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(54) **System and device for the treatment, in particular for the washing, of fabric articles**

(57) System for the treatment, in particular the washing of fabric articles, in particular clothes, by means of an household appliance (1), in particular a washing machine (1), which can be associated to a container (11) for receiving the articles to be treated, wherein the articles to be treated can be provided with a first electronic device (7) containing information relating to the article itself and to the treatment it can be subject to, and wherein the household appliance is provided with a second electronic device (5) for communicating with said first electronic device (7) for detecting the information contained therein, wherein a receiving and transmitting element of said second device (5) is located in the upper part (2) of said household appliance (1) which is made of a non metallic material, and that the reading of the information contained in a plurality of said first electronic devices (7) by means of said second electronic device (5) takes place putting the set of the articles (10) to be treated, each one provided with said second electronic device (7), on the top (2) of the household appliance (1), in case inside a non-metallic container (11).

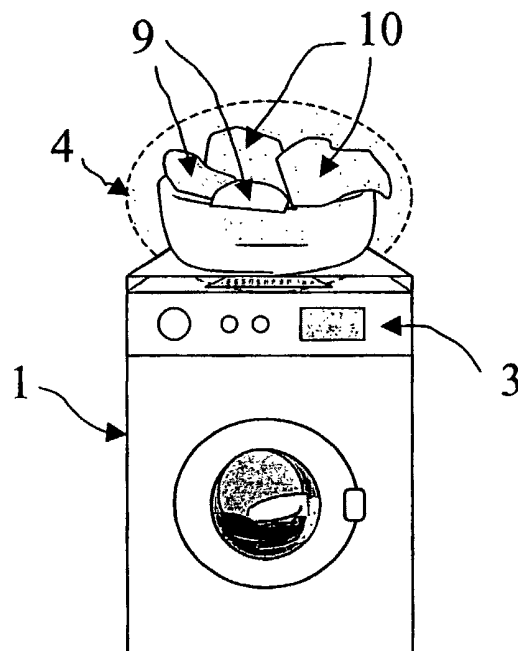


Fig. 5



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 00 4486

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			D06F
-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		2 June 2004	Weinberg, E
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	

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04/C01)



<p>CLAIMS INCURRING FEES</p> <p>The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.</p>
<p>LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION</p> <p>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:</p> <p>see sheet B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 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:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:</p> <p>1-3, 13</p>



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: 1-3,13

relate to a system wherein a household appliance is adapted to read the information of the first devices of the fabric articles in a container when the container is put on top of the household appliance;

2. claims: 4-7

relate to a system wherein a household appliance is adapted to read the information of the first devices of fabric articles and to communicate to the user the total weight and/or the type of the articles to be loaded;

3. claims: 8,9

relate to a system wherein a household appliance is adapted to read the information of the first devices of fabric articles after the start of a treatment program and to determine if the program is incompatible with the fabric articles in the household appliance;

4. claims: 10,11

relate to a system wherein a household appliance is adapted to read the information of the first devices of fabric articles and of a device attached to a washing aid container and to determine the optimal treatment program and/or communicating to the user incompatibility between the washing aid and the fabric articles;

5. claim: 12

relates to a method wherein the user loads first all fabric articles with a first device and then, based on the communication of the washing machine, adds an amount of articles not provided with the first device.

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

EP 04 00 4486

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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02-06-2004

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