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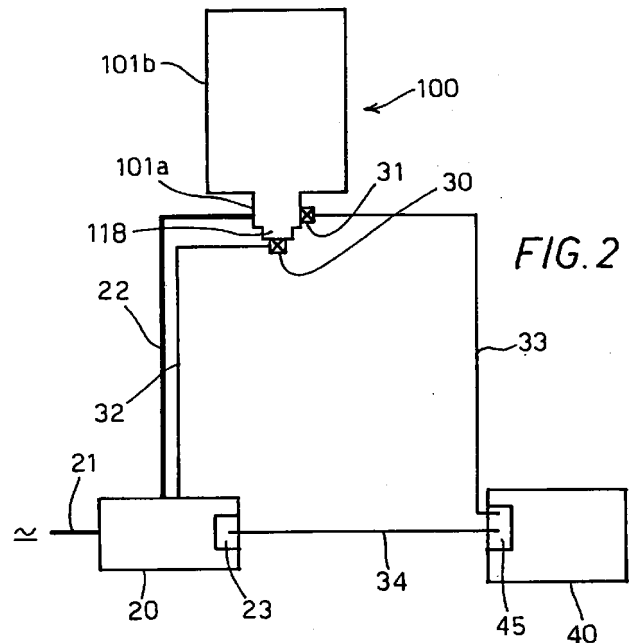
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(54) **Diagnostic method and apparatus for vacuum pumps**

(57) The invention relates to a diagnostic method and apparatus for detecting in advance the wear of rotatable components in vacuum pumps, said pumps comprising gas pumping stages formed by rotor disks (113, 114) secured to a rotatable shaft (123) driven by an electric motor, wherein a warning signal for either a pre-alarm or an alarm wear condition is generated when predetermined wear conditions are reached, by expanding the signal from an accelerometer in contact with the vacuum pump into a Fourier spectrum.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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			F04D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	23 April 1999	Teerling, J	
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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