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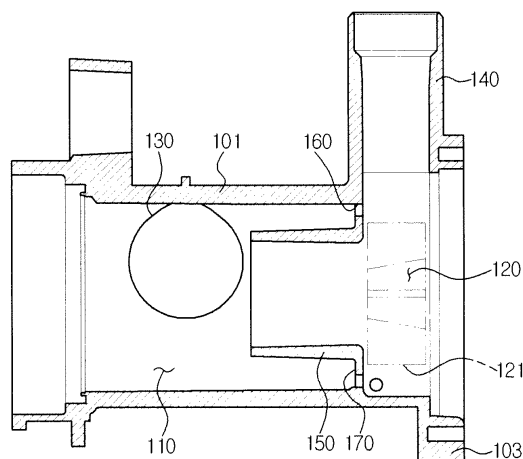
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(54) **Washing machine and drain pump thereof**

(57) Disclosed herein is a drain pump of a washing machine to reduce generation of noise. The drain pump includes a pump case (101) in which a wash water inlet chamber (110) and a drain pump chamber (120) are defined, a wash water inlet port (130) formed at the pump case, to allow wash water to be introduced into the wash water inlet chamber, a wash water outlet port (140) formed at the pump case, to allow the wash water to be

discharged from the drain pump chamber, a wash water suction port (150) arranged between the wash water inlet chamber and the drain pump chamber, and an air discharge path (160) arranged at a distance from the wash water suction port between the wash water inlet chamber and the drain pump chamber to allow air inside the wash water inlet chamber to be discharged through the wash water outlet port.

FIG. 3



**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of
subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 11 15 2292

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	US 3 314 255 A (NEUMANN GERHARD W ET AL) 18 April 1967 (1967-04-18) * the whole document *	1-7	INV. D06F39/08
A	DE 94 06 463 U1 (BOSCH SIEMENS HAUSGERAETE [DE]) 16 June 1994 (1994-06-16) * the whole document *	1-7	
X	US 2007/256458 A1 (JANG JAE HYUN [KR] ET AL) 8 November 2007 (2007-11-08) * paragraph [0056] - paragraph [0059]; figures *	1	
X	US 2007/240457 A1 (JANG JAE HYUN [KR] ET AL) 18 October 2007 (2007-10-18) * paragraph [0044] * * paragraph [0044] * * paragraph [0049]; figures * * figures *	1-7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			D06F
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out. Claims searched completely : Claims searched incompletely : Claims not searched : Reason for the limitation of the search: see sheet C			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 3 February 2012	Examiner Diaz y Diaz-Caneja
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C**

Application Number
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Claim(s) completely searchable:
1-7

Claim(s) not searched:
8-15

Reason for the limitation of the search:

According to Rule 62a(1) EPC, only claims 1 to 7 were searched.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 11 15 2292

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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