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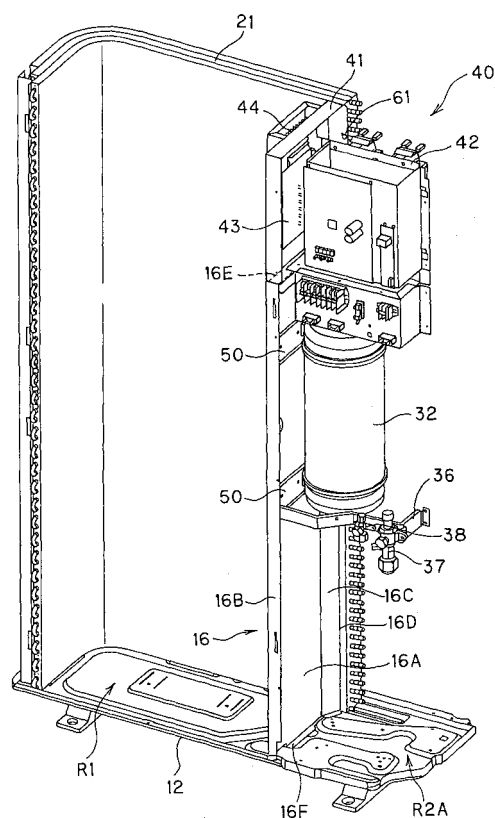
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(54) **Outdoor unit of air conditioner**

(57) In an outdoor unit of an air conditioner including a housing, a partition plate for compartmenting the inside of the housing into a heat exchange chamber and a machine chamber, a heat exchanger and an air blower are mounted in the heat exchange chamber while a compressor, an electrical component box and an accumulator are mounted in the machine chamber, at least one reinforcing plate is provided to the partition plate and the accumulator is fixed to the partition plate through the reinforcing plate. A support plate is provided to support the electrical component unit at the machine chamber side, and one end portion thereof can be temporarily fixed to a tube plate of the heat exchanger while the support plate is mounted on the partition plate. The heat exchanger has fin tube heat exchanging portions laminated in a thickness direction and a step portion for allowing outdoor air to pass therethrough is formed at one end side.

FIG.6



**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of
subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 08 01 6780

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	JP 2006 226652 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 31 August 2006 (2006-08-31) * abstract; figure 7 *	1-6	INV. F24F13/24 F24F1/06 F24F5/00 F24F13/20 F24F1/00
A	JP 9 243115 A (SANYO ELECTRIC CO) 16 September 1997 (1997-09-16) * abstract; figures 1-5 *	1-6	
A	JP 7 035376 A (MATSUSHITA REFRIGERATION) 7 February 1995 (1995-02-07) * abstract; figures 8,9 *	1-6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			F24F
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>see sheet C</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		16 July 2012	Decking, Oliver
<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</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03/02 (P04E07)



INCOMPLETE SEARCH SHEET C

Application Number

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Claim(s) completely searchable:

1-6

Claim(s) not searched:

7-15

Reason for the limitation of the search:

INCOMPLETE SEARCH

According to Rule 43(2) EPC only one independent claim per category is allowable. This requirement is not met since the claims 7 and 12 are independent claims directed to an apparatus.

Moreover they do not fulfill the requirements for allowable independent claims mentioned under Rule 43(2) EPC a), b) or c) since their subject-matter does not

a) involve a plurality of interrelated products,

b) involve different uses of an apparatus or

c) involve alternative solutions to a particular problem, where the coverage by a single claim would be inappropriate.

Therefore the applicant has been requested to restrict the subject-matter to be search according Rule 62a EPC.

In reply to the invitation to indicate the claims on which the search is to be based, the applicant failed to supply the requested indication in due time.

Thus, the search report has been drawn up on the basis of the first independent claim of each category (Rule 62a(1) EPC): claims 1-6

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that the application will be further prosecuted on the basis of subject-matter for which a search has been carried out and that the claims should be limited to that subject-matter at a later stage of the proceedings (Rule 62a(2) EPC).

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

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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.

16-07-2012

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 2006226652 A	31-08-2006	JP 4470755 B2 JP 2006226652 A	02-06-2010 31-08-2006
JP 9243115 A	16-09-1997	NONE	
JP 7035376 A	07-02-1995	NONE	

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82