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(11) **EP 0 806 572 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
17.06.1998 Bulletin 1998/25

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>: **F04F 9/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
12.11.1997 Bulletin 1997/46

(21) Application number: **97302923.4**

(22) Date of filing: **29.04.1997**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**CH DE FR GB IT LI**

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(30) Priority: **07.05.1996 GB 9609467**

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(54) **Improvements in diffusion pumps**

(57) A diffusion pump 1 comprises a hollow outer body 2 containing a vapour chimney 8 with at least one jet stage 12. At least a portion of the internal surface of the hollow outer body 2 is covered with a wicking material 20 for absorbing a working fluid. The use of the wicking material 20 allows the diffusion pump to be used in orientations other than the conventional upright configuration.

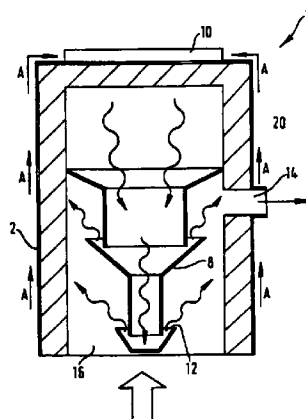


FIG. 2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 30 2923

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)
A	GB 1 448 750 A (BOC INTERNATIONAL LTD) 8 September 1976 * page 2, line 124 - page 3, line 5; claim 1; figures *	1	F04F9/00
A	--- DATABASE WPI Week 8344 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 83-806362 XP002063319 & SU 985 415 A (KHUSNULLIN ET AL.) , 30 December 1982 * abstract *	1	
A	--- DATABASE WPI Week 9111 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 91-079415 XP002063320 & SU 1 576 737 A (KUPRIYANOV ET AL.) , 7 July 1990 * abstract *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			F04F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		24 April 1998	Ernst, R
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	

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)