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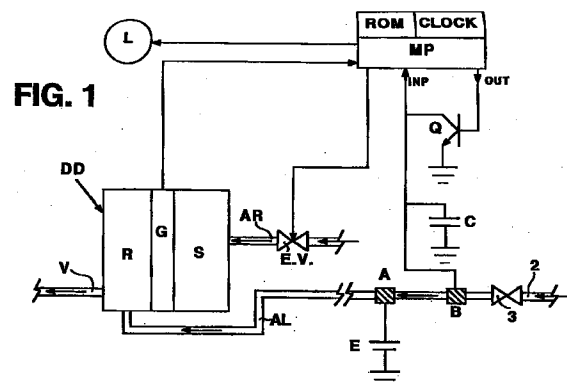
(54) System for signalling the concentration of the salt used for the resins regeneration in a washing machine

(57) A signal system is described of the salt concentration used for resin regeneration in a washing machine, specifically a household dishwasher incorporating a water softening device (DD) comprising

- a compartment ( R ) for the resins used to reduce the degree of water hardness,
- a compartment (S) for the salt required for regeneration of the resins that have lost their effectiveness following execution of softening steps,
- means to determine salt availability in the relevant salt compartment (S),
- means (L) to signal the need for salt filling when the level in the salt compartment (S) lowers down to a preset minimum level,

where the resin reactivating processes take place periodically in time, specifically with each wash cycle executed by the machine.

According to the invention, said means to determine salt availability comprise a sensing device (A,B,C,Q,MP) of the degree of water hardness from the mains and an electronic control unit (MP) for evaluating salt the consumption as a function of the degree of water hardness from the mains, said signal means (L) being activated, if necessary, by said control unit (MP) when the evaluated salt concentration reaches a defined threshold.





European Patent  
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 10 7207

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.6)
X A	DE-A-34 41 222 (KARL WINTERHALTER KG) * the whole document *	1,2,10 3-9, 11-15	A47L15/42
P,X A	--- DE-A-44 01 411 (LICENTIA PATENT-VERWALTUNGS-GMBH) * column 4, line 33 - column 5, line 6; figures *	1,2,10 3-9, 11-15	
A	--- EP-A-0 496 957 (ZANUSSI ELETTRODOMESTICI SPA) * column 3, line 14 - column 5, line 49; figures *	1-15	
A	--- EP-A-0 425 815 (MERLONI ELETTRODOMESTICI SPA) * column 3, line 25 - column 5, line 11 *	1-15	
A	--- EP-A-0 517 205 (AWECO KUNSTSTOFFTECHNIK GRAETEBAU GMBH & CO KG) * column 1, line 44 - column 4, line 33; figures *	1-15	
A	--- EP-A-0 249 000 (INDUSTRIE ZANUSSI SPA) * page 4, line 6 - page 6 *	1-15	
X	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12, no. 427 (P-784), 11 November 1988 & JP-A-63 159749 (KURITA WATER IND LTD), 2 July 1988, * abstract *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A47L
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	11 November 1996	Vanmol, M	
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			

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