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(71) Applicant: **MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL
CO., LTD.**
Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571-8501 (JP)

(72) Inventors:
• **Sato, Shigehiro**
Kusatsu-shi, Shiga 525-0045 (JP)

- **Numoto, Hironao**
Otsu-shi, Shiga 520-2101 (JP)
- **Motegi, Hitoshi**
Kusatsu-shi, Shiga 525-0057 (JP)
- **Watanabe, Yukio, Room 1108,**
Co-op Nomura Kyoto Min
Minami-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 601-8037 (JP)
- **Nakatsuno, Eiji**
Otsu-shi, Shiga 520-2276 (JP)
- **Takeuchi, Hiroyuki**
Otsu-shi, Shiga 520-2264 (JP)

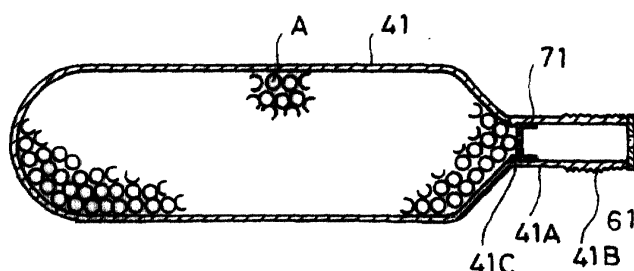
(74) Representative: **Körfer, Thomas, Dipl.-Phys. et al**
Mitscherlich & Partner,
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte,
Sonnenstrasse 33
80331 München (DE)

(54) **Replacing gas apparatus for an air conditioner**

(57) In a replacing gas collecting trap apparatus of the present invention used for installing an air conditioner, an outdoor unit includes a compressor and an outdoor unit heat exchanger into both of which refrigerant gas is charged, an indoor includes an indoor unit heat exchanger which is opened into atmosphere, the outdoor unit and the indoor unit are connected through a

connecting pipe, air in the indoor unit heat exchanger or the connecting pipe is replaced by replacing gas and then, the replacing gas is collected. The apparatus further comprises an absorbent for absorbing the replacing gas, and a container body having a base for introducing the replacing gas, and the base is provided with a lid made of resin material or metal material having low gas-permeability.

FIG.3





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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.7)
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Y	* abstract * * column 4, line 20 - column 6, line 3 * * column 7, line 17 - line 42 * * figures 1,5 *	2,3,23	
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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 6 August 2001	Examiner De Graaf, J
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			

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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:



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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 6 August 2001	Examiner De Graaf, J	
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				

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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 00 10 6829

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, 21, 23

A replacing gas collecting apparatus comprising a metal or flexible film container body.

2. Claims: 4-10

A replacing gas collecting trap apparatus comprising a baffle plate for securely holding an absorbent.

3. Claims: 11-15

A replacing gas collecting trap apparatus comprising a base portion for introducing the replacing gas and a closing lid or valve provided onto said base portion.

4. Claims: 16-20, 22

A replacing gas collecting trap apparatus comprising a container body divided into at least two chambers, charged with respectively an absorbent and a replacing gas.

5. Claims: 24-33

A replacing gas collecting trap apparatus comprising an internal pressure indicating portion provided on the container body.

6. Claims: 34-45

A replacing gas collecting trap apparatus comprising a temperature indicating portion provided on the container body.



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Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
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THE HAGUE		6 August 2001	De Graaf, J	
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