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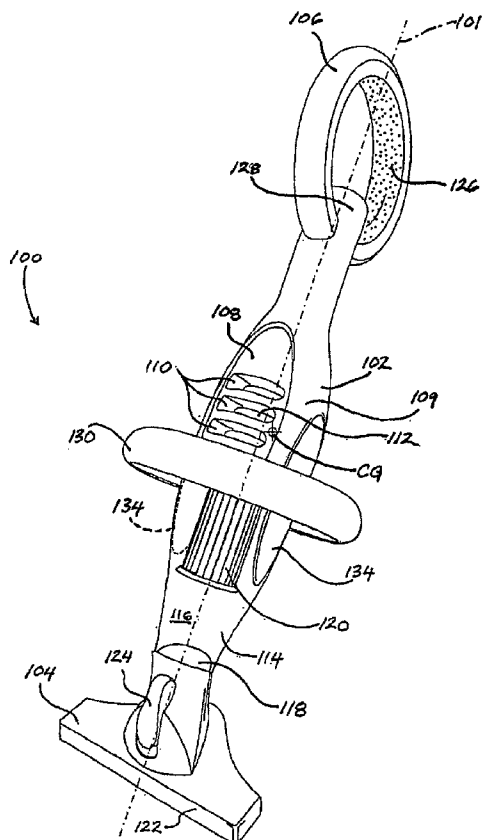
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ELECTROLUX HOME CARE PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA** [US/US]; 807 North Main Street, Bloomington, IL 61701 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **BUTLER, Dennis**; 35366 E 1400 North Road, Saybrook, IL 61770 (US). **PAREDES, Apollo**; 211 Master Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704 (US). **SEPKE, Arnie**; 17567 Trillium Lane, Hudson, IL 61748 (US).
- (74) Agents: **CAMPBELL, Christopher, C.** et al.; HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT, 1900 K Street, N.w., Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20006-1109 (US).
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(54) Title: STAIR CLEANING VACUUM CLEANER



(57) Abstract: A vacuum cleaner having a generally elongated housing having a first housing end and a second housing end, a rear grip located at the first housing end, and an air inlet located at the second housing end. A vacuum fan and a motor are located within the housing and the motor is adapted to drive the vacuum fan to draw a working air flow into the air inlet. A dirt receptacle is operatively associated with the housing and adapted to remove particles from the working air flow. The vacuum cleaner also includes one or more foregrips located on the housing between the rear grip and the air inlet. In various aspects, the foregrips are adapted to: provide a user with multiple hand positions around the perimeter of the housing; simultaneously grasp the rear grip and the one or more foregrips and clean staircase surfaces while remaining substantially upright; and/or hold and operate the vacuum cleaner when the housing is rotated about its longitudinal axis at a first angular position and at a second angular position, the first angular position being approximately 90 degrees or more from the second angular position.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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 practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2,729,303 A (MCMAHAN) 03 January 1956 (03.01.1956), figures 1 and 5.	1-19
A	US 3,667,084 A (VALBONA ET AL.) 06 June 1972 (06.06.1972), figures 2 and 6.	1-19
A	US 4,644,606 A (LUERKEN et al) 24 February 1987 (24.02.1987), figure 2.	1-19
A	US 4,958,407 A (JOHNSON) 25 September 1990 (25.09.1990), figure 1.	6
A	US 5,289,610 A (MONSON) 01 March 1994 (01.03.1994), figure 1.	1-19
A	US 5,722,111 A (SOWELL et al) 03 March 1998 (03.03.1998), figure 2.	6
A	US 5,722,110 A (MCINTYRE et al.) 03 March 1998 (03.03.1998), figure 2.	1-19

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Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

Theresa T. Snider

Telephone No. (571) 272-1300

DEBORAH A. THOMAS
PARALEGAL SPECIALIST

DS

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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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