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(54) **A LAUNDRY DRYER**

WÄSCHETROCKNER

SÈCHE-LINGE

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## Description

**[0001]** The present invention relates to a laundry dryer comprising a filter that holds particles such as fiber, lint and dust etc. in the drying air.

**[0002]** In dryers, the heated air is directed into the drum containing the articles to be dried and is sucked to be included in the heating cycle again. During this cycle of air, the particles such as fiber, lint and dust etc. should be filtered. To this end, various filters are developed for holding these particles in dryers. These filters produced by using various materials are disposed on the circulation path of the air inside the dryer. Accumulation of the particles held by means of the filters during the cycle of air adversely affects the flow rate of the drying air and hence the drying performance. Therefore, during the drying cycle these filters have to be cleaned at certain intervals and to be removed from the cycle of the drying air.

**[0003]** Keeping the filter area as large as possible is advantageous in cleaning the filters less frequently but in this situation using more than one nozzle is required in order to effectively wash the entire filter area. In the situation where more nozzles are used, the amount of water required to wash the entire filter area increases. When water is delivered to all the nozzles, the amount of water delivered to each nozzle decreases and this decreases water pressure, preventing the filter from being cleaned effectively. At the end of the filter cleaning operation, the amount of lint removed from the filter being quite large highly increases the risk of the said lint to cause the carrying line or the discharge pump to be clogged.

**[0004]** In the state of the art International Patent Application No. WO2009015919, explanation is given for washing the filter by multiple nozzles in an intermittent manner. In this document, water is delivered to the nozzles by means of pump simultaneously, forming a film on the surface of the filter and enabled the particles accumulated on the filter to be almost swept and removed from the filter.

**[0005]** In the situation the entire filter surface is washed, the water sprayed from the nozzles forms a water film on the filter surface. A certain amount of time has to pass in order for the water film to be broken and the air flow rate to rise to the desired value. The temperature may increase momentarily depending on the decreased drying air flow rate. Temperature increasing momentarily causes the compressor to increase above limit values especially in closed circuit dryers and in this situation the compressor stops operating automatically. The compressor has to wait for a certain time period in order to operate again. This adversely affects time and energy consumption.

**[0006]** The aim of the present invention is the realization of a laundry dryer having a filter that can be cleaned without affecting the drying effectiveness.

**[0007]** The laundry dryer realized in order to attain the aim of the present invention, explicated in the first claim

and the respective claims thereof, provides the cleaning of the filter gradually by directing water to at least one pipe in one go such that water is sprayed to only one portion of the filter surface. Thus, the entire filter surface is enabled to be cleaned gradually, preventing the formation of a water film on the entire surface of the filter and the drying performance from being affected adversely.

**[0008]** In an embodiment of the present invention, more than one outlet port is arranged on the pipe. In each outlet port nozzles are provided that enable water to be sprayed and delivered to the filter surface thus cleaning the filter surface effectively.

**[0009]** In the embodiment wherein the filter surface is divided into two sections, while water is sprayed to the respective section of the filter surface, water is not delivered to the other pipe and water is not sprayed onto the other surface. This process is repeated successively until the entire surface of the filter is cleaned.

**[0010]** In the first of the embodiments wherein the filter surface is divided into at least three sections, in order to clean the side by side filter surfaces in pairs, water is enabled to be delivered at one time to the pipes that are selected adjacently. In this embodiment, water is delivered simultaneously to the first two sections or the last two sections or the first and the last section while water is not delivered to the other section.

**[0011]** In another one of the embodiments wherein the filter surface is divided into at least three sections, water is enabled to be delivered at one time to the selected pipes for cleaning the filter surfaces that are not side by side such that water is sprayed to only one portion of the filter surface divided into the sections.

**[0012]** In another embodiment of the present invention, water is delivered to each pipe intermittently. Thus, the filter surface is enabled to be cleaned more effectively.

**[0013]** By means of the present invention, water is not delivered simultaneously to each pipe, thus preventing the formation of film on the filter and enabling the filter surface to be effectively cleaned without any kind of interruption in the drying air cycle.

**[0014]** By means of the present invention, furthermore since the water received from the tank is directed only to the selected pipes instead of all the pipes, a more effective cleaning is performed by a more pressurized water. A lesser amount of water is directed onto the filter for cleaning the filter.

**[0015]** Furthermore, by means of the present invention, less amount of particles are removed from the filter surface since only one section of the filter surface is cleaned at one time and the probable clogging that may occur in the water conduit and the pump is prevented.

**[0016]** A laundry dryer realized in order to attain the aim of the present invention is illustrated in the attached figures, where:

Figure 1 - is the schematic view of a laundry dryer.

Figure - 2 is the schematic view of the filter and the water conduit providing the washing of the said filter in an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure - 3 is the schematic view of the filter and the water conduit providing the washing of the said filter in an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

**[0017]** The elements illustrated in the figures are numbered as follows:

1. Laundry dryer
2. Body
3. Drum
4. Heat exchanger
5. Air circulation duct
6. Filter
7. Tank
8. Pump
9. Valve
10. Nozzle
11. Water conduit
12. Pipe
13. Control unit
14. Inlet port
15. Outlet port

**[0018]** The laundry dryer (1) comprises a body (2), a drum (3) wherein the laundry to be dried is placed, an air circulation duct (5) providing the delivery of the drying air onto the laundry in the drum (3), a heat exchanger (4) that is disposed on the air circulation duct (5) and that enables the temperature of the drying air to be changed, a tank (7) wherein the condensed water is stored, at least one filter (6) that holds the particles such as fiber, lint, etc. in the drying air and a water conduit (11) that carries the water received from the tank (7) to the filter (6).

**[0019]** The laundry dryer (1) of the present invention comprises

- the filter (6) surface divided into more than one section (A, B, C),
- at least two pipes (12) that separate into at least two

branches to extend to each section (A, B, C) of the filter (6) surface and that are disposed so as to spray water to these sections (A, B, C),

- at least one valve (9) that is disposed on the water conduit (11) and where to the pipes (12) are connected and
- a control unit (13) that controls the valve (9) and enables the valve (9) to direct water to at least one pipe (12) such that water is sprayed to only one portion of the filter (6) that is divided into sections (A, B, C) (Figure 1).

**[0020]** In the laundry dryer (1) of the present invention, the filter (6) washing process is performed as follows.

The water received from the tank (7) is directed to the valve (9) by means of the water conduit (11). By controlling the valve (9) with the control unit (13) and selecting at least one pipe (12) such that water is sprayed at one time to only one portion of the filter (6) surface divided into the sections (A, B, C), the water is directed to the said pipe (12). The valve (9) allows water to pass through at least one pipe (12) and does not allow water to pass to at least one of the other pipes (12).

In an embodiment of the present invention, the laundry dryer (1) comprises at least one outlet port (15) that is disposed on the pipe (12) and that is positioned so as to spray water to the filter (6) surface divided into the sections (A, B, C) and an inlet port (14) that is connected to the water conduit (11). The inlet port (14) of the pipe (12) is connected to the water conduit (11) by means of a valve (9). In this embodiment, the laundry dryer (1) comprises at least two outlet ports (15) positioned to correspond to each section (A, B, C) of the filter (6) surface that is divided into more than one section (A, B, C).

In an embodiment of the present invention, the laundry dryer (1) comprises a plurality of nozzles (10) that are mounted on each outlet port (15) and that enable the water to be sprayed and delivered onto the divided sections (A, B, C) on the filter (6) surface. Thus, the water is enabled to be transferred from the outlet port (15) to the filter (6) surface effectively.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the laundry dryer (1) comprises a pump (8) that receives the water from the tank (7) containing condensed water and that delivers it to the pipes (12).

In an embodiment of the present invention, the valve (9) is disposed between the water conduit (11) and the inlet ports (14) of the pipes (12), and enables the water received from the water conduit (11) to be transferred to the pipes (12). In an embodiment of the present invention, the valve (9) is a three-way valve. In this embodiment, the valve (9) connects the water conduit (11) with the inlet ports (14) of at least two pipes (12) and allows water to pass only to one inlet port (14).

In an embodiment of the present invention, the laundry dryer (1) comprises the filter (6), the surface of which is divided into two sections (A, B) and two pipes

(12) that have at least one outlet port (15) aligned with these two sections (A, B) and that are disposed such that the water is sprayed onto the filter (6) surface divided into the sections (A, B). In this embodiment of the present invention, the control unit (13) controls the valve (9) and enables the valve (9) to direct water to one pipe (12) at one time such that the water is sprayed onto only one section (A or B) of the filter (6) surface that is divided into two sections (A, B).

**[0026]** In this embodiment, the water that is received from the tank (7) by means of the pump (8) and flows along the water conduit (11) towards the valve (9). The water that is firstly directed to the first pipe (12) by the control unit (13) by means of the valve (9) reaches the outlet ports (15) on the pipe (12) and are sprayed by means of the nozzles (10) to the section (B) of the filter (6) surface opposite the nozzles (10). In the meantime, the water is not delivered to the second pipe (12). After the water is sprayed onto one section (B) of the filter (6) surface, the water is delivered to the second pipe (12) from the valve (9) by means of the control unit (13) and the water is directed to the outlet ports (15) situated on the other section (A) of the filter (6) surface, enabling the water to be sprayed by means of the nozzles (10) to the section (A) opposite the nozzles (10) at the second pipe (12). Thus, it is provided that all the sections (A, B) of the filter (6) surface are not cleaned simultaneously but successively and that the filter (6) is cleaned without forming a water film on both sections (A, B) of the filter (6) surface (Figure 2).

**[0027]** In another embodiment of the present invention, the filter (6) surface is divided into more than two sections (A, B, C). In this embodiment, the laundry dryer (1) comprises an equal number of pipes (12) as the number of filter (6) surface sections (A, B, C). By means of the valves (9) the water can be delivered to these pipes (12) at different times and in different combinations. In other words, the sections (A, B, C) of the filter (6) surface are enabled to be cleaned one by one without delivering the water to all the pipes (12) simultaneously. Since the water is not delivered to all the pipes (12) simultaneously, the entire surface of the filter (6) is not washed simultaneously and formation of a water film along the entire surface of the filter (6) is prevented. Thus, the filter (6) is cleaned gradually without causing any interruption in the drying air cycle.

**[0028]** In the embodiment of the present invention wherein the filter (6) surface is divided into more than two sections (A, B, C), the control unit (13) enables the water to be delivered simultaneously to the pipes (12) selected in pairs by means of the valve (9) for cleaning the sections (A, B, C) of the filter (6) surface such that the water is sprayed only to one portion of the filter (6) surface divided into the sections (A, B, C). For example, in an embodiment wherein the filter (6) surface is divided into three sections (A, B, C), the water is delivered simultaneously to the first two sections (A, B) or the last two sections (B, C) (Figure 3) or the first and last sections (A, C), however

the water is not delivered to the other section (C in the first example, A in the second example and B in the third example).

**[0029]** In the embodiment of the present invention wherein the filter (6) surface is divided into more than two sections (A, B, C), the control unit (13) enables the water to be delivered successively to the selected pipes (12) for cleaning the sections (A, B, C) of the filter (6) surface that are not side by side such that the water is sprayed only onto one portion of the filter (6) surface divided into the sections (A or B or C). For example, in an embodiment wherein the filter (6) surface is divided into three sections (A, B, C), the water is delivered to each section (A, B, C) successively. In this embodiment, the water is not sprayed simultaneously onto any two sections (A, B or A, C or B, C).

**[0030]** In another embodiment of the present invention, the control unit (13) enables the water to be delivered to each pipe (12) intermittently by means of the valve (9).

**[0031]** By means of the present invention, by not delivering water simultaneously to each pipe (12) formation of film on the filter (6) is prevented, enabling the filter (6) surface to be effectively cleaned without any kind of interruption in the drying air cycle.

**[0032]** By means of the present invention, furthermore since the water received from the tank (7) is directed only to the selected pipes (12) instead of all the pipes (12) simultaneously, a more effective cleaning is performed with a more pressurized water. Also, a smaller amount of water is directed onto the filter (6) for cleaning the filter (6).

**[0033]** Furthermore, by means of the present invention, a smaller amount of particles are removed from the filter (6) surface since only one part of the filter (6) surface is cleaned at one time and the probable clogging that may occur in the water conduit (11) and the pump (8) is prevented.

#### 40 Claims

1. A laundry dryer (1) comprising a body (2), a drum (3) wherein the laundry to be dried is placed, an air circulation duct (5) providing the delivery of the drying air onto the laundry in the drum (3), a heat exchanger (4) that is disposed on the air circulation duct (5) and that enables the temperature of the drying air to be changed, a tank (7) wherein the condensed water is stored, at least one filter (6) that holds the particles such as fiber, lint, etc. in the drying air, the filter (6) surface being divided into more than one section (A, B, C), a water conduit (11) that carries the water received from the tank (7) to the filter (6), at least two pipes (12) that separate into at least two branches to extend to each section (A, B, C) of the filter (6) surface and that are disposed so as to spray water to these sections (A, B, C) and at least one outlet port (15) that is disposed on each pipe (12)

and that is positioned to correspond to each section (A, B, C) of the filter (6) so as to spray water to the filter (6) surface **characterized in that**

- at least one valve (9) that is disposed on the water conduit (11) and whereto the pipes (12) are connected and
  - a control unit (13) that controls the at least one valve (9) and enables the valve (9) to direct water to at least one of the pipes (12) such that the water is sprayed to only some of the sections (A, B, C), instead of all the sections simultaneously.
2. A laundry dryer (1) as in Claim 1, **characterized in that** at least one inlet port (14) is disposed on each of the pipes (9) connected to the water conduit (11).
  3. A laundry dryer (1) as in Claim 2, **characterized in that** a plurality of nozzles (10) are mounted on each outlet port (15) and enable the water to be sprayed and delivered to the divided sections (A, B, C) on the filter (6) surface.
  4. A laundry dryer (1) as in any one of the above claims, **characterized in that**, the filter (6) surface is divided into two sections (A, B) and two pipes (12) have at least one outlet port (15) aligning with these two sections (A, B) and are disposed such that water is the sprayed onto the sections (A, B) of the filter (6) surface, wherein the control unit (13) controls the valve (9) and enables the valve (9) to direct the water to one pipe (12) such that the water is sprayed to only one section (A or B) of the filter (6) surface.
  5. A laundry dryer (1) as in any one of the Claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the control unit (13) enables the water to be delivered simultaneously to at least two pipes (12) by means of the valve (9) for cleaning the sections (A, B, C) of the filter (6) surface such that the water is sprayed onto at least one of the sections (A, B, C).
  6. A laundry dryer (1) as in any one of the Claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the control unit (13) enables the water to be delivered successively to the pipes (12) selected for cleaning the sections (A, B, C) of the filter (6) surface that are not side by side such that the water is sprayed only onto one portion of the filter (6) surface divided into at least three sections (A, B, C).
  7. A laundry dryer (1) as in any one of the above claims, **characterized in that** the control unit (13) enables the water to be delivered intermittently to each pipe (12) by means of the valve (9).
  8. A laundry dryer (1) as in any one of the Claims 1 to

4 and 7, **characterized in that** the valve (9) is a three way valve (9).

9. A laundry dryer (1) as in any one of the above claims, **characterized in that** at least two outlet ports (15) are positioned to be aligned with each one section (A, B, C) of the filter (6).

## 10 Patentansprüche

1. Wäschetrockner (1) mit einem Körper (2), einer Trommel (3), wobei die zu trocknende Wäsche platziert wird, einen Luftzirkulationskanal (5), der die Zufuhr der Trocknungsluft auf die Wäsche in der Trommel (3) vorsieht, einen Wärmetauscher (4), der am Luftzirkulationskanal (5) entsorgt ist und der es ermöglicht, die Temperatur der Trocknungsluft zu ändern, einen Tank (7), wobei das kondensierte Wasser gespeichert ist, mindestens einen Filter (6), der die Partikel wie Fasern, Flusen usw. in der Trocknungsluft hält, die Oberfläche des Filters (6) in mehr als einen Abschnitt (A, B, C) unterteilt ist, eine Wasserleitung (11), die das von dem Tank (7) aufgenommene Wasser zu dem Filter (6) transportiert, mindestens zwei Rohre (12), die sich in mindestens zwei Zweige trennen, um sich zu jedem Abschnitt (A, B, C) die Oberfläche des Filters (6) zu erstrecken, und die so entsorgt sind, dass sie Wasser auf diese Abschnitte (A, B, C) sprühen. und mindestens eine Auslassöffnung (15), die an jedem Rohr (12) entsorgt ist und so positioniert ist, dass sie jedem Abschnitt (A, B, C) des Filters (6) entspricht, um Wasser auf die Oberfläche des Filters (6) zu sprühen **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass**
  - mindestens ein Ventil (9), das an der Wasserleitung (11) entsorgt ist und mit dem die Rohre (12) verbunden sind, und
  - eine Steuereinheit (13), die das mindestens eine Ventil (9) steuert und es dem Ventil (9) ermöglicht, Wasser zu mindestens einem der Rohre (12) so zu leiten, dass das Wasser nur zu einigen dieser Abschnitte (A, B, C) gesprüht wird, anstelle aller Abschnitte gleichzeitig.
2. Wäschetrockner (1) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** an jedem der mit der Wasserleitung (11) verbundenen Rohren (9) mindestens eine Einlassöffnung (14) entsorgt ist.
3. Wäschetrockner (1) nach Anspruch 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** eine Vielzahl von Düsen (10) an jeder Auslassöffnung (15) montiert sind, die es ermöglichen, das Wasser zu sprühen und an die geteilten Abschnitte (A, B, C) auf der Oberfläche des Filters (6) abzugeben.

4. Wäschetrockner (1) nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Oberfläche des Filters (6) in zwei Abschnitte (A, B) unterteilt ist und zwei Rohre (12) mindestens eine Auslassöffnung (15) aufweisen, die auf diese beiden Abschnitte (A, B) ausgerichtet ist, und so entsorgt sind, dass Wasser auf die Abschnitte (A, B) der Oberfläche des Filters (6) gesprüht wird, wobei die Steuereinheit (13) das Ventil (9) steuert und es dem Ventil (9) ermöglicht, das Wasser zu einer Rohre (12) zu leiten, so dass das Wasser nur zu einem Abschnitt (A oder B) der der Oberfläche des Filters (6) gesprüht wird.
5. Wäschetrockner (1) nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Steuereinheit (13) die gleichzeitige Zufuhr des Wassers zu mindestens zwei Rohre (12) über das Ventil (9) zum Reinigen der Abschnitte (A, B, C) der Oberfläche des Filters (6) ermöglicht, so dass das Wasser auf mindestens einen der Abschnitte (A, B, C) gesprüht wird.
6. Wäschetrockner (1) nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Steuereinheit (13) die nacheinander erfolgende Zufuhr des Wassers zu den zum Reinigen der Abschnitte (A, B, C) der Oberfläche des Filters (6) ausgewählten Rohren (12) ermöglicht, die nicht nebeneinander bestehen sind, so dass das Wasser nur auf einen Abschnitt der in mindestens drei Abschnitte (A, B, C) unterteilten Oberfläche des Filters (6) gesprüht wird.
7. Wäschetrockner (1) nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Steuereinheit (13) es ermöglicht, dass die intermittierende folgende Zufuhr des Wassers über das Ventil (9) an jede Rohren (12) abgegeben wird.
8. Wäschetrockner (1) nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4 und 7, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Ventil (9) ein Dreiwegeventil (9) ist.
9. Wäschetrockner (1) nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** mindestens zwei Auslassöffnungen (15) so positioniert sind, dass sie mit jedem einzelnen Abschnitt (A, B, C) des Filters (6) ausgerichtet sind.

#### Revendications

1. Sèche-linge (1) comprenant un corps (2), un tambour (3) dans lequel le linge à sécher est placé, un conduit de circulation d'air (5) assurant la distribution de l'air de séchage sur le linge dans le tambour (3), un échangeur de chaleur (4) qui est disposé sur le

conduit de circulation d'air (5) et qui permet de modifier la température de l'air de séchage, un réservoir (7) dans lequel l'eau condensée est stockée, au moins un filtre (6) qui retient les particules telles que les fibres, les peluches, etc. dans l'air de séchage, la surface du filtre (6) étant divisée en plus d'une section (A, B, C), un conduit d'eau (11) qui transporte l'eau reçue du réservoir (7) au filtre (6), au moins deux tuyaux (12) qui se séparent en au moins deux branches pour s'étendre à chaque section (A, B, C) de la surface du filtre (6) et qui sont disposés de manière à pulvériser de l'eau sur ces sections (A, B, C) et au moins un orifice de sortie (15) qui est disposé sur chaque tuyau (12) et qui est positionné pour correspondre à chaque section (A, B, C) du filtre (6) de manière à pulvériser de l'eau sur la surface du filtre (6) **caractérisé en ce que**

- au moins une vanne (9) disposée sur la conduite d'eau (11) et à laquelle les tuyaux (12) sont raccordés, et
- une unité de commande (13) qui commande l'au moins une vanne (9) et permet à la vanne (9) de diriger l'eau vers au moins une des tuyaux (12) de telle sorte que l'eau est pulvérisée sur seulement certaines des sections (A, B, C), au lieu de toutes les sections simultanément.

2. Sèche-linge (1) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce qu'**au moins un orifice d'entrée (14) est disposé sur chacun des tuyaux (9) reliés au conduit d'eau (11).

3. Sèche-linge (1) selon la revendication 2, **caractérisé en ce qu'**une pluralité de buses (10) qui sont montées sur chaque orifice de sortie (15) et permettent de pulvériser l'eau et de la distribuer aux sections divisées (A, B, C) de la surface du filtre (6).

4. Sèche-linge (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** la surface du filtre (6) est divisée en deux sections (A, B) et deux tuyaux (12) ont au moins un orifice de sortie (15) aligné avec ces deux sections (A, B) et sont disposés de sorte que l'eau est pulvérisée sur les sections (A, B) de la surface du filtre (6), dans laquelle l'unité de commande (13) commande la vanne (9) et permet à la vanne (9) de diriger l'eau vers un tuyau (12) de sorte que l'eau est pulvérisée sur une seule section (A ou B) de la surface du filtre (6).

5. Sèche-linge (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de commande (13) permet de distribuer l'eau simultanément dans au moins deux tuyaux (12) au moyen de la vanne (9) pour nettoyer les sections (A, B, C) de la surface du filtre (6) de manière à pulvériser l'eau sur au moins une des sections (A, B, C).

6. Sèche-linge (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de commande (13) permet de délivrer l'eau successivement aux tuyaux (12) choisies pour nettoyer les sections (A, B, C) de la surface du filtre (6) qui ne sont pas côte à côte de sorte que l'eau est pulvérisée uniquement sur une portion de la surface du filtre (6) divisée en au moins trois sections (A, B, C). 5
7. Sèche-linge (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de commande (13) permet de distribuer l'eau de manière intermittente à chaque tuyau (12) au moyen de la vanne (9). 10
8. Sèche-linge (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4 et 7, **caractérisé en ce que** la vanne (9) est une vanne à trois voies (9). 15
9. Sèche-linge (1) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce qu'**au moins deux orifices de sortie (15) sont positionnés pour être alignés avec chacune des sections (A, B, C) du filtre (6). 20

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Figure 1

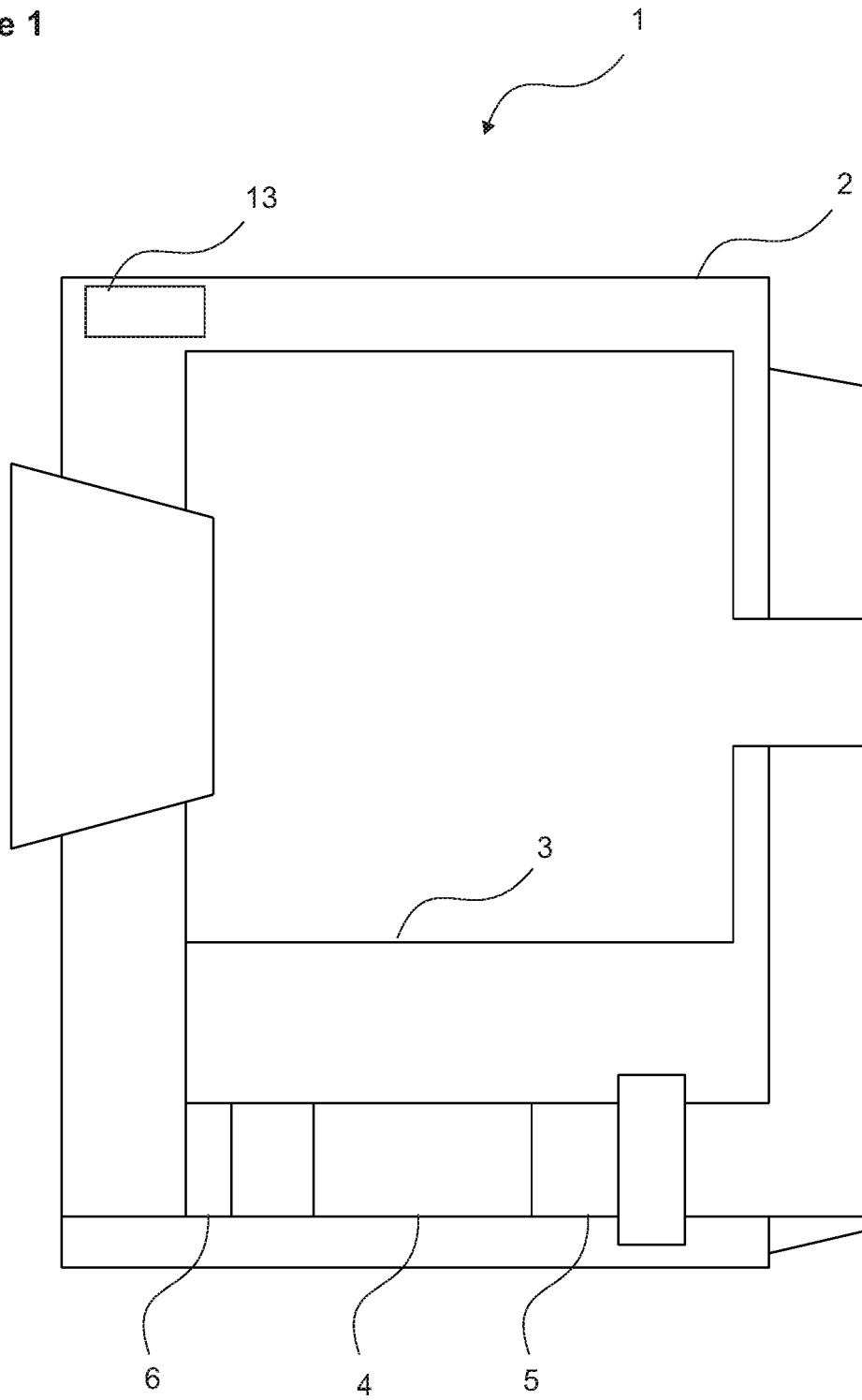


Figure 2

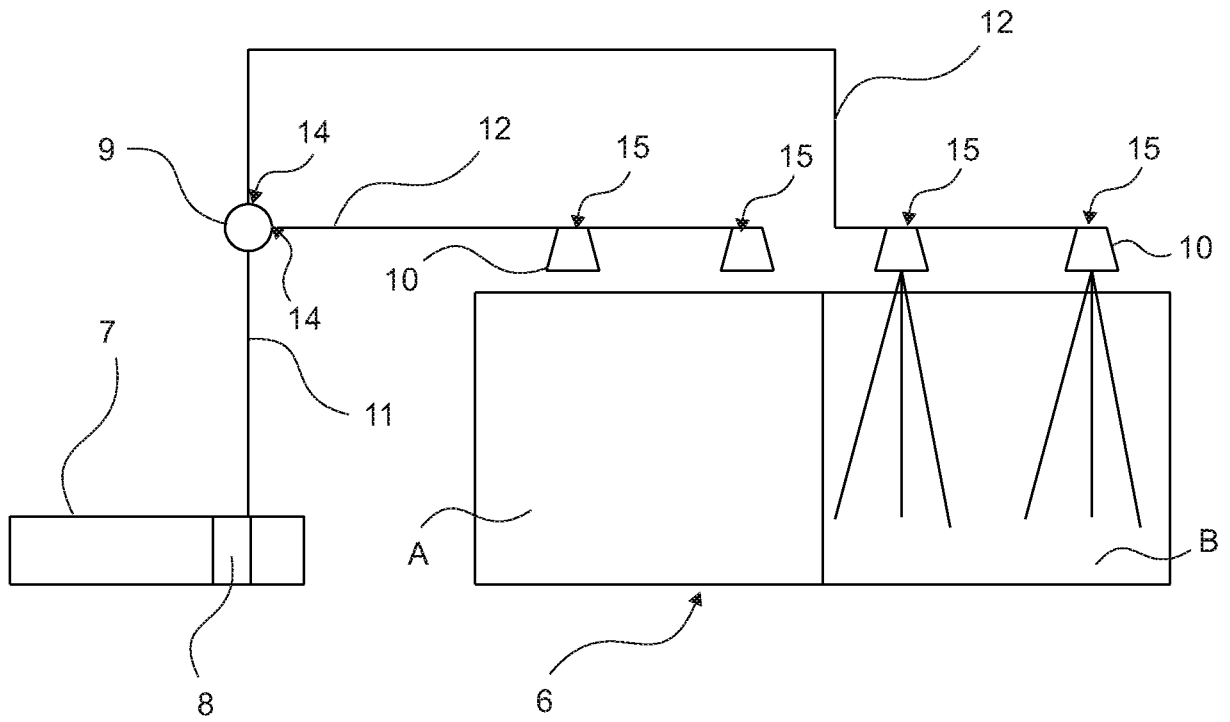
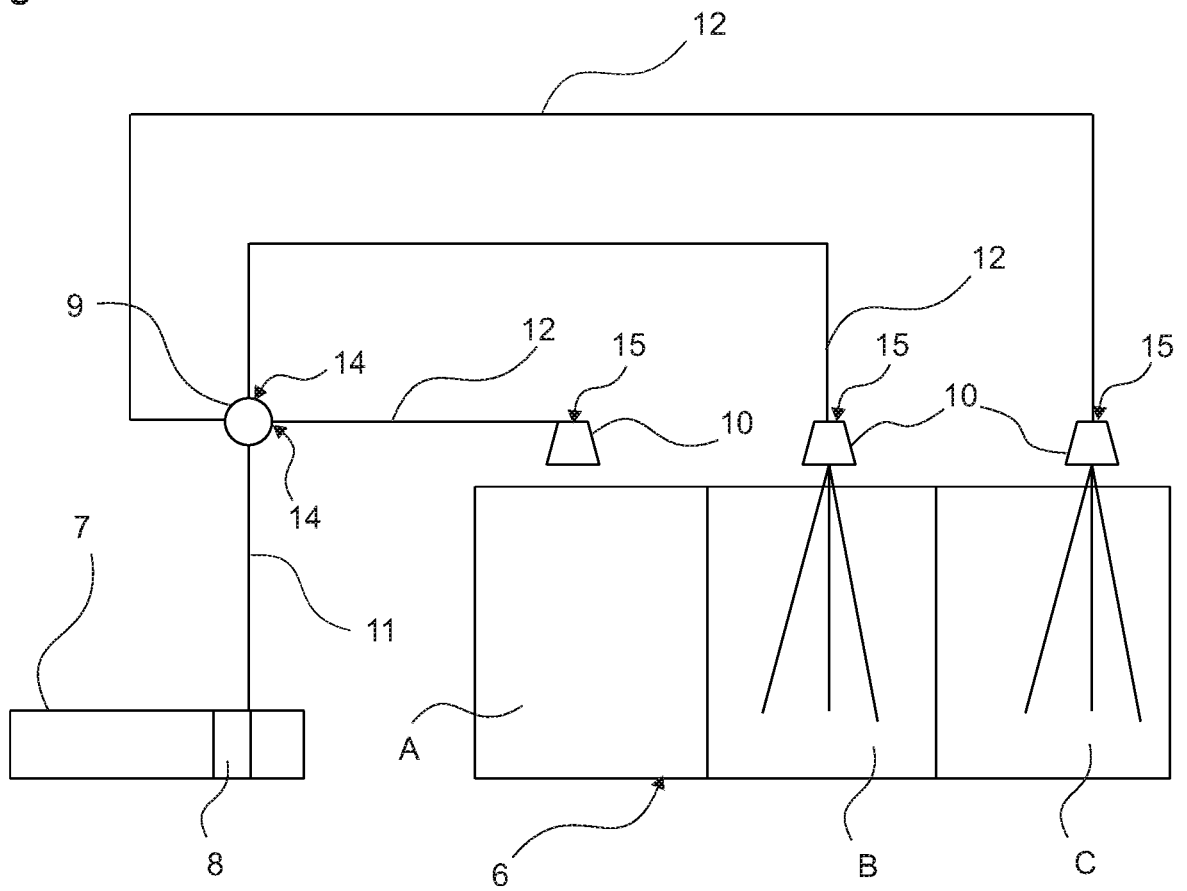


Figure 3



**REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION**

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**Patent documents cited in the description**

- WO 2009015919 A [0004]