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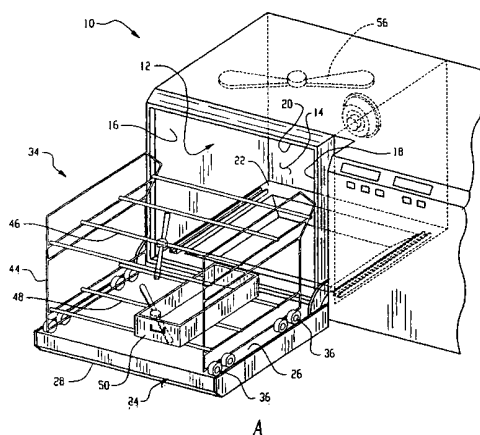
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **LOAD LIFTING/LOWERING MECHANISM**



(57) **Abstract:** A washer (10) includes a washing chamber (12) defined by sidewalls (14, 16, 18, 20, 22). A front door (24), having an inner/upper surface (26), is adjacent a front portion of the washer. The front door is selectively pivotable between a vertical closed position and a horizontal open position. An article carrying assembly (34) is provided for carrying articles to be cleaned by the washer. The assembly (34) is moveable from inside the washer to the upper surface of the open front door. A lifting system (72) selectively moves the front door between a lower position (74) and an upper position (76). The lifting system includes a follower (154) to which the front door is pivotally mounted. A motor (80) transmits power to a pair of chains (110, 116) which are connected to the follower. The chains drive the follower along a guide (156) to move the front door between the upper and lower positions. Alternately, the lifting system includes a cable (182) coupled to a fluid cylinder (180). The cable and fluid cylinder drive the front door between the upper and lower positions. When the door is in the upper position, an operator can move the assembly (34) to a transfer cart for unloading and loading at a remote location or load and unload the article carrying assembly, all while in a substantially erect position.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A47L15/42

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 7 A47L B60P

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, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 971 513 A (CASSALIA ALAN B) 26 October 1999 (1999-10-26) claim 1; figure 1 ---	1
A	US 5 115 822 A (NICHOLS WILL E) 26 May 1992 (1992-05-26) claim 1; figure 1 ---	1
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 12, 31 October 1998 (1998-10-31) & JP 10 179495 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 7 July 1998 (1998-07-07) abstract -----	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5971513	A	26-10-1999	NONE	
US 5115822	A	26-05-1992	NONE	
JP 10179495	A	07-07-1998	NONE	