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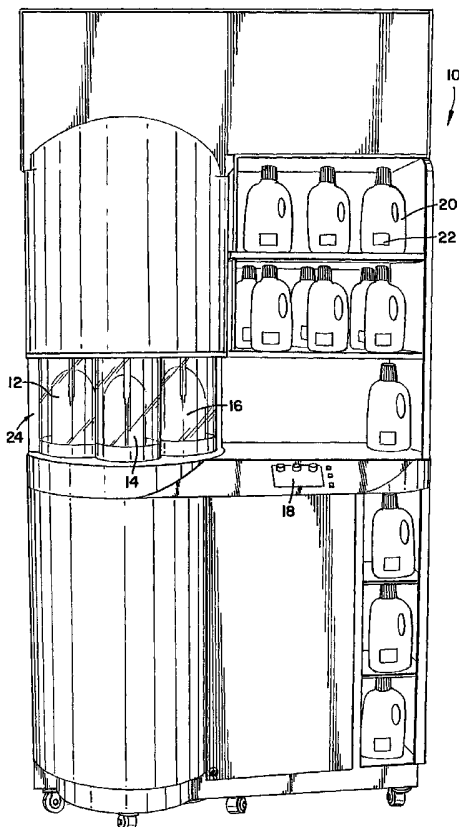
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| 60/406,087 | 26 August 2002 (26.08.2002) | US |
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CREATING A READY-TO-USE PRODUCT FROM A CONCENTRATED FORM



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for creating ready-to-use products from a concentrated form of the products is disclosed. The apparatus generally comprises a source of one or more concentrated products. These concentrated products are delivered to a point of use which typically may be a small, consumer-sized container. The apparatus dilutes the concentrated product to an appropriate level. The final, ready-to-use product can be a wide variety of cleaning products. A method is also disclosed for creating this ready-to-use product.

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European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US 03/14740

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B01F13/10 B67D5/56

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 B01F B67D

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, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 105 633 A (PEDERSEN DANIEL E ET AL) 22 August 2000 (2000-08-22)	1-6,9, 11-20, 23, 25-32,38
Y	column 1, line 31 - line 38	7,8,21, 22,54-56
A	column 2, line 13 - line 30 column 6, line 37 - line 65 figures 1-3 ----- -/--	10,24

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international 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)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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 invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 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 in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 August 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

02. 12. 2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 832 972 A (BALZ ERIC R ET AL) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) cited in the application	1-6,9, 11-20, 23, 25-32,38
Y	column 1, line 11 - line 36	7,8,21, 22,54-56
A	column 1, line 61 - line 65 column 2, line 31 - line 54 column 7, line 19 - line 39 figures 1,2	10,24
Y	----- US 5 203 366 A (CZECK STEPHEN J ET AL) 20 April 1993 (1993-04-20) cited in the application column 6, line 1 - line 6 column 8, line 43 - line 49 claims 7-10	7,8,21, 22
Y	----- EP 0 911 296 A (ECOLAB INC) 28 April 1999 (1999-04-28)	54-56
A	page 2, line 5 - line 19 page 3, line 10 - line 24 page 11, line 27 - line 46 figures 1,12 -----	1-32

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:

2. 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:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. 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.:

4. 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.:

1 - 32, 54 - 56, 38

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-32, 54-56, 38

1.1. claims: 1-32, 54-56

Identification of the container by the dispenser

1.2. claim: 38

Feeding using a venturi type nozzle

2. claims: 33-37

Combination of two concentrates and a diluent

3. claims: 39-41

Dispensing nozzle with a plug

4. claim: 42

Dispensing nozzle with check valves

5. claims: 43-53

Labelling of the product container

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US 03/14740

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