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(54) **Improvements in and relating to washing machines**

(57) A washing machine includes legs (1) provided on a lower portion of a washing machine to contact a support surface, thus supporting the washing machine and absorbing a vibration of the washing machine. The washing machine includes a cabinet (2), and legs (1) which support the cabinet on a support surface. Each of the legs includes first and second vibration absorbing parts (25, 21). The first vibration absorbing part (25) contacts, on a bottom surface thereof, with the support surface, and has elasticity to have a higher contracting strain as a weight applied thereto increases. A bottom surface of the second vibration absorbing part (21) is placed higher than the bottom surface of the first vibration absorbing part (25) by a predetermined height, thus contacting with or being spaced apart from the support surface according to the contracting strain of the first vibration absorbing part (25).

FIG. 3A

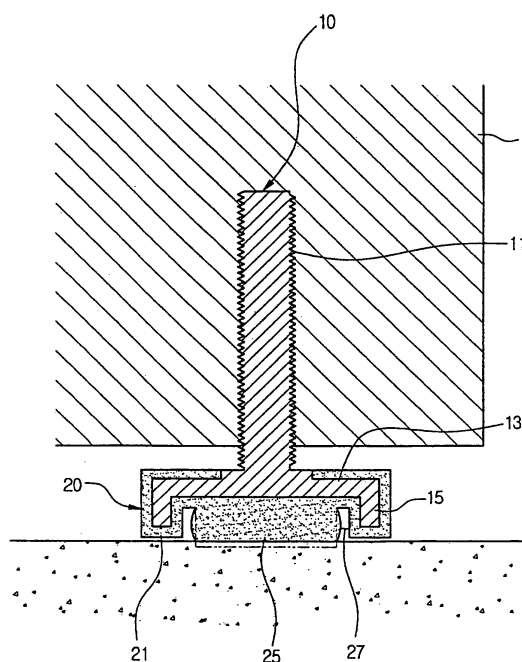
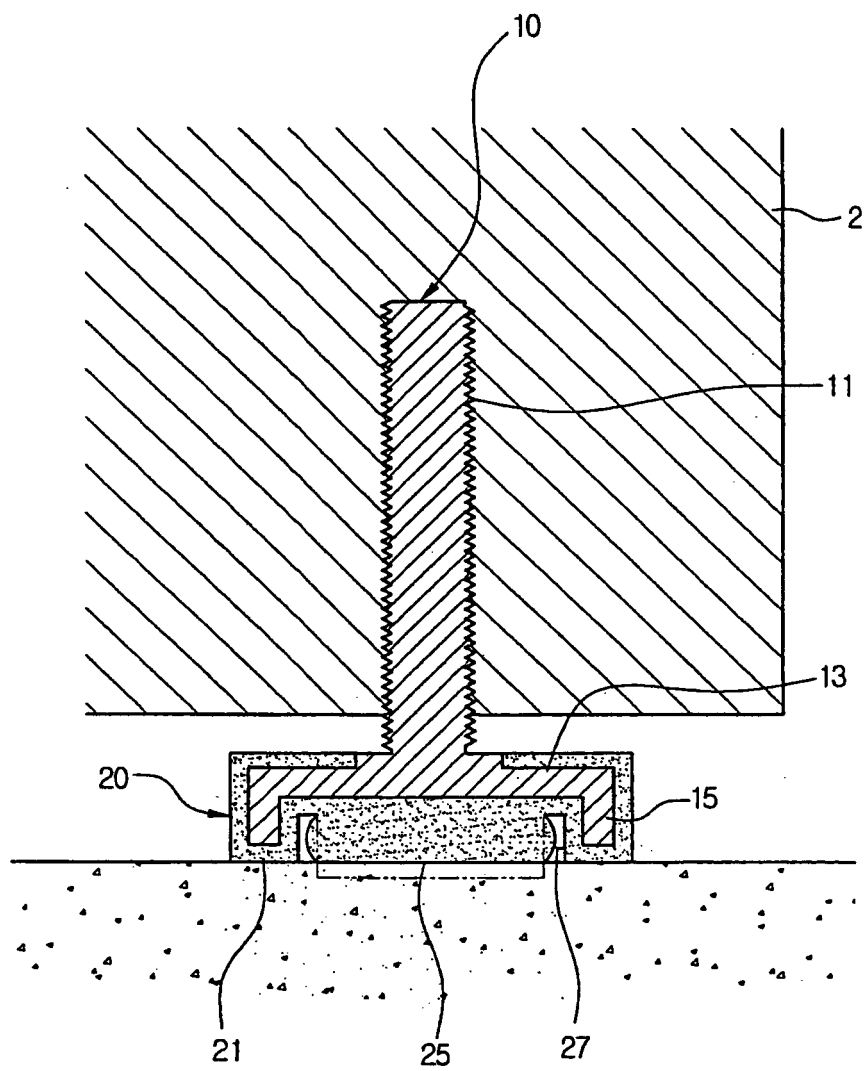


FIG. 3B





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 04 25 3248

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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A	US 4 979 786 A (KURASEKO ET AL) 25 December 1990 (1990-12-25) * the whole document *	1-6	
E	EP 1 493 357 A (ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS CORPORATION N.V) 5 January 2005 (2005-01-05) * the whole document *	1-6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			D06F A47L A47B
<div>2</div> <div>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</div>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		23 March 2006	Norman, P
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div> 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 </div> <div> 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 </div>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**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:

1-6



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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: 1-6

A washing machine with a cabinet and a supporting leg

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2. claims: 7-14

A supporting leg

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

EP 04 25 3248

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.

23-03-2006

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