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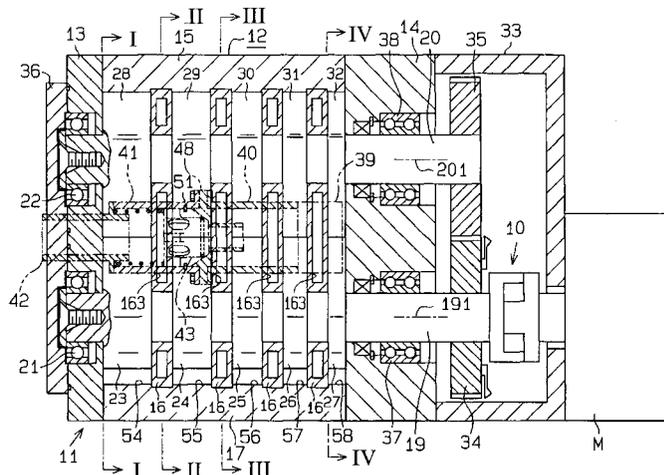
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(54) **Vacuum pump**

(57) Passage structure for a vacuum pump has a flange, a muffler, a valve hole forming body, a guide pipe and an exhaust pipe. The flange is coupled to the muffler. The muffler is detachably fitted into the valve hole forming body. The valve hole forming body is detachably fitted into the guide pipe. The exhaust pipe is coupled to the guide pipe via the valve hole forming body. Each flange of the muffler, the valve hole forming body and

the guide pipe is screw-on all together. A backflow preventing means is constituted of the guide pipe, the valve hole forming body, a valve body and a return spring. The guide pipe accommodates the valve body and the return spring therein. The valve body opens and closes a valve hole formed at the valve hole forming body. A separation preventing means is engaged with an inner circumferential surface of the guide pipe.

Fig. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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			F04C F16K F04B F25B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		14 January 2003	Lequeux, F
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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