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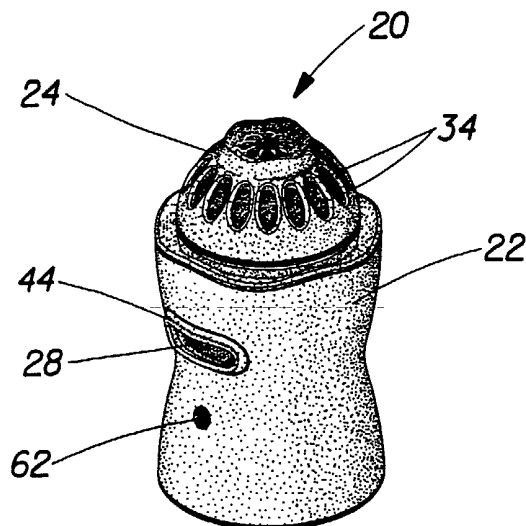
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(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 3 October 2002

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DEODORIZING AND/OR FRESHENING AIR



(57) Abstract: Apparatus and methods for deodorizing and/or freshening the air are disclosed. In one non-limiting embodiment, the apparatus includes one or more passive members and an air moving member. The passive member can be detachable from the air moving member and used separately as a passive filter member, if it contains a deodorizing substance, or as a passive emitting member, if it contains a substance to be emitted into the air. Numerous combinations of passive filter members and passive emitting members can be used with the air moving member, or as stand-alone members in the described methods. In other non-limiting embodiments, devices can be provided that both deodorize and emit substances into the air. Kits are also provided. The substances to be emitted may be arranged in various ways to improve the amount of exposed surface area of the substance to be emitted. Intensity controlling mechanisms are also provided.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/02778

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61L9/014 A61L9/12 A61L9/04

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)

IPC 7 A61L B60H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	WO 01 56623 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 9 August 2001 (2001-08-09) the whole document ---	1
P,X	WO 01 62310 A (WARD GLENN STEVEN ; PROCTER & GAMBLE (US)) 30 August 2001 (2001-08-30) the whole document ---	1
P,X	WO 01 56622 A (TRINH TOAN ; KVIETOK FRANK ANDREJ (US); PAINTER JEFFREY DONALD (US)) 9 August 2001 (2001-08-09) the whole document ---	1
P,X	WO 01 56620 A (PALJIEG STEVE ; LIU ZAIYOU (US); REDMON SONIA (US); KVIETOK FRANK A) 9 August 2001 (2001-08-09) the whole document ---	1
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 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 May 2002

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02.08.02

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00 33940 A (FITOUSSI MAYER) 15 June 2000 (2000-06-15) page 2, line 28 -page 3, line 22 page 6, line 1 -page 7, line 26; claims 1-14; figures 1-3 ---	1
X	DE 298 01 969 U (GROS MONIKA DIPL ING) 30 April 1998 (1998-04-30) page 2, line 6 -page 5, line 11; claims 1-15; figure ---	1
X	WO 95 15187 A (RECKITT & COLMAN INC) 8 June 1995 (1995-06-08) cited in the application page 5, line 17-23 page 7, line 22 -page 8, line 3; claims 1-20; figures 1-5 ---	1
X	DE 30 02 409 A (HOELTER HEINZ ING GRAD) 30 July 1981 (1981-07-30) the whole document ---	1
X	US 4 995 556 A (ARNOLD III BENJAMIN L) 26 February 1991 (1991-02-26) the whole document -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 02/02778

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1 (partial)

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claim : 1 (partial)

System for deodorizing air comprising a first deodorizing member, one or more additional deodorizing members and an air moving member

2. Claim : 1 (partial) and 2

System and Method for freshening air comprising a first emitting member, a second emitting member and an air moving member

3. Claim : 1 (partial) and 4

System for deodorizing air comprising a deodorizing member, one or more emitting members and an air moving member

4. Claim : 3

Kit comprising a scent emitting member

5. Claim : 5

Article for emitting a substance into the air

6. Claim : 6

Article for emitting a substance into the air comprising a gel

7. Claim : 7

Article for emitting a substance into the air comprising a tube-shaped covering with a rupturable zone

8. Claim : 8

Device for emitting one or more substances into the air comprising an intensity controlling mechanism

9. Claims: 9,10

Device for deodorizing air comprising a deodorizing medium and an emitting medium alternatively operated

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 02/02778

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