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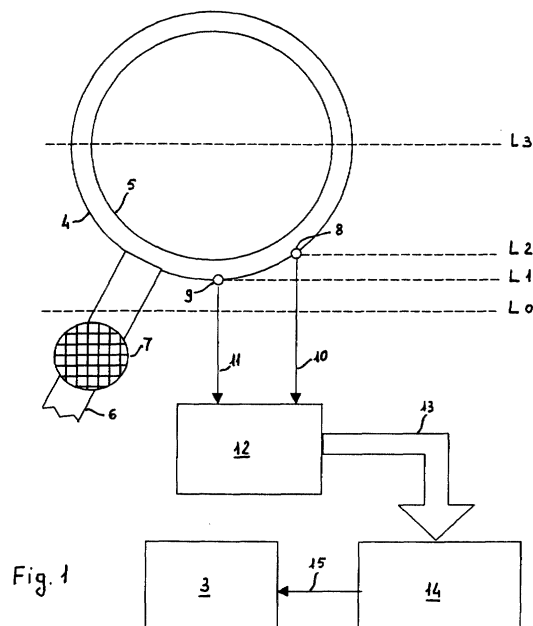
(54) **Method for controlling the lint filter in an automatic clothes washing machine**

(57) In a clothes washing machine that comprises a washing tub (4) containing a drum (5), and is adapted to carry out a rinse cycle with water at a level (L3), as well as a water discharge phase down to a minimum level (L0), the method calls for:

- during the discharge phase (t1-t4), the time interval (T) to be measured, which elapses from an instant

(t2), in which the water in the tub lowers to a level (L2) corresponding to the bottom of the drum (5), to a subsequent instant (t3), in which the water decreases down to a level (L1); and

- when the so measured interval (T) is detected to be longer than a given threshold value (Tr), a signal to be generated which is indicative of a clogged state of the lint filter (7).





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 12 0377

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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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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			D06F
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 00 12 0377

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
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