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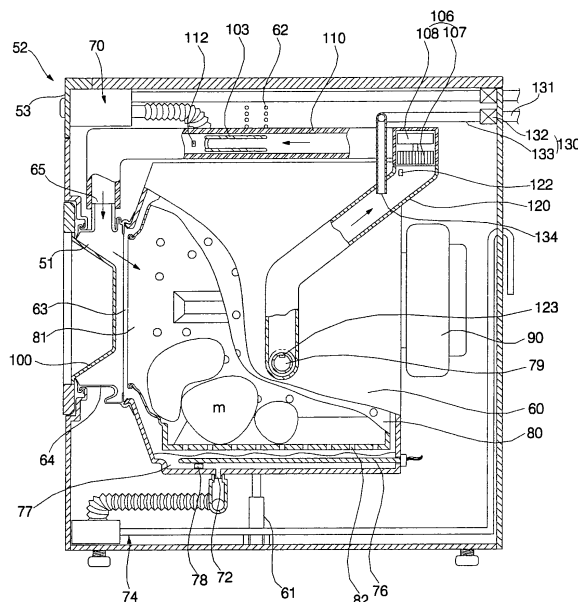
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(54) **Drying control method for washing machines with drying functions/drying machines**

(57) A drying control method for washing machines with drying functions/drying machines comprises an air temperature-measuring step of heating air passing through a heater duct (110) by means of a heater (103) during a drying operation of the washing machine with drying function or the drying machine, and measuring at least one of the temperature ( $T_{in}$ ) of air before being heated and the temperature ( $T_{out}$ ) of air after being heated about the heater (103), a load-calculating step of calculating total load, the sum of the amount of laundry and moisture content contained in the laundry, using a ratio of the change in temperature to the change in time at a specific section while the temperature ( $T_{in}$  or  $T_{out}$ ) of the air is measured at the air temperature-measuring step, a moisture content-calculating step of calculating the moisture content contained in the laundry using a ratio of the change in temperature to the change in time at another specific section next to the specific section of the load-calculating step, and a drying operation-controlling step of controlling the drying operation of the washing machine with drying function or the drying machine according to the total load and the moisture content calculated at the load-calculating step and moisture content-calculating step. According to the drying control method, it is possible to more accurately estimate drying time using moisture content contained in the laundry and more efficiently control the drying operation corresponding to various load conditions.

FIG. 2





## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 05 00 1445

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Category                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages                                                                    | Relevant to claim                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | EP 0 573 703 A (WHIRLPOOL EUROP [NL])<br>15 December 1993 (1993-12-15)<br>* column 4, line 18 - column 6, line 18;<br>claims; figures *<br>----- | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | INV.<br>D06F58/28                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | D06F                                    |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                         |
| Place of search<br>The Hague                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                  | Date of completion of the search<br>15 December 2008                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Examiner<br>Courrier, Gilles            |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS<br>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document |                                                                                                                                                  | T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>.....<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |                                         |

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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

EP 05 00 1445

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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15-12-2008

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| EP 0573703                                | A                   | 15-12-1993                 | NONE                |
| -----                                     |                     |                            |                     |

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