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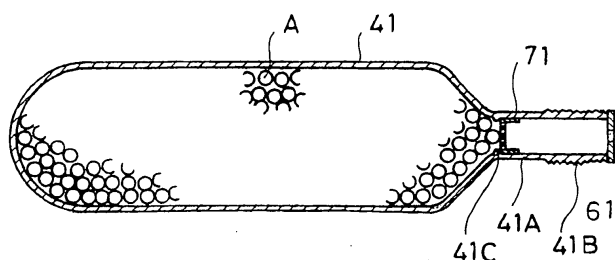
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(54) **Replacing gas collecting trap apparatus used for installing an air conditioner and installation method therefor**

(57) In a replacing gas collecting trap apparatus of the present invention used for installing an air conditioner, an outdoor unit includes a compressor and an outdoor unit heat exchanger into both of which refrigerant gas is charged, an indoor includes an indoor unit heat exchanger which is opened into atmosphere, the outdoor unit and the indoor unit are connected through a

connecting pipe, air in the indoor unit heat exchanger or the connecting pipe is replaced by replacing gas and then, the replacing gas is collected. The apparatus further comprises an absorbent for absorbing the replacing gas, and a container body having a base for introducing the replacing gas, and the base is provided with a lid made of resin material or metal material having low gas-permeability.

**FIG.3**





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 04 01 7342

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)
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Y	* column 2, line 60 - column 3, line 22; figures 2-4 *	2,3,5	
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A	----- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 04, 30 April 1999 (1999-04-30) -& JP 11 014203 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 22 January 1999 (1999-01-22) * abstract; figures 1,3,5,6 *	1	
A	----- US 5 025 633 A (FURMANEK DANIEL J) 25 June 1991 (1991-06-25) * figures 1,2,4,5 *	1,5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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A	----- GB 09652 A A.D. 1910 (CAMPBELL ROBERT HUNTER) 2 February 1911 (1911-02-02)		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 21 February 2005	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 &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)



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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: 1-4

A replacing gas collecting trap apparatus comprising a container body charged with an absorbent and a base portion for introducing said replacing gas, said base portion provided with a closing lid

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2. claim: 5

A replacing gas collecting trap apparatus comprising a container body charged with an absorbent and a base portion for introducing said replacing gas, said base portion provided with an insect valve comprised of an outwardly biased valve core and a valve seat being closed by said valve core and provided in said base portion.

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

EP 04 01 7342

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.

21-02-2005

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