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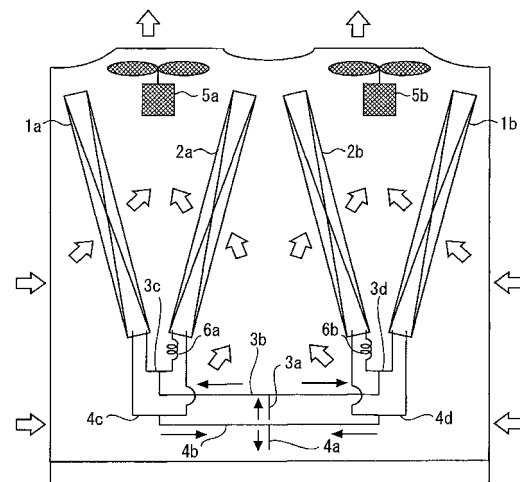
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(54) **Air conditioner**

(57) An air conditioner comprising a W-shaped heat exchanger unit, with the W-shaped heat exchanger unit including two V-shaped heat exchanger units (1a/2a;1b/2b) each of said V-shaped heat exchanger units being constituted by combination of two heat exchangers, arranged such that the lower sides of the heat exchangers are made closely proximate to each other and the upper sides of the heat exchangers are spaced apart from each other; and blowers (5a/5b) disposed in an upper portion of the W-shaped heat exchanger unit; wherein refrigerant flow rate regulators (7a/7b) are provided at refrigerant inlet pipes (3c/3d) of the heat exchangers disposed at the inside of the W-shaped arrangement for regulating the flow rate of refrigerant to flow.

Fig. 2





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 02 0488

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)
			F24F F25B F28B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH		25 October 2002	Valenza, D
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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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

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):

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.

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:

1-4



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: 1-4

Independent claim 1 describes an air conditioner comprising a W-shaped heat exchanger unit (1a, 2a, 1b, 2b), blowers disposed above the said W-shaped heat exchanger unit, refrigerant flow regulators installed at refrigerant inlet pipes of the internal heat exchangers of the W-shaped unit.

2. Claims: 5-9

Independent claim 5 describes an air conditioner comprising a W-shaped heat exchanger unit (1a, 2a, 1b, 2b), two blowers disposed above said W-shaped heat exchanger unit (one for each couple of internal/external heat exchangers) and closer to the internal heat exchangers of the W-shaped unit.

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

EP 02 02 0488

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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25-10-2002

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