



(51) International Patent Classification:

B01F 1/00 (2006.01) *B01F 15/02* (2006.01)
B01F 3/12 (2006.01) *E03C 1/046* (2006.01)
B01F 5/04 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/IB2009/000196

(22) International Filing Date:

4 February 2009 (04.02.2009)

(25) Filing Language:

Italian

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

MI2008A000200 8 February 2008 (08.02.2008) IT

(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **SANVITTORE, Enrico** [IT/IT]; Via Tassarole, 2bis, I-27040 Montu' Beccaria (PV) (IT).

(74) Agent: **VANOSI, Adelio, V.**; Giambrocono & C. S.p.A., Via Rosolino Pilo, 19/B, I-20129 Milano (IT).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,

HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

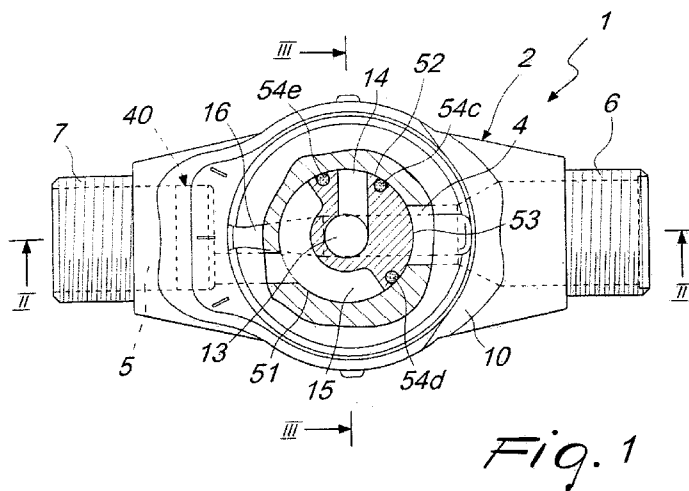
Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

1 October 2009

(54) Title: WATER MIXER APPLICABLE TO WATER DISPENSING UNITS, PARTICULARLY OF SANITARY FITTINGS, FOR ADDING WATER-SOLUBLE SUBSTANCES TO THE WATER



(57) Abstract: A water mixer device applicable to water dispensing units, particularly of sanitary fittings, for adding water-soluble substances to the water, comprising a device body that forms internally a mixing chamber adapted to contain a water-soluble substance; said device body having an inlet and an outlet for the water and being provided, at least at said inlet, with a connector for connecting said device body to a water supply duct; a selector member being provided in said device body and being maneuverable from the outside of said device body into at least two operative positions: a first position in which it directly connects said inlet to said outlet by excluding the connection of said inlet to said mixing chamber, and a second position in which it connects said inlet to said outlet via said mixing chamber.



WO 2009/098571 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2009/000196

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B01F1/00 B01F3/12 B01F5/04 B01F15/02 E03C1/046

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)

B01F E03C

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, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2005/095722 A (SANVITTORE ENRICO [IT]) 13 October 2005 (2005-10-13) cited in the application page 1, lines 5-7 page 3, line 16 - page 5, line 26 page 6, line 25 - page 7, line 23 abstract; claims 1-18; figures 1-9	1-26,28
X	US 4 572 235 A (KATZER JOHANN [DE] ET AL) 25 February 1986 (1986-02-25) cited in the application column 1, lines 6-9 column 2, line 58 - column 3, line 9 column 3, line 63 - column 6, line 26 abstract; figures 1-8	1-26,28
	----- -/--	

 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

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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)

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

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

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

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.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 July 2009

Date of mailing of the international search report

11/08/2009

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Brunold, Axel

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2009/000196

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 671 311 A (HEPPERLE WILLI [DE] ET AL) 9 June 1987 (1987-06-09) cited in the application column 1, lines 5-13 column 3, line 15 - column 4, line 4 column 4, lines 25-41 column 4, line 61 - column 5, line 18 abstract; figures 1-7 -----	1-26,28
X	FR 2 620 470 A (GRUFFY GEORGES [FR]) 17 March 1989 (1989-03-17) page 3, lines 18-32 abstract; figure 2 -----	1-26,28
X	US 5 957 379 A (MCMORROW FRANK [US] ET AL) 28 September 1999 (1999-09-28) column 2, line 52 - column 4, line 41 abstract; figures 1A-4C -----	1-26,28
X	US 6 036 110 A (KANATZAR JEFF A [US] ET AL) 14 March 2000 (2000-03-14) column 2, lines 3-16,26-46 abstract; figures 1,2 -----	1-26,28
X	US 6 647 566 B1 (WANG SHENG-CHENG [TW]) 18 November 2003 (2003-11-18) column 2, line 44 - column 4, line 16 abstract; figures 1-6 -----	1-26,28

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 27

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 27

As regards independent apparatus claim 27, it is noted that it has been drafted in such a way that said claim as a whole is not in compliance with the provisions of clarity and conciseness of Art. 6 PCT, since it takes reference to some "...described and/or illustrated characteristics...", which appear to relate to the description and/or the drawings, Rule 6.2(a) PCT.

It is therefore particularly burdensome if not impossible for a skilled person to establish the subject-matter for which protection is sought. The non-compliance with the substantive provisions is to such an extent that no search was performed for this claim 27, cf. also PCT Guidelines 9.19.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that 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. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2)PCT declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2009/000196

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 27
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 27
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/IB2009/000196

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2005095722	A	13-10-2005	NONE
US 4572235	A	25-02-1986	AU 562519 B2 11-06-1987 AU 1755983 A 23-02-1984 CA 1225083 A1 04-08-1987 DE 3230783 A1 23-02-1984 DK 367483 A 20-02-1984 EP 0103110 A2 21-03-1984 ES 8404841 A1 01-09-1984 FI 832882 A 20-02-1984 JP 1519400 C 29-09-1989 JP 59049831 A 22-03-1984 JP 63065370 B 15-12-1988 NO 832976 A 20-02-1984 NZ 205210 A 08-08-1986 ZA 8305757 A 25-04-1984
US 4671311	A	09-06-1987	AU 578296 B2 20-10-1988 AU 4489385 A 23-01-1986 CA 1257581 A1 18-07-1989 DE 3426576 A1 30-01-1986 DK 323485 A 20-01-1986 EP 0168781 A2 22-01-1986 ES 8608611 A1 01-12-1986 JP 61035833 A 20-02-1986 NO 852863 A 20-01-1986 ZA 8505420 A 26-03-1986
FR 2620470	A	17-03-1989	NONE
US 5957379	A	28-09-1999	NONE
US 6036110	A	14-03-2000	NONE
US 6647566	B1	18-11-2003	TW 578537 Y 01-03-2004