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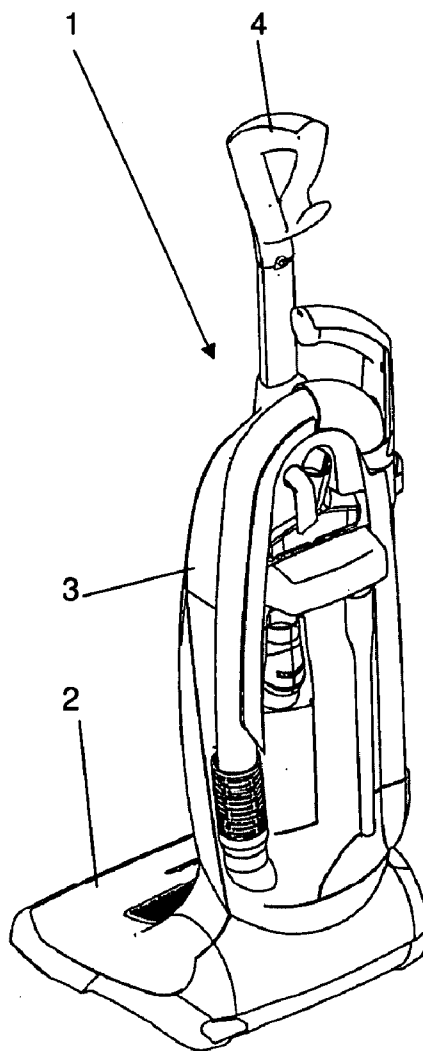
(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Andrup et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2009/0056055 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Mar. 5, 2009**(54) **UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER****Publication Classification**(75) Inventors: **Klemens Andrup**, Verl (DE); **Udo Mersmann**, Guetersloh (DE)(51) **Int. Cl.**
A47L 9/28 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** **15/323**(57) **ABSTRACT**

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Aug. 30, 2007 (DE) 10 2007 040 956.9

An upright vacuum cleaner for cleaning a surface includes a base unit, a carriage configured to provide movement of the base unit on the surface and an upper body including a dust collection container therein. A substantially U-shaped elongated receiving structure is recessed into at least one side surface of the upper body and at least a portion of an upper surface of the upper body. The vacuum cleaner includes an air passageway with an interface and a section formed by a hose or an assembly of the hose and a wand, the section being connected downstream of the interface. The section is externally disposed on the upper body with at least the hose being receivable on the receiving structure. The section is disconnectable in a region of the interface so as to enable a vacuuming mode of operation that is independent of the base unit.



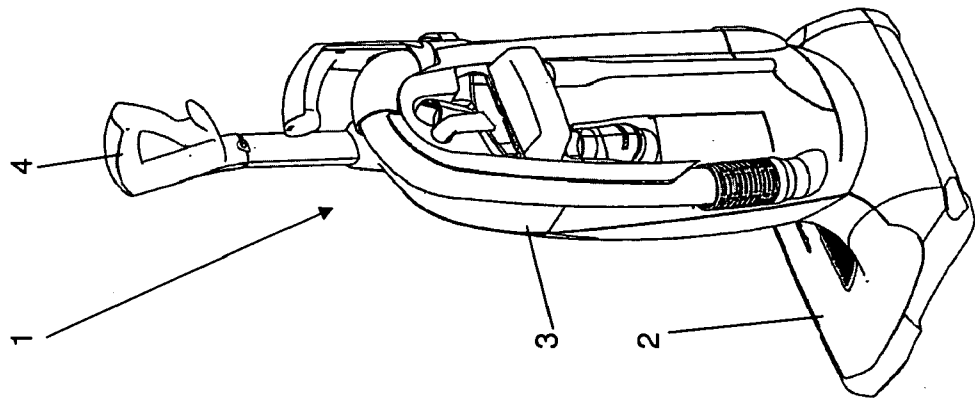


Fig. 3

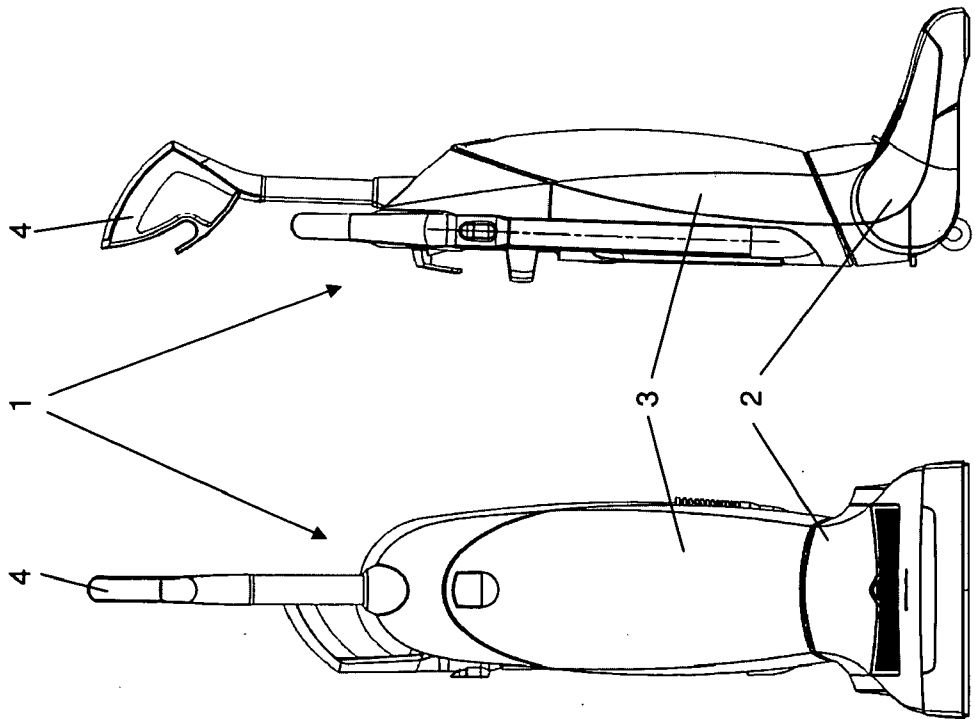


Fig. 2

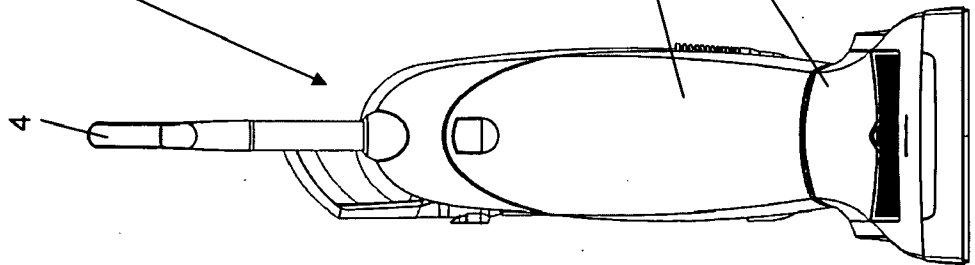


Fig. 1

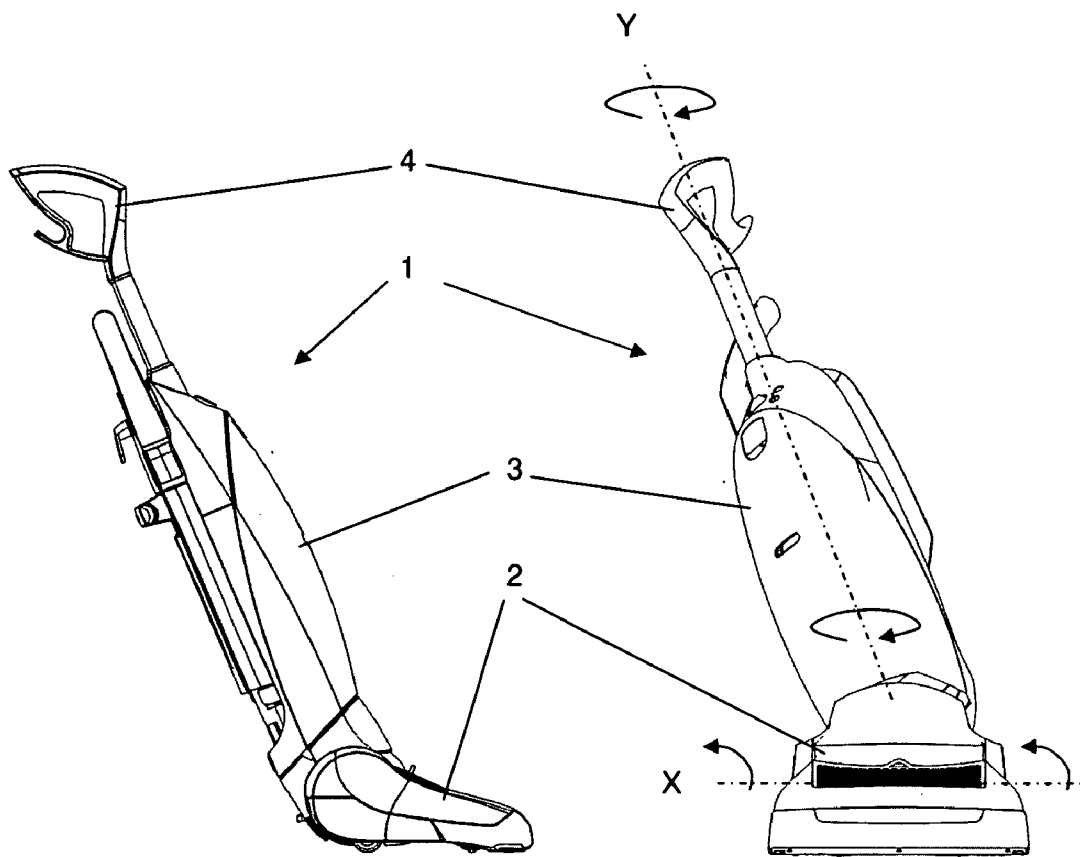


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

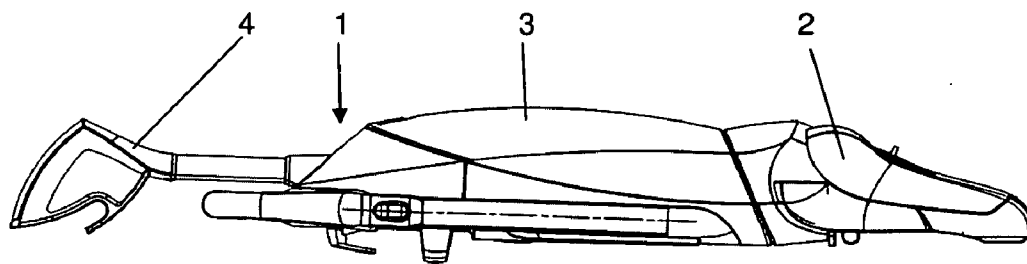


Fig. 6

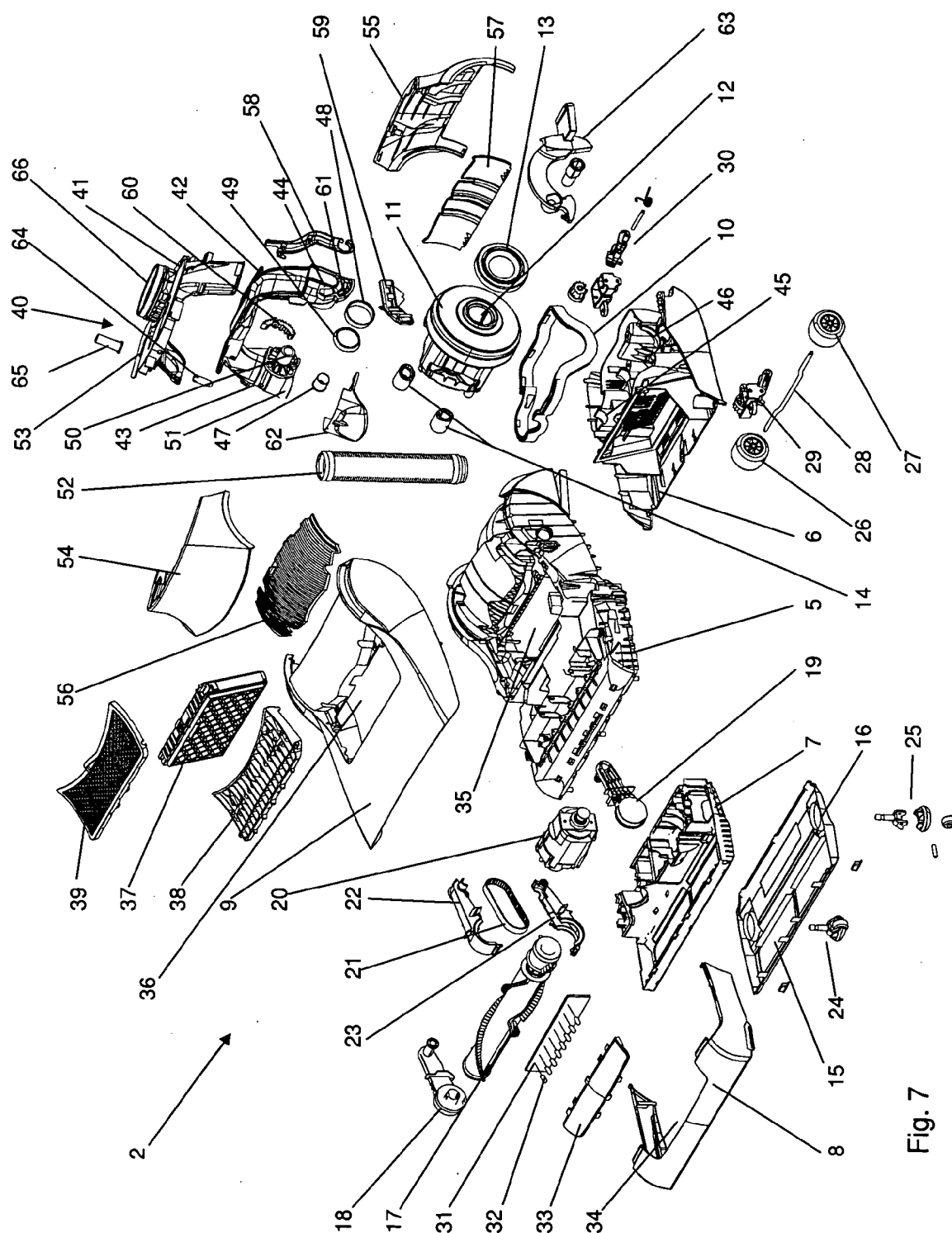


Fig. 7

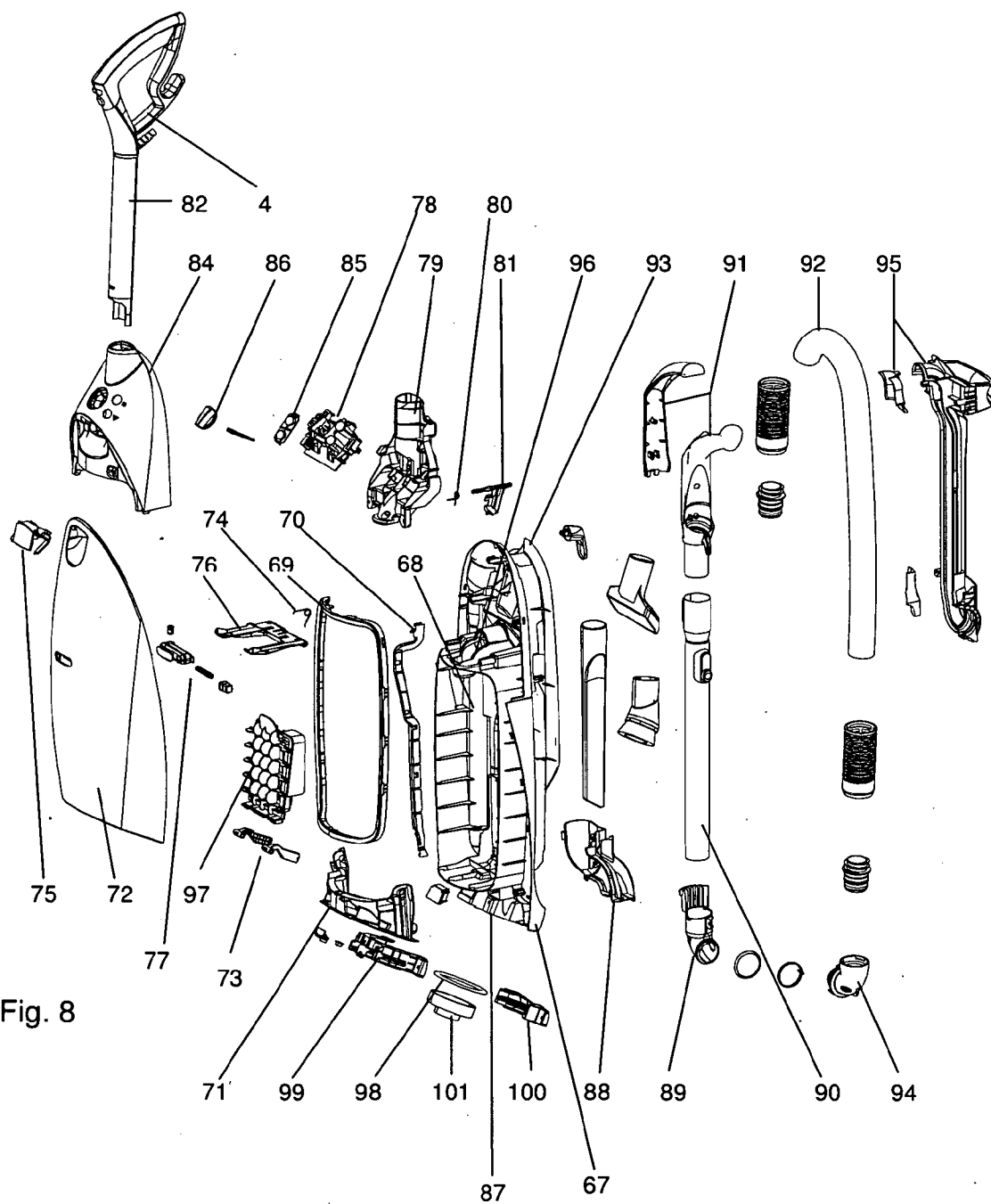


Fig. 8

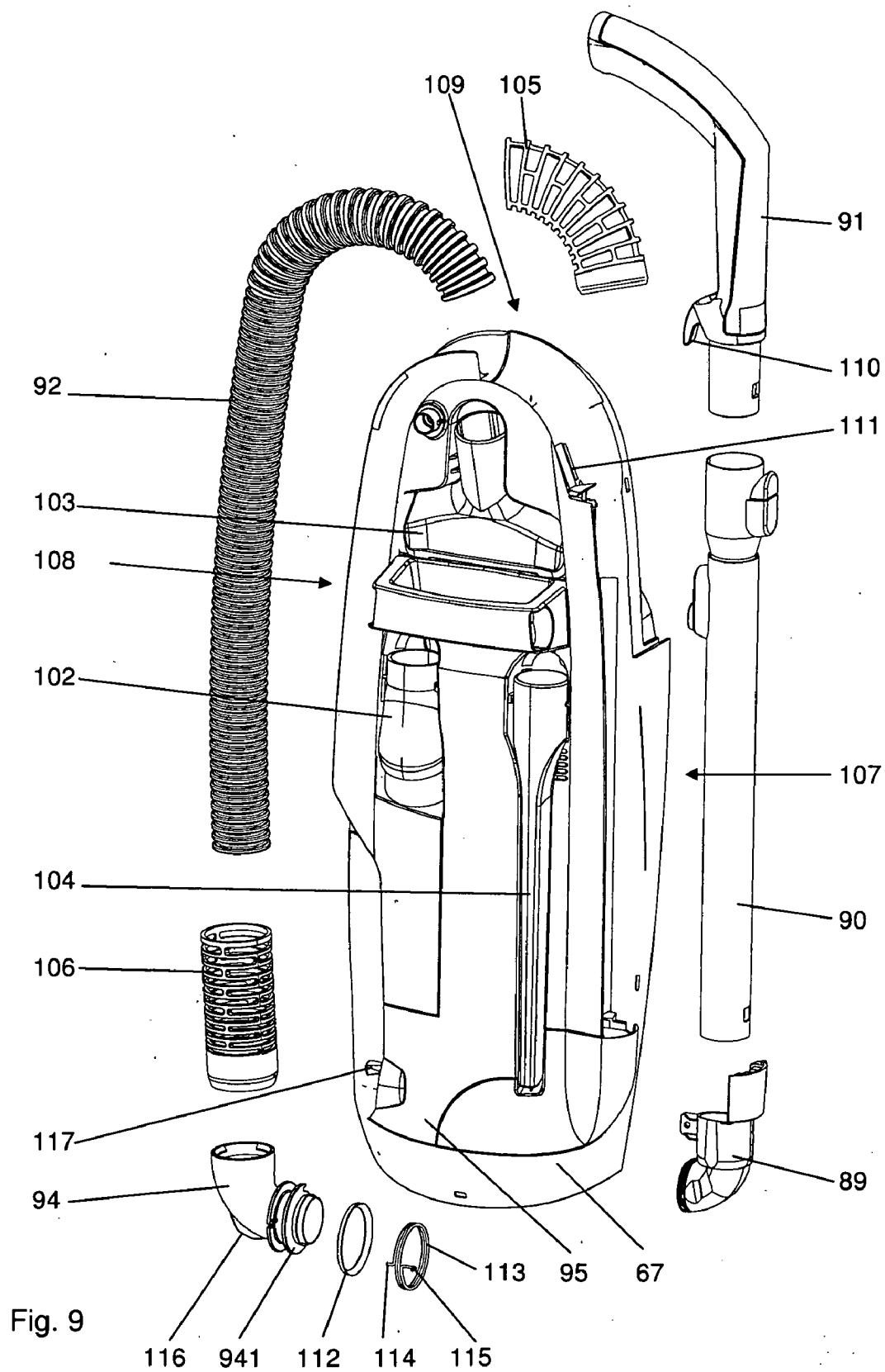


Fig. 9

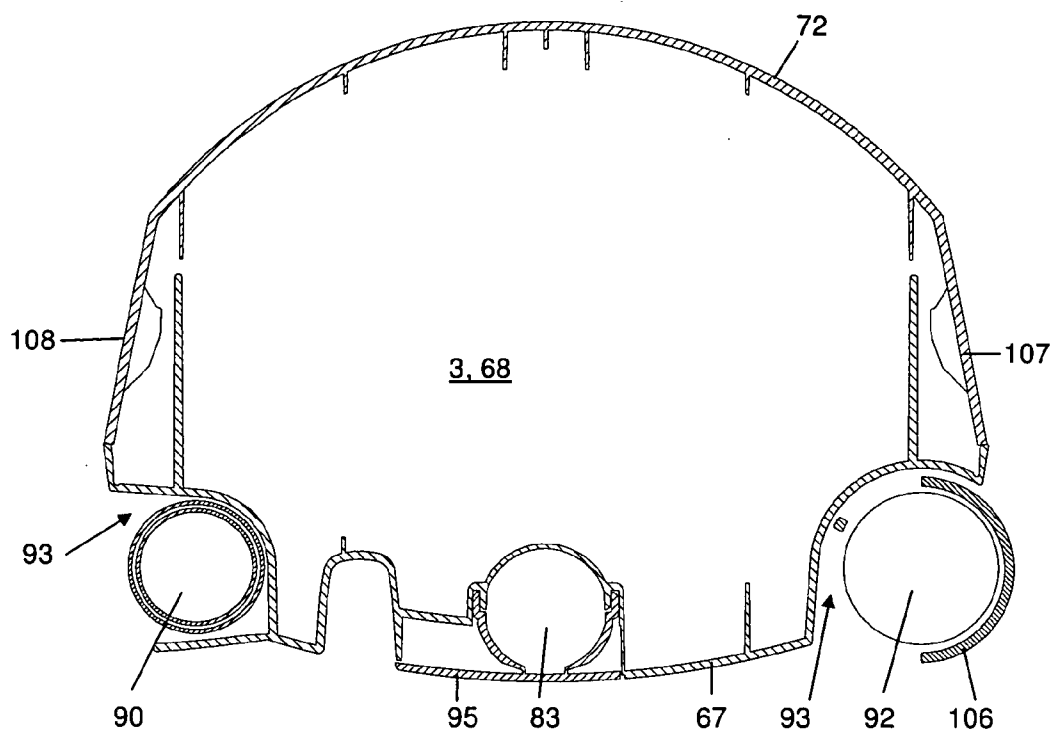


Fig. 10

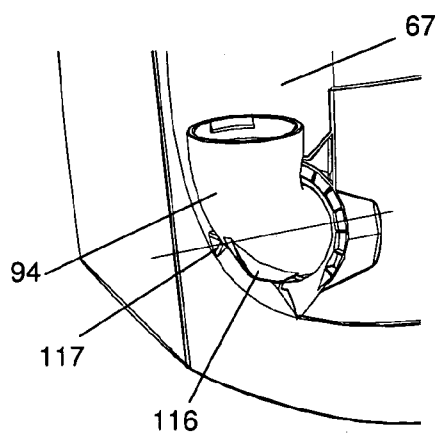


Fig. 11a

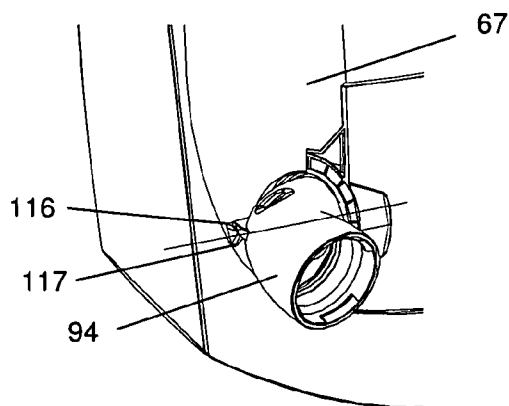
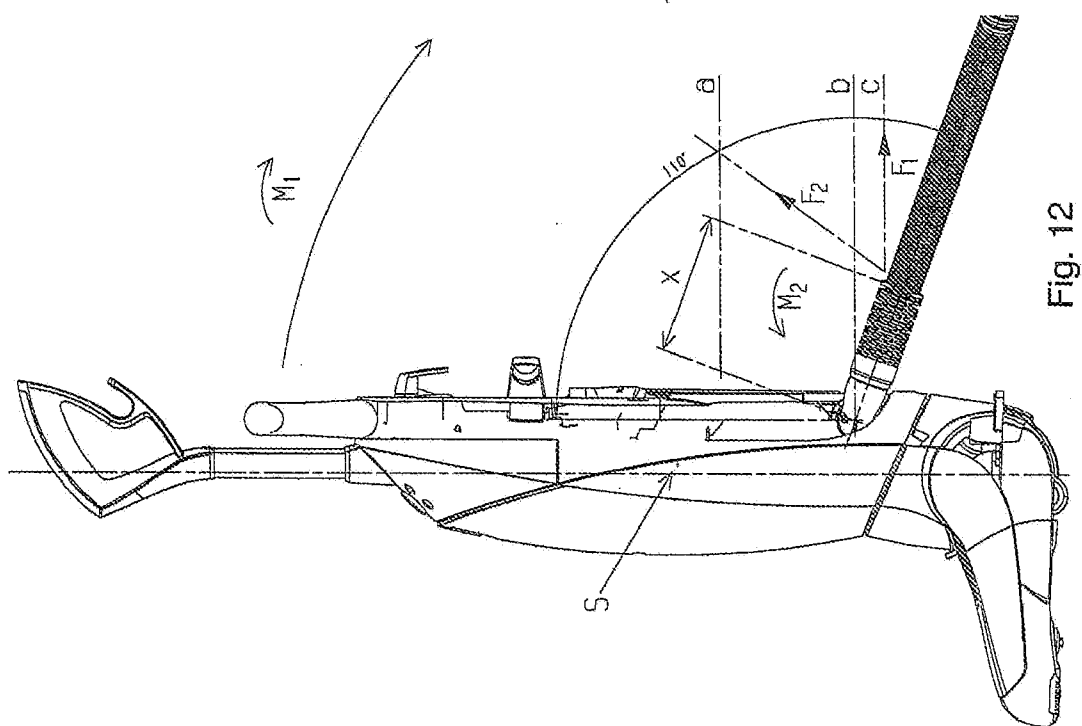
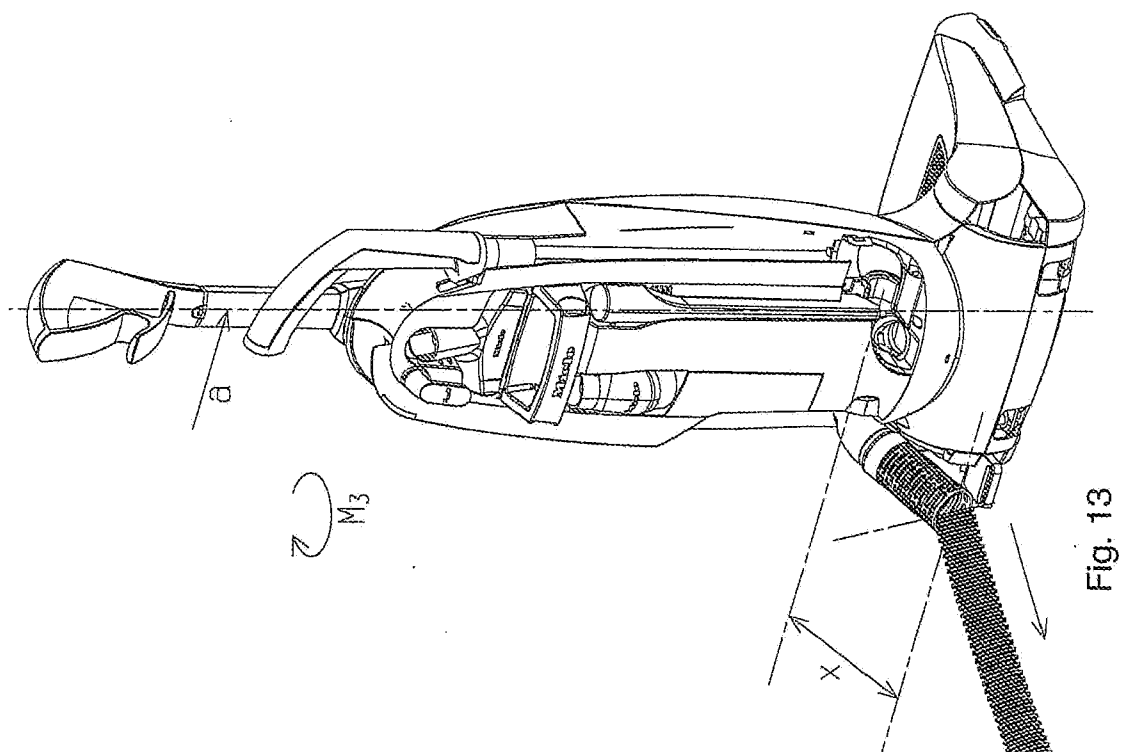


Fig. 11b



UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Priority is claimed to German patent application DE 10 2007 040 956.9, filed Aug. 30, 2007, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates to a vacuum cleaner of the upright type, including an upper body containing a dust collection container, a base unit, and a carriage permitting said base unit to move on the surface to be cleaned.

BACKGROUND

[0003] The following is a description of three types of vacuum cleaners which differ in design and operation. All of them have as common features a motor-driven fan, a dust collection chamber, and one or more floor treatment devices which are each adapted for a particular purpose.

[0004] The canister vacuum cleaner has a housing which can be moved on the floor to be cleaned on wheels and/or runners. The housing contains the motor-fan unit and the dust collection container. The floor treatment device, here referred to as floor nozzle, is connected to the dust collection chamber via a suction hose, and possibly a suction wand connected therebetween. During vacuuming, the housing is moved to the desired position by pulling on the suction wand.

[0005] In a stick vacuum cleaner, the motor-fan unit and the dust collection container are also disposed in a housing. A suction wand extends from one end of the housing, connecting the floor nozzle to the dust collection container, and a handle used to maneuver the housing to the desired position extends from the other end.

[0006] Uprights do not have as strictly divided a configuration as the two aforementioned types. One feature of an upright is a movable base unit which carries an upper body containing a large dust collection container. The two parts are tiltable relative to each other and can usually be locked in a parked position in which the upper body is nearly upright when the base unit is located on a horizontal floor in a position of use. In this position, the upright stands unsupported. During vacuuming, the above-described locked engagement is released, and the upper body is tilted through a certain angle to an operating position. The tilt angle depends on the height of the user and on the particular purpose of use. A handle is provided on the upper body for maneuvering the entire appliance. In order to give the user additional options for vacuuming besides vacuum cleaning with the base unit, such as above-the-floor-vacuuming, the air passageway has an interface and, downstream thereof, a section which is formed by a hose or hose/wand assembly. In most designs, a wand member is held in an insertion receptacle. After removing the wand member from the insertion receptacle, different types of vacuum attachments may be attached to the suction end thereof. The assembly so formed can be used in the same manner as with a conventional canister vacuum cleaner. The aforementioned assembly uses a relatively long hose to provide adequate reach for the user (see, for example, WO 2007/008770 A1). Such hoses are then secured in clamps or hooks

on the handle. In the process, loops are formed above the upper body. Such loops may get caught on various objects as the user moves around.

SUMMARY

[0007] An aspect of the present invention is to provide an upright vacuum cleaner in which the hose is held in a reliable and ergonomically favorable manner.

[0008] In an embodiment, the present invention provides an upright vacuum cleaner for cleaning a surface. The upright vacuum cleaner includes a base unit, a carriage configured to provide movement of the base unit on the surface and an upper body including a dust collection container therein. The upper body is supported so as to be at least tiltable relative to the base unit and lockable in a parked position in which the vacuum cleaner has a substantially upright configuration when standing on the surface. The vacuum cleaner includes a motor-fan unit configured to provide a partial vacuum at the surface. A substantially U-shaped elongated receiving structure is recessed into at least one side surface of the upper body and at least a portion of an upper surface of the upper body. The vacuum cleaner includes an air passageway with an interface and a section formed by a hose or an assembly of the hose and a wand, the section being connected downstream of the interface.

[0009] The section is externally disposed on the upper body with at least the hose being receivable on the receiving structure. The section is disconnectable in a region of the interface so as to enable a vacuuming mode of operation that is independent of the base unit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] An exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described below and is schematically shown in the drawings, in which:

[0011] FIGS. 1 through 6 show various overall views of the vacuum cleaner of the present invention;

[0012] FIG. 7 is an exploded view showing the base unit of the vacuum cleaner;

[0013] FIG. 8 is an exploded view illustrating the upper body of the vacuum cleaner;

[0014] FIG. 9 is a rear view showing the upper body and portions of the air passageway in an exploded view;

[0015] FIG. 10 is a cross-section through the upper body in the transition region from the hose to the upper body;

[0016] FIGS. 11a and 11b show the swivel elbow in different views;

[0017] FIG. 12 shows the relationship of forces and moments arising when a pull is exerted on the hose in a direction opposite to the direction of travel; and

[0018] FIG. 13 shows the relationship of forces and moments arising when a pull is exerted on the hose in a direction angular to the direction of travel

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0019] The present invention relates to a vacuum cleaner of the upright type, including an upper body containing a dust collection container, a base unit, a carriage permitting said base unit to move on the surface to be cleaned; the upper body being supported such that it is at least tiltable relative to the base unit and capable of being locked in a parked position in which the vacuum cleaner assumes a substantially upright position when standing on the surface to be cleaned; the

vacuum cleaner further including a motor-fan unit for creating a partial vacuum to act on the surface to be cleaned, and an air passageway extending from the base unit to the dust collection container, said air passageway having an interface and including a section which is formed by a hose or hose/wand assembly and is located downstream of said interface, said section being arranged externally on the upper body in such a manner that it is securable thereto and that, when disconnected in the region of the interface, it enables a vacuuming mode of operation which is independent of the base unit.

[0020] In an embodiment of the present invention the hose can be held in an elongated receiving structure which is substantially U-shaped and is recessed into at least one side surface and at least a portion of the upper surface. Thus, on the one hand, loops projecting beyond the upper body are avoided and, on the other hand, this assists in the placing back of the hose, because when the vacuum cleaner is in the parked position, the hose automatically moves toward the receiving structure with the assistance of gravity, and remains therein.

[0021] In an embodiment, the U-shaped receiving structure extends along nearly the entire length of the hose in the retained position, with only a transition region from the hose to the upper body being left free. Thus, when vacuuming with the base unit while the upper body is tilted rearward, the hose is prevented from hanging down, and thus, from forming loops.

[0022] In the transition region, the receiving structure may have a cross-section of a quadrant of a circle. Thus, the transition region may include an elbow which is swivel-mounted to the upper body, which increases the vertical stability of the upright when the hose is pulled far in a rearward direction. In order to prevent the hose from being damaged at the frequently stressed point immediately downstream of the swivel elbow, it is advantageous if the transition region is formed by the elbow and a hose section which is surrounded by an anti-kink sleeve.

[0023] In another embodiment, the section downstream of the interface includes a wand member which can also be held in a U-shaped receiving structure, said receiving structure being recessed into another side surface of the upper body. This wand member, which may be in the form of a telescoping wand and, in addition, is supplemented by a wand handle, allows the upright to be used without stooping in the manner of a conventional canister vacuum cleaner.

[0024] The hose may be in the form of a flexible hose which is extensible in length. Thus, the reach is increased.

[0025] In one embodiment vacuum attachments can be attached to the hose or wand end adjacent to the interface. Such vacuum attachments may be securable to the rear wall of the upper body.

[0026] The upright vacuum cleaner shown in different views in FIGS. 1 through 6 (hereinafter abbreviated as upright 1) includes a base unit 2, an upper body 3, and a joint disposed therebetween, which will be described in greater detail further on in this specification.

[0027] Upright 1 can be brought from an upright position (see FIGS. 1 through 3), in which it can be locked and stand unsupported, to a tilted position (FIGS. 4 and 5), or even to a fully flat position (FIG. 6), after the locked engagement has been released (see FIG. 7). To this end, base unit 2 and upper body 3 are connected in such a manner that they can be tilted relative to each other about an axis X extending horizontally in a position of use (see FIG. 5). This pivoting movement is made possible by a joint which is hereinafter referred to as

“tilting joint”. In the tilted position, the upright can be rotated about an axis Y, as is also shown in FIG. 5. The user can maneuver base unit 2 through curves by rotating upper body 3 about the aforesaid axis using handle 4 while simultaneously pulling or pushing the upright. The corresponding joint is hereinafter referred to as “swivel joint”.

[0028] Base unit 2, shown in the exploded view of FIG. 7, has a housing including a housing insert 5, a lower rear housing part 6, a lower front housing part 7, a bumper strip 8, and a cover part 9. Housing insert 5 functions as a support for a number of electrical and mechanical components. The aforementioned housing parts are also attached thereto. The housing insert, lower rear housing part 6, and a motor chamber seal 10 placed therebetween, together form a chamber for receiving a motor-fan unit 11 for creating the partial vacuum required for vacuuming. A sealing ring 13 is provided around fan inlet 12 on the suction side, said sealing ring also bearing against the two aforementioned housing parts 5 and 6. Rubber buffers 14 are inserted on the opposite side. For deep cleaning of carpets, a brush roller 17 extends into suction mouth 15, which is an opening in lower front housing part 7 and bottom plate 16, which is attached thereto, said brush roller being resiliently mounted on two lateral pivoting arms 18 and 19 and being driven by a brush motor 20 via a belt 21. A two-part belt cover is provided by parts 22 and 23. Brush motor 20 is also attached to housing insert 5, and pivoting arms 18 and 19 are pivotably secured thereto. The carriage of the upright is formed by front casters 24 and 25 and rear wheels 26 and 27 and is supported by the two lower housing parts 6 and 7. Rear wheels 26 and 27 are connected by an axle 28 for purposes of stability, and are adjustable in position by means of a wheel mechanism 29 and 30, respectively. A circuit board 31 carrying LEDs 32 is secured to housing insert 5 to illuminate the travel path and is covered at the front by a transparent plate 33. Transparent plate 33 is held in a cut-out 34 in bumper strip 8.

[0029] The air generated by the motor-fan unit 11 is discharged into the environment through an opening 35 in housing insert 5 and a corresponding opening 36 in cover part 9. A filter frame 37 is inserted into opening 36 to hold an exhaust filter for removing ultrafine particles from the exhaust air. Filter frame 37 is covered by a grating holder 38 and a grating 39 within cover part 9, from where it can be replaced.

[0030] Both the tilting joint and the swivel joint between base unit 2 and upper body 3, which will be described in greater detail hereinafter, are provided by a rigid, yoke-shaped duct member. This member also contains portions of the air passageway from suction mouth 15 to upper body 3, and the air passageway from upper body 3 to the exhaust port (openings 35 and 36). This member is hereinafter referred to as yoke 40. It is formed by two plastic parts, an upper shell 41 and a lower shell 42, which are welded together. In order to create the tilting joint, the two ends 43 (right) and 44 (left) of yoke 40 are pivotably mounted in openings 45 and 46 provided for this purpose, and are surrounded by metal bearing sleeves 47 and 48, respectively, in order to avoid wear. Yoke end 44, which is on the left side as viewed in the direction of travel, is hollow and is coupled to fan inlet 12 via a seal 49. A trunnion 50 is integrally formed with yoke end 43, which is on the right side as viewed in the direction of travel. Moreover, the right yoke end has an opening 51 which is connected by a flexible tube 52 to suction mouth 15. In order to prevent the interior of base unit 2 from becoming visible when tilting the upper body 3, the connecting portion between the two yoke ends 43 and 44 (hereinafter referred to as bridge portion 53) is

enclosed by a front cover **54** and a rear cover **55**, which are provided on base unit **2** and are capable of following the swivel motion of yoke **40**. The gap between the front and rear covers and housing insert **5** is bridged by covering members **56** and **57**. The first **58** of two cable ducts **58** and **59** is attached to left yoke end **44**. Furthermore, yoke ends **43** and **44** carry toothed segments **60** and **61**, which cooperate with wheel mechanisms **29** and **30**. A covering cap **62** for a connecting cable is secured to bridge portion **53**. To enable the upright to be locked in the upright position (FIGS. **1** through **3**), a foot pedal **63** is mounted on housing insert **5** which, in this position, engages with left yoke end **44**, thereby preventing yoke **40** from swiveling. The locked position can be released by depressing pedal **63**. Moreover, in the locked position, swivel motion is prevented by two spring-mounted pins **64** and **65**. In the region of bridge portion **53**, the air passages provided by yoke ends **43** and **44** are combined into a first section **66** of a coaxial conduit.

[0031] FIG. **8** shows upper body **3**, also in an exploded view. The load-bearing part of upper body **3** is a rear wall **67**. The aforesaid rear wall forms the rear portion of a dust chamber **68**, which in turn receives a dust collection container in the form of a filter bag. A seal **69** surrounds the edge of dust chamber **68**, and a covering strip **70** for cables is attached at the side. A hinge bearing **71** is secured to rear wall **67** in the lower portion thereof. Dust chamber **68** is closed at the front by an upper housing part **72** which is pivoted to hinge bearing **71** by hinges **73** and torsion springs **74**. Upper housing part **72** carries a locking device **75**, a dust bag holder **76**, and a filter replacement indicator **77** and, in addition, serves to cover hinge bearing **71**. In the upper portion, rear wall **67** carries the electronics **78** of the upright, which are completely arranged on a holder **79** and can be installed as a pre-tested subassembly. A lever **81** for turning off brush motor **20** is mounted to the holder via a torsion spring **80**. In addition, said holder is used to hold handle tube **82** and appliance handle **4**. Electronics **78** are covered by a cap **84**, which also serves for attachment of various controls and indicators and accessories thereof (transparent cover **85**, rotary knob **86**).

[0032] An air path system allows dirt-laden air to be optionally sucked in either through the suction mouth in the base unit or through a telescoping wand to which may be attached vacuum attachments such as a crevice tool, a dusting brush, an upholstery tool, etc. To this end, the suction air is directed from suction mouth **15** through flexible tube **52** and right yoke end **43**, and further through the inner tube of first section **66** of the coaxial conduit in bridge portion **53** into the inner tube of a second section **87** of the coaxial conduit. This section **87** is continued in rear wall **67**, where it is divided into two separate conduits. The air path continues through a suction duct member **88** into an elbow **89**. A telescoping wand **90** is loosely, and therefore removably, inserted into elbow **89**. The aforesaid telescoping wand merges into a wand handle **91** and further into a flexible suction hose **92**. Suction hose **92** is held in a receiving structure **93** provided for this purpose, as can be seen also in FIG. **3**. The air passes through a swivel elbow **94** into a duct **83** (see FIG. **10**) which extends along the entire length of rear wall **67**. Duct **83** is defined by rear wall **67** itself and an air duct member **95** placed thereon. A downstream, elbow-shaped duct member **96**, which is formed by rear wall **67** and a portion of electronics holder **79**, directs the dirt-laden suction air into the region of dust bag holder **76**, and there into a dust bag. Once the suction air has passed through the dust bag in the dust chamber and been cleaned of dust

therein, it passes through a motor protection filter (the figure shows only the frame **97** for holding the filter) and into the outer annulus of second section **87** of the coaxial conduit, and from there through first section **66** and left yoke end **44** to motor-fan unit **11**.

[0033] The lower portion of FIG. **8** further shows the components used for attaching and rotatably supporting upper body **3** on yoke **40**. First section **66** of the coaxial conduit is surrounded by a metal ring **98** which is enclosed by injection-molded material and projects beyond the outside diameter of said section **66**, and which is held around its circumference in two bearing shells **99** and **100**. Bearing shells **99** and **100** are connected to upper body **3**. Accordingly, metal ring **98** and bearing shells **99** and **100** together form the swivel joint of upright **1**. When joining upper body **3** and yoke **40**, the two sections **66** and **87** of the coaxial conduit are joined together with a seal **101** interposed therebetween.

[0034] The air path portion that enables vacuuming independently of base unit **2** is shown in an exploded view in FIG. **9**. Elbow **89** provides the interface at which this portion can be separated. Telescoping wand **90** is inserted in elbow **89** and can be removed therefrom. Telescoping wand **90** is, in turn, detachably secured to wand handle **91**. Various vacuum attachments, including a dusting brush **102**, an upholstery tool **103** and a crevice tool **104**, are secured on the outside of rear wall **67** of the upper body, and may optionally be attached to either telescoping wand **90** or wand handle **91**. Wand handle **91** is connected to flexible suction hose **92**, the transition region from handle **91** to hose **92** being surrounded by an upper anti-kink sleeve **105**. Flexible hose **92** is then connected to swivel elbow **94**, this second transition region from hose **92** to swivel elbow **94** being surrounded by a lower anti-kink sleeve **106**.

[0035] It can be seen from FIGS. **3** and **9** that receiving structure **93**, which holds telescoping wand **90**, wand handle **91** and hose **92**, is U-shaped and extends along nearly the entire length of the two side surfaces **107** and **108** and upper surface **109** of upper body **3**. At side surface **108**, which is on the left side as viewed in the direction of travel and shown to the left in FIG. **9**, only the second transition region, which is formed by swivel elbow **94** and lower anti-kink sleeve **106**, is left free. It can be seen both in FIGS. **3** and **9** and in the cross-sectional view of FIG. **10** that receiving structure **93** is recessed into side surfaces **107** and **108** and into upper surface **109**. The cross-sectional view of FIG. **10** further illustrates that in the second transition region on left side **108**, receiving structure **93** has a cross-section of only a quadrant of a circle. Since receiving structure **93** is arranged in side surfaces **107** and **108** and in upper surface **109** of upright **1**, the open side of the receiving structure **93** faces upward and to the left and right sides of upright **1** when it is in the parked position (FIGS. **1** through **3**). After completion of a vacuuming operation in a mode that is independent of base unit **2**, the user can simply insert telescoping wand **90** into elbow **89**. An additional positioning aid is provided by a hook **110** on wand handle **91**, which is inserted into an aperture **111** in receiving structure **93**. Telescoping wand **90** and wand handle **91** are then received by receiving structure **93** in right side wall **107**. In this process, flexible hose **92** lays itself into the portion of receiving structure **93** that faces toward upper surface **109**. The remainder of the hose **92** can then be stored in receiving structure **93** at left side wall **108** with a slight pressure from the side. The upper anti-kink sleeve **105** behind wand handle **91** is made from a relatively soft plastic material, such as TPE

or PVC, having a hardness between 60 and 70 Shore A, and can therefore be easily pressed into receiving structure 93.

[0036] Swivel elbow 94 is rotatably mounted on the inlet of duct 83, which is provided by rear wall 67 and the air duct member 95 placed thereon. Projection 941, which projects into the duct, is surrounded by a seal 112 and a torsion spring 113, one end 114 of which is secured to swivel elbow 94 itself. The other end 115 rests in a guide in duct 83. Thus, rotation of swivel elbow 94 from the position shown in FIG. 1a to the position shown in FIG. 11b is against the force of torsion spring 113. Rotation can be through 110° degrees. In this position, the rib 116 formed on elbow 94 lockingly engages the latching nose 117 of rear wall 67, and elbow 94 is retained in this position until hose 92 is pulled upwardly, releasing the locked engagement. The force of torsion spring 113 is selected such that it allows hose 92 and swivel elbow 94 to swivel relatively freely between the 12 o'clock position (FIG. 11a) and the 3 o'clock position and yet assists in the return movement to the 12 o'clock position. To this end, lower anti-kink sleeve 106 may be made from a relatively hard, inflexible material, such as polypropylene. Accordingly, the unstable flexible hose 92 can be supported and guided. For this purpose, anti-kink sleeve 106 may be at least 140 mm in length.

[0037] FIG. 12 shows the relationship of forces arising in a situation where the swivel elbow has been rotated through 110° and locked in position and the user pulls upright 1 behind him/her by hose 92. In this position, swivel elbow 94 and lower anti-kink sleeve 106 act as a lever arm of length X. When pulling horizontally in direction F1, the pulling force acts at a point far below the center of gravity S in very close proximity to the tip-over point defined by the rear wheels (line of force c). Because of this, the overturning moment produced by this force F1 is smaller than in a situation where a pull is exerted on a non-swivel elbow in the 12 o'clock position (line of force a) or on a swivel elbow in the 3 o'clock position (line of force b). When pulling in direction F2, lever arm X produces a moment M2 which even counteracts the overturning moment M1. Accordingly, elbow 94 and its locking engagement means 116 and 117 contribute to the vertical stability of upright 1.

[0038] When, as shown in FIG. 13, the user pulls on hose 92 in a direction angular to the direction of travel while swivel elbow 94 is locked in position, then a moment M3 produced by lever arm X acts in a horizontal plane and turns the upright about its vertical axis until the carriage is oriented in the pulling direction and the horizontal moment M3 disappears. This prevents lateral overturning.

[0039] The present invention has been described herein based on one or more exemplary embodiments, but is not limited thereto. Reference should be had to the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1: An upright vacuum cleaner for cleaning a surface, the upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

a base unit;

a carriage configured to provide movement of the base unit on the surface;

an upper body having a dust collection container disposed therein, the upper body being supported so as to be at least tiltable relative to the base unit and lockable in a parked position in which the vacuum cleaner has a substantially upright configuration when standing on the surface;

a motor-fan unit configured to provide a partial vacuum at the surface;

a substantially U-shaped elongated receiving structure recessed into at least one side surface of the upper body and at least a portion of an upper surface of the upper body; and

an air passageway including an interface and a section formed by a hose or an assembly of the hose and a wand, the section being connected downstream of the interface, the section being disposed externally on the upper body and at least the hose being receivable by the receiving structure, the section being disconnectable in a region of the interface so as to enable a vacuuming mode of operation that is independent of the base unit.

2: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 1 wherein, in a received position of the hose, the U-shaped receiving structure extends along an entire length of the hose except at a region of transition of the hose to the upper body.

3: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 2 wherein the receiving structure has a cross-section of a quadrant of a circle in the region of transition.

4: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 3 further comprising an elbow swivelly disposed on the upper body in the region of transition.

5: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 4 further comprising an anti-kink sleeve disposed in the region of transition and configured to receive a section of the hose.

6: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one side surface includes a first and a second side surface and wherein the air passageway section includes the assembly of the hose and the wand, at least a portion of the hose being receivable in the first side surface and the wand being receivable in the second side surface.

7: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 2 wherein the at least one side surface includes a first and a second side surface and wherein the air passageway section includes the assembly of the hose and the wand, at least a portion of the hose being receivable in the first side surface and the wand being receivable in the second side surface.

8: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 3 wherein the at least one side surface includes a first and a second side surface and wherein the air passageway section includes the assembly of the hose and the wand, at least a portion of the hose being receivable in the first side surface and the wand being receivable in the second side surface.

9: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 4 wherein the at least one side surface includes a first and a second side surface and wherein the air passageway section includes the assembly of the hose and the wand, at least a portion of the hose being receivable in the first side surface and the wand being receivable in the second side surface.

10: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 5 wherein the at least one side surface includes a first and a second side surface and wherein the air passageway section includes the assembly of the hose and the wand, at least a portion of the hose being receivable in the first side surface and the wand being receivable in the second side surface.

11: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 6 wherein the wand includes a telescoping wand.

12: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim 6 wherein the air passageway section includes a wand handle disposed between the wand and the hose.

13: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim **11** wherein the air passageway section includes a wand handle disposed between the wand and the hose.

14: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim **1** wherein the hose includes a flexible hose that is extensible in length.

15: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim **2** wherein the hose includes a flexible hose that is extensible in length.

16: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim **3** wherein the hose includes a flexible hose that is extensible in length.

17: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim **4** wherein the hose includes a flexible hose that is extensible in length.

18: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim **5** wherein the hose includes a flexible hose that is extensible in length.

19: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim **1** wherein an end of the air passageway section adjacent to the interface is configured to receive vacuum attachments.

20: The upright vacuum cleaner as recited in claim **19** wherein a rear wall of the upper body is configured to secure the vacuum attachments thereto.

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