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(54) Apparatus for vacuum and/or blowing of debris

(57) Vacuum and blowing apparatus is provided having means for selecting between a first vacuum mode and a second blowing mode. A base portion of the apparatus is in contact with a surface from which debris is

to be collected and/or across or relative to which debris is to be blown in use and, depending from the base portion, a body portion of the apparatus supports a collection box for the reception of debris collected from the surface.

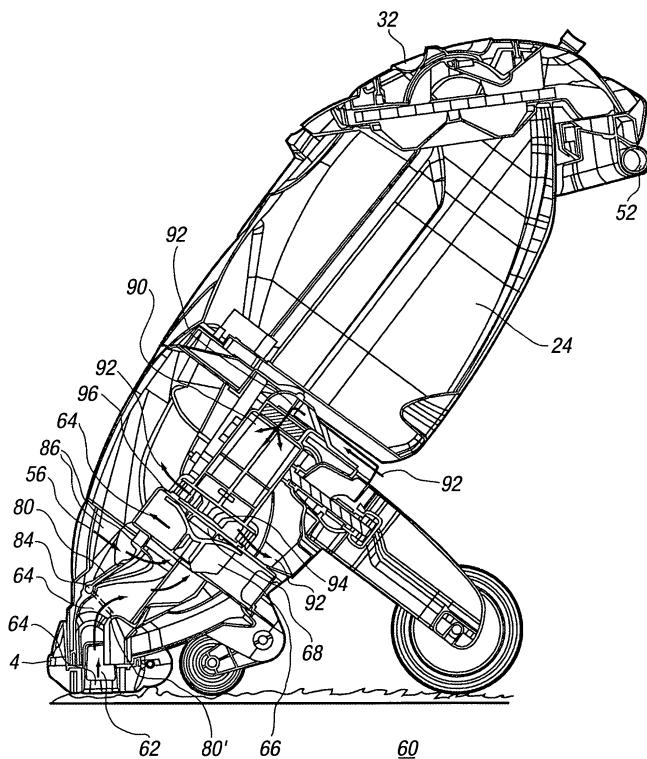


FIG. 2



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 5 294 063 A (BOTE ET AL) 15 March 1994 (1994-03-15) * column 7, line 46 – line 64; figure 11 * -----	1-6,8, 14,15, 29-32	A47L5/14
X	US 6 245 159 B1 (DENG DAVID) 12 June 2001 (2001-06-12) * column 4, line 1 – line 63; figures 1-4B * -----	1-6,8, 29,30	
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-/-			
6 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		26 October 2005	Bordeux, J
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			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 5 243 733 A (STEINER ET AL) 14 September 1993 (1993-09-14) * column 7, line 8 – line 57; figures 1,4-17 *	1,15,26 -----	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
6 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 26 October 2005	Examiner Bordeaux, J
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			

**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:

1-6, 8, 14-18, 26-32

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:



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: 1-6,8,14,15,27-32

Apparatus which can be used in vacuum mode and/or in a blower mode, comprising wheels mounted on arms to allow the selection of the height of the base portion from the surface to be cleaned of debris

2. claim: 7

Apparatus which can be used in vacuum mode and/or in a blower mode, wherein the fan unit is provided so as to allow the debris which passes in the air flow to be shredded

3. claims: 9-13

Apparatus which can be used in vacuum mode and/or in a blower mode, comprising filter means to prevent or minimize the dust particles leaving the collection box

4. claims: 16-18

Apparatus which can be used in vacuum mode and/or in a blower mode, comprising selection means to allow a user to select between a vacuum mode or a blower mode, said selection means including flap means

5. claim: 19

Apparatus which can be used in vacuum mode and/or in a blower mode, wherein a further airflow system is provided to provide a cooling effect to the motor

6. claims: 20,21

Apparatus which can be used in vacuum mode and/or in a blower mode, including a sealing layer

7. claim: 22

Apparatus which can be used in vacuum mode and/or in a blower mode, wherein one or more air flow apertures are provided with fingers

8. claims: 23-25



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 05 25 1664

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:

Apparatus which can be used in vacuum mode and/or in a blower mode, comprising one or more different types of collection heads

9. claim: 26

Apparatus which can be used in vacuum mode and/or in a blower mode, comprising a rigid collection box

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

EP 05 25 1664

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.

26-10-2005

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