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(54) **Support for bathrobes, underwear and the like**

(57) A support (1) for bathrobes, underwear and the like comprises: a frame (2), to which a concave barrier (3) is rotatably connected, and a towel holder (4) in particular for a bathrobe. The towel holder (4) presents means for heating the bathrobe, to enable a user to take the bathrobe already warm. The support (1) also comprises an upper cover element (21) supporting at least one lighting lamp.

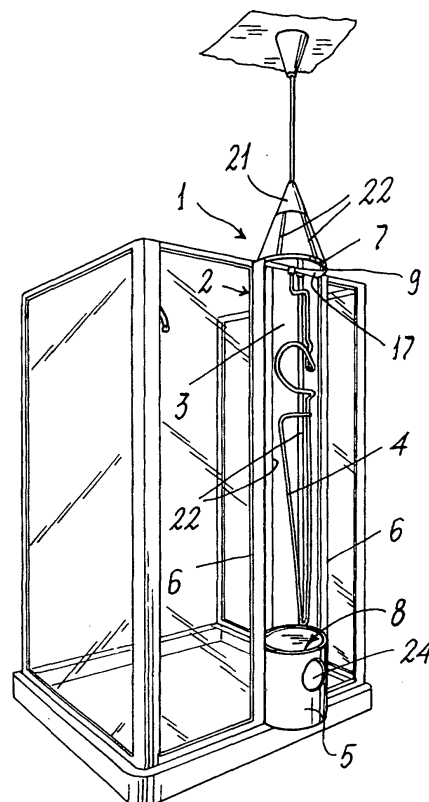


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 00 4340

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)
X	EP 0 555 641 A (UCOSAN BV) 18 August 1993 (1993-08-18)	1,10,14	A47K3/28 A47K10/06
A	* column 2, line 8 - column 5, line 30 * * column 7, line 37 - column 10, line 10; figures 1-5,7,10 *	2,6	
X	US 6 408 457 B1 (BADER SILVIA) 25 June 2002 (2002-06-25)	1,8,14	
A	* column 1, line 16 - column 2, line 41 * * column 2, line 62 - column 4, line 11; figures 1,2 *	3	
X	US 4 117 309 A (CAYLEY MICHAEL PAUL) 26 September 1978 (1978-09-26)	1,8	
	* column 2, line 25 - column 3, line 20; figures 1,2 *		
X	DE 39 07 607 A (HUEPPE GMBH & CO) 13 September 1990 (1990-09-13)	10,14	
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A	EP 0 484 932 A (HUEPPE GMBH & CO) 13 May 1992 (1992-05-13)	1,6,7, 10,14	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) A47K D06F
	* column 3, line 48 - column 9, line 29; figures 3,4,6-9 *		
A	EP 0 622 043 A (LIDO DUSCHABTRENNUNG PROD) 2 November 1994 (1994-11-02)	1,10,14	
	* column 7, line 51 - column 9, line 52; figures 1-6 *		
A	DE 199 13 819 A (KERMI GMBH) 19 October 2000 (2000-10-19)	1,14	
	* column 2, line 49 - column 3, line 1; figures 1,2 *		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 21 September 2004	Examiner Fajarnés Jessen, A
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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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
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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: 1-9

A support for bathrobes, underwear and the like comprising a frame, to which a concave barrier is rotatably connected, a towel holder, whereby said towel holder presents means for heating the bathrobe.

2. claims: 10-13

A support for bathrobes, underwear and the like comprising a frame, to which a concave barrier is rotatably connected, a towel holder and an upper cover element supporting at least one lighting lamp.

3. claim: 14

A shower cabinet comprising a support for bathrobes, underwear and the like.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have the following subject-matter in common:

- a support for bathrobes, underwear and the like comprising:
- a frame, to which a concave barrier is rotatably connected, and
- a towel holder in particular for a bathrobe.

Such a support is already known from documents EP-A1-0 555 641, US-B1-6 408 457 and US-A-4 117 309, cited in the search report.

As a result, there is no technical relationship among the first and second inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features (Rule 30 EPC).

Furhtermore, neither the first nor the second inventions have special technical features, i.e. those thechnical features that define a contribution over the prior art, i.e. over documents EP-A1-0 555 641, US-B1-6 408 457 or US-A-4 117 309.

Therefore, the separate inventions described in claims 1 and 10 are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Article 82 EPC).

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

EP 04 00 4340

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

21-09-2004

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82