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(54) Improvements in automatic pool cleaners

(57) Apparatus for cleaning a surface submerged in a liquid is disclosed and claimed. The apparatus comprises a body (12) defining a flow passage (28,32,16,18 and 20) therethrough. The flow passage (28,32,16,18 and 20) extends between a main inlet (26) to the body (12) defined in a peripheral region (22) of the body (12) and an outlet (41) from the body (12). The peripheral region (22), in use, being releasably engageable with a surface to be cleaned and the outlet (41) being connectable to a suction source. A pivotal valve (34) is located in the body (12) for intermittently varying the flow of liquid through the body. The apparatus is characterised in that asymmetry is provided between members of pairs of corresponding parts of the apparatus, such as ports (36 and 38) or tubes (16 and 18).

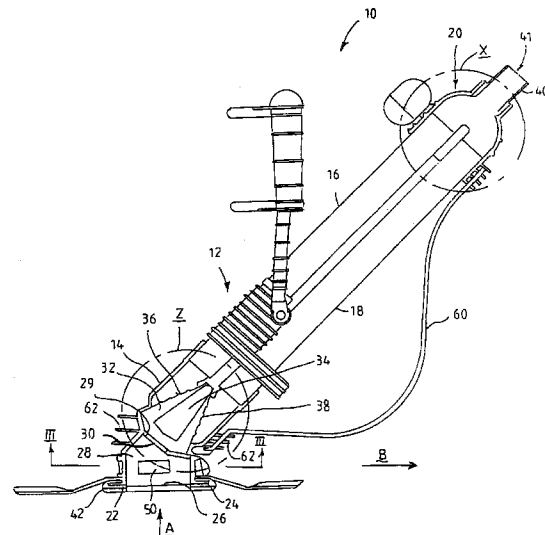


FIGURE 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 10 5686

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)
D,A	US-A-4 023 227 (CHAUVIER) * column 3, line 15 - column 5, line 25; figures 1,2 * ---	1	E04H4/16
A	US-A-4 208 752 (HOFMANN) * column 3, line 10 - line 44; figure 1 * ---	1	
A	FR-A-2 604 351 (DENTRAYGUES) * page 1, line 18 - line 31; figures 1-3 * -----	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			E04H
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	27 August 1996	Porwoll, H	
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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