicated images would then need to be cut from the edible media by hand or by die cut.

By this method the user need only follow a prescribed set of instruction steps applying the photo or image over the template, placing both together on the glass platen and tile-copying the cropped image directly onto pre-made Edible Media shapes.

Thus, with nominal prior training the user can quickly produce multiples and/or specialized shape image reproductions on edible media, without the need of computer skill, ready to be applied to foodstuffs.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The invention utilizes specialized copying functions of multifunction inkjet scan/print/copy stations now commonly available for color photo reproduction. Certain models, for this example The Multipass MP700 by Canon, are compatible with edible inks and commonly available.

The edible media are previously known (reference patent application Ser. No. 11/019,997) and can be made in a variety of preformed shapes or sizes, multiple count per backing by virtue of manipulation of patterns during the making, thus eliminating a need for cutting either before or after the adornment imagery is applied.

The instructions for using the template are as follows:

- 1) Select the masking template created for the desired output.
- 2) Line up the image to be reproduced with the cutout hole of the template, secure in place.
- Place the template with attached image on the platen glass of a copier that uses edible ink.

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- 4) Select output enlargement/reduction as indicated by instructions to determine the printed image size. These instruction settings are calculated based on the final pattern option desired and will differ with each pattern. Therefore the specific setting will be printed on the template surface.
- 5) Select Image Repeat settings as indicated by instructions to determine number of columns and number of rows. These instruction settings are calculated based on the final pattern option desired and will differ with each pattern. Therefore the specific settings will be printed on the template surface.
- Insert corresponding style Edible Media in copier input feed tray.
- 7) Select "color copy" to activate machine copy process.

The Enlargement and Image Repeat option settings of the machine predetermine the area to be scanned for reproduction. The cutout hole of the template is positioned precisely on the X and Y axis to take advantage of these programmed settings, thus enhancing control of the size, shape, quantity and position of the output images. By using the corresponding style pre-made edible media shapes the output image will be located precisely where the edible media shapes are formed on the backing carrier.

ADVANTAGES

Economy: The copy station utilized is less expensive than a computer system

Efficiency: Set up time is greatly reduced by using a copy station instead of the process of inputting settings in a computer program. This time saving can translate directly to greater throughput and productivity.

Practicality: The instructions for use are printed directly on each template in a "Button-by-Button" format thereby requiring minimal training or computer skill on the part of the user. Verification is done by visual matching of the Settings Screen with a printed representation on the template thereby further assuring success on the part of an unskilled user.

Profitability: With reduction in machine cost, reduction in time required and utilization by unskilled laborers the potentials for cost savings greatly enhances profitability. Also, larger quantity production may be addressed more practically, thereby opening opportunities for new revenue venues at more competitive pricing.

DISCUSSION OF THE PRIOR ART

A method of using edible ink for decorating foodstuff is known, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 2,013,651 to Spergeon shows a decorating system for edible items wherein the image source is derived from a library of stored items by the way of a scanner and then passed on to a printer. The size of the printed image is selected, but not predetermined.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,147,743 to Fredlund illustrates a method and apparatus for providing zoom and crop functions in a photographic print and copying station. A scanner is used for scanning an image to print. A mask is placed over the image for copying and by selecting a desired copy size the masked area is recognized. The masked area is separated from the image area. The image area is resized to the selected copy size and the resized image is then printed.

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U.S. Pat. No. 4,910,661 to Barth et al teaches a method and apparatus for decorating cakes using a machine for applying flowable decorative material to cakes and other items. Live video images are displayed by a video camera on a monitor. The video image can be edited by text and other images. The $^{-5}$ displayed pattern or image is reproduced on the cake by using an X-Y table which is moving under liquid spray applicators.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,017,394 to Mac Pherson et al shows a method for making edible base pictorial images by using a 10 silk screen that is first prepared with the desired image and is then silk screened onto foodstuffs, there is no mention of any sizing before or after the silk screening method.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,582,742 to Stewart teaches a method of photocopying an image onto an edible web sheet whereby an $\,^{15}$ iced cake is decorated. The sheet is passed through a plain paper, color inkjet photocopy machine to reproduce the color image placed on the photocopy glass. Thereafter the image is scanned through the glass by passing the carrier and edible 20 web along a non-tortuous path. The edible web is placed on an iced foodstuff. There is no mention of cropping or multiple image output.

DESCRIPTION OF DIAGRAMS

- FIG. 1 shows a face view of the template.
- 1-1: Instructions
- 1-2: 2.5" cutout
- 1-3: 3.5" cutout
- 1-4: image of copier screen, predetermined settings
- FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of a typical image reproduction or copy station.
 - 2-1: copier/reproduction device
 - 2-2: cover
 - 2-3: scan (platen) glass
 - 2-4: control panel
 - 2-5: output tray
 - 2-6: copier screen
 - 2-7: lead corner indicator
- FIG. 3 shows an example of edible media output page with special shape and multiples of edible media.
 - 3-7: output page or backing
 - 3-8: edible media shapes
- FIG. 4 showing the image or photo to be reproduced placed face down on the template with the desired area showing through the cutout.
- FIG. 5 showing the template with image secured is positioned in the lead corner of the reproduction device scan glass platen.
 - 5-1: copier/reproduction device
 - 5-2: cover
 - 5-3: scan (platen) glass
 - 5-4: control panel
 - 5-5: output tray
 - 5-6: copier screen
 - 5-7: lead corner indicator
 - FIG. 6 showing other examples of template configurations. 60 color ink-jet printer, comprising:

The invention claimed is:

- 1. A method of printing to edible media using a color reproducing device, comprising:
 - placing a cropping tool at a predetermined location on a 65 platen of the color reproducing device, the cropping tool defining a void;

- placing an original image to be reproduced on top of the void to crop a portion of the original image;
- activating a reproducing feature of the color reproducing
- receiving a reproduced image on the edible media, the reproduced image having a shape defined by a shape of the void; and
- activating a multiple image feature of the color reproducing device to create multiple, reproduced images on each sheet of edible media.
- 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating multiple, reproduced images on separate sheets of edible media.
- 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising activating a magnification feature of the color reproducing device to create the reproduced image at the magnification level.
- 4. The method of 3, further comprising locating the void at specific coordinates on the platen in accordance with a magnification level of the reproduced image relative to the original image.
- 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising defining the void in accordance with a size of the original image.
- 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the 25 cropping tool in accordance with a predetermined output shape and size of the reproduced image.
 - 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the predetermined shape consists of a rectangle, a star, an oval, a circle, a rectangle having rounded corners, or a heart-shape.
- 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising applying the edible media to foodstuffs.
 - 9. A method of printing an edible reproduction of an image using a color copier, comprising:
- placing edible media in the color copier on which the edible 35 reproduction of the image is to be printed;
 - placing a cropping tool at a predetermined location on a platen of the color copier, the cropping tool defining a void having a size determined in accordance with a magnification level of the edible reproduction of the
 - placing an original image to be reproduced on top of the void to crop a portion of the original image; and
 - activating a control to print the edible reproduction of the image onto the edible media.
 - 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising activating a multiple image feature of the color copier to create multiple, edible reproduction of the images on the same sheet of edible
 - 11. The method of 9, further comprising locating the void at specific coordinates on the platen in accordance with the magnification level of the edible reproduction of the image relative to the original image.
 - 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising defining the void in accordance with a size of the original image.
 - 13. The method of claim 9, further comprising applying the edible media to foodstuffs.
 - 14. A method of printing an image on edible media using a
 - placing a cropping tool at a predetermined location on a platen of the color ink-jet printer, the cropping tool defining a void having a predetermined shape and size determined in accordance with a magnification level and shape of an image to be printed;
 - placing an original image to be reproduced on top of the void to crop a portion of the original image; and

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activating a control to print the image on onto the edible media, the image having a predetermined magnification level relative to the original image and a shape defined by the void.

- 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising activating 5 a multiple image feature of the color ink-jet printer to create multiple images on the same sheet of edible media in accordance with a received selection.
- 16. The method of 14, further comprising locating the void at specific coordinates on the platen in accordance with the 10 magnification level.

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- 17. The method of claim 14, further comprising applying the edible media to foodstuffs.
- 18. The method of 17, further comprising determining the magnification level in accordance with a size of the foodstuffs to which the edible media is applied.
- 19. The method of claim 14, wherein the predetermined shape consists of a rectangle, a star, an oval, a circle, a rectangle having rounded corners, or a heart-shape.

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EXHIBIT B

