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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).

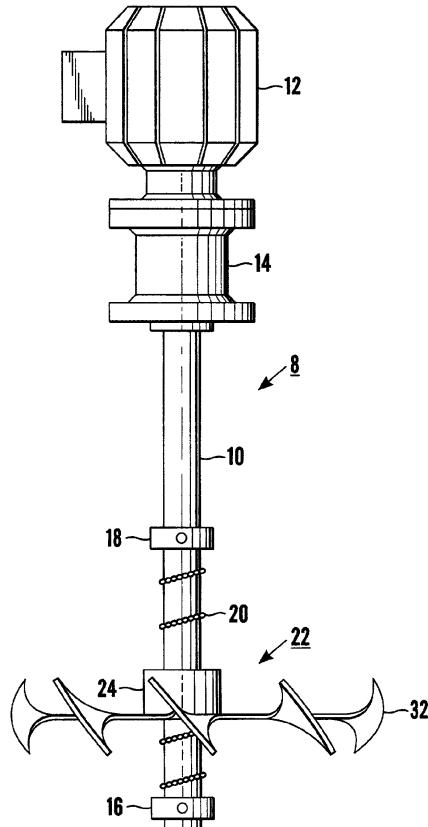


Fig.2



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	US 3 907 459 A (GUEDEL ARTHUR R) 23 September 1975 (1975-09-23) * abstract; figures *	1-6	B01F7/16 B01F15/00
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 010, no. 144 (C-349), 27 May 1986 (1986-05-27) & JP 61 004599 A (MATSHISHITA DENKI SANGYO KK), 10 January 1986 (1986-01-10) * abstract *	1-6	
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A	DE 29 18 997 A (KLOECKNER HUMBOLDT DEUTZ AG) 20 November 1980 (1980-11-20) * figures *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
THE HAGUE	22 September 2000		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			

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

EP 98 30 5267

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. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

22-09-2000

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