



(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**

(71) Applicants:  
• **Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.**  
**Osaka 570-8677 (JP)**  
• **SANYO Electric Techno Create Co., Ltd.**  
**Moriguchi-shi**  
**Osaka**  
**570-8677 (JP)**

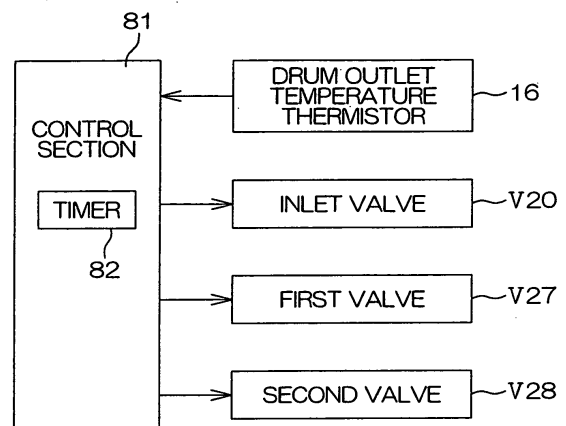
(72) Inventors:  
• **Nishino, Masafumi**  
**Moriguchi-shi**  
**Osaka 570-8677 (JP)**  
• **Murakami, Kazushige**  
**Moriguchi-shi**  
**Osaka 570-8677 (JP)**  
• **Naganawa, Mitsuru**  
**Moriguchi-shi**  
**Osaka 570-8677 (JP)**

(74) Representative: **Steil, Christian et al**  
**Witte, Weller & Partner**  
**Postfach 10 54 62**  
**70047 Stuttgart (DE)**

(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



**EP 1 925 715 A3**



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 07 02 2223

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	JP 08 038791 A (SANYO ELECTRIC CO) 13 February 1996 (1996-02-13) * abstract; figure 1 *	1-4	INV. D06F58/26
A	DE 20 2006 007364 U1 (HORNUNG GMBH INDUPRESS & CO KG [DE]) 13 July 2006 (2006-07-13) * paragraph [0033]; figure 3 *	1-4	
A	JP 02 029296 A (SANYO ELECTRIC CO) 31 January 1990 (1990-01-31) * abstract; figure 1 *	1-4	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			D06F
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		16 November 2009	Westermayer, Wilhelm
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

1  
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P4/C01)

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

EP 07 02 2223

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.

16-11-2009

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 8038791 A	13-02-1996	JP 3138149 B2	26-02-2001
DE 202006007364 U1	13-07-2006	NONE	
JP 2029296 A	31-01-1990	JP 1877263 C	07-10-1994
		JP 5088640 B	22-12-1993