

(11) **EP 4 372 292 A1**

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

published in accordance with Art. 153(4) EPC

(43) Date of publication: 22.05.2024 Bulletin 2024/21

(21) Application number: 22840975.1

(22) Date of filing: 23.03.2022

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC): F24F 13/20 (2006.01)

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC): F24F 11/88; F24F 11/89; F24F 13/00; F24F 13/20

(86) International application number:

PCT/CN2022/082605

(87) International publication number:WO 2023/284331 (19.01.2023 Gazette 2023/03)

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

Designated Extension States:

BA ME

Designated Validation States:

KH MA MD TN

(30) Priority: 16.07.2021 CN 202121632827 U

(71) Applicants:

 HEFEI MIDEA HEATING & VENTILATING EQUIPMENT
 CO., LTD.
 Boyan Science Park,
 High-Tech Zone, Hefei
 Anhui 230088 (CN) GD Midea Heating & Ventilating Equipment Co., Ltd.

Foshan, Guangdong 528311 (CN)

(72) Inventors:

 LI, Yang Hefei, Anhui 230088 (CN)

• HUANG, Di Hefei, Anhui 230088 (CN)

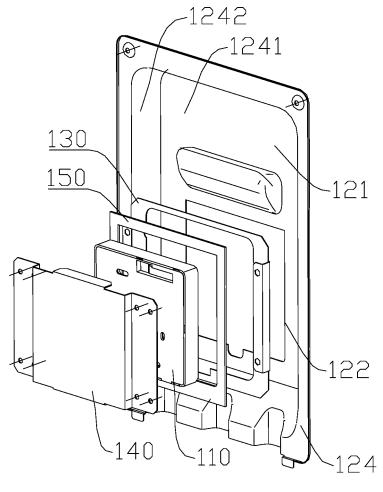
 ZHONG, Yonghua Hefei, Anhui 230088 (CN)

(74) Representative: Haseltine Lake Kempner LLP
 Cheapside House
 138 Cheapside
 London EC2V 6BJ (GB)

(54) **AIR CONDITIONER**

(57) Provided is an air conditioner, comprising a body and a controller. The body comprises a housing; the housing comprises a protruding portion protruding outwards; the protruding portion defines an accommodating cavity; at least a portion of the controller is located in the accommodating cavity; the protruding portion is provided

with an operating hole communicated with the accommodating cavity; the operating surface of the controller is opposite to the operating hole so as to expose the operating surface, or the operating surface of the controller is provided on the outer side surface of the protruding portion.



CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

1

[0001] This application claims priority to Chinese Patent Application Serial No. 202121632827.6, filed in China on July 16, 2021, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties for all purposes.

FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure relates to the field of air conditioner manufacturing, and more particularly to an air conditioner.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Air conditioners mainly function to adjust the temperature, which can be applied to different life scenarios with different heat exchangers. The further refinement of air conditioning products will have higher requirements for product function requirements and after-sales maintenance. Centralized heating integrated water heaters and a swimming pool machines in related art integrate an indoor unit and an outdoor unit of the original air conditioners into one, making the installation and use of the product more convenient. A controller of such products is mainly divided into two types. One is an external controller which, that is, the controller can be separated from the air conditioner body, and mounted to an indoor wall or an outdoor wall, etc.; the other is a built-in controller, that is, the controller is arranged on the air conditioner, and mostly arranged on a front panel or a right rear panel of the air conditioner, when disassembling, it is necessary to disassemble the peripheral sheet metal of the air conditioner, thus the operation is inconvenient, and the arrangment of the controller is also not flexible enough.

SUMMARY

one of the technical problems existing in the related art to at least some extent. Therefore, the present disclosure proposes an air conditioner with high space utilization.

[0005] The air conditioner according to embodiments of the present disclosure includes a body, the body comprising a housing, the housing comprising a protruding portion protruding outwards, the protruding portion defining an accommodating cavity; and a controller, at least a part of the controller being located in the accommodating cavity, the protruding portion being provided with an operating hole communicated with the accommodating cavity, an operating surface of the controller being opposite to the operating hole so that the operating surface is exposed, or the operating surface of the controller being arranged on an outer side surface of the protruding portion.

[0004] The present disclosure aims to solve at least

[0006] In the air conditioner provided according to em-

bodiments of the present disclosure, the controller is arranged in an accommodating cavity formed by the protruding portion of the housing, the accommodating cavity may be utilized without affecting the original appearance of the housing of the air conditioner, thus improving the space utilization inside the air conditioner.

[0007] Therefore, the air conditioner provided by embodiments of the present disclosure has the advantage of high space utilization.

[0008] Furthermore, the air conditioner according to the present disclosure also has the following additional technical features:

In some embodiments, the housing includes a housing body and a handle casing, the handle casing is detachably arranged on the housing body, the handle casing constitutes the protruding portion, the handle casing includes an end plate and a surrounding plate surrounding the end plate, the operating hole is defined in the end plate, and the controller is detachably connected with the handle casing, or the operating surface is arranged on the end plate and integrated with the end plate.

[0009] In some embodiments, a part of the end plate is recessed inwards relative to another part of the end plate to form a handle slot.

[0010] In some embodiments, the controller includes an operating panel, the operating panel has the operation surface, at least a part of the operating panel is fitted in the operating hole, a remaining part of the controller is located at a rear side of the operating panel and is located in the accommodating cavity, and the remaining part of the controller abuts against a part of the end plate located near the operating hole, so that the controller is limited in a forward direction.

[0011] In some embodiments, the air conditioner includes a controller support member, the controller support member is connected to a rear wall surface of the end plate and surrounds the remaining part of the controller, and the remaining part of the controller is fitted into the controller support member, so that the controller is limited and supposed in up, down, left and right directions.

[0012] In some embodiments, the controller support member is also connected with a limiting part abutting against the controller in the front-and-rear direction so that the controller is limited in a backward direction, or, the air conditioner further includes a controller limiting member, the controller limiting member is connected with the controller support member or is connected with the rear wall surface of the end plate, and the controller limiting member includes a part abutting against the controller in the front-and-rear direction, so that the controller is limited in the backward direction.

[0013] In some embodiments, the air conditioner further includes a sealing ring, the sealing ring is fitted in the operating hole and located between the operating panel and the end plate.

[0014] In some embodiments, the operating hole is defined in the end plate, the air conditioner includes a con-

troller mounting box, the controller mounting box defines a mounting cavity, a front side of the mounting cavity is open, the controller is mounted in the mounting cavity, the operating surface is opposite to a front side opening of the mounting cavity so that the operating surface is exposed, and at least a part of the controller mounting box is located in the accommodating cavity and connected to the end plate.

[0015] In some embodiments, the air conditioner includes a cover plate, the cover plate is connected to the controller mounting box in a rotatable manner between a covering position of covering the operating surface and an exposing position of exposing the operating surface.

[0016] In some embodiments, the air conditioner includes a cover plate, the cover plate is connected to the handle casing in a rotatable manner between a covering position of covering the operating surface and an exposing position of exposing the operating surface.

[0017] Additional aspects and advantages of embodiments of present disclosure will be given in part in the following descriptions, become apparent in part from the following descriptions, or be learned from the practice of the embodiments of the present disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018]

FIG. 1 is a structural view of an air conditioner according to embodiment 1 of the present disclosure. FIG. 2 is a local exploded view of an air conditioner according to embodiment 1 of the present disclosure. FIG. 3 is a local exploded view of an air conditioner according to embodiment 2 of the present disclosure.

References signs:

[0019] air conditioner 100; controller 110; operating surface 111; housing 120; accommodating cavity 121; operating hole 122; housing body 123; handle casing 124; end plate 1241; surrounding plate 1242; handle slot 1243; controller support member 130; controller limiting member 140; sealing ring 150; cover plate 160; controller mounting box 170.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0020] Embodiments of the present disclosure are described in detail below, examples of which are shown in the accompanying drawings. The following embodiments described with reference to the accompanying drawings are illustrative. It should be understood that the embodiments described are intended to explain the present disclosure, but not to limit the present disclosure.

[0021] The air conditioner 100 of embodiments of the present disclosure is described below according to FIGS. 1-3. The air conditioner 100 includes a body and a controller 110.

[0022] The body includes a housing 120. The housing 120 includes a protruding portion protruding outwards, and the protruding portion defines an accommodating cavity 121. At least a part of the controller 110 is located in the accommodating cavity 121, that is, at least part of the controller 110 is located in the accommodating cavity 121 formed by the protruding portion on the housing 120 protruding outwards, and the accommodating cavity 121 is located at a rear space of the protruding portion.

[0023] The protruding portion is provided with an operating hole 122 communicated with the accommodating cavity 121, an operating surface 111 of the controller 110 is opposite to the operating hole 122, and the operating surface 111 is exposed through the operating surface 111. Since the operating surface 111 is exposed through the operating surface 111, an operator may perform a touch operation on the operating surface 111 of the controller 110. Alternatively, the operating surface 111 of the controller 110 is arranged on an outer side surface of the protruding portion, and the operating surface 111 on the outer side surface of the protruding portion.

[0024] In the air conditioner provided according to embodiments of the present disclosure, the controller is arranged in an accommodating cavity formed by the protruding portion of the housing, and the accommodating cavity may be utilized without affecting the original appearance of the housing of the air conditioner, thus improving the space utilization inside the air conditioner.

[0025] Therefore, the air conditioner provided by embodiments of the present disclosure has the advantage of high space utilization.

[0026] In some embodiments, the housing 120 includes a housing body 123 and a handle casing 124, the handle casing 124 is detachably arranged on the housing body 123, and the handle casing 124 constitutes the protruding portion of the housing 120. Further, the handle casing 124 includes an end plate 1241 and a surrounding plate 1242 surrounding and connected to the end plate 1241.

[0027] Further, in some embodiments, the controller 110 is detachably connected with the handle casing 124, the end plate 1241 is provided with an operating hole 122 communicated with the accommodating cavity 121, the operating surface 111 of the controller 110 is opposite to the operating hole 122, and the operating surface 111 is exposed through the operating surface 111. The operator may perform a touch operation on the operating surface 111 exposed through operation hole 122, and at this time, the controller 110 is built-in. Since the controller 110 is detachably connected to the handle casing 124, the controller 110 may be removed from the handle casing 124 and placed on an indoor wall or an outdoor wall, and in this time, the controller 110 is external. When removing the controller 110, the handle casing 124 may be removed from the housing body 123 first, and then the controller 110 connected to the handle casing 124 may be removed, without disassembling the peripheral sheet

metal of the housing body 123 or the housing 120, which is convenient and quick, convenient for after-sales maintenance, and makes the arrangement of the controller 110 more flexible.

[0028] Alternatively, in other embodiments, the end plate 1241 is not provided with the operating hole 122, and the operating surface 111 of the controller 110 is arranged on the end plate 1241 and integrated with the end plate 1241. The outer side surface of the end plate 1241 is the outer side surface of the protruding portion. Further, the handle casing 124 is integrated with the operating surface 111 of the controller 110. The operating surface 111 is a touch-sensitive operating board, for example, the handle casing 124 is made of plastic, and the controller 110 may be controlled by touching the operating surface 111 arranged on the end plate 1241.

[0029] Several embodiments provided by the present embodiment are described in detail below according to FIGS. 1-3.

Embodiment 1:

[0030] As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, in the present embodiment, an air conditioner 100 includes a body and a controller 110. The body includes a housing 120, and the housing 120 includes a housing body 123 and a handle casing 124 detachably arranged on the housing body 123. The handle casing 124 protrudes outwards with respect to the housing body 123 to form a protruding portion. The handle casing 124 includes an end plate 1241 and a surrounding plate 1242, and the end plate 1241 and the surrounding plate 1242 define an accommodating cavity 121 located on a rear side of the end plate 1241. A part of the end plate 1241 is recessed towards an interior of the accommodating cavity 121 relative to a remaining part to form a handle slot 1243, and the handle slot 1243 is convenient for an operator to handle the air conditioner 100.

[0031] In other words, in the present embodiment, the controller 110 is placed inside just by utilizing the accommodating cavity 121 defined by the handle casing 124 of the air conditioner 100, which does not change the original appearance of the air conditioner 100, and improves the space utilization. It should be noted that the present embodiment only takes the handle casing 124 as an example. In other embodiments, the controller 110 may also be placed in an accommodating cavity 121 defined by the other protruding portions formed on the housing 120 of the air conditioner 100, which may also improve the space utilization and not elaborated herein.

[0032] As shown in FIG. 2, an operating hole 122 is defined in the end plate 1241 for exposing the operating surface 111 of the controller 110. The controller 110 is detachably connected to the handle casing 124. In some specific embodiments, the operating surface 111 is located in the operating hole 122, that is, the operating surface 111 is located between a front wall surface and a rear wall surface of the end plate 1241 in the front-and-

rear direction, or the operating surface 111 is flush with the front wall surface of the end plate 1241, which is not limited herein.

[0033] Specifically, the controller 110 includes an operating panel, and the operation surface 111 is arranged on the front side surface of the operating panel. The remaining part of the controller 120 is located at a rear side of the operating panel. At least a part of the operating panel is fitted in the operating hole 122, and the remaining part of the controller 120 is located in the accommodating cavity 121. The remaining part of the controller 120 abuts against the rear wall surface of the end plate 1241, and more specifically, the remaining part of the controller 120 abuts the part of the end plate 1241 located near the operating hole 122, so that the controller 110 is limited in the forward direction.

[0034] When the controller 110 in the present embodiment is mounted, the control panel of the controller 110 is mounted into the operating hole 122 of the handle casing 124 from rear to front. The above arrangement enables the controller 110 to be limited during the mounting from rear to front, so that the controller 110 will not move forward out of the operation hole 122.

[0035] In some specific embodiments, the size of the remaining part of the controller 110 is larger than the size of the operating panel part, thereby forming a step structure on the controller 110.

[0036] Further, in order to connect the controller 110 with the handle casing 124 mutually, the air conditioner 100 of the present embodiment also includes a controller support member 130 and a controller limiting member 140.

[0037] As shown in FIG. 2, the controller support member 130 is configured to support the controller 110. The controller support member 130 is connected to the rear wall surface of the end plate 1241 and surrounds the remaining part of the controller 110 located in the accommodating cavity 121. In addition, the remaining part of the controller 110 is fitted into the controller support member 130, so that the controller support member 130 limits and supports the controller 110 in up, down, left and right directions. In other words, the controller support member 130 is a hollow frame, and the controller 110 passes through a middle through hole of the controller support member 130 from rear to front, so that the controller support member 130 is sleeved on the remaining part of the controller 110. Thus, the controller 110 will not jump or move in the up, down, left and right directions.

[0038] After the controller 110 is fitted with the controller support member 130, the controller limiting member 140 is mounted on the rear wall surface of the end plate 1241 from the rear, the controller limiting member 140 includes a part that abuts against the controller 110 in the front-and-rear direction, and the part abuts against the rear side of the controller 110 to limit the controller 110 in the backward direction. That is, the controller limiting member 140 is connected to the rear wall surface of the end plate 1241, and the controller limiting member

35

40

15

140 is configured to limit the controller 110 in the backward direction. Thus, through the controller support member 130 and the controller limiting member 140, the controller 110 and the handle casing 124 are mutually fixed. It is understood that the controller limiting member 140 may also be connected to the controller support member 130.

[0039] In other embodiments, the air conditioner 100 may also exclude the controller limiting member 140, so that the controller support member 130 is connected with a limiting part, and the limiting part abuts against the controller 110 in the front-and-rear direction, which may also realize limit on the controller 110 in the backward direction. That is, the controller support member 130 is configured to limit the controller 110 in the up, down, left and right directions and backward direction simultaneously. [0040] In some specific embodiments, the air conditioner 100 also includes a sealing ring 150. The sealing ring 150 is fitted in the operating hole 122 and located between the part of the operating panel fitted in the operating hole 122 and the end plate 1241. In other words, an outer peripheral surface of the seal ring 150 abuts against a peripheral surface of the operating hole 122, an inner peripheral surface of the seal ring 150 abuts against a part of the operating panel located in the operating hole 122, and the seal ring 150 is used for sealing between the controller 110 and the end plate 1241, to prevent water or dust from entering the interior of the air conditioner 100 through the gap between the controller 110 and the end plate 1241 to affect the operation of the air conditioner 100.

[0041] In a specific embodiment, the air conditioner 100 further includes a cover plate 160. The cover plate 160 is connected to a handle casing 124 in a rotatable manner between a covering position of covering the operating surface 111 and an exposing position of exposing the operating surface 111. Specifically, the cover plate 160 may be connected to the end plate 1241, and a connection position with the end plate 1241 may be located above the operating hole 122. When controller 110 does not need to be operated, the cover plate 160 may be rotated to the covering position of covering the operating surface 111 to prevent water and dust. When an operation is needed, the cover plate 160 may be rotated to the exposing position of exposing the operating surface 111, to facilitate the operation of the operating surface 111. In addition, when the controller 110 needs to be removed and placed externally, the cover plate 160 may be moved to the covering position of covering the operating surface 111, to prevent water or dust from entering the interior of the air conditioner through the operating hole 122.

Embodiment 2:

[0042] The air conditioner 100 of the present embodiment is described below with FIG. 3 as an example. In the present embodiment, the air conditioner 100 includes a body and a controller 110. The body includes a housing

120, and the housing 120 includes a housing body 123 and a handle casing 124 detachably arranged on the housing body 123. The handle casing 124 protrudes outwards with respect to the housing body 123 to form the protruding portion. The handle casing 124 includes an end plate 1241 and a surrounding plate 1242, and the end plate 1241 and the surrounding plate 1242 define an accommodating cavity 121 located on the rear side of the end plate 1241. A part of the end plate 1241 is recessed towards the interior of the accommodating cavity 121 relative to the remaining part of the end plate 1241 to form a handle slot 1243, and the handle slot 1243 is convenient for the operator to handle the air conditioner 100.

[0043] As shown in FIG. 3, the operating hole 122 is defined in the end plate 1241. In the present embodiment, the controller 110 is detachably connected to the handle casing 124.

[0044] Specifically, the air conditioner 100 includes a controller mounting box 170. The controller mounting box 170 defines a mounting cavity, and a front side of the mounting cavity is open. The controller 110 is mounted in the mounting cavity of the controller mounting box 170, the operating surface 111 is opposite to a front side opening of the mounting cavity so that the operating surface 111 is exposed, and at least a part of the controller mounting box 170 is located in the accommodating cavity 121 and connected to the end plate 1241. It is understood that, in order to expose the operating surface 111, the front side opening of the mounting cavity is opposite to the operating hole 122.

[0045] When assembling the air conditioner 100 in the present embodiment, the handle casing 124 may be first mounted on the housing body 123, the controller 110 may be mounted in the mounting cavity of the controller mounting box 170, the controller mounting box 170 mounted with the controller 110 passes through the operating hole 122 from front to rear, and the controller mounting box 170 may be mounted into the accommodating cavity 121. Alternatively, the controller mounting box 170 mounted with the controller 110 may be mounted on the end plate 1241 from rear to front, and then the handle casing 124 may be connected to the housing body 123. Adopting the first mounting method, when the controller 110 needs to be disassembled, the controller mounting box 170 may be directly removed from the handle casing 124 without disassembling the handle casing 124, which is more convenient and quicker.

[0046] In some specific embodiments, the air conditioner 100 further includes a cover plate 170, and the cover plate 160 is connected to the controller mounting box 170 in a rotatable manner between a covering position of covering the operating surface 111 and an exposing position of exposing the operating surface 111. When controller 110 does not need to be operated, the cover plate 160 may be rotated to the covering position of covering the operating surface 111 to prevent water and dust. When an operation is needed, the cover plate 160 may

be rotated to the exposing position of exposing the operating surface 111 to facilitate operation on the operating surface 111.

[0047] In other embodiments, the cover plate 160 may also be connected to the handle casing 124 in a rotatable manner between the covering position of covering the operating surface 111 and the exposing position of exposing the operating surface 111.

[0048] In the description of the present disclosure, it should be understood that the orientation or position relationship indicated by the terms "center", "longitudinal", "transverse", "length", "width", "thickness", "up", "down", "front", "rear", "left", "right", "vertical", "horizontal", "top", "bottom", "inner", "outer", "clockwise", "counterclockwise", "axial", "radial" and "circumferential" and the like, is based on the orientation or position relationship shown in the accompanying drawings, which is only for the convenience of describing the present disclosure and simplifying the description, and does not indicate or imply that the referred device or element must have a specific orientation, and be constructed and operated in a specific orientation, so it cannot be understood as a limitation of the present disclosure.

[0049] In addition, the terms "first" and "second" are only used for purpose of description, and cannot be understood as indicating or implying relative importance or implicitly indicating the number of indicated technical features. Therefore, the feature defined as "first" or "second" may explicitly or implicitly include at least one such feature. In the description of the present disclosure, "a plurality of" means at least two, such as two, three, etc., unless otherwise specifically defined.

[0050] In the present disclosure, unless otherwise expressly defined, terms such as "mount", "interconnect", "connect", "fix" shall be understood broadly, and may be, for example, fixed connections, detachable connections, or integral connections; may also be mechanical or electrical connections or intercommunication; may also be direct connections or indirect connections via intervening media; may also be inner communications or interactions of two elements, unless otherwise specifically defined. For those skilled in the art, the specific meaning of the above terms in the present disclosure can be understood according to the specific situations.

[0051] In the present disclosure, unless otherwise expressly defined and specified, a structure in which a first feature is "on" or "below" a second feature may include an embodiment in which the first feature is in direct contact with the second feature, or may further include an embodiment in which the first feature and the second feature are in indirect contact through intermediate media. Furthermore, a first feature "on", "above", or "on top of" a second feature may include an embodiment in which the first feature is right or obliquely "on", "above", or "on top of" the second feature, or just means that the first feature is at a height higher than that of the second feature, while a first feature "below", "under", or "on bottom of" a second feature may include an embodiment in which

the first feature is right or obliquely "below", "under", or "on bottom of" the second feature, or just means that the first feature is at a height lower than that of the second feature.

[0052] In the description of the present disclosure, terms such as "an embodiment", "some embodiments", "an example", "a specific example" or "some examples" means that a particular feature, structure, material, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment or example is included in at least one embodiment or example of the present disclosure. Thus, the appearances of these terms in various places throughout the present specification are not necessarily referring to the same embodiment or example of the present disclosure. Furthermore, the particular features, structures, materials, or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments or examples. In addition, without contradiction, those skilled in the art may combine and unite different embodiments or examples or features of the different embodiments or examples described in the present specification.

[0053] Although the embodiments of the present disclosure have been shown and described above, it can be understood that the above embodiments are illustrative and shall not be understood as limitation to the present disclosure, and changes, modifications, alternatives and variations can be made in the above embodiments within the scope of the present disclosure by those skilled in the art.

Claims

35

40

45

1. An air conditioner, comprising:

housing comprising a protruding portion protruding outwards, the protruding portion defining an accommodating cavity; and a controller, at least a part of the controller being located in the accommodating cavity, the protruding portion being provided with an operating hole communicated with the accommodating cavity, an operating surface of the controller being opposite to the operating hole so that the operating surface is exposed, or the operating

surface of the controller being arranged on an

outer side surface of the protruding portion.

a body, the body comprising a housing, the

2. The air conditioner according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a housing body and a handle casing, the handle casing is detachably arranged on the housing body, the handle casing constitutes the protruding portion, and the handle casing comprises an end plate and a surrounding plate surrounding the end plate,

wherein the operating hole is defined in the end plate, and the controller is detachably connected with the

5

handle casing, or, the operating surface is arranged on the end plate and integrated with the end plate.

- The air conditioner according to claim 2, wherein a part of the end plate is recessed inwards relative to another part of the end plate to form a handle slot.
- 4. The air conditioner according to claim 2, wherein the controller comprises an operating panel, the operating panel has the operation surface, at least a part of the operating panel is fitted in the operating hole, a remaining part of the controller is located at a rear side of the operating panel and is located in the accommodating cavity, and the remaining part of the controller abuts against a part of the end plate located near the operating hole, so that the controller is limited in a forward direction.
- 5. The air conditioner according to claim 4, comprising a controller support member, wherein the controller support member is connected to a rear wall surface of the end plate and surrounds the remaining part of the controller, and the remaining part of the controller is fitted into the controller support member, so that the controller is limited and supposed in up, down, left and right directions.

6. The air conditioner according to claim 5, wherein the

- controller support member is also connected with a limiting part abutting against the controller in the front-and-rear direction so that the controller limited in a backward direction, or, the air conditioner further comprises a controller limiting member, the controller limiting member is connected with the controller support member or is connected with the rear wall surface of the end plate, and the controller limiting member comprises a part abutting against the controller in the front-and-rear direction, so that the controller is limited in the backward direction.
- 7. The air conditioner according to any one of claims 4-6, further comprising a sealing ring, wherein the sealing ring is fitted in the operating hole and located between the operating panel and the end plate.
- 8. The air conditioner according to any one of claims 2-7, wherein the operating hole is defined in the end plate, the air conditioner comprises a controller mounting box, the controller mounting box defines a mounting cavity, a front side of the mounting cavity is open, the controller is mounted in the mounting cavity, the operating surface is opposite to a front side opening of the mounting cavity so that the operating surface is exposed, and at least a part of the controller mounting box is located in the accommodating cavity and connected to the end plate.

- 9. The air conditioner according to claim 8, comprising a cover plate, wherein the cover plate is connected to the controller mounting box in a rotatable manner between a covering position of covering the operating surface and an exposing position of exposing the operating surface.
- 10. The air conditioner according to any one of claims 2-8, comprising a cover plate, wherein the cover plate is connected to the handle casing in a rotatable manner between a covering position of covering the operating surface and an exposing position of exposing the operating surface.

40

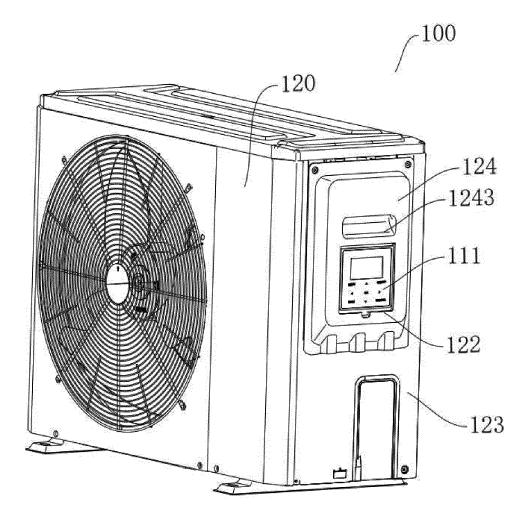
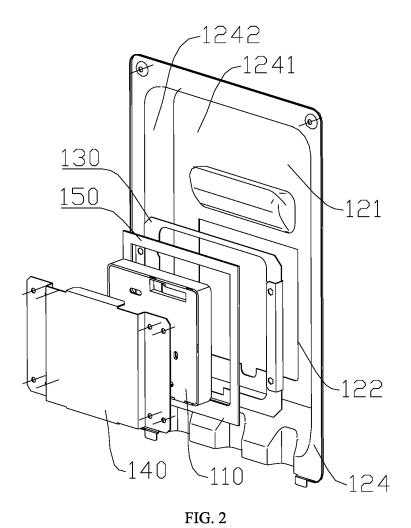
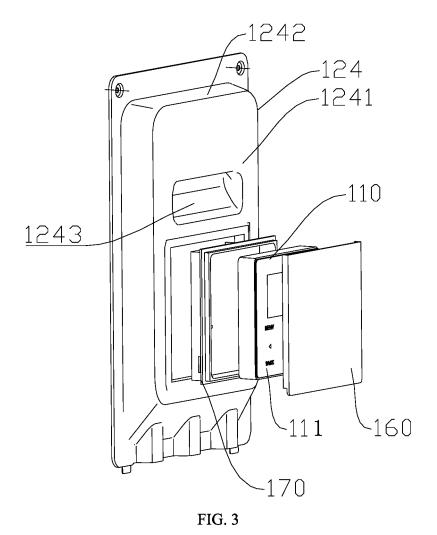


FIG. 1





International application No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/CN2022/082605 5 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER F24F 13/20(2006.01)i According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC 10 FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) F24F13/20; F24F13/00; F24F11/00 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched CNTXT, VEN: 空调, 控制, 面板, 突出, 凸出, 孔; AIR, CONDITIONER,, CONTROL,, CONVEX., BOSS, HOLE, OPEN 15 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT 20 Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. CN 212499789 U (HEBEI KINGCON NEW ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.) 09 X 1-10 February 2021 (2021-02-09) description, pages 2-4, and figures 1-4 CN 203375540 U (GUANGZHOU HUALING REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT CO., LTD. Α 1-10 25 et al.) 01 January 2014 (2014-01-01) entire document CN 209181118 U (GUANGDONG MEDIA REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT CO., LTD. et 1-10 Α al.) 30 July 2019 (2019-07-30) entire document 30 Α CN 108209226 A (FOSHAN SHUNDE MIDEA WASHING APPLIANCES 1-10 MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. et al.) 29 June 2018 (2018-06-29) CN 109539392 A (AUX AIR CONDITIONER CO., LTD.) 29 March 2019 (2019-03-29) 1-10 Α entire document 35 See patent family annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. 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 Special categories of cited documents: 40 document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($ 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 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) document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other 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 45 document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 09 June 2022 23 June 2022 50 Name and mailing address of the ISA/CN Authorized officer China National Intellectual Property Administration (ISA/ CN) No. 6, Xitucheng Road, Jimenqiao, Haidian District, Beijing 100088, China Facsimile No. (86-10)62019451 Telephone No. 55

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2015)

EP 4 372 292 A1

5	INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT Information on patent family members			International application No. PCT/CN2022/082605		
	Pater cited in	nt document n search report	Publication date (day/month/year)	Patent family memb	er(s)	Publication date (day/month/year)
	CN	212499789 U	09 February 2021	None		
10	CN	203375540 U	01 January 2014	None		
	CN	209181118 U	30 July 2019	None		
	CN	108209226 A	29 June 2018	None		
	CN	109539392 A	29 March 2019	None		
15						
20						
25						
30						
35						
40						
45						
50						
55	Form PCT/ISA/2	10 (patent family annex) (January 2015)			

EP 4 372 292 A1

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

• CN 202121632827 [0001]