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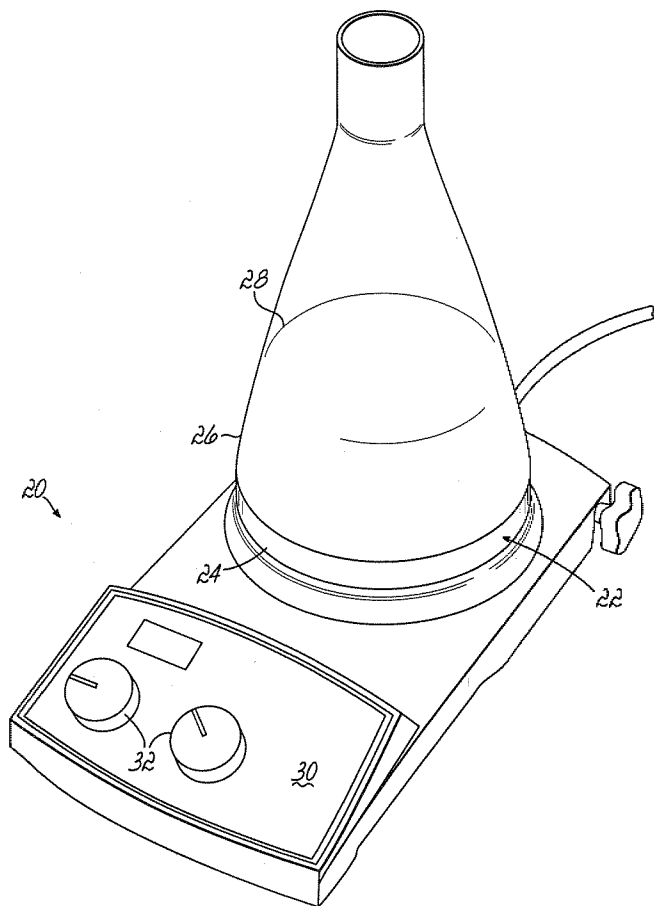
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: HOT PLATE WITH STAINLESS STEEL TOP



(57) Abstract: A hotplate (20) with a stainless steel top plate (24) to support a vessel (26). The stainless steel top plate (24) has an upper surface (40) with a substantially centrally located depression (45) having a depth and area generally sufficient to absorb upward crowning of the top plate (24) when heated. A heating unit (60) is in a heat transfer relation with the stainless steel top plate (24), and a base unit (30) is connected to the heating plate assembly (122); however, the base unit (30) is not fastened directly to the stainless steel top plate (24), so that the stainless steel top plate (24) can expand more uniformly when heated.

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FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL,
PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/68023

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **H05B 3/68**(2006.01),**3/06**(2006.01)

USPC: 219/443.1,448.17,468.2,448.11,448.19,462.1,464.1,465.1,553,540,541,530

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)
U.S. : 219/443.1, 448.17, 468.2, 448.11, 448.19, 462.1, 464.1, 465.1, 553, 540, 541, 530

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 practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,962,297 A (LOWENBERG) 09 October 1990 (09.10.1990), see entire document.	1-20
A	US 5,834,739 A (LOCKWOOD et al.) 10 November 1998 (10.11.1998), see entire document.	1-20
A	US 4,348,581 A (FISCHER et al.) 07 September 1982 (07.09.1982), see entire document.	1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

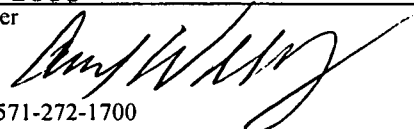
See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

US-PGPUB; USPAT: hot, heat, plate, concav, depress, slope, sloping, upper, top, perimeter, edge, side, center, central, inward, prevent, eliminat, stop, crown, buck, warp, sang, paik, depression, stainless, steel