

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

**0 165 690**  
**A3**

(12)

# EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 85303123.5

(51) Int. Cl.: D 06 F 39/02

(22) Date of filing: 02.05.85

(30) Priority: 19.06.84 US 622072

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(43) Date of publication of application: 27.12.85  
Bulletin 85/52

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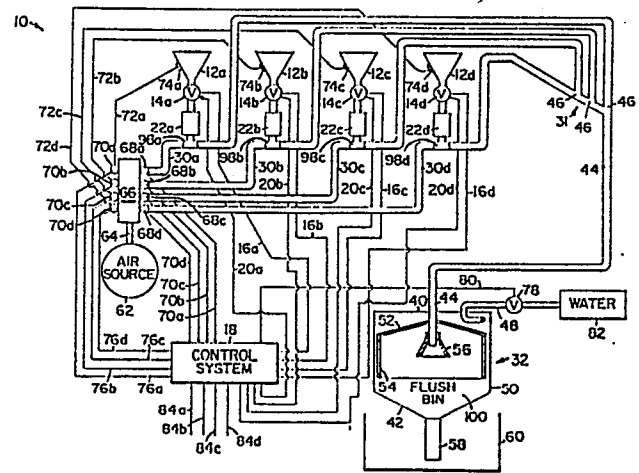
(84) Designated Contracting States: BE DE FR GB IT NL SE

(88) Date of deferred publication of search report: 19.08.87 Bulletin 87/34

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## (54) Pneumatic powder dispensing method and apparatus.

(57) An apparatus and method for dispensing a powder to a washing container (60) within a washing machine. A preferred embodiment (10) of the apparatus includes a plurality of powder hoppers (12) which store, for example, powdered detergent, bleach, softener and sour. Valves (14) selectively permit the powdered products to flow from the hoppers (12) to metering canisters (22), the canisters (22) metering from the hoppers (12) predetermined amounts of the products. At various times in the washing machine's cycle the powdered products are pneumatically launched and conveyed to a flush bin (32) where the products are mixed with water to form a solution. The resulting solution is carried from the flush bin (32) to the washing container (60) within the washing machine.



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0165690

Application number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 85303123.5	
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)	
P,A	US - A - 4 486 910 (SAALMANN) * Totality * --	15	D 06 F 39/C2	
P,A	US - A - 4 463 582 (SAALMANN) * Totality * --			
A	DE - B - 1 585 592 (BAZELMANS) * Totality * --			
A	DD - A - 135 098 (GROSSER, KLÖTZER) * Totality * --			
A	US - A - 2 793 940 (BENNET) * Totality * --			
A	US - A - 3 771 333 (JURJANS) * Totality * --			
A	US - A - 3 336 767 (MACKENZIE) * Totality * ----			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims				
Place of search VIENNA			Examiner KAMMERER	
Date of completion of the search 01-06-1987				
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				