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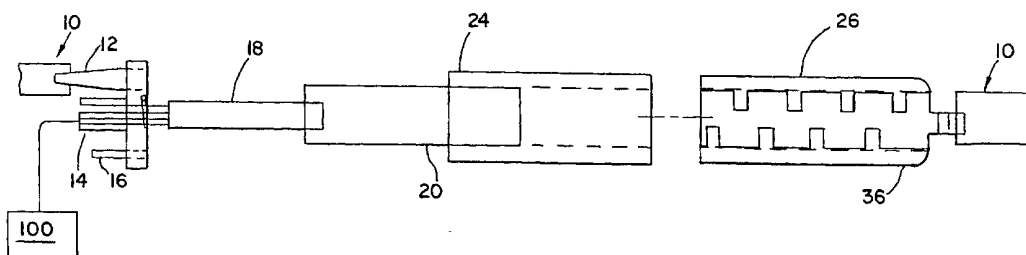
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HUMIDIFICATION AND WARMING OF AIR



(57) Abstract: A method of humidifying a gas that includes supplying a gas to a surface of a humidification material (24) that readily absorbs moisture and readily releases moisture when exposed to a dry environment and generating turbulence in the gas as it passes over the surface of the humidification material (24).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61M16/16 A61M16/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 199 23 297 A (SMITHS INDUSTRIES PLC) 16 December 1999 (1999-12-16)	1-3,7, 13,29, 35-39, 54,56
Y	column 2, line 21 -column 4, line 4; figures 1-6	12,34,45
X	FR 2 636 845 A (FISHER & PAYKEL) 30 March 1990 (1990-03-30)	54,56, 70,71
Y	page 4, line 3 -page 6, line 31; figures	24,49
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 567 158 A (FISHER & PAYKEL) 27 October 1993 (1993-10-27)	1,2, 8-10, 13-18, 20,22, 23,26, 29, 35-38, 41-43, 47,51, 54-56, 70,72,73
Y	column 4, line 49 -column 6, line 53; figures 1-10 column 6, line 43 -column 7, line 6 ---	4,19,21, 24,25, 27,40, 46, 48-50,52
X	US 3 659 604 A (MELVILLE ALFRED W ET AL) 2 May 1972 (1972-05-02) column 2, line 34 -column 3, line 42; figures 1,3 ---	1,2,7, 13-15, 20,23, 24,26, 29-32, 35, 54-56, 70-73
X	GB 2 173 108 A (BOC GROUP PLC) 8 October 1986 (1986-10-08) page 1, line 70 -page 2, line 6; figures 1-3 ---	1,2,13, 14,16, 17,20, 22-24, 26,29, 33,35, 54-56, 70-72
X	WO 91 19527 A (PONNET GILMAN EN ANTHONY) 26 December 1991 (1991-12-26) page 3, line 1 -page 4, line 25; figures 1-4 ---	29,31, 35,70,71
Y	FR 2 276 065 A (DRAEGERWERK AG) 23 January 1976 (1976-01-23) page 4, line 26 - line 30; figure 2 ---	4,40
Y	EP 1 005 878 A (SIEMENS ELEMA AB) 7 June 2000 (2000-06-07) paragraph '0022!; figures 1,2 --- -/--	19,21, 25,27, 46,48, 50,52

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 054 622 A (LESTER VICTOR E) 18 October 1977 (1977-10-18) column 1, line 4 - line 7 column 2, line 15 - line 34; figures -----	12, 34, 45

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-35, 54-57

Gas humidification apparatus with turbulence generating means

2. Claims: 36-53, 70-73

Gas apparatus with heater

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 5

The feature "varies 15 degrees" of claim 6 is not clear, contrary to the requirements of Article 6 PCT.
Hence it also lacks disclosure because it cannot be carried out by a person skilled in the art, contrary to the requirements of Article 5 PCT.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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