



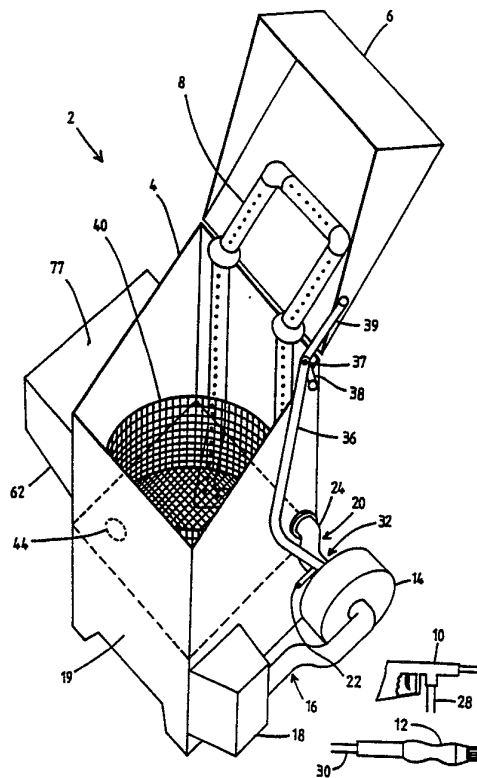
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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU92/00652</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 3 December 1992 (03.12.92)</p> <p>(30) Priority data: PK 9824 3 December 1991 (03.12.91) AU</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ROBO-WASH PTY. LTD. [AU/AU]; 4 Macdermott Street, Welshpool, W.A. 6106 (AU).</p> <p>(72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only) : GODDARD, Fenton [AU/AU]; 13 Jubilee Street, South Perth, W.A. 6151 (AU).</p> <p>(74) Agent: MIZZI, Anthony, Paul; Griffith Hack & Co., 6th Floor, 256 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, W.A. 6000 (AU).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, CA, CH, CS, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, HU, JP, KP, KR, LK, LU, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, UA, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published With international search report.</p>

(54) Title: CLEANING APPARATUS

(57) Abstract

The specification discloses a cleaning apparatus (2) for cleaning machine and engine parts comprising a trough (4) in which the cleaning is performed. A lid (6) is connected to the trough (4) and is movable between a closed position covering the trough and an opened position allowing access to the trough. A first cleaning fluid dispenser in the form of a manifold (8) is located within the apparatus (2). Also provided is a portable cleaning fluid dispensing gun (10) or brush (12) which is connectable to the apparatus (2). The lid (6) operatively cooperates with the manifold (8), gun (10) or brush (12) so that when the lid (6) is in the closed position, cleaning fluid is dispensed through the manifold (8) and when the lid (6) is in the opened position, cleaning fluid can be dispensed through the gun (10) or brush (12). A pump (14) is provided for pumping the cleaning fluid to the manifold (8), gun (10) or brush (12). A supply of the cleaning fluid is held within the tank (8) formed integrally with the apparatus (2). A ball valve (32) housed within the pump (14) selectively directs cleaning fluid to the manifold (8) or with the gun (10) and brush (12). The ball valve (32) is provided with a control arm (34), the manipulation of which changes the state of the ball valve. The control arm (34) is pivotally connected to one end of a lever (36). An opposite end of the lever (36) is pivotally connected by pivot pin (37) to arms (38 and 39). An end of the arm (38) distant from lever (36) is pivotally connected to an outside wall of the trough (4) in the vicinity of the lid (6). An end of arm (39) is pivotally connected to the lid (6). By this arrangement of levers, the opening or closing of the lid (6) changes the state of the ball valve (32).



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CLEANING APPARATUSFIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a cleaning apparatus and, in particular, but not exclusively, to a cleaning apparatus for cleaning articles covered with an oil-based product.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

There has always been the need in industries such as for example, the automotive, oil and mining industries to clean mechanical parts covered with grease and grime. For example, when servicing or repairing an internal combustion engine, components such as nuts, bolts, washers, seals, bearings, engine blocks, crank shafts etc., must be thoroughly cleaned prior to reassembly in order to remove all oil, grease and foreign bodies. Foreign bodies such as grit or metal shavings can block cooling or lubrication ducts as well as increase engine wear. Various parts for example, brake shoes or pads and rubber seals must be free of grease or oil to ensure correct operation or prevent premature deterioration.

A "solvent sink" is presently used to clean mechanical parts comprising a large sink and pump for pumping a petroleum based solvent from a separate drum to a dispensing hand piece. The article to be cleaned is held in or above the sink and solvent is pumped from the drum through the hand piece in order to clean the part. While the solvent sink is relatively effective in cleaning, it has a number of inherent deficiencies. It is particularly inefficient as it requires an operator to stand at the sink and manually clean even the smallest of parts. In addition, it is unable to effectively and efficiently clean parts which are too large to fit within the sink. For this reason, it is common to purchase a separate steam cleaning apparatus to clean the "larger" parts. Furthermore, the use of petroleum based solvents creates a fire hazard, is a health hazard to the operator by virtue of vapours given off by the solvent, and is environmentally damaging by virtue of either damaging the earth's ozone layer or contaminating water supplies.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a cleaning apparatus that attempts to alleviate at least one of the above described deficiencies.

5 According to the present invention there is provided a cleaning apparatus for cleaning articles, said apparatus comprising:

a trough in which cleaning of said articles can be performed;

10 a lid connected to said trough and movable between a closed position covering said trough and an opened position to allow access to said trough;

a first cleaning fluid dispensing means located within said apparatus and a second portable cleaning fluid
15 dispensing means;

wherein said lid operatively cooperates with said first and second dispensing means in such a manner that when the lid is in the closed position, cleaning fluid can be dispensed through said first cleaning fluid dispensing means,
20 and when the lid is in the opened position, cleaning fluid can be dispensed through said second dispensing means.

Preferably said cleaning apparatus further comprises a receptacle for containing a volume of said cleaning fluid, said receptacle communicating with said pumping means.

25 Preferably said receptacle further communicates with said trough whereby said cleaning fluid can be re-circulated through said apparatus.

Preferably said cleaning apparatus further comprises a pumping means for pumping said cleaning fluid to said first
30 and second dispensing means, wherein said lid operatively cooperates with said pumping means in a manner such that when the lid is in the closed position, the pumping means can pump cleaning fluid to said first dispensing means, and when the lid is in the opened position the pumping means can pump cleaning
35 fluid to said second dispensing means.

Preferably said pumping means includes a valve for selectively directing cleaning fluid to said first or second dispensing means wherein said valve is operated by moving said

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lid between the closed and opened positions.

Preferably said lid is connected to said valve by a lever for operating said valve.

Alternatively, said apparatus may further comprise
5 electrical control means for operating said valve, said electrical control means including an associated switch, wherein said associated switch activates said electric control means to cause said valve to direct cleaning fluid to the first dispensing means when the lid is in the closed position, and
10 to cause the valve to direct cleaning fluid to the second dispensing means when the lid is in the opened position.

Alternately said pumping means comprises a first pump in communication with said receptacle for pumping said cleaning fluid to said first cleaning fluid dispensing means and a
15 second pump in communication with said receptacle for pumping said cleaning fluid through said second portable cleaning fluid dispensing means, whereby, said lid when in said closed position enables said first pump to pump cleaning fluid through said first cleaning fluid dispensing means and said lid when
20 in the opened position enables the second pump for pumping cleaning fluid through said second portable cleaning fluid dispensing means.

Preferably said apparatus further comprises a basket disposed within the trough for holding said articles, said
25 basket adapted to allow cleaning fluid to flow therethrough.

Preferably said apparatus further comprises means for rotating said basket to vary the position of an article contained in the basket relative to one of said cleaning fluid dispensing means.

30 Preferably said means for rotating comprises a jet of cleaning fluid, a support for the basket, a plurality of vanes connected to said support can successively enter said jet of cleaning fluid to act as impellers to rotate said support.

Preferably the basket is rotated automatically on the
35 lid being placed in the closed position.

Preferably said apparatus further comprises a filter means communicating between said receptacle and said pumping means.

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Preferably said cleaning fluid is a combination of water and detergent.

Preferably said cleaning fluid is heated prior to dispensing through said first or second dispensing means.

5 Preferably said second cleaning fluid dispensing means comprises a hand held fluid dispensing gun or a hand held fluid dispensing brush.

 An embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example only, with reference to the
10 accompanying drawings in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the cleaning apparatus from the front;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the cleaning apparatus
15 with a lid in an opened position;

Figure 3 is a elevation view of the cleaning apparatus from the front;

Figure 4 is a front view of a basket and speed governing system used in the cleaning apparatus;

20 Figure 5 is a partial cutaway view of the cleaning apparatus from the side;

Figure 6 is a partial cutaway view of the cleaning apparatus from the front showing an automatic cleaning fluid recharge system; and,

25 Figure 7 is a perspective view of a manifold and basket used in the cleaning apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As shown in the accompanying drawings with particular reference to Figures 1 and 2, a cleaning apparatus 2 for
30 cleaning articles comprises a trough 4 in which cleaning of the articles can be performed, a lid 6 connected to the trough and movable between a closed position covering the trough and an open position to allow access to the trough, a first cleaning fluid dispensing means in the form of a manifold 8 located
35 within the apparatus 2 and, a second portable cleaning fluid dispensing means in the form of a gun 10 or brush 12 which is

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connectable to the apparatus 2. The lid 6 operatively cooperates with the manifold 8, gun 10 and brush 12 in such a manner that when the lid 6 is in the closed position, cleaning fluid can be dispensed through the manifold 8 and when the lid 6 is in the opened position, cleaning fluid can be dispensed through a connected one of the gun 10 or brush 12.

A pumping means in the form of pump 14 is provided for pumping the cleaning fluid to a selected one of the manifold 8, and, the gun 10 or brush 12. A receptacle in the form of a tank 8 is also provided to supply a volume of the cleaning fluid.

The pump 14 has an inlet 16 which communicates via a filter 18 with the tank 19, and two outlets 20, 22 in selective communication with the inlet 16 (seen most clearly in Figure 2). The first outlet 20 is connected to the manifold 12 via pipe 24. The second outlet 22 is provided with a coupling 26 to facilitate connection with hoses 28 or 30 of gun 10 and brush 12 respectively. A ball valve 32 housed within the pump 14 selectively directs cleaning fluid to either the outlet 20 or outlet 22. The ball valve 32 is provided with a control arm 34, the manipulation of which changes the state of the ball valve 32. The control arm 34 is pivotably connected to one end of a lever 36. An opposite end of lever 36 is pivotably connected by pivot pin 37 to arms 38 and 39. An end of arm 38 distant from lever 36 is pivotably connected to an outside wall of the trough 4 in the vicinity of the lid 6. An end of arm 39 distant from lever 36 is pivotably connected to lid 6. The arms 38 and 39 assists in stabilising the movement of lever 36 as the lid 6 is moved between its open and closed positions.

A wire mesh basket 40 (refer Figures 1 and 4) is disposed in the trough 4 for holding the articles to be cleaned. The basket 40 is supported on a turntable 41 which is rotated about axis 42 by a water jet (not shown) produced by pump 10. To this end, a plurality of vanes 43 in the form of metal plates are disposed about the periphery of the turntable 41. The vanes 43 are arranged to successively cut across the path of the water jet so as to act as impellers to

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rotate the turntable 41. The vanes 43 are further arranged to swing or pivot outwardly under the influence of centrifugal force as the speed of rotation of the basket increases. As the vanes 43 swing outwardly, they move out of the path of the water jet so as to reduce the contact area with the water jet. At a maximum speed of rotation of the basket, the vanes 43 swing to a position in which they are no longer impinged by the water jet. This provides automatic rotational speed control for the basket 40. In an alternative arrangement, the vanes 43 can be provided directly on the basket 40 rather than on the turntable 41.

As the basket 40 rotates, the relative position of the articles to be cleaned and the manifold 8 varies to ensure thorough and complete cleaning. A drain 44 is provided so that cleaning fluid entering the trough 4 returned to the tank 19 and re-circulated. The apparatus 2 further includes a heater (not shown) for heating the cleaning fluid prior to dispensing through the manifold 8 or one of the gun 10 or brush 12.

When heavy and/or many articles are cleaned at the same time, the angular momentum of the basket may cause it to continue rotating at relatively high speed for an extended period of time after the lid 6 has been moved to the opened position. There is an inherent danger to personal safety in attempting to stop the basket by hand. However, in order to reduce cleaning time and thus operating costs, such action is often taken by users of the present type of cleaning apparatus 2. To reduce cleaning time and increase operating safety, the apparatus 2 can also be provided with a brake 50 (refer Figures 2 and 5) for retarding the rotation of the basket 40.

The brake 50 includes a wedge-shaped block 52 which is slidably mounted on an inside wall of the trough 4 adjacent the basket 40. A hand lever 54 is pivotally connected at one end with a lug 53 extending from block 52 and also pivotally connected intermediate of its length by pivot pin 55 to the inside wall of trough 4. By manipulating the lever 54 to pivot about pin 55 the block 52 can be slid into contact with a circumferential wall of the basket 40 and thus retard its rotation (shown in phantom in Figure 2). The block 52 is

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arranged to slide into contact with the basket 40 in the direction of the tangent of rotation of the basket 40. This minimises the effort required to brake the basket as the motion of the basket itself tends to drag the brake block 52 in the
5 required direction of motion in order to effect braking of the basket 40. The brake block 52 when used, becomes wedged between the basket and the side wall of the trough 4.

A spring or other biasing means (not shown) can be provided to automatically move the brake block 52 out of
10 contact with the basket 40 after braking has been effected. Alternatively, the hand lever 54 can be arranged to move the brake block 52 out of contact with the basket 40. It is preferable for manufacturing reasons for the brake 50 to be wholly located within the trough 4. However, the brake can
15 also be constructed to be foot or hand operated from outside the trough 4. Also, the brake 50 can be connected with the lid 6 so as to operate automatically while moving the lid 6 to the opened position.

An automatic cleaning fluid recharge system 60 (refer
20 Figure 6) can be connected to the apparatus 2 to extend the time between recharging of the cleaning fluid. The system 60 includes a detergent container 62 attached to an outside surface of the trough 4 for dispensing a mixture of water and detergent into the tank 19. Discharge nozzle 64 extends from
25 the container 62 into the trough 4. An end of the nozzle 64 located in the container 62 is connected by a hose 66 to a mains water supply. The flow of water through the nozzle 64 is controlled by a valve 68. A small tube 70 having opened ends communicates between the interior of the container 62 and
30 the nozzle 64. The sensor 72 is provided for sensing the volume of cleaning fluid within the tank 19. The sensor includes a float 74 housed within a housing 76 which is in fluid communication with the tank 19. The float 74 is connected by tether 75 to the valve 68. When the volume of
35 cleaning fluid which is a mixture of water and detergent within the tank 8 falls below a predetermined level, the float 74 drops which causes valve 68 to open. As water passes through nozzle 64, detergent is drawn into the nozzle through tube 70

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by the venturi effect and mixed in a predetermined ratio with the water. This allows the apparatus to automatically recharge itself until the detergent within the container is exhausted. At this time, the apparatus 2 can undergo routine maintenance and complete recharging. The top surface 77 of the container 62 can also act as a table or shelf to support articles before or after cleaning.

The method of operation of the cleaning apparatus 2 will now be described.

10 The tank 19 is prefilled with a cleaning fluid such as water and a suitable detergent, (rust inhibitors can also be added). The lid 6 is opened and articles to be cleaned are placed within the basket 40. The lid 6 is now moved to the closed position to cover the trough 4. When moving the lid 6
15 to the closed position, the lever 36 rotates the control arm 34 so that the ball valve 32 connects the pump inlet 18 with the pump outlet 20. On activation a master switch (not shown) the pump 14 draws water and detergent from the tank 8 through the filter 18 into inlet 16, out of outlet 20, through
20 connecting pipe 24 to the manifold 8. The water and detergent mixture is then sprayed from the manifold 8 toward the basket 40. Simultaneously, the basket 40 is rotated about axis 42 by the water jet. The pump 14 is of a capacity so as to ensure that water spraying from the manifold 8 is under higher
25 pressure. The combination of the rotation of the basket 40 together with high pressure water and detergent spraying from all sides cleans the articles in the basket 40. The water and detergent entering the trough 4 is returned to the tank 19 through drain 44. Grime, dirt and other bodies removed from
30 the articles during cleaning is prevented from entering the pump 14 by the filter 18.

When the article to be cleaned is too large to fit within the trough 4, the gun 10 or brush 12 may be used for cleaning. For example, take the instance where it is desired
35 to clean a hydraulic cylinder 46 having a length of 2 meters and diameter of 400mm, as shown in Figure 4. The gun 10 is connected via hose 28 with the second outlet 22 of the pump 14. With the lid 6 in the open position, the lever 36 rotates the

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control arm 34 in a clockwise direction so that ball valve 32 now connects pump inlet 16 with the pump outlet 22. On activation of the master switch, the pump 14 draws water and detergent from the tank 19 through filter 18, inlet 16 and out
5 through outlet 22 to hose 28 and gun 10. The hydraulic cylinder 46 is cleaned by directing a jet of cleaning fluid emanating from the gun 10 into the cylinder 46. The cylinder 46 is inclined and has its opened end above trough 4 to return the via drain 44, to the tank 19.

10 The manifold 8 is advantageously arranged as a closed loop which ensures that the cleaning fluid pressure is equalised throughout the manifold 8, (refer Figures 2 and 7). The manifold 8 is configured so as to spray cleaning fluid from above, under and the sides of the basket 40. The manifold 8
15 comprises a V-shaped pipe 78 extending underneath the basket 40 with the apex of the "V" located near the centre of the basket 40. Opposite ends of the V-shaped pipe 78 are connected to swivel joints 84, 86 respectively and extend toward the centre of the basket 40. A straight length of pipe 92 is
20 connected between the opposite ends of pipes 88 and 90 and extends above the basket 40 to complete the manifold 8. A cleaning fluid inlet 94 is provided on pipe 80 for coupling with the pump outlet 20.

A series of holes 96 are drilled or otherwise formed
25 in the pipes 78, 80, 82, 88, 90, 92 to allow the spraying of cleaning fluid from the manifold 8. This configuration creates two curtains of cleaning fluid spray emanating from above, under and to one side of the basket 40 through which each part to be cleaned passes during every revolution of the basket 4.
30 The two curtains of spray ensure very quick and thorough cleaning and thereby assist in reducing operating cost.

The swivel joints 84, 86 are formed to allow the flow of cleaning fluid within the manifold. In addition, the joints 84, 86 permit the pipes 88, 90 and 92 to be connected with the
35 lid 6 so that they can be pivoted away from the basket 40 for loading or unloading of parts when the lid is lifted.

From the above description, it is apparent that the above embodiment has numerous advantages over the prior art.

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When the articles to be cleaned can fit within the basket 40, cleaning is performed automatically without requiring an operator to attend the apparatus during a complete washing cycle. The detachable gun 10 and brush 12 in combination with
5 the mechanism for selectively directing the cleaning fluid thereto allows the efficient cleaning of large articles which hitherto was a particularly difficult and time consuming task. When the gun 10 or brush 12 is used the run off is returned into the trough 4. This maintains the work area dry, improving
10 work safety, and also reduces waste and thus operating costs because the returned run off is re-circulated. This further avoids the need to purchase and maintain separate cleaning apparatus for articles of different size. As cleaning is effected by means of water and detergent, the expense and
15 hazards of using solvent cleaners is avoided. In addition, as the water is heated, the articles being cleaned absorb heat which permits them to "flash dry". This eliminates the need to rinse or blow dry the cleaned articles. As the cleaning water is re-circulated smaller volumes of water can be used for
20 cleaning and the volume of industrial waste produced (i.e. water containing oil, grease, detergent, etc.) is reduced.

Now that an embodiment of the present invention has been described in detail, it will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant arts that numerous modifications and variations
25 may be made without departing from the basic inventive concepts. For example, the ball valve 32 is illustrated as being operated by means of a lever 36 connected with the lid 6. However, electrical control means for example, solenoids or electric motors may be used to control the ball valve 32.
30 The electrical control means can be activated by an associated switch which may be operated directly by the lid 6, or by a lever arrangement attached to the lid 6. Other types of valves, for example, flap valves may be used in place of the ball valves 32. Alternatively, two separate pumps 10 can be
35 used, one for directing cleaning fluid to each of the manifold 8, and, the gun 10 or brush 12, with the position of the lid 6 selectively enabling respective ones of the pumps. The pumps may of course be of different pressure ratings. It will

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further be appreciated that the manifold 8 may be of any geometry provided it directs cleaning fluid to the basket 40. In particular, the manifold may be configured to produce any number of spray curtains through which the articles to be
5 cleaned pass on every revolution of the basket 40. All such modifications and variations are deemed to be within the scope of the present invention, the nature of which is to be determined from the following description.

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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A cleaning apparatus for cleaning articles, said apparatus comprising:

5 a trough in which cleaning of said articles can be performed;

a lid connected to said trough and moveable between a closed position covering said trough and an opened position to allow access to said trough;

10 a first cleaning fluid dispensing means located within said apparatus and a second portable cleaning fluid dispensing means;

wherein said lid operatively cooperates with said first and second dispensing means in such a manner that when the lid is in the closed position, cleaning fluid can be
15 dispensed through said first cleaning fluid dispensing means, and when the lid is in the opened position, cleaning fluid can be dispensed through said second portable cleaning fluid dispensing means.

2. A cleaning apparatus according to claim 1, further
20 comprising a receptacle for containing a volume of said cleaning fluid, said receptacle communicating with said pumping means.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said receptacle further communicates with said trough whereby said
25 cleaning fluid can be recirculated through said apparatus.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a pumping means for pumping said cleaning fluid to said first and second cleaning fluid dispensing means, wherein said lid operatively cooperates with said pumping means in a manner such
30 that when the lid is in the closed position, the pumping means can pump cleaning fluid to said first cleaning fluid dispensing means, and when the lid is in the opened position, the pumping means can pump cleaning fluid to the second portable cleaning fluid dispensing means.

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5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said pumping means includes a valve for selectively directing cleaning fluid to said first or second cleaning fluid dispensing means, wherein said valve is operated by moving said lid between said closed and opened positions.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising electrical control means for operating said valve, said electrical control means including an associated switch, wherein said associated switch activates said electrical control means to cause said valve to direct cleaning fluid to said first cleaning fluid dispensing means when the lid is in the closed position, and to cause the valve to direct cleaning fluid to the second portable cleaning fluid dispensing means when the lid is in the opened position.

7. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said pumping means comprises a first pump in communication with said receptacle for pumping said cleaning fluid to said first cleaning fluid dispensing means and a second pump in communication with said receptacle for pumping said cleaning fluid through said second portable cleaning fluid dispensing means, whereby, said lid when in said closed position enables said first pump to pump cleaning fluid through said first cleaning fluid dispensing means and said lid when in the opened position enables the second pump for pumping cleaning fluid through said second portable cleaning fluid dispensing means.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a basket disposed within said trough for holding said articles, said basket adapted to allow cleaning fluid to flow therethrough.

9. An apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for rotating said basket to vary the position of an article contained within the basket relative to one of said cleaning fluid dispensing means.

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10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for rotating comprises a jet of said cleaning fluid, a rotatable support for supporting said basket, and a plurality of vanes connected to said support which can successively enter
5 said jet of cleaning fluid to act as impellers to rotate said rotatable support and a basket support thereon.

11. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein each of said vanes is pivotably connected to said support whereby the action of centrifugal force on said vanes due to the rotation
10 of said support causes said vanes to swing out of the path of said jet to thereby limit the speed of rotation of said support.

12. An article according to claim 8, further comprising a braking means for retarding the rotation of said basket when
15 the lid is in the opened position.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said braking means comprises a brake block and an actuator connected to the brake block for moving said brake block into contact with said basket to retard the rotation of said basket.

20 14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said brake block is arranged for wedging between said basket and an inside surface of said trough to thereby retard rotation of said basket.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said
25 actuator is in the form of a hand operable lever disposed within said trough.

16. An apparatus according to any one of claim 1, wherein said cleaning fluid is a combination of water and detergent.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, further
30 comprising an automatic cleaning fluid recharge system, said system including a sensor communicating with said receptacle

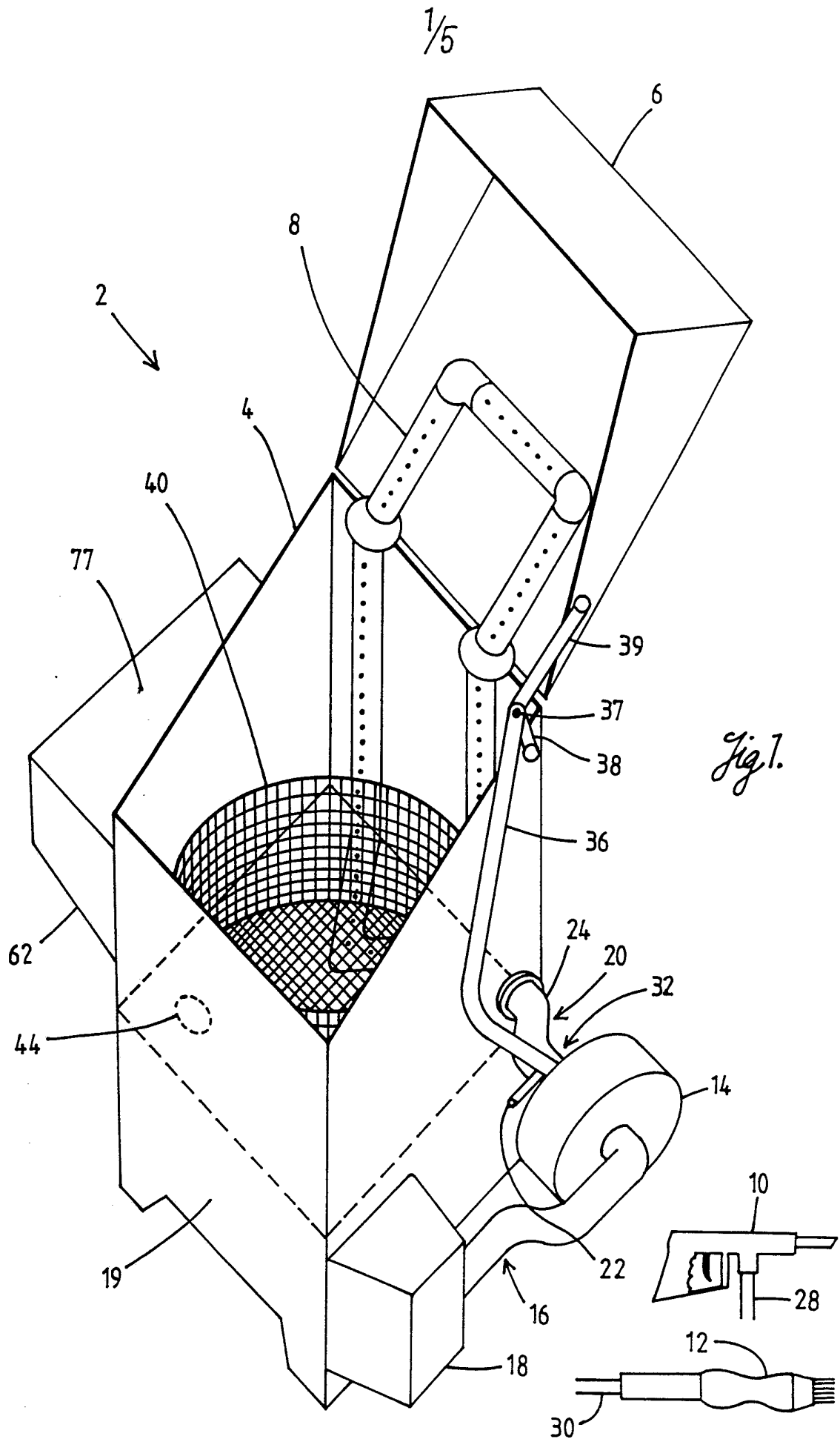
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for sensing the volume of cleaning fluid in said receptacle; a container for holding a supply of detergent; a water supply means for supplying water to said receptacle, said water supply means including a valve for controlling the flow of water into
5 said receptacle and which is operatively connected with said sensor; and a tube communicating between said water supply means and said container, wherein, when said sensor senses the volume of said cleaning fluid is less than a predetermined volume, said sensor operates said valve to admit water into
10 said receptacle whereby the flow of water through said water supply means causes detergent to flow through said tube into the water supply means so as to mix with water flowing into the receptacle thereby providing automatic recharging of said cleaning fluid.

15 18. A cleaning apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first cleaning fluid dispensing means comprises a manifold arranged in a closed loop.

19. A cleaning apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said manifold is configured to spray cleaning fluid from above,
20 underneath and side of the basket.

20. A cleaning apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said manifold is further configured to produce two spray curtains of cleaning fluid each spray curtain including cleaning fluid emanating from above, underneath and to one side
25 of the basket, whereby each article passes through each spray curtain during every revolution of said basket.



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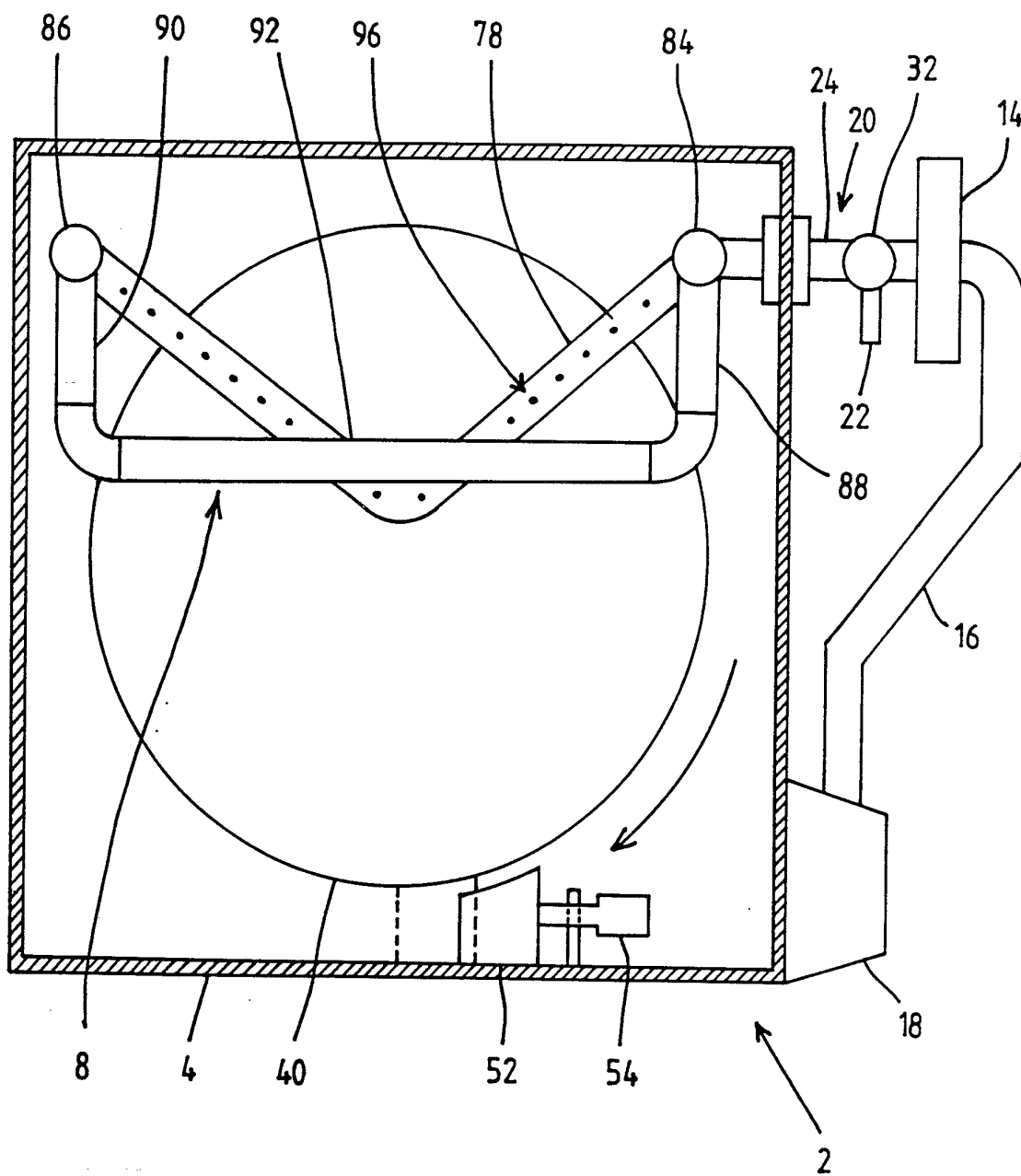


Fig. 2.

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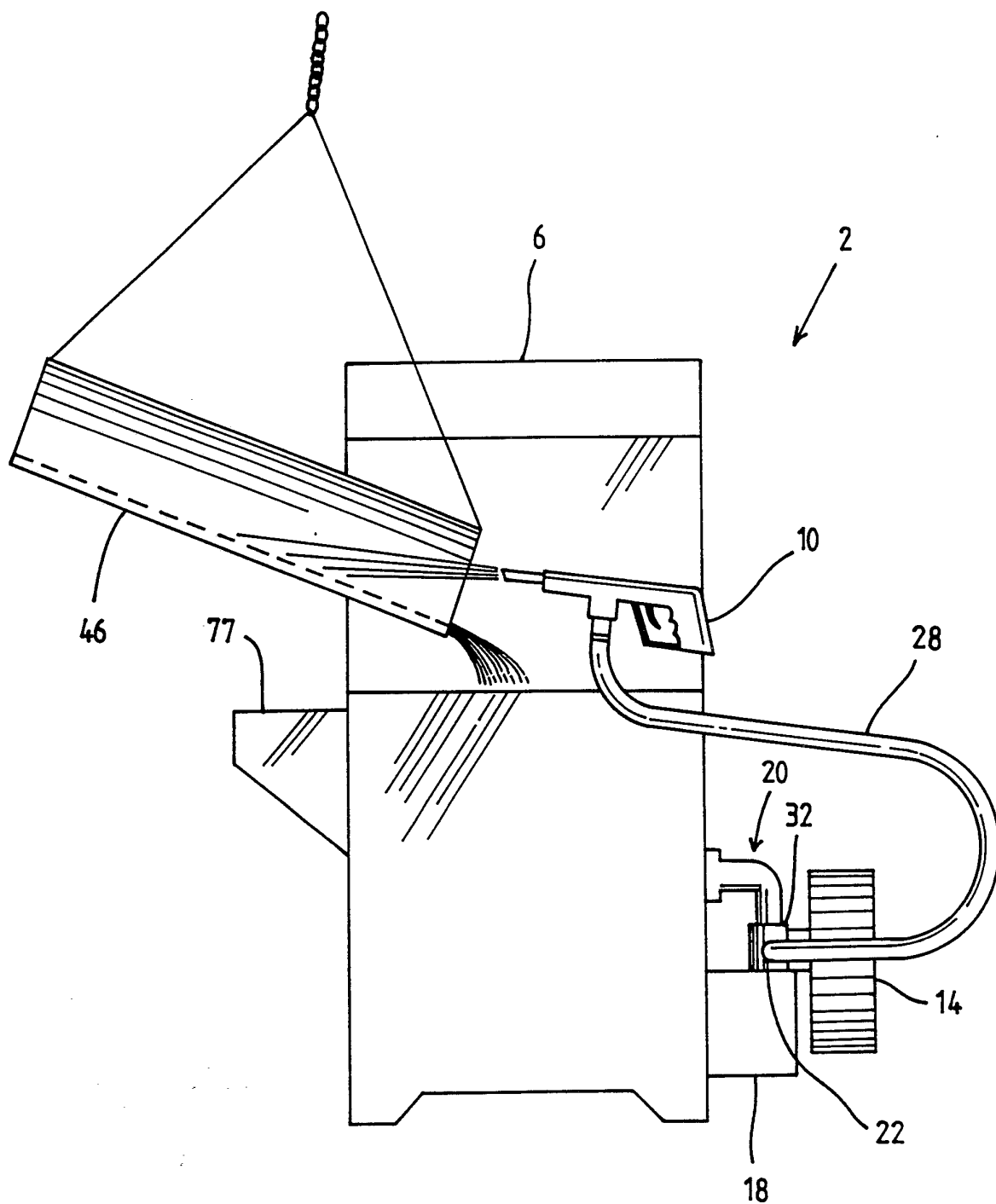


Fig 3.

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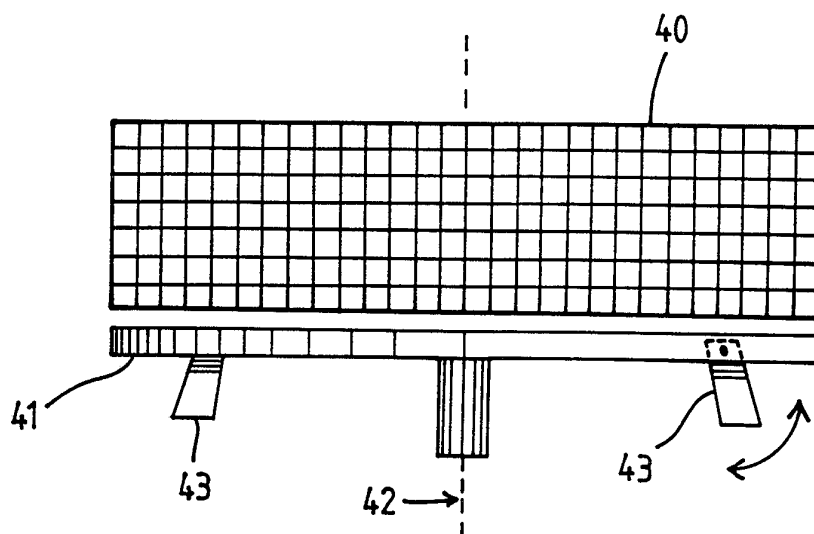


Fig 4.

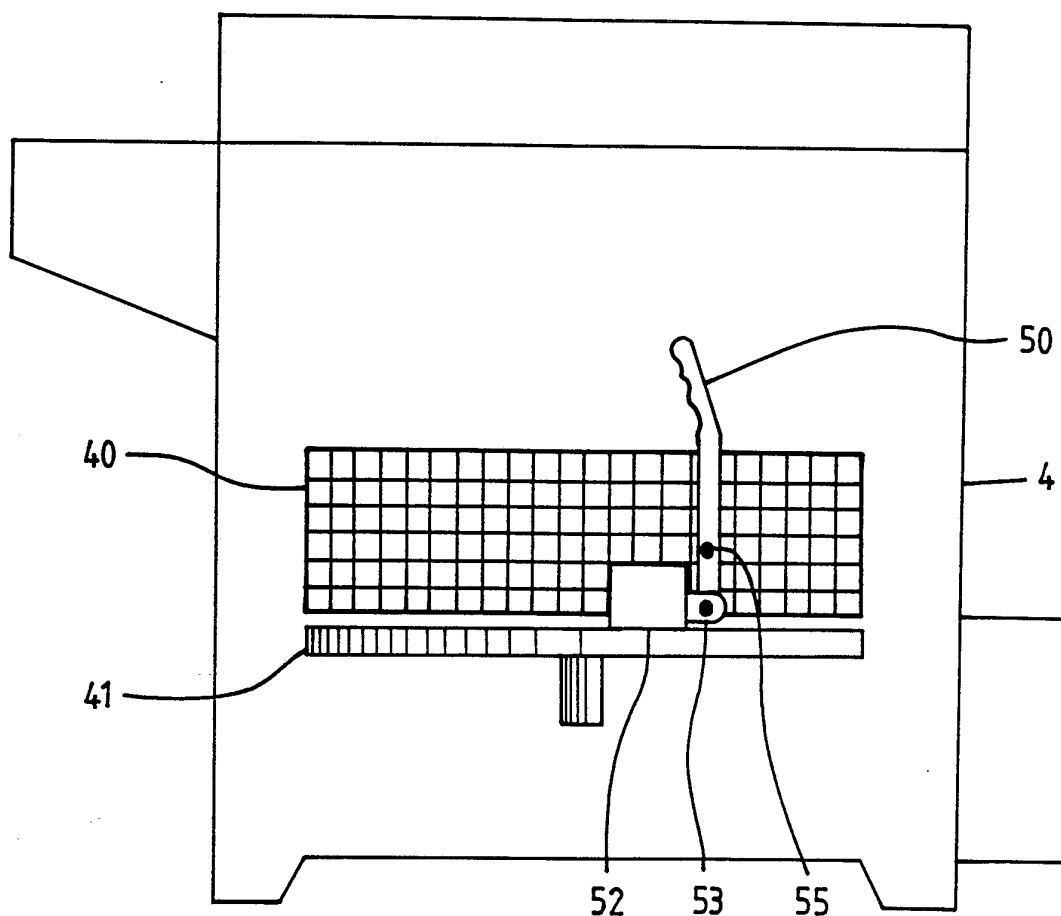


Fig 5.

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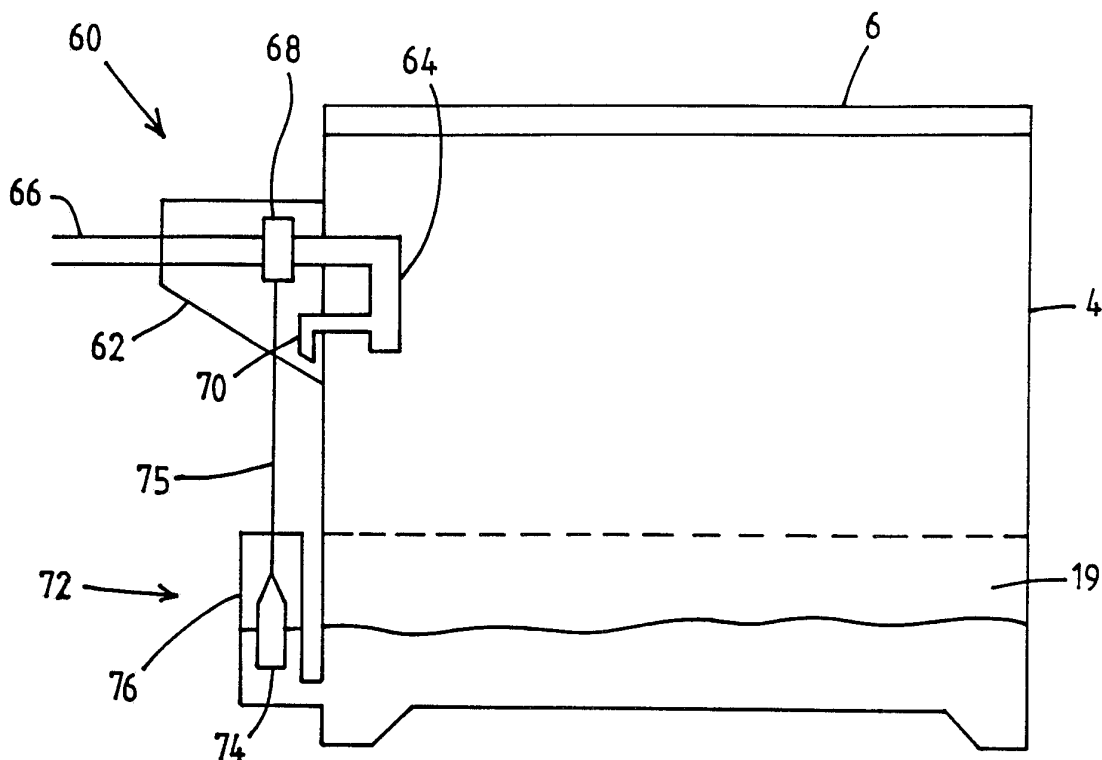


Fig 6.

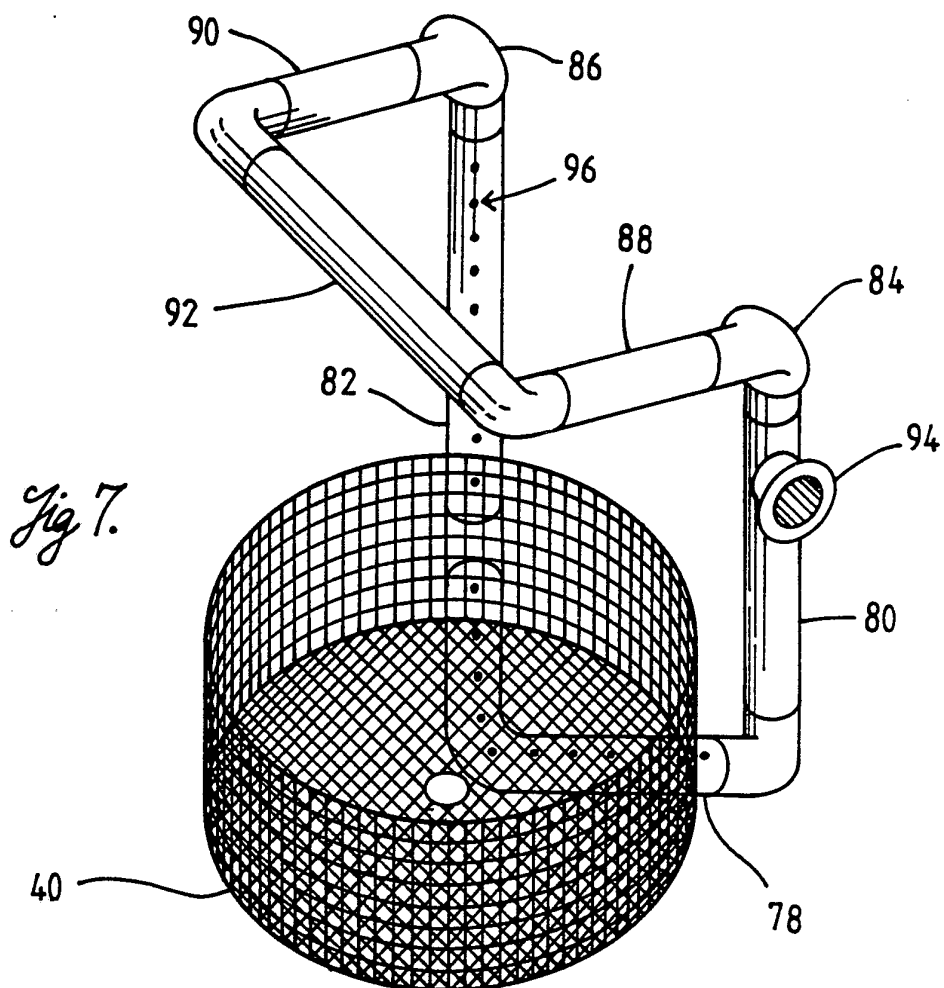



Fig 7.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int. Cl. ⁵ B08B 3/02, 15/02 C23G 5/04, 5/06 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 B08B 3/02, 15/02, C23G 5/04, 5/06 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched AU: IPC as above 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.			
X	FR,A, 2452978 (AXENTA INDUSTRA AB) 31 October 1980 (31.10.80). See Fig 1, claims	1-3,8			
X	WO,A, 89/03192 (KAMPRI AKTIEBOLAG) 20 April 1989 (20.04.89) See Fig 1, claims	1-3			
Y	US,A, 4213475 (MINKIN) 22 July 1980 (22.07.80). See Fig 1, claim 1.	1-3,8			
Y	US,A, 4741351 (MINKIN) 3 May 1988 (03.05.88). See Fig 1, claims.	1-3,8			
Y	US,A, 4744379 (GOETTEL) 17 May 1988 (17.05.88) See Fig 1, claims.	1-3,8			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex. </div>					
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> * 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 </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top; border: none;"> "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 </td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table>			* 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	
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 8 March 1993 (08.03.93)		Date of mailing of the international search report 17 MAR 1993 (17.03.93)			
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA Facsimile No. 06 2853929		Authorized officer  A.W. WINCH Telephone No. (06) 2832132			

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
Y	US,A, 4995409 (WATTS) 26 February 1991 (26.02.91). See Fig 1, claims.	I-4
Y	US,A, 4433698 (BAUL) 28 February 1984 (28.02.84). See Fig 1, claims.	I-3
Y	US,A, 4768534 (ANDERSON) 6 September 1988 (06.09.88). See Fig 1, claims	I-3
A	AU,A, 58988/90 (BALIBEX PTY LTD) 24 January 1991 (24.01.91) See Fig 1, claims	
A	DE,A, 3440412 (PACO MORENO SA) 20 March 1986 (20.03.86) See Fig 1, abstract.	
A	US,A, 3971394 (OSBORNE) 27 July 1976 (27.07.76). See Fig 1, claims.	

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member					
FR	2452978	DE	3012725	SE	7902898		
WO	8903192	SE	8703961				
US	4213475	AU	51513/79	BE	881556	EP	23516
		ES	488252	WO	8001546		
US	4744379	CA	1289438				
US	4433698	CA	1185502	US	4561903	US	4676261
		US	4886081				
AU	58988/90	NZ	234541	US	5107876	ZA	9005669
DE	3440412	AT	3966/84	ES	535829	ES	8600911
END OF ANNEX							