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(54) **Support and sealing assembly for the drum of a laundry dryer.**

(57) A laundry dryer (4) is described having a housing (5) and a drum (6) mounted therein for rotation about a horizontal axis and formed of a peripheral wall (7) and two end walls (8, 9). Rear end wall (9) is of circular shape and mounted on the rear wall of housing (5). Front end wall (8) is formed with a central circular opening (10) surrounded by an upstand rim having a horizontal portion (11) and a rearwardly curved end portion (12).

An annular support collar (13) secured to the front wall of housing (5) is of substantially S-shaped cross-sectional configuration comprising an inner portion (14) disposed within drum opening (10) and an outer portion (15) facing rearwardly curved end portion (12). Inner portion (14) carries a fixed lower bearing member (18) and a pair of upper bearing members (16, 17) biased radially outwards by paired springs (20) into engagement with horizontal rim portion (11).

Outer collar portion (15) contains a support (25) carrying a sealing element (24) and biased towards drum (6) by associated compression springs (30) so as to engage sealing element (24) with rearwardly curved rim end portion (12). The bearing components and sealing components thus act in mutually perpendicular directions, so that wear of one component does not impair the effectiveness of the other.

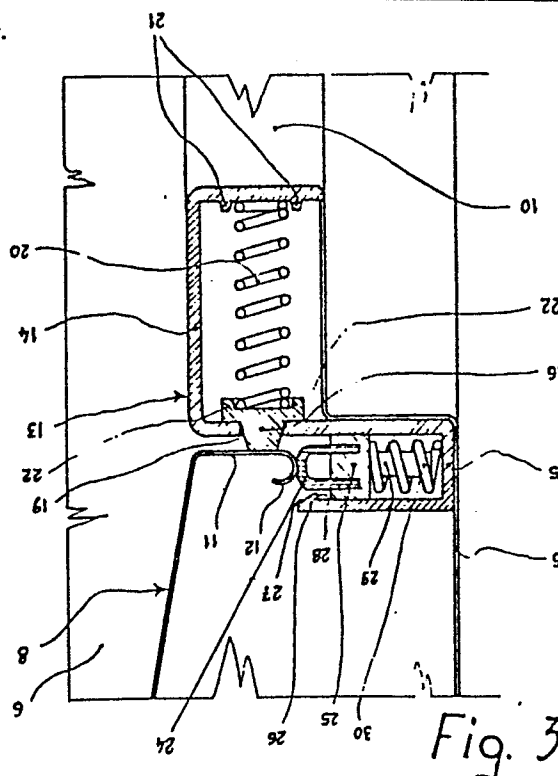


Fig. 3



EP 84 10 9571

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. 4)
A	GB-A-2 095 384 (TOKYO SHIBAURA DENKI K.K.) * Figures 2,3; page 2, lines 2-5,20-27 * ---	1-3	D 06 F 58/06 D 06 F 58/04
A	US-A-3 034 221 (GENERAL MOTORS) * Figure 3; column 2, lines 67,68 * ---	1-3	
A	US-A-3 875 686 (THE SCHLEGEL MANUFACTURING) * Figures 1-3; abstract * ---	2	
A	US-A-3 816 942 (THE MAYTAG CO.) * Figure 2; claim 1 * ---	3	
A	GB-A-1 510 049 (RINNAI K.K.) * Figure 3; page 1, lines 73-84 * -----	1-3	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4) D 06 F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 12-12-1986	Examiner COURRIER, G. L. A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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			