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## **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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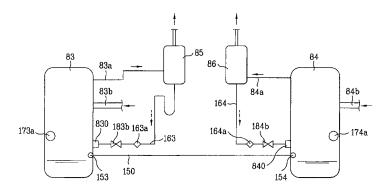
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#### (54) Compressor oil recovering apparatus and multi-unit air conditioner equipped with the same

(57) A compressor oil recovering apparatus is disclosed which is capable of re-supplying, to a compressor (83,84), oil separated in an oil separator (85,86) after emerging from the compressor. The compressor oil recovering apparatus includes an oil separator adapted to separate oil from a refrigerant discharged from a com-

pressor, an oil recovering port (830,840) provided at the compressor, and an oil recovering tube (163,164) having one end connected to the oil separator, and the other end connected to the oil recovering port. A non-uniform oil distribution is prevented by temperature sensors (153,154) arranged in the compressors and a uniform distribution tube (150).

FIG. 9





## **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number EP 05 02 4655

1	DOCUMENTS CONSIDE	RED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indi- of relevant passage		Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
x Y	US 6 125 642 A (SEEN 3 October 2000 (2000 * the whole document	-10-03)	1,3,5,6, 8,11 2,4	INV. F25B31/00
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF vol. 1996, no. 12, 26 December 1996 (19% JP 08 200856 A (DA 6 August 1996 (1996-4 abstract; figures	 JAPAN 96-12-26) IKIN IND LTD), 98-06)	2,4	
P	EP 0 838 640 A (MATS) COMPANY) 29 April 19 * claims 8,10,13; fi	98 (1998-04-29)	1	
				TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
	The present search report has bed	<del>en drawn up for all claims</del>		
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
	The Hague	27 March 2006	van	Berlo, A
X : parti Y : parti docu A : tech	TEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS cularly relevant if taken alone cularly relevant if combined with another ment of the same category nopicial background written disclosure	E : earlier patent d after the filing da D : document cited L : document cited	l in the application for other reasons	shed on, or



Application Number

EP 05 02 4655

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:  1-6,8,11



# LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION SHEET B

Application Number

EP 05 02 4655

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: 1-6,8,11

Compressor oil recovering apparatus

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2. claims: 7,9,10

Sensor in the compressor

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3. claims: 12,13

Multi-unit airco comprising a uniform distribution tube

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

EP 05 02 4655

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.

27-03-2006

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