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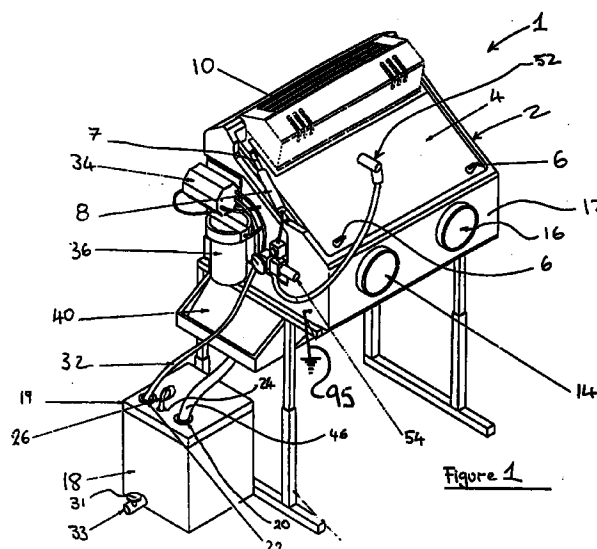
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(54) **Cleaning apparatus**

(57) With reference to Figure 1, solvent cleaning apparatus 1 comprises a sealable enclosure 2 containing a solvent fluid discharge nozzle (Figure 7) in the form of a trigger-operable discharge nozzle 130. The enclosure 2 is of electrically conductive plastics material and is provided with an earth 95 whereby a substantial build-up of static electricity does not take place. The enclosure 2 is provided with a substantially flat rectangular access door 4 of toughened glass pivotally mounted about a horizontal axis, provided with a pneumatic lock assembly comprising a piston 7 and cylinder 8. Located at the uppermost region of the door 4 is a light unit 10 providing, in use, additional illumination for the inside of the enclosure 2. The front panel 12 of the enclosure 2 is formed with two circular access glove ports 14, 16, used to operate the trigger of the discharge nozzle and to manipulate the article being cleaned. The solvent cleaning fluid is stored in a reservoir box 18 formed with an inlet port 20 and an outlet port 22. In use, the solvent fluid is drawn from the reservoir box 18, via a pick-up tube 32 by way of a diaphragm pump 34, to be transported to the enclosure 2 via a cartridge filter 36. Once the solvent liquid has been discharged through the discharge nozzle within the enclosure 2, it falls under gravity into a collection tray 40 to return to the reservoir box 18.



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 98 30 0057

| 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) |
| X                                                                                | US 5 273 060 A (HILL) 28 December 1993                                        | 1,3,7,8,10,11,16-18                                                     | B08B3/00                                     |
|                                                                                  | * column 3, line 30 - line 52 *                                               |                                                                         |                                              |
|                                                                                  | * column 5, line 1 - line 53 *                                                |                                                                         |                                              |
| Y                                                                                | * column 6, line 44 - column 7, line 9; figures *                             | 2,4-6,9,12-15                                                           |                                              |
| A                                                                                | ---                                                                           | 19                                                                      |                                              |
| Y                                                                                | US 4 886 081 A (BLAUL) 12 December 1989                                       | 2,4-6                                                                   |                                              |
|                                                                                  | * column 3, line 42 - column 4, line 67 *                                     |                                                                         |                                              |
|                                                                                  | * column 7, line 63 - line 68 *                                               |                                                                         |                                              |
| A                                                                                | * figures 1,10 *                                                              | 1                                                                       |                                              |
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| Y                                                                                | * abstract; figures *                                                         | 12,14,15                                                                |                                              |
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|                                                                                  | -----                                                                         |                                                                         |                                              |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                       |                                                                               |                                                                         |                                              |
| Place of search                                                                  |                                                                               | Date of completion of the search                                        | Examiner                                     |
| THE HAGUE                                                                        |                                                                               | 18 September 1998                                                       | Leitner, J                                   |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS                                                      |                                                                               |                                                                         |                                              |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone                                         |                                                                               | T : theory or principle underlying the invention                        |                                              |
| Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category |                                                                               | E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date |                                              |
| A : technological background                                                     |                                                                               | D : document cited in the application                                   |                                              |
| O : non-written disclosure                                                       |                                                                               | L : document cited for other reasons                                    |                                              |
| P : intermediate document                                                        |                                                                               | & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document            |                                              |

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