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(54) Title: PNEUMATICALLY-OPERATED GAS DEMAND APPARATUS

(57) Abstract

A pneumatically-operated gas demand apparatus (10) coupled in interruptible fluid communication between a recipient (12) and a first source (312) of a pressurized first gas controls delivery of the first gas to the recipient (12) as the recipient (12) inhales and exhales and comprises a supply valve (28) and a sensing valve (30). The supply valve (28) has a first interior chamber (36) divided by a flexible first diaphragm (34) into a supply chamber region (38) and a control chamber region (40). The supply chamber region (38) is in interruptible fluid communication between the first source (312) of the first gas and the recipient (12). The control chamber region (40) is in continuous fluid communication with a second source (314) of a pressurized second gas. The sensing valve (30) has a second interior chamber (46) divided by a flexible second diaphragm (44) into a venting chamber region (48) and a sensing chamber region (50). The venting chamber region (48) is in interruptible fluid communication between the control chamber region (40) and an ambient air environment. The sensing chamber region (50) is in continuous fluid communication with the recipient (12). When the recipient (12) inhales, the second diaphragm (44) moves to a flow-causing position to cause the second gas to flow into the ambient air environment and causes the first diaphragm (34) to move to a flow-supplying position thereby delivering the first gas to the recipient (12). When the recipient (12) exhales, the second diaphragm (44) moves to a flow-stopping position to prevent the second gas to flow into the ambient air environment and causes the first diaphragm (34) to move to a flow-blocking position thereby preventing delivery of the first gas to the recipient (12).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

onal Application No

PCT/US 96/07958 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 A61M16/00 A61M11/06 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) IPC 6 A61M 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) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Χ 1-5,15, US,A,5 360 000 (CARTER WILLIAM) 1 November 17-19, 1994 cited in the application 21,22,26 see abstract; figures see column 3, line 32 - column 6, line 66 US,A,4 575 042 (GRIMLAND CHARLES J ET AL) Χ 1-5,21, 11 March 1986 22 Y see abstract; figures 6-8,15,23 see column 2, line 10 - column 3, line 61 Υ FR,A,2 695 830 (PIERRE MEDICAL SA) 25 6,7 March 1994 see abstract; figures 1,3 see page 5, line 24 - page 8, line 21 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Ix I Patent family members are listed in annex. * Special categories of cited documents: "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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 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) 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 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 04.12.96 27 November 1996 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. ional Application No PCT/US 96/07958

	PCT/US 96/07958	
<u> </u>	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	<u> </u>
ategory °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
,	US,A,4 686 974 (SATO TORU ET AL) 18 August 1987 cited in the application	8,15,23
ı	see abstract; figure 1 see column 6, line 49 - column 7, line 51	10
١	EP,A,O 285 470 (L'AIR LIQUIDE) 5 October 1988 see abstract; figures	9,16,24
	see column 2, line 32 - line 38	
x	WILLIAM W. MUSHIN ET AL.: "Automatic Ventilation of the Lungs" 1980 , BLACKWELL SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS , 0XFORD LONDON EDINGURGH MELBOURNE XP002019573 166160 see page 404, line 11 - line 18 see page 405, line 1 - line 24; figure 24.17	28-31
A	US,A,4 396 015 (JOHNSON ROBERT J) 2 August 1983 see abstract; figures 1,2,4 see column 4, line 38 - column 5, line 28	28
A	US,A,4 986 269 (HAKKINEN TAISTO) 22 January 1991 see abstract; figures 1,4-7B see column 5, line 31 - column 9, line 50	28
A	US,A,4 706 664 (SNOOK JAMES A ET AL) 17 November 1987 see abstract; figure 19 see column 5, line 42 - column 8, line 16	28

ternational application No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US 96/07958

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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:	
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 II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)	
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:	
1. Claims: 1-27 a pmeumatically-operated gas demand apparatus with a supply	
valve and a sensing valve 2. Claims:28-31 an intermittent gas delivery device combined with a nebulizer	
 X As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims. As all searchable claims could be searches without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee. 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.: 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. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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