



(11)

EP 1 925 715 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
23.12.2009 Bulletin 2009/52

(51) Int Cl.:
D06F 58/26 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
28.05.2008 Bulletin 2008/22

(21) Application number: 07022223.7

(22) Date of filing: 15.11.2007

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE
SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK RS

(30) Priority: 21.11.2006 JP 2006314580

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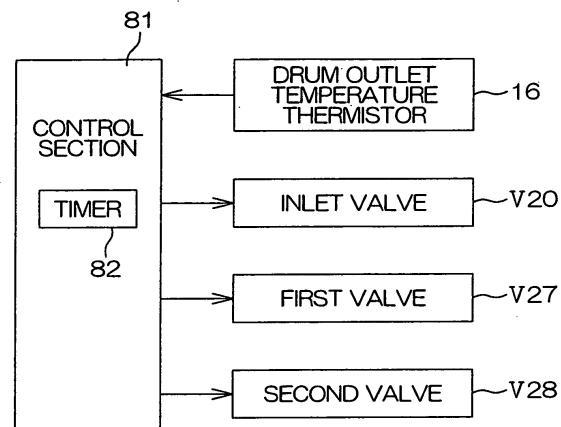
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(54) Laundry apparatus

(57) A laundry apparatus according to the present invention is capable of stably regulating a laundry drying temperature without reduction in the service life of a valve which regulates the amount of steam to be supplied to heating unit. In the laundry apparatus, a first steam supply passage (24a) having a relatively great passage diameter and a second steam supply passage (24b) having a relatively small passage diameter are provided independently of each other. Thus, a relatively great amount of steam is supplied from the first steam supply passage (24a) to a drying heater (13) with a first valve (V27) being opened, and a relatively small amount of steam is supplied to the drying heater (13) with a second valve (V28) being opened. By selectively using the first valve (V27) and the second valve (V28), the opening/closing frequencies of these valves are reduced. This makes it possible to stably regulate the laundry drying temperature while preventing reduction in the service lives of these valves.

FIG. 3





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 02 2223

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | |
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| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| 1 | Place of search | Date of completion of the search | Examiner |
| | Munich | 16 November 2009 | Westermayer, Wilhelm |
| 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 | |
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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16-11-2009

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