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### (54) Timing control unit

(57) A timing control unit 100 for a heating and hot water system comprises a rotatable knob 110 disposed within a ring of illuminable segments 120. Each segment in the ring 120 corresponds to a fifteen minute time interval during a day. A ring of numbers 130 is provided within the ring of segments 120 to indicate the hours of the day that the segments 120 correspond to. In order to set activation periods for the heating/hot water, a user

selects a start time by rotating the knob 110 to the desired start of the activation period; pressing the knob 110 to select the desired start of the activation period; rotating the knob 110 to the desired end of the activation period, and pressing the knob to select the end of the desired activation period. Whilst setting the activation periods, the time interval segment currently selected by the knob is indicated by being illuminated intermittently.

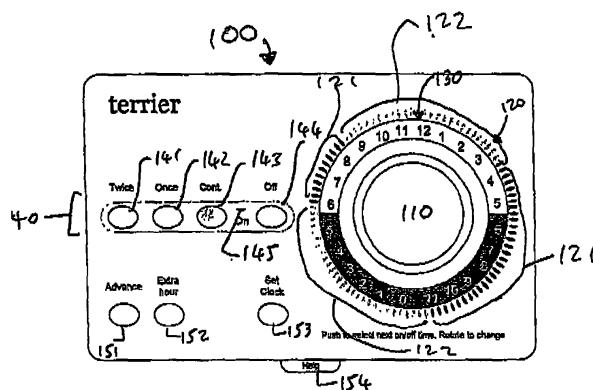


FIGURE 1



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 06 25 2140

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	EP 0 953 888 A (BTICINO SPA [IT]) 3 November 1999 (1999-11-03) * paragraphs [0001], [0017], [0018], [0023] - [0028], [0033], [0038] - [0040]; claim 13; figures 1-3 * -----	1-25	INV. G04G15/00 G04C23/28						
A	DE 93 20 245 U1 (SUEVIA UHRENFABRIK GMBH [DE]) 3 March 1994 (1994-03-03) * the whole document *	1-25							
A	WO 00/29915 A (KIM JOO SUL [KR]) 25 May 2000 (2000-05-25) * the whole document *	1-25							
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)						
			H01H G04C G04G G04F						
<p>4 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>									
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Place of search</td> <td>Date of completion of the search</td> <td>Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Hague</td> <td>6 May 2009</td> <td>Bream, Philip</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	The Hague	6 May 2009	Bream, Philip
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner							
The Hague	6 May 2009	Bream, Philip							
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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							
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									



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## **CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due 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 those claims for which no payment was due.

## 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:

1-25

The present supplementary 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 (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**  
**SHEET B**

Application Number  
EP 06 25 2140

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: 1-25

A timer control for controlling the activation of multiple peripheral devices from one controller. Illuminable segments surrounding a knob are illuminated or extinguished depending on whether a peripheral device is set to be active or inactive, respectively. A segment flashes to display the current time. A heating and hot water system controlled by this controller where the heating and hot water systems are controlled independently.

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2. claims: 26-36

Biassing means to retain a knob in a first axial position.

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3. claims: 37-39

The rotation of a knob is monitored by a ring of light sensing elements around its outer edge with a light emitting means adjacent to the outer edge of the knob aligned with the light sensing elements such that light emitted is incident on only one light sensing element at any one time.

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

EP 06 25 2140

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.

06-05-2009

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