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(54) **A tumble dryer**

(57) A tumble dryer having an electric heating element 10 switched between first and second states in a regular repetitive cycle. In the preferred embodiment the heating element 10 is switched either fully on or fully off

by a relay 24 according to a pulse width modulation control by a microprocessor 21. Advantageously, the effective heater output is continuously variable to any desired level.

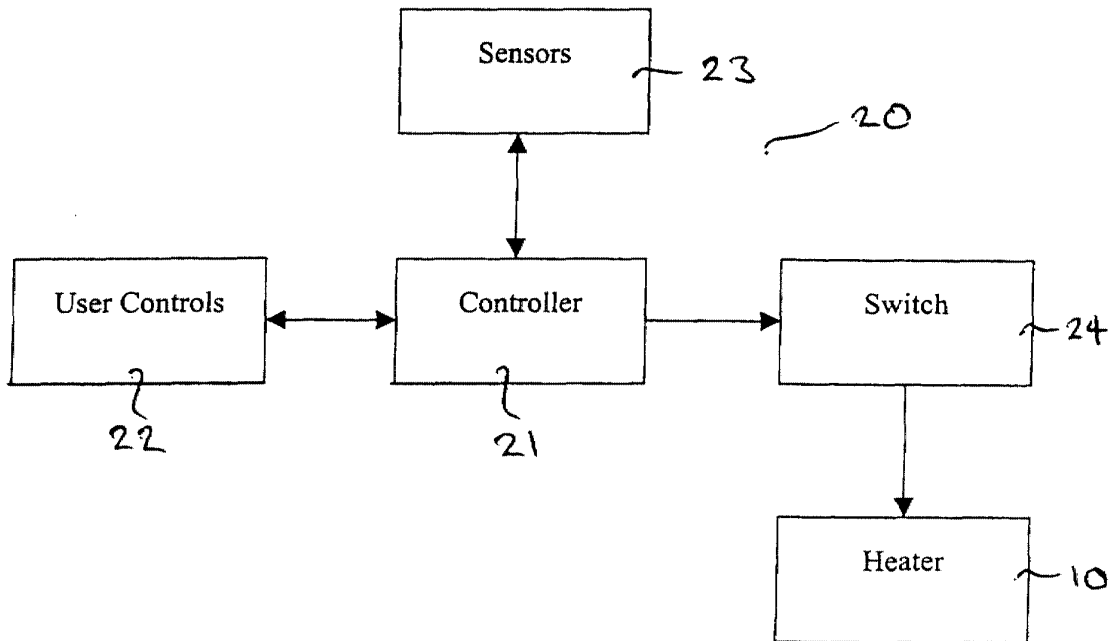


Fig. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) D06F
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 18 October 2002	Examiner Falkentoft, C
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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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 18 October 2002	Examiner Falkentoft, C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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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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