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(84) Designated Contracting States: AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR Designated Extension States: AL LT LV MK (30) Priority: 20.01.2003 JP 2003011378 15.04.2003 JP 2003110134 16.06.2003 JP 2003170509 (71) Applicant: Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. Moriguchi-shi, Osaka 570-8677 (JP) (72) Inventors: - Takeuchi, Makoto c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. Moriguchi-shi Osaka 570-8677 (JP) - Takeuchi, Harumi c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. Moriguchi-shi Osaka 570-8677 (JP)	- Suzuki, Masami c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. Moriguchi-shi Osaka 570-8677 (JP) - Nakamura, Satoshi c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. Moriguchi-shi Osaka 570-8677 (JP) - Yoshida, Minoru c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. Moriguchi-shi Osaka 570-8677 (JP) - Yoshida, Kenji c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. Moriguchi-shi Osaka 570-8677 (JP) - Hirose, Satoshi, c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. Moriguchi-shi Osaka 570-8677 (JP) (74) Representative: Browne, Robin Forsythe, Dr. Urquhart-Dykes & Lord LLP Tower North Central Merrion Way Leeds LS2 8PA (GB)
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Drum-type laundry machine

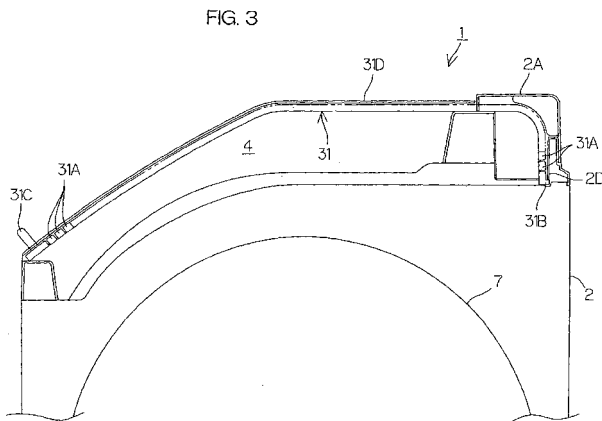
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Adrum-type laundry machine of the present invention ensures that a lid (outer lid) thereof can advantageously be opened and closed.

Anouter lid (31) includes apluralityofbarmembers (31A) each extending laterally and connected to one another in parallel relation by a flexible member and, hence, is bendable between the respective bar members (31A). The outer lid (31) is slidable with its right and

left side edges being fitted along side edges of an opening (4) of a housing (2).

Accordingly, there is no possibility that the outer lid (31) of the drum-type laundry machine (1) hits against a faucet projecting from a wall for supplying water into the drum-type laundry machine, even if the drum-type laundrymachine is installedwith a rear face of the housing (2) thereof fitted along the wall.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 25 0281

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Y	US 5 678 430 A (MERLIN JEAN-PAUL D ET AL) 21 October 1997 (1997-10-21) * column 2, line 27 - column 3, line 7 * * figures 1,3,6,8 *	1,6,13	D06F39/14
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A	FR 2 822 168 A (ESSWEIN SA) 20 September 2002 (2002-09-20) * page 1, line 5 - page 3, line 14 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			D06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 27 July 2004	Examiner Weinberg, E
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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European Patent
Office

Application Number

EP 04 25 0281

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:

1-17



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 04 25 0281

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: 1-17

relate to a drum-type laundry machine comprising a slide lid which is slidable along the inlet opening;

2. claims: 18-19

relate to a drum-type laundry machine comprising a lid, said machine being provided with means for biasing the lid in a lid opening direction and/or with means for holding the lid in a closed state;

3. claims: 20-23

relate to a drum-type laundry machine comprising a lid having a first lid piece and a second lid piece.

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

EP 04 25 0281

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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27-07-2004

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