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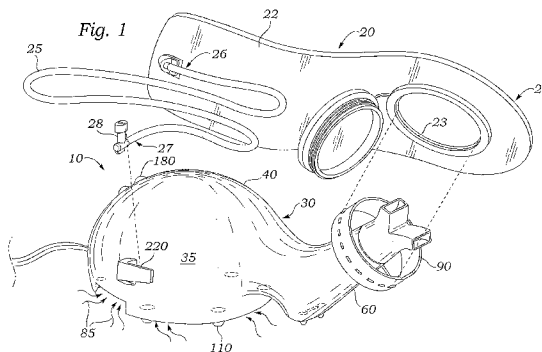
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(54) Title: DRYING APPARATUS FOR HYDRATION SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: A drying apparatus [10] for a personal hydration system [20] is disclosed. The drying apparatus [10] comprises an enclosure [30] that includes a base portion [40] and a neck portion [60]. The base portion [40] includes at least one air inlet opening [50] and is adapted for contacting a support surface [15]. The neck portion [60] is in fluid communication with the base portion [40] and includes an open distal end [70]. An air blowing means [80] is fixed within the base portion [40] and moves air [85] from outside of the enclosure [30], through the air inlet opening [50] of the base portion [40], through the neck portion [60], and out of the open distal end [70] thereof. An air heating means [170] is further included fixed within the enclosure [30] for heating the air [85] in the enclosure [30]. Preferably the air blowing means [80] and the air heating means [170] are electrically connected through a switch means [180] and a controller circuit [200] to a power source [190]. The neck portion [60] further includes at least one removable aperture adapter [90] for temporary frictional engagement with both the open distal end [70] of the neck portion [60] and an aperture [23] of the hydration system [20]. As such, airflow may be directed into a hydration system reservoir [22] when the hydration system [20] is fixed to the aperture adapter [90] of the drying apparatus [10]. The controller circuit [200] causes the air blowing means [80] and the air heating means [170] to cycle repeatedly to facilitate drying of the hydration system [20].



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(8) - F26B 21/00 (2007.01)
 USPC - 34/523, 34/543, 34/546
 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)
 USPC - 34/523, 34/543, 34/546

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 USPC 34/541 or 34/103 - see keywords below
 Google Patent Internet - see keywords below

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 Searched US Pre-grant Publications, US Patent Full-Text, EPO Abstract, JPO Abstract, and Google Patent Databases for shoe, boot, dryer, nozzle, adapter, Camelbak, filter, bite valve

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2004/0244216 A1 (POOLE, G.) 09 December 2004 (09.12.2004); entire document, especially abstract, para [0006], [0014], [0015], [0016], and Figs. 3 and 5	1-13
Y	US 3,154,392 A (LITTMAN et al.) 27 October 1964 (27.10.1964); col 2, ln 19-24; item 27, fig 1	2, 3
Y	US 6,766,594 B2 (DURAPAU, R.) 27 July 2004 (27.07.2004); col 3, ln 35-40	10
Y	Hang-Dry. Catalog listing [online]. Sidetrak Corporation, 2003 [retrieved on 2007-06-15] Retrieved from the web.archive.org database using Internet <URL: http://web.archive.org>	1-13
A	US 2005/0184112 A1 (COPICH, M.) 25 August 2005 (25.08.2005); para [0013]	13

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