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(54) Machine for the scouring and bleaching of webs of fabric and the like

(57) Into a machine for the treatment of webs of fabric, preferably scouring and bleaching, there is introduced in combination a wringing unit (6) prior to entry into the treatment vat of the machine, for the application of a vacuum to the fabric (2) to be continuously treated, and an arrangement (11,12) for forced passage of the treatment liquid through the web of fabric (2), in a transverse direction to the web of fabric (2) being treated, from an entry face of the web of fabric (2) to the opposed face of the same, which is the liquid outlet face, during the displacement of the web of fabric (2) in the direction of its longitudinal axis, the passage of the liquid being produced by the action of forced suction by means of a liquid suction system.

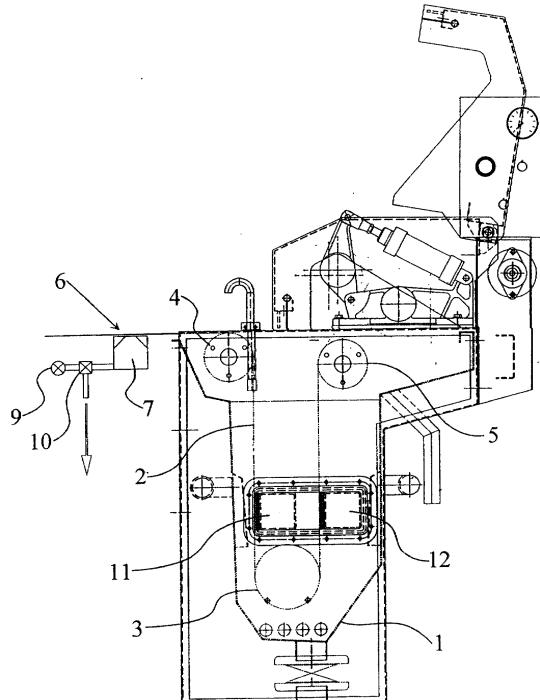


FIG. 1



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	DE 94 13 094 U (EDUARD KÜSTERS MASCHINENFABRIK GMBH & CO KG) 14 December 1995 (1995-12-14) * page 4, line 26 - page 6, line 8 * * page 6, line 25 - page 7, line 3 * ---	1, 2	D06B3/20 D06B15/04
Y	DE 296 07 591 U (EDUARD KÜSTERS MASCHINENFABRIK GMBH & CO KG) 4 September 1997 (1997-09-04) * page 5, line 9 - page 9, line 13 * ---	4	
Y	US 2 600 863 A (R.D.L. FREDERICK) 17 June 1952 (1952-06-17) * column 2, line 12 - column 3, line 31 * * column 4, line 52 - line 69 * * column 6, line 22 - line 27 * ---	4	
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A	WO 88 08895 A (C.M.A. PENET) 17 November 1988 (1988-11-17) * page 4, line 32 - page 5, line 30 * * page 7, line 34 - page 8, line 18 * ---	4	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) D06B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	15 March 2001	Goodall, 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	

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-3

Improvements to machines for scouring and bleaching fabric including in combination a vacuum wringing unit for the fabric prior to its entry into the treatment vat and a suction system for forcing the treatment liquid through the fabric during its passage through the vat.

2. Claims: 4,5

Machine for the wet treatment of fabric including two fabric-receiving rollers with reversible drive means between which the fabric passes through the treatment vat, means for smoothing the moving fabric and a suction system for forcing the treatment liquid through the fabric during its passage through the vat.

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

EP 99 50 0238

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.

15-03-2001

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