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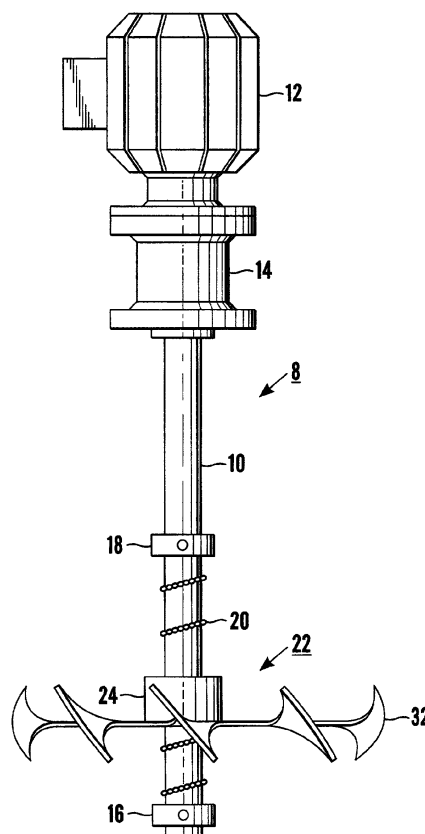
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(54) **Mixing apparatus**

(57) Mixing apparatus comprises a container (2) and a mixing mechanism (8) mounted within the container (2), the mechanism (8) including a driven shaft (10) and a mixing disc (22) mounted on said shaft (10) to be movable axially relative to the shaft (10) and so arranged that, on initial rotation of the shaft (10) in one direction, the disc (22) moves from a predetermined upper position on the shaft (10) to a predetermined lower position on the shaft (10) where it remains on continued rotation of the shaft (10) in said one direction, and, on initial rotation of the shaft (10) in the opposite direction, the disc (22) moves from said predetermined lower position on the shaft (10) to said predetermined upper position on the shaft (10) where it remains on continued rotation of the shaft (10) in said opposite direction. Preferably the disc (22) is bladed, co-operating helical means (20,28) reacting between the shaft (10) and the disc (22) to control the axial movement of the disc (22) along the shaft (10).



**Fig.2**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 98 30 5267

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)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 22 September 2000	Examiner Belibel, C
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P4/C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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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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22-09-2000

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