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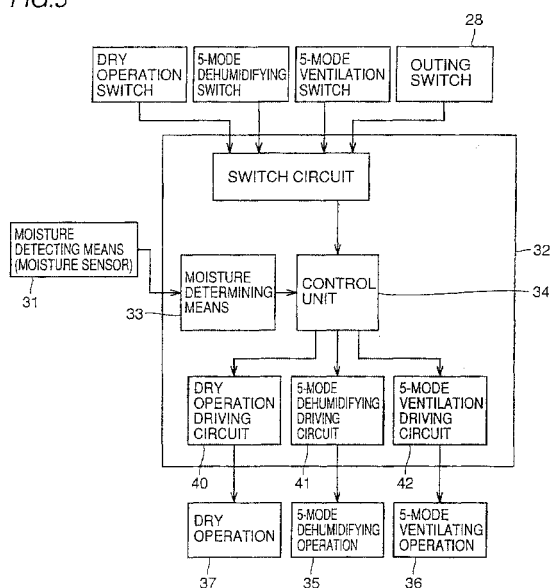
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(54) **Air conditioner having dehumidifying and ventilating functions**

(57) In order to solve the problems of ventilation and dehumidifying of an air conditioner, the air conditioner includes a refrigerant circuit formed by coupling at least a compressor (7), an indoor heat exchanger (4), a de-compressor (8) and an outdoor heat exchanger (6), a humidifying/dehumidifying apparatus (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) provided separate from the refrigerant circuit, for removing moisture in the room, a moisture detection sensor (31) for detecting indoor moisture, and a control unit (34) for switching an operation mode based on the moisture detected by the moisture detection sensor (31). The humidifying/dehumidifying apparatus (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) guides the sucked indoor air to a path communicated to the room and a path communicated to the outside of the room in a ventilation mode (37, 35), and guides the sucked indoor air to the outside of the room in a dehumidifying mode.

FIG.5





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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 30 August 2002	Examiner De Graaf, J.D.
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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Application Number
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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		30 August 2002	De Graaf, J.D.
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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 00 11 9509

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: 1-7

An air conditioner including a refrigerant circuit and a separate humidifier/dehumidifier apparatus, comprising a moisture detecting means for detecting moisture in a room, a control means switching operation mode based on the detected moisture level wherein said humidifier/dehumidifier in a first operation mode guides sucked indoor air into the room as well as to a path to the outside of the room (part recirculation) and in a second operation mode guides the sucked indoor air to the outside of the room (full ventilation).

2. Claims: 8-20

An air conditioner including a refrigerant and a separate humidifying/dehumidifying apparatus, capable of driving in an operating mode in which said refrigerant circuit and said humidifying/dehumidifying apparatus are driven simultaneously.

3. Claims: 21-32

An air conditioner including a refrigerant circuit comprising an indoor temperature sensor, an indoor moisture sensor, a display unit and an operation mode determining means for determining an optimal operation mode based on said various sensors, wherein said display unit displays an advice based on a result of determination made by said operation mode determining means.

4. Claims: 33-39

An air conditioner including a refrigerant circuit, comprising an air conditioner load detecting unit, an electric charge calculating means, a display unit for displaying a calculated amount of electricity charge and a unit price changing means for changing the unit price of electricity.



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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 August 2002	Examiner De Graaf, J.D.
<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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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Application Number
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 August 2002	Examiner De Graaf, J.D.
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