



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
01.09.2010 Bulletin 2010/35

(51) Int Cl.:
A47L 9/00 (2006.01) A47L 9/24 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
01.04.2009 Bulletin 2009/14

(21) Application number: **08253105.4**

(22) Date of filing: **23.09.2008**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL NO PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA MK RS

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(30) Priority: **28.09.2007 JP 2007255052**
18.09.2008 JP 2008239502

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(54) **Vacuum cleaner**

(57) An upstream-side hose 11 is in the contracted state when in the natural length and can be stretched by an external force, and, at least when in the contracted state, can be accommodated in an extension pipe unit 6. The upstream part of the upstream-side hose 11 is connected to the downstream part of the extension pipe unit 6. A downstream-side hose 12, of which the contractive property when exposed to a negative pressure from a motor fan is smaller than that of the upstream-side hose 11, is connected to the downstream part of the upstream-side hose 11. A securing means 33 that is capable of

maintaining the upstream-side hose 11 in the extended state is provided. When cleaning is performed, the securing means 33 maintains the upstream-side hose 11 in the extended state. Ease of cleaning is facilitated by preventing contraction of the upstream-side hose 11 due to negative pressure from the motor fan 2 or other force during cleaning. When stowing away the vacuum cleaner, the entire length of the pipe assembly 4 can be minimized by stowing the upstream-side hose 11 in the contracted state in the extension pipe unit 6, enabling the vacuum cleaner to be stowed easily and neatly.

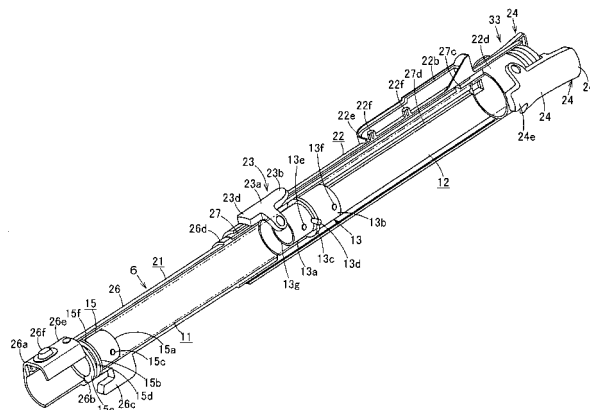


FIG. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 25 3105

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 27 July 2010	Examiner Blumenberg, Claus
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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