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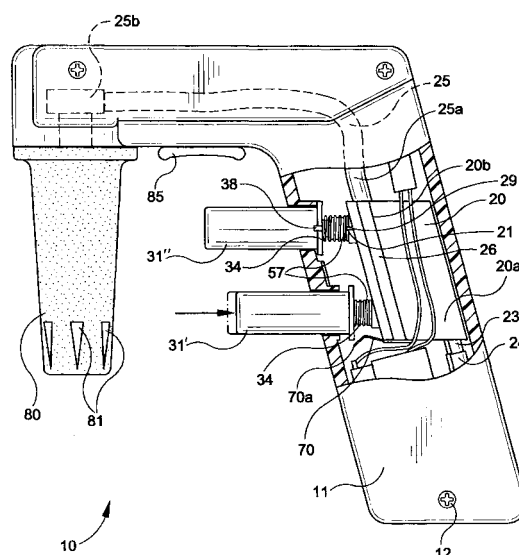
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(54) **Apparatus for drawing liquids into and expelling liquids from a pipet at variable flow rates**

(57) A pipet gun for drawing liquids into and dispensing liquids from a pipet which includes a variable flow valve assembly. The valve assembly includes a valve which is capable of accommodating a plurality of flow rates, and which is progressively adjustable during pipetting between a first air flow rate and a second air flow rate which is in excess of the first flow rate and which is non-progressively adjustable during pipetting to a third air flow rate which is substantially greater than the second air flow rate. The valve assembly further includes a threshold detector in the form of a spring detent, which provides an indication to the operator that the pipet gun is operating at the increased fluid rate, i.e., the "express mode" of operation.

FIG-2



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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)
A,D	US 5 294 405 A (KENNEY JAMES W) 15 March 1994 (1994-03-15) * column 4, line 3 - line 12; figures 1,2,6 *	1	B01L3/02
A	* column 4, line 58 - column 5, line 15 *	4	
X	* column 5, line 32 - line 66; figures 3-5 *	9	

D,A	US 3 963 061 A (KENNEY JAMES W) 15 June 1976 (1976-06-15) * column 2, line 45 - column 3, line 9; figures 6-9 *	1,4,9	
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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 23 November 1999	Examiner Hocquet, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82