



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
13.05.2015 Bulletin 2015/20

(51) Int Cl.:
F24C 7/08 (2006.01) F24C 15/12 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
07.01.2015 Bulletin 2015/02

(21) Application number: **14171839.5**

(22) Date of filing: **10.06.2014**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR
Designated Extension States:
BA ME

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(30) Priority: **10.06.2013 GB 201310287**

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(54) **Hob assembly for range cookers**

(57) A hob assembly for a range cooker (1) comprises a base having a heating zone (8, 9), a heating means comprising at least one electric heating element, a thermally insulated lid (8a,9a) which can be moved between a closed position in which it covers the heating zone (8, 9) and permits a controlled amount of heat from the heating (8, 9) zone to escape through the lid (8a,9a) and an open position in which it is open to allow a pan to be placed on the heating zone (8, 9), and a control means for controlling the operation of the heating means when in use.

During use of the hob assembly when the heating zone (8, 9) is switched on and the insulated lid (8a,9a) is closed the control means is adapted to apply a current to the heating means to maintain the temperature at a predefined value suitable for cooking and in the event that the lid (8a,9a) is subsequently opened the control means automatically causes more current to be applied to the heating means in order to attempt to maintain the temperature of the heating zone (8, 9) close to the predefined value.

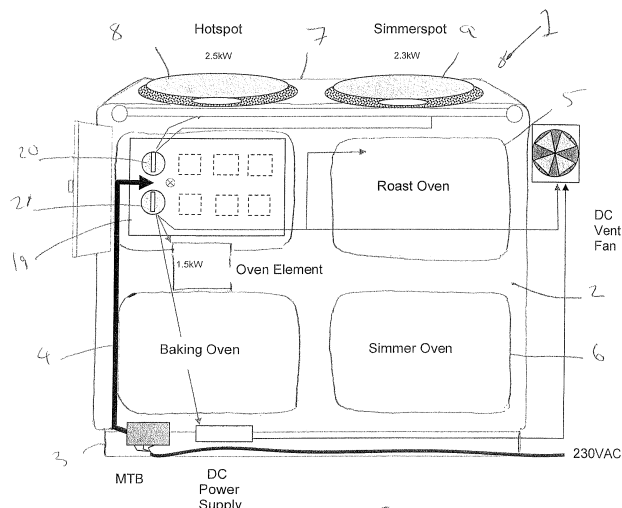


Fig 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	DE 41 11 848 A1 (SCRIBA LORE [DE]) 15 October 1992 (1992-10-15) * claim 1; figure 2 *	1-14	INV. F24C7/08 F24C15/12
A	WO 2008/117910 A1 (LG ELECTRONICS INC [KR]) 2 October 2008 (2008-10-02) * claims 1-2 *	1-14	
A	FR 864 048 A (M AUGUST LAEMMLIN) 8 April 1941 (1941-04-08) * figures 1-3 *	1-14	
A	GB 2 271 844 A (GAS GROUP PLC [GB] GAS GROUP PLC THE [GB]) 27 April 1994 (1994-04-27) * claim 1 *	1-14	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			F24C A47J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 12 November 2014	Examiner Adant, Vincent
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-14

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-14

Hob assembly comprising a thermally insulated lid and control means for maintaining the temperature

2. claim: 15

Heating element module comprising a heating means and a support for securing the module

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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12-11-2014

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82