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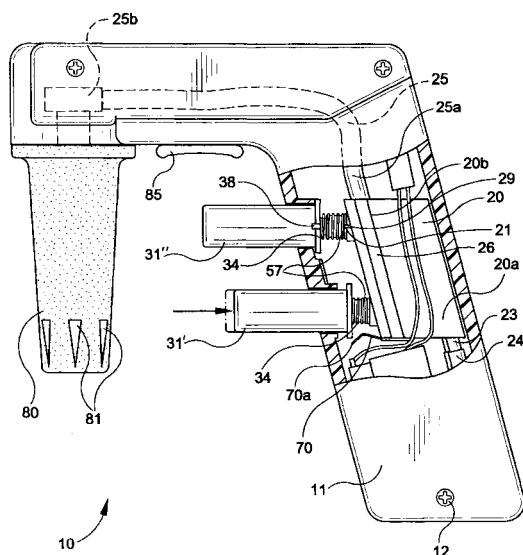
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(54) Apparatus for drawing liquids into and expelling liquids from a pipet at variable flow rates

(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
EP 98 30 7455

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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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A X	* column 4, line 58 - column 5, line 15 * * column 5, line 32 - line 66; figures 3-5 *	4 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	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
THE HAGUE	23 November 1999		Hocquet, A
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.**

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

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