Title: SPOUT ASSEMBLY FOR DISPENSING LIQUID FROM A NOZZLE

Abstract: Spout assemblies are provided for dispensing liquid from a nozzle.
Declarations under Rule 4.17:


- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

Published:

- with international search report

- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 17 November 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**
- IPC(7) : B67D 5/04
- US CL : 222/566

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. : 222/566; 141/59

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)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 2,004,203 A (HOWELL) 11 June 1935 (11.06.1935), see entire document.</td>
<td>1-7 and 15-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,024,140 A (GARRISON et al) 15 February 2000 (15.02.2000), see the embodiment of Figs. 7 and 8.</td>
<td>1-8, 13-19, 21, 26-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,549,132 A (BUTTERFIELD et al) 27 August 1996 (27.08.1996), see entire document.</td>
<td>1-8, 13-19, 21, 26-29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

- **X** 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 application or patent 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
  - **T** document published after the international filing date or priority date
  - **D** document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered as such
  - **Y** document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
  - **Z** document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 25 July 2005 (25.07.2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 09 SEP 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US:
- Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
- Commissioner for Patents
- P.O. Box 1450
- Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
- Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer:
- **Signature**
- Telephone No.: 571-272-3700

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2004)
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**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.:
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. [ ] Claims Nos.:
   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:

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:

Please See Continuation Sheet


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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 fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

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.: 1-33 and 64-68

**Remark on Protest**

[ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

[ ] No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-33 and 64-68, drawn to a spout assembly with a detailed conduit.

Group II, claim(s) 34-58, drawn to a spout assembly with a broad conduit and a pressure-actuated valve.

Group III, claim(s) 59-63, 69, and 70, drawn to a nozzle.

Group IV, claim(s) 71-73, drawn to a conduit with an adhesive.

Group V, claim(s) 74-79 drawn to a liquid-level sensor valve.

The inventions listed as Groups I-V do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the only corresponding features between the five groups of inventions is a broad conduit, which does not constitute a special technical feature as it does not define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.