

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets



(11)

**EP 1 245 712 A3**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
**13.08.2003 Bulletin 2003/33**

(51) Int Cl.7: **D06F 37/10**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**02.10.2002 Bulletin 2002/40**

(21) Application number: **02004346.9**

(22) Date of filing: **01.03.2002**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE TR**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL LT LV MK RO SI**

- **Le Gall, Jean-Yves**  
21025 Comerio (IT)
- **Kassem, Adel**  
21025 Comerio (IT)
- **Veront, Fabrice**  
21025 Comerio (IT)
- **D'Alessandro, Angela**  
21025 Comerio (IT)
- **Beck, Markus**  
21025 Comerio (IT)

(30) Priority: **29.03.2001 DE 10115400**

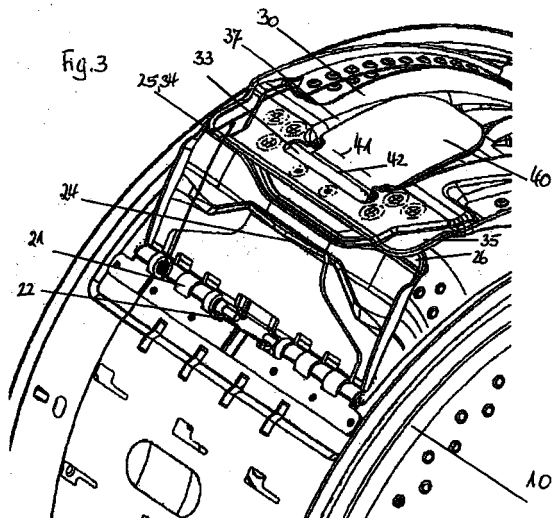
(71) Applicant: **WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION**  
**Benton Harbor Michigan 49022 (US)**

(74) Representative: **Guerci, Alessandro**  
**Whirlpool Europe S.r.l.**  
**Patent Department**  
**Viale G. Borghi 27**  
**21025 Comerio (VA) (IT)**

- (72) Inventors:
- **Jacob, Robert**  
21025 Comerio (IT)
  - **Cordes, Marc**  
21025 Comerio (IT)
  - **Valton, Philippe**  
21025 Comerio (IT)

**(54) Top loading washer with a washing drum in the machine housing**

(57) The invention concerns a top loading washer with a washing drum pivoted in the machine housing an provided with a laundry opening in the lateral surface that is accessible from the top of the machine housing and can be closed by two hinged covers pivoted with spring-loaded hinges to the axial edges of the laundry opening and provided with latch elements which fix the two hinged covers in the closed position. It is easy to close and open the hinged covers with one hand because the one narrow catch cover is held in a catching position in the open position, a wide control cover moved into the closed position entrains the catch cover into the closed position, and there is a release in the control cover which, when actuated, releases the latched connection between the catch cover and the control cover and releases the catch and control cover into their open positions by means of the spring-loaded pivot bearings.



**EP 1 245 712 A3**



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 00 4346

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)
X	US 5 398 528 A (JOHNSTON VONDA K ET AL) 21 March 1995 (1995-03-21) * column 5, line 36 - column 6, line 48 * * column 12, line 13 - line 38 * * figures 2-5,18,19 *	1-3,6	D06F37/10
Y	---	3,4	
Y	DE 17 26 323 U (RONDO-WERKE GMBH, MANNHEIM) 19 July 1956 (1956-07-19) * page 3, paragraph 2 * * page 5, paragraphs 2-4 * * claim 1; figure 2 * -----	3,4	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			D06F
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
MUNICH	20 June 2003	Weinberg, E	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04001)

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

EP 02 00 4346

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  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

20-06-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5398528	A	21-03-1995	AU 681253 B2	21-08-1997
			AU 1778695 A	09-11-1995
			CN 1123857 A	05-06-1996
			EP 0681049 A2	08-11-1995
			NZ 272037 A	25-09-1996
			US 5546772 A	20-08-1996
			US 5678430 A	21-10-1997
-----				
DE 1726323	U		NONE	
-----				