(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) EP 2 128 451 A1

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**
published in accordance with Art. 153(4) EPC

(43) Date of publication:
**02.12.2009 Bulletin 2009/49**

(21) Application number: **08722743.5**

(22) Date of filing: **25.03.2008**

(51) Int Cl.:
***F04D 29/44*** *(2006.01)* ***F04D 17/08*** *(2006.01)*
***F04D 29/66*** *(2006.01)* ***F24F 1/00*** *(2006.01)*

(86) International application number:
**PCT/JP2008/055477**

(87) International publication number:
**WO 2008/123208 (16.10.2008 Gazette 2008/42)**

(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**

(30) Priority: **27.03.2007 JP 2007081325**

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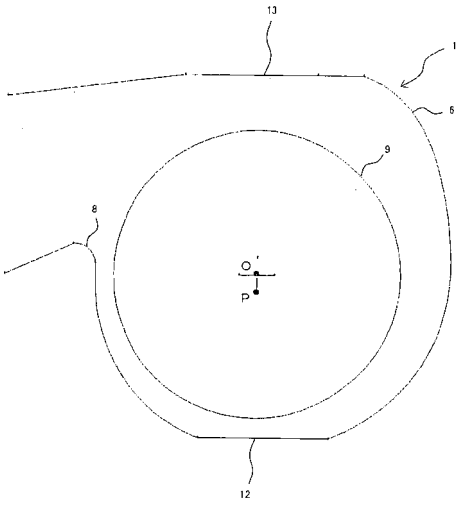
(54) **SIROCCO FAN AND AIR CONDITIONER**

(57) A sirocco fan capable of reducing a noise value and a number of revolutions when obtaining a predetermined air-blowing amount, and an air-conditioning apparatus provided with the sirocco fan are provided.

In the sirocco fan provided with a scroll 6, a fan body, which is rotatably disposed in the scroll 6 and includes a large number of blades arranged in a cylindrical manner, and a motor for rotationally driving the fan body, the scroll 6 is provided with two straight line portions 12 and 13 being approximately in parallel with each other on a whorl-like outer shape thereof, and a rotation shaft of the motor is positioned nearer to the straight line portion 12 situated nearer a tongue portion 8 of the scroll.

FIG. 2




EP 2 128 451 A1

## Description

Technical Field

**[0001]** The present invention relates to a sirocco fan and an air-conditioning apparatus in which a noise is reduced and an air-blowing characteristic is improved.

Background Art

**[0002]** Hitherto, in a sirocco fan, a reverse flow phenomenon, in which a part of airflow that is blown out from a whorl-shaped scroll flows from an outer part of the sirocco fan to an inner part thereof occurs, is well known. When the reverse flow phenomenon occurs, since a reverse flow of air collides with a suction airflow, not only an air-blowing amount is reduced, but also a noise is increased. Therefore, it is devised that a shape of a bell mouth that forms a suction opening of the scroll is changed while dividing it into areas in circumferential directions so that such a reverse flow phenomenon is suppressed, or the like (for example, refer to Patent Document 1). Further, an example, in which an auxiliary tongue portion is provided in addition to a tongue portion, in a manner so as to protrude from the tongue portion, is also proposed (for example, refer to Patent Document 2).

**[0003]**

[Patent Document 1] Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 9-126193 (Pages 4 and 5, Fig. 1 and Fig. 2)
[Patent Document 2] Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2006-138268 (Page 4, Fig. 1 and Fig. 3)

Disclosure of Invention

Problems to be Solved by the Invention

**[0004]** In the mean time, in the air-conditioning apparatus on which the hitherto known sirocco fan is mounted, there have been problems such as that, since an air-blowing amount of air blown out from the sirocco fan at a predetermined noise value is small and performance of a heat exchanger is lowered, a load of a compressor is increased and a COP (coefficient of performance) is lowered. In addition, if the air-blowing amount of the air blown out from the sirocco fan is increased in order to suppress the lowering of the COP, the noise value is increased and an uncomfortable feeling is given to a user.

**[0005]** In light of the above-described problems, an object of the present invention is to provide a sirocco fan capable of obtaining a large air-blowing amount at a time of a predetermined noise occurrence, in other words, to provide a sirocco fan capable of reducing a noise value and a number of revolutions of the sirocco fan, when obtaining a predetermined air-blowing amount, and the air-conditioning apparatus provided with the sirocco fan.
Further, another object of the present invention is to suppress a reverse flow phenomenon by devising a shape of a scroll, and thereby reducing the noise value while keeping the predetermined air-blowing amount.

Means for Solving the Problems

**[0006]** A sirocco fan according to the present invention is **characterized in that** in the sirocco fan including a scroll, a fan body that is rotatably disposed in the scroll and includes a large number of blades arranged in a cylindrical manner, and a motor for rotationally driving the fan body, the scroll includes two straight line portions being approximately in parallel with each other on a whorl-like outer shape thereof, and a rotation shaft of the motor is positioned close to one of the two straight line portions, which is situated nearer a tongue portion of the scroll. Advantages

**[0007]** According to the present invention, in the sirocco fan including a scroll, a fan body that is rotatably disposed in the scroll and includes a large number of blades arranged in a cylindrical manner, and a motor for rotationally driving the fan body, the scroll includes two straight line portions being approximately in parallel with each other on a whorl-like outer shape thereof, and a rotation shaft of the motor is positioned nearer to one of the two straight line portions, which is situated nearer a tongue portion of the scroll. Thereby, the air-blowing amount at a time of a predetermined noise occurrence can be increased and in a case of an air-conditioning apparatus, a COP can be improved.

Brief Description of Drawings

**[0008]**

[Fig. 1] Fig. 1 is composed of a schematic plan view (a) and a schematic side elevation (b) illustrating an internal construction of an indoor unit of an air-conditioning apparatus provided with a sirocco fan in a first embodiment according to the present invention.
[Fig. 2] Fig. 2 is view illustrating a positional relationship between a center of a bell mouth and a center of a rotation shaft in the first embodiment.
[Fig. 3] Fig. 3 is a view illustrating a scroll shape in a second embodiment.
[Fig. 4] Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing an assembled body of a motor-supporting stand, a fan motor, and a fan body in a third embodiment.
[Fig. 5] Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing the motor-supporting stand in Fig. 4.
[Fig. 6] Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing a case that an airflow duct is provided in the motor-supporting stand.
[Fig. 7] Fig. 7 is a schematic view illustrating a case that a rib is provided at both ends of a tongue portion of the scroll in a fourth embodiment.
[Fig. 8] Fig. 8 is a schematic side elevation illustrating a rib of Fig. 7.
[Fig. 9] Fig. 9 is a view illustrating a velocity distribution in a blowing-out opening of the sirocco fan.
[Fig. 10] Fig. 10 is a view illustrating a reverse flow phenomenon in the blowing-out opening of the sirocco fan.

Reference Numerals

**[0009]**

1: sirocco fan
2: fan motor
3: heat exchanger
4: suction opening
5: blowing-out opening
6: scroll
7: rotation shaft
8: tongue portion
9: bell mouth
10: indoor unit
11: fan body
12: straight line portion
13: straight line portion
14: motor-supporting stand
15: airflow duct
16: rib
17: suction opening
18: blowing-out opening
20: reverse flow area
22: flow

Best Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

**[0010]** Hereinbelow, an embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings.

First Embodiment

**[0011]** Fig. 1 is composed of a schematic plan view (a) and a schematic side elevation (b) illustrating an inner construction of an indoor unit of an air-conditioning apparatus provided with a sirocco fan in a first embodiment according to the present invention.
In Fig. 1, a reference numeral 10 denotes an indoor unit constituting an indoor air-conditioning apparatus, and is provided with a pair of sirocco fans 1 and 1, a fan motor 2 that rotationally drives these sirocco fans 1 and 1 simultaneously, and a heat exchanger 3 that performs a heat-exchanging operation with air that is blown out from the sirocco fan 1. The sirocco fan 1 is provided with a whorl-shaped scroll 6, and a fan body including a large number of blades that are rotatably disposed in the scroll 6 and arranged in a cylindrical manner. In the drawing, a reference numeral 4 denotes a suction opening for the air, a reference numeral 5 denotes a blowing-out opening for cool air or warm air, a reference numeral 7 denotes a rotation shaft of the fan motor 2 and a reference numeral 8 denotes a tongue portion.
**[0012]** The aforementioned indoor unit 10 is provided with a refrigerating circuit for a refrigerant, which is composed

of a compressor, a condenser, an expansion valve, and an evaporator, all of which are not illustrated, and is configured to perform a cooling operation, a heating operation, or the like in a room. Further, an example of specifications in the present first embodiment is as follows: the sirocco fan 1 is configured to have a fan-diameter φ of 160 mm, a width dimension of 190 mm, the number of the blades of 40, and the heat exchanger 3 is provided with a heat transmission pipe of 12 steps, and an array pitch of the heat transmission pipe is 12.7 mm and a step pitch thereof is 20.4 mm, a length in an axial direction of the heat transmission pipe is 700 mm, and a draft resistance ΔP1 is 23.1 $V^{1.3}$ [Pa] (V: velocity[m/s]). Furthermore, the indoor unit 10 is configured to have a depth of 680 mm, a height of 210 mm, and a width of 960 mm.

**[0013]** The air in the room is sucked in from the suction opening 4 of the indoor unit 10, and is further sucked in from a suction opening of the scroll 6 in an axial direction. The air, to which a dynamic pressure and a static pressure are applied by a cylindrical blade array rotated in the scroll 6 by means of the fan motor 2, is blown out from a discharge opening that is opening into an air path of the indoor unit 10. The air is heat-exchanged with the heat exchanger 3 installed in the air trunk, and is blown out from the blowing-out opening 5 into the room while being changed into cool air or warm air.

**[0014]** Fig. 2 is a view illustrating a positional relationship between a center of the rotation shaft of the fan motor and a center of a bell mouth 9 in the first embodiment of the present invention. A point O denotes the center of the bell mouth 9 and a point P denotes the center of the rotation shaft of the fan motor 2 (a rotation center of the fan).
The scroll 6 of the present first embodiment is provided with two straight line portions 12 and 13 that are approximately in parallel with each other on a whorl-like outer shape of the scroll 6, and the center of the rotation shaft 7 of the fan motor 2 is offset toward the straight line portion 12 situated nearer the tongue portion 8 of the scroll 6. That is, the rotation center P of the fan is offset relatively to the center O of the bell mouth 9 and the offset position is set to be nearer the straight line portion 12 situated nearer the tongue portion 8.

**[0015]** In Table 1, a noise value and a number of revolutions, under the conditions that an air-blowing amount of air blown out from the indoor unit is 16 $m^3$/min and a length OP is set to be 0 mm and 2 mm, are shown.

**[0016]** [Table 1]

Table 1 Noise Value and Number of Revolutions at 16 $m^3$/min

| Length OP | 0 mm | 2 mm |
|---|---|---|
| Noise Value (dB) | 45.8 | 45.3 |
| Number of Revolutions (rpm) | 1103 | 1092 |

**[0017]** According to Table 1, it is found that when the length OP is set to be 2 mm, the noise valve and the number of revolutions can be reduced.

**[0018]** Next, the reason of this result will be explained. In Table 2, a maximum air-blowing amount between the blades, under the conditions that the length OP is set to be 0 mm and the number of revolutions is 1103 rpm, and that the length OP is set to be 2 mm and the number of revolutions is 1092 rpm, are shown. Incidentally, the air-blowing amount is 16 $m^3$/min in both conditions.

**[0019]** [Table 2]

Table 2 Maximum Air-Blowing Amount between Blades at 16 $m^3$/min

| Length OP | 0 mm | 2 mm |
|---|---|---|
| Maximum Air-Blowing Amount between Blades (at 16 $m^3$/min) | 0.682 | 0.661 |

**[0020]** According to Table 2, it is found that the maximum air-blowing amount between the blades at the length OP of 2 mm is smaller. A sound pressure energy is proportional to the sixth power of velocity, and the noise value is expressed by the following mathematical formula:

$$SPL = 10\log_{10}(p/po)^2 \ [dB]$$

where p: sound pressure energy [Pa], po: $2\times10^{-5}$ [Pa], therefore, the noise value is reduced. That is, in order to reduce the sound pressure energy, it is effective to reduce the maximum velocity, and in the case that a distribution of the air-blowing amount between the blades is uneven as in the sirocco fan, it is preferable to reduce a maximum value of the

air-blowing amount between the blades.

Second Embodiment

**[0021]** Fig. 3 is a view illustrating a shape of the scroll in a second embodiment of the present invention. Incidentally, in the present embodiment, the center of the bell mouth 9 conforms to the rotation center of the fan motor 2 (in a case that offsetting amount is zero).
The scroll 6 is provided with two straight line portions FH and EB that are approximately in parallel with each other on the whorl-like outer shape, and the shortest distance between the two straight line portions being approximately in parallel with each other is defined as CG, an intersecting point of a parallel line, which is in parallel with the straight line portions FH and EB of the scroll and passes through the center O of the bell mouth 9, and the outer shape of the scroll is defined as a point A, a point on the outer shape of the scroll, at which a distance between the outer shape of the scroll and the rotation center O of a fan is a maximum, is defined as a point B, intersecting points of a perpendicular line, which is perpendicular to the straight line portions FH and EB of the scroll and passes through the rotation center O of the fan, and the straight line portions FH and EB of the scroll are defined as a point C and a point G, respectively, a fan radius is defined as R, and an angle formed by a segment OA and a segment OB is defined as $\theta$.
**[0022]** As a curve FGHABCE illustrating a hitherto known scroll shape is formed of a logarithmic spiral and an R/CG is about 0.68, the fan diameter is small compared with that in the case of the present embodiment whose R/CG is set to satisfy the formula of $0.72 \leq R/CG \leq 0.82$. Therefore, the number of revolutions required to obtain a predetermined air-blowing amount is increased.
On the other hand, when the R/CG is increased, the number of revolutions required to obtain the predetermined air-blowing amount is reduced, but a segment EB comes closer to the fan, so that the air-blowing amount is concentrated on a space between the blades that are close to the segment EB. This results in increasing the noise value.
Consequently, when the R/CG is increased and a curve AB is spaced apart from the fan relatively to the logarithmic spiral, the air-blowing amount between the blades in the vicinity of the curve AB is increased and the air-blowing amount between the blades in the vicinity of the segment EB is reduced by just that much.
**[0023]** In Table 3, the noise value and the number of revolutions at the air-blowing amount of 16 $m^3$/min of the air blown out from the indoor unit, in a case where the R/CG is 0.68 in the hitherto known scroll shape (CASE 1), and a case where the conditions of R/CG = 0.76, (OC-R)/R = 0.375, and the $\theta = 60°$ (CASE 2) are satisfied, are shown.
**[0024]** [Table 3]

Table 3 Noise Value and Number of Revolutions at 16 $m^3$/min

| | Case 1 | Case 2 |
|---|---|---|
| Noise Value (dB) | 45.3 | 44.1 |
| Number of Revolutions (rpm) | 1092 | 1056 |

**[0025]** As shown in Table 3, the sirocco fan in the present embodiment including the scroll shape whose condition is set as R/CG = 0.76, (OC-R)/R = 0.375, and $\theta = 60°$ can reduce the noise value and the number of revolutions compared with the hitherto known sirocco fan having the scroll shape formed of the logarithmic spiral, by increasing the R/CG and keeping the curve AB away from the fan.
**[0026]** Incidentally, as for an upper limit value of the (OC-R)/R, when a distance between the straight line portion EB of the scroll 6 and an outer circumferential end of the fan becomes 0.45 or more, the air-blowing amount is reduced and the noise value is increased. Therefore, the (OC-R)/R is set to satisfy the formula of $(OC-R)/R \leq 0.45$.

Third Embodiment

**[0027]** Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing a case that the fan body 11, the fan motor 2, and a motor-supporting stand 14 are assembled, Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing a case that an airflow duct 15 is not formed in the motor-supporting stand 14, and Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing a case that the airflow duct 15 is formed in the motor-supporting stand 14. Further, in Table 4, the noise value and the number of revolutions at the air-blowing amount of 16 $m^3$/min of the air blown out from the indoor unit, in a case where the airflow duct is present in the motor-supporting stand and a case where the airflow duct is absent therein, are shown.
**[0028]** [Table 4]

Table 4 Noise Value and Number of Revolutions at 16 $m^3$/min

| Airflow Orifice of Motor-Supporting stand | Present | Absent |
|---|---|---|
| Noise Value (dB) | 44.8 | 45.3 |
| Number of Revolutions (rpm) | 1091 | 1092 |

**[0029]** According to Table 4, it is found that although the number of revolutions is hardly changed, the noise value is reduced more in the case that the airflow duct 15 is present in the motor-supporting stand 14. The reason is that although a static pressure fluctuation generated from the fan is transmitted to the motor-supporting stand 14 and thereby the static pressure fluctuation is generated on a wall surface of the motor-supporting stand 14 and the noise is generated in the case where the airflow duct 15 is absent in the motor-supporting stand 14, the static pressure fluctuation generated from the fan mutually counteract in a space in the vicinity of the motor-supporting stand 14 in the case where the airflow duct 15 is present in the motor-supporting stand 14, and thereby the static pressure fluctuation on the wall surface of the motor-supporting stand 14 is suppressed.
Further, it is found that there is no change in a suction space of the sirocco fan 1 even when the airflow duct 15 is provided in the motor-supporting stand 14, because the number of revolutions is hardly changed. Incidentally, the constitution, in which the airflow duct 15 is provided in the motor-supporting stand 14 as described above, may be combined with the constitution of the above-described first embodiment or the second embodiment.

Fourth Embodiment

**[0030]** Fig. 7 is a schematic perspective view illustrating a case where a rib 16 is provided at each of both ends of the tongue portion 8 of the scroll in the present embodiment, and Fig. 8 is a schematic side elevation thereof.
The rib 16 takes a form of an approximately rectangular parallelepiped shape, and the following formula is satisfied: segment XY ≤ segment XZ, where a point in the rib 16 most apart from the fan body 11 is defined as a point X, a point in a circular arc portion of the tongue portion 8 most apart from the fan body 11 is defined as a point Y, and a point in the rib 16 nearest to the fan body 11 is defined as a point Z.
Furthermore, in Fig. 9, a velocity component that is perpendicular to a blowing-out opening 18 in a case where the rib 16 is absent is shown. In Fig. 9, a reverse flow area 20 indicated by a dashed line in the blowing-out opening 18 a flow toward an inner part of the fan from an outer part thereof is shown. In Fig. 10, stream lines, which are formed at a time when smoke is infused from, for example, a segment 21 on the suction opening 17, are shown, so as to prove a reverse flow phenomenon.
**[0031]** In Table 5, the noise value and the number of revolutions at the air-blowing amount of 16 $m^3$/min of the air blown out from the indoor unit 10 in a case where the rib is present and a case where the rib is absent are shown.
**[0032]** [Table 5]

Table 5 Noise Value and Number of Revolutions at 16 $m^3$/min

| Rib | Present | Absent |
|---|---|---|
| Noise Value (dB) | 44.4 | 45.3 |
| Number of Revolutions (rpm) | 1077 | 1092 |

**[0033]** As shown in Table 5, the noise value and the number of revolutions can be reduced by providing a rib. The reason is that in a case where the rib is absent and a resistive element to the flow such as a heat exchanger or the like is present, the higher the draft resistance of the resistive element becomes, the more the reverse flow phenomenon, in which the airflow is headed toward the inner part of the fan from the blowing-out opening 18, occurs at the blowing-out opening 18 of the sirocco fan 1 as illustrated in Fig. 9, and this becomes a cause of increasing the noise value and the number of revolutions. That is, as illustrated in Fig. 10, an airflow blown out from gaps between the blades on a main plate side is headed toward both ends of the scroll along the scroll, and in the vicinity of both ends of the tongue portion 8, flows into a gap between the tongue portion 8 and the fan body 11, without flowing toward the blowing-out opening 18. The airflow further flows into the gaps between the blades, and is blown out from the gaps between the blades on the main plate side, so that a flow 22 blown out toward the outer part of the scroll is caused. When such a flow is caused, the static pressure fluctuation on the wall surface is increased in the vicinity of both ends of the tongue portion, and a flow passing through the gaps between the blades many times is caused, and an air-blowing amount of the airflow that circulates in the inner part of the fan increases. Thereby, the air-blowing amount of the airflow passing through the gaps between the blades is also increased. This results in increasing the static pressure fluctuation on the blade surface, and

increasing the noise value.
On the other hand, in a case where the rib 16 is present, the airflow blown out from the gaps between the blades on the main plate side is headed toward both ends of the scroll along the scroll. An air-flowing amount flowing into the gap between the tongue portion 8 and the fan body 11 in the vicinity of both ends of the tongue portion 8, without flowing toward the blowing-out opening 18 can be reduced. Thereby, compared with the case where the rib is absent, the noise value and the number of revolutions can be reduced as shown in Table 5. Incidentally, it is appropriate for the rib 16 to have a width in the range from 5 to 10 mm. Further, the constitution, in which the rib 16 of the present embodiment is provided, may be combined with any one of the constitutions of the above-described first to third embodiment.

## Claims

**1.** A sirocco fan including:

a scroll;
a fan body that is rotatably disposed in the scroll and includes a large number of blades arranged in a cylindrical manner; and
a motor for rotationally driving the fan body,

wherein the scroll includes two straight line portions approximately in parallel with each other on a whorl-like outer shape thereof, and a rotation shaft of the motor is positioned nearer to one of straight line portions, which is situated nearer a tongue portion of the scroll.

**2.** A sirocco fan including:

a scroll;
a fan body that is rotatably disposed in the scroll and includes a large number of blades arranged in a cylindrical manner; and
a motor for rotationally driving the fan body,

wherein the center of the scroll conforms to the rotation center of the fan, the scroll includes two straight line portions approximately in parallel with each other on a whorl-like outer shape thereof, and when a shortest distance between the two straight line portions approximately in parallel with each other is defined as H, an intersecting point of a parallel line, which is in parallel with the two straight line portions and passes through a center O of a bell mouth, and an outer shape of the scroll is defined as a point A, a point on the outer shape of the scroll, at which a distance between the outer shape of the scroll and a rotation center O of a fan is maximum, is defined as a point B, intersecting points of a line, which is perpendicular to the straight line portions and passes through the rotation center O of the fan, and the straight line portions are defined as a point C and a point G, respectively, a fan radius is defined as R, and an angle formed by a segment OA and a segment OB is defined as $\theta$, the following formulas are satisfied: $0.72 \leq R/H \leq 0.82$, $(OB-R)/R \geq 0.475$, $0.3 \leq (OC-R)/R \leq 0.45$, $\theta \leq 70°$, and $OB \geq OC$.

**3.** A sirocco fan including:

a scroll;
a fan body that is rotatably disposed in the scroll and includes a large number of blades arranged in a cylindrical manner; and
a motor for rotationally driving the fan body,

wherein an airflow duct is provided in a supporting stand for the motor.

**4.** The sirocco fan of either one of Claim 1 or Claim 2,
wherein an airflow duct is provided in a supporting stand for the motor.

**5.** A sirocco fan including:

a scroll;
a fan body that is rotatably disposed in the scroll and includes a large number of blades arranged in a cylindrical manner; and

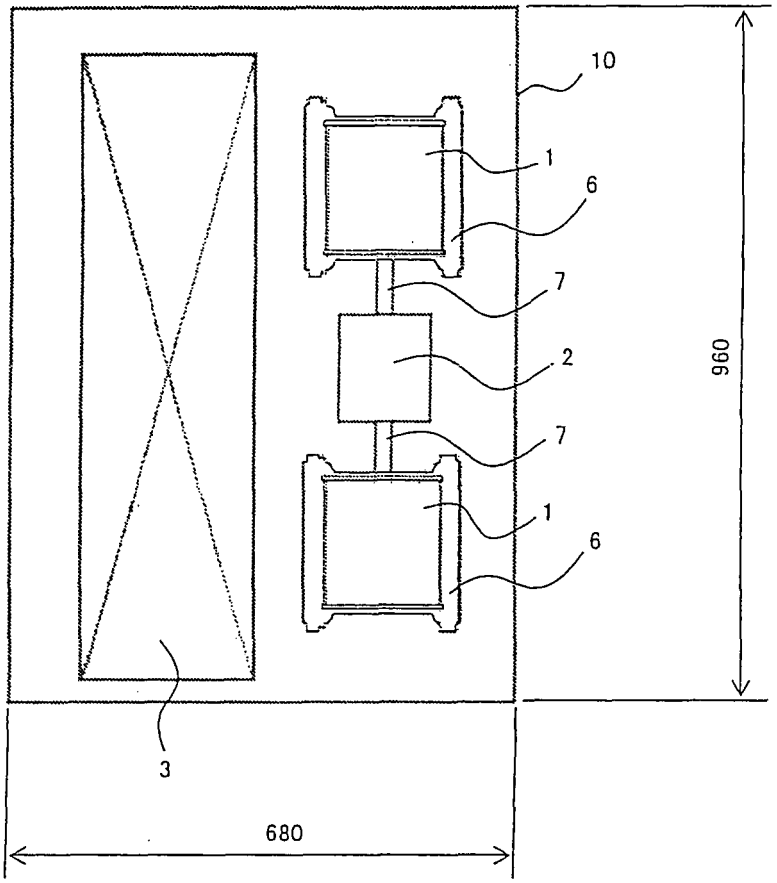
a motor for rotationally driving the fan body,

wherein a rib is provided at each of both ends of a tongue portion of the scroll.

**6.** The sirocco fan of any one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein a rib is provided at each of both ends of the tongue portion of the scroll.

**7.** An air-conditioning apparatus comprising a sirocco fan according to any one of Claims 1 through 6.

FIG. 1

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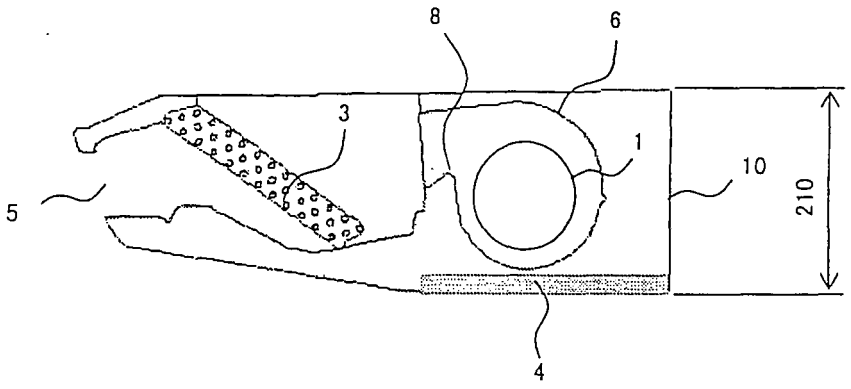



(b)

FIG. 2

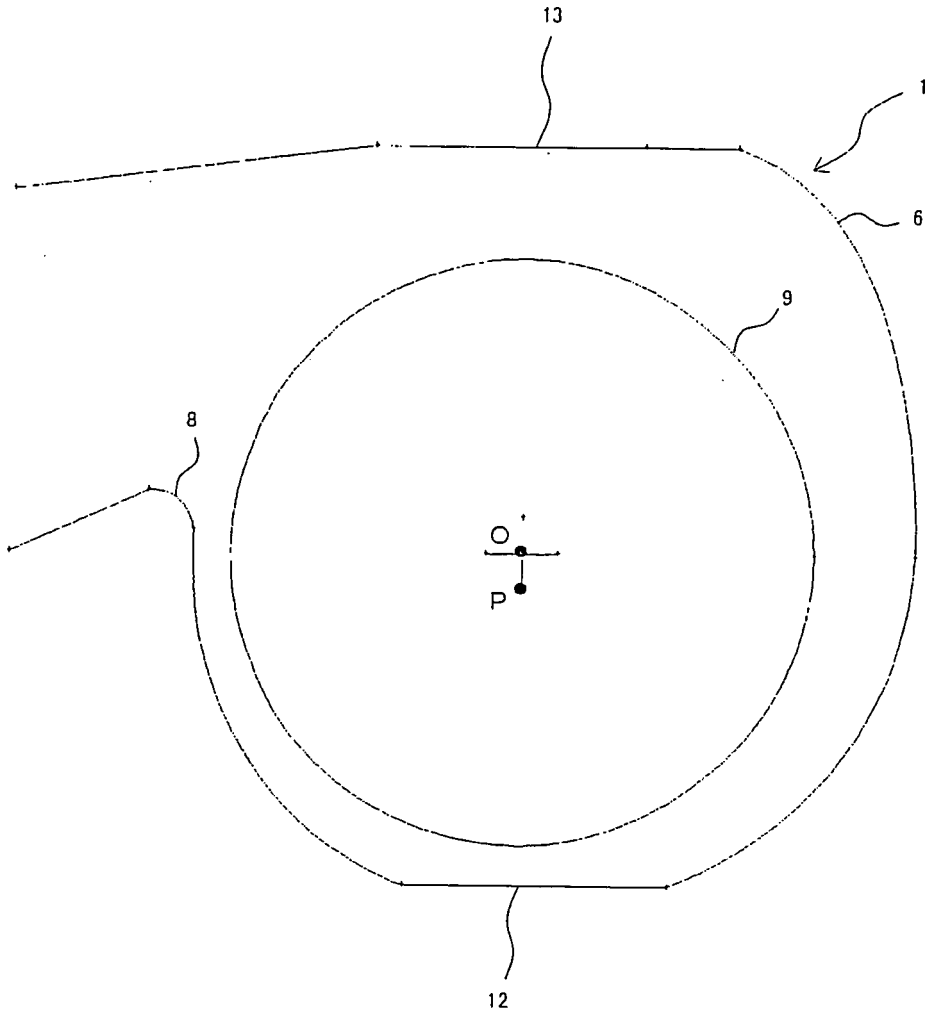


FIG. 3

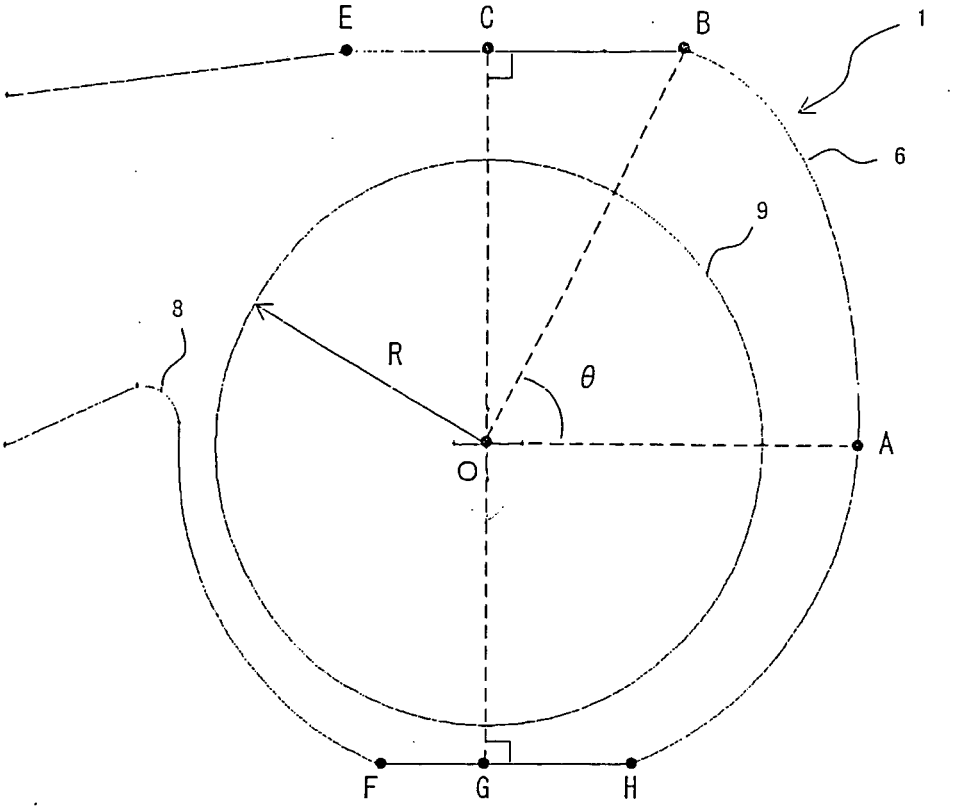



FIG. 4

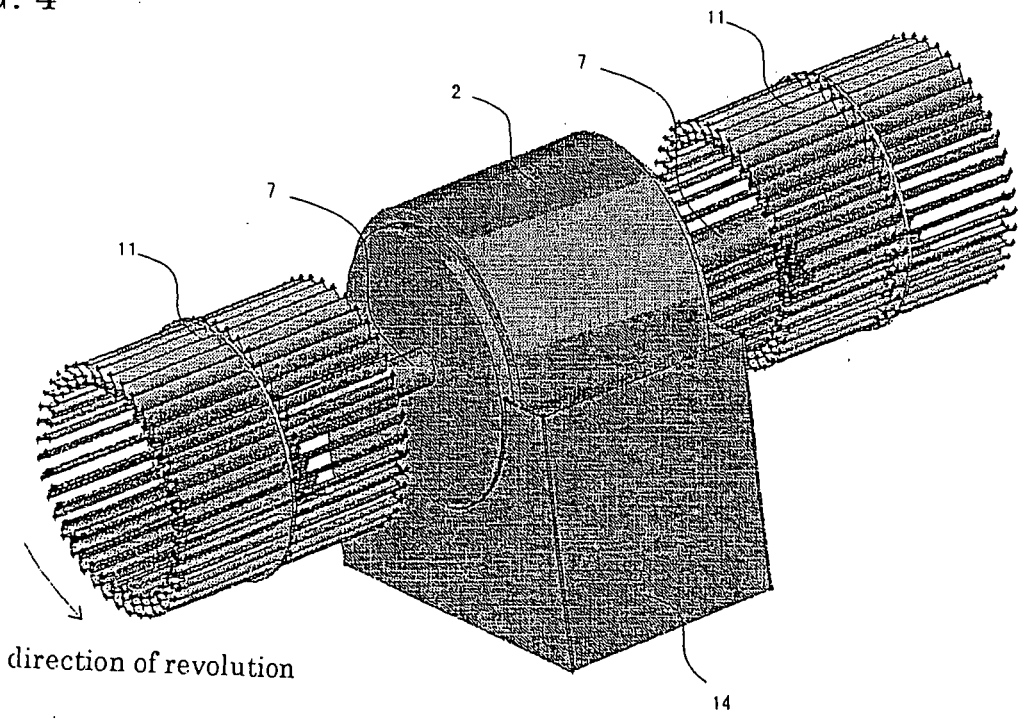


FIG. 5

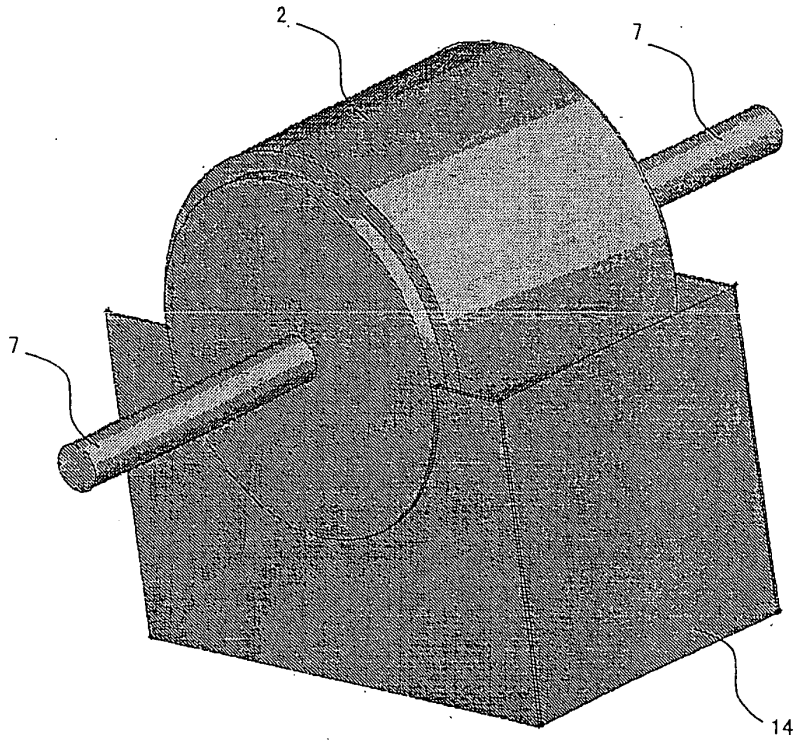



FIG. 6

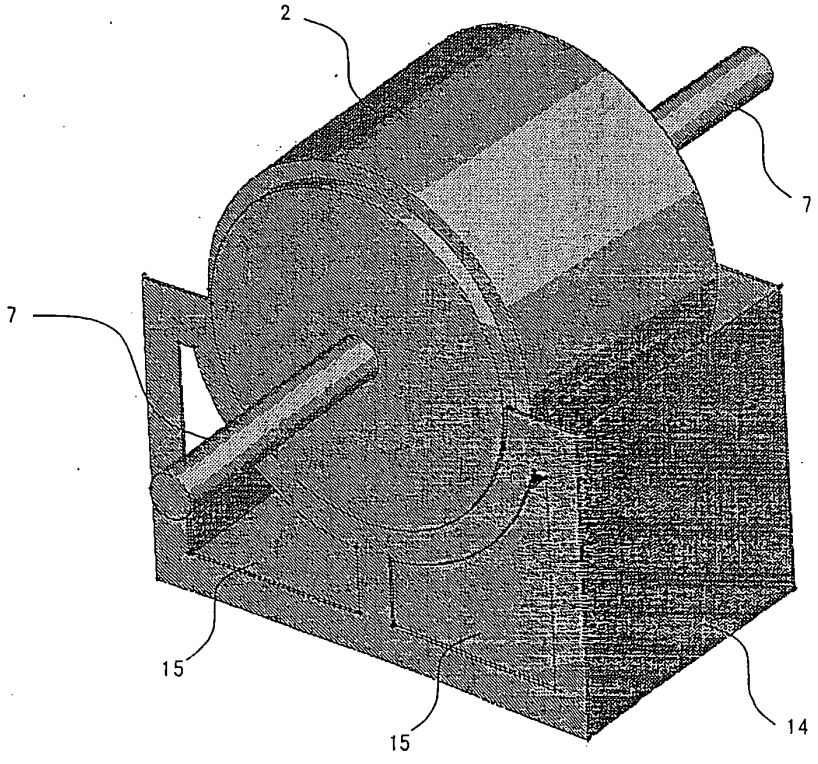


FIG. 7

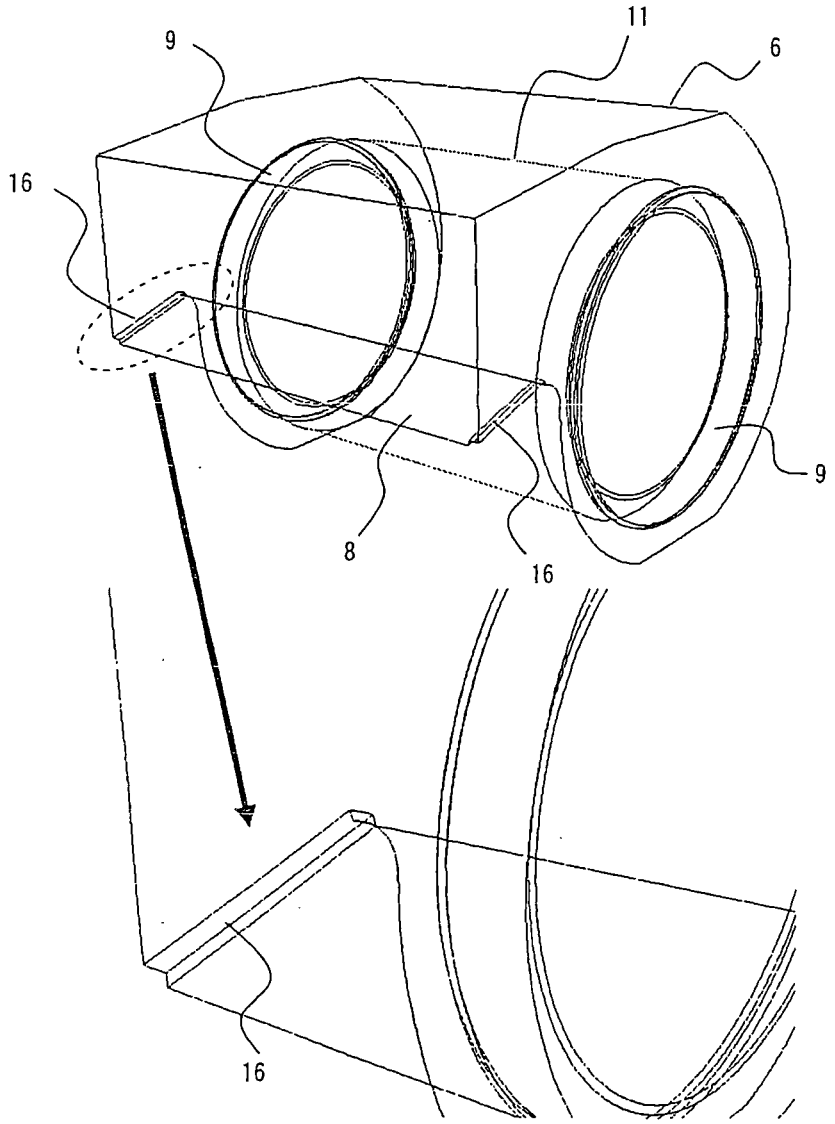


FIG. 8

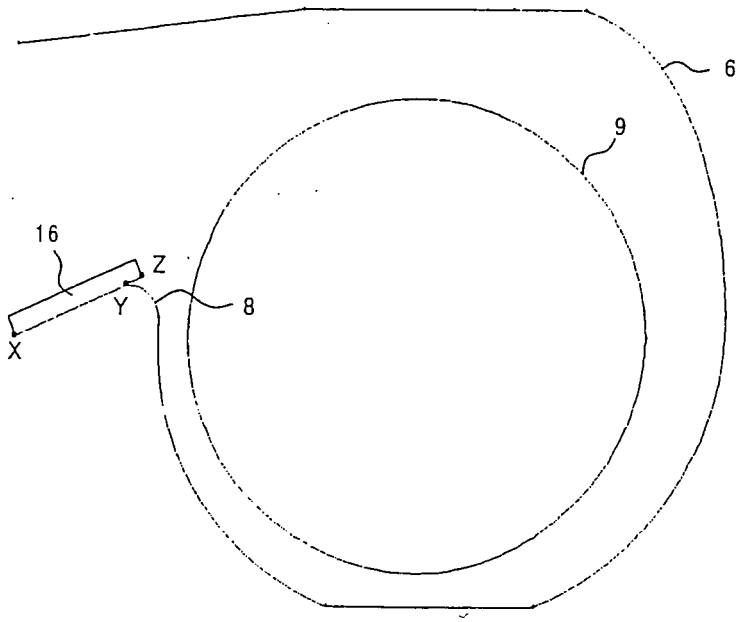



FIG. 9

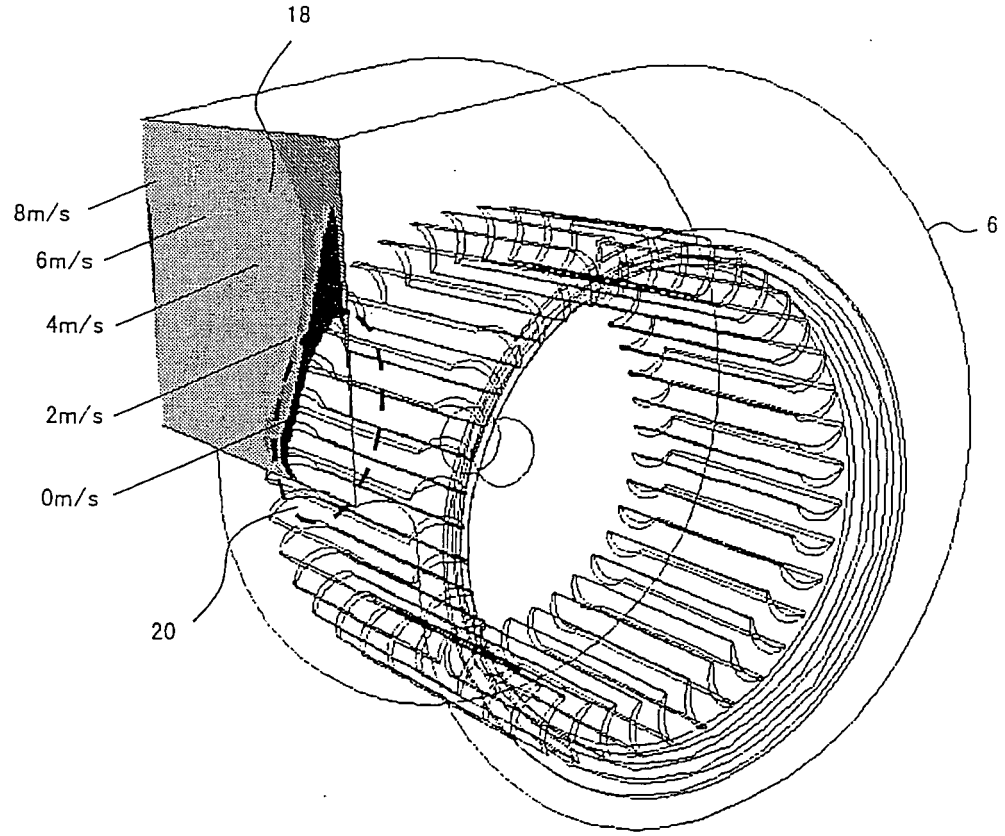
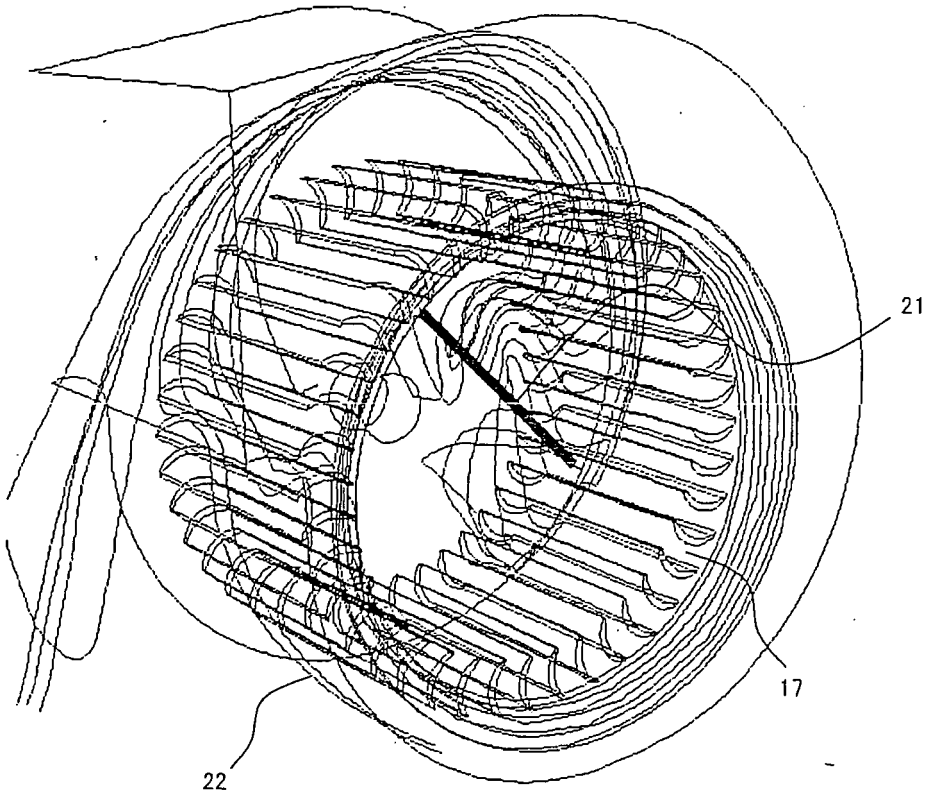


FIG. 10



**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.
PCT/JP2008/055477

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
*F04D29/44*(2006.01)i, *F04D17/08*(2006.01)i, *F04D29/66*(2006.01)i, *F24F1/00*(2006.01)i

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
F04D29/44, F04D17/08, F04D29/66, F24F1/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2008
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2008 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2008

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|---|---|---|
| X<br>Y | JP 2000-240594 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 05 September, 2000 (05.09.00), Par. Nos. [0017] to [0035]; Figs. 1, 2, 4 (Family: none) | 1,7<br>2,4,6 |
| Y | JP 2006-233835 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 07 September, 2006 (07.09.06), Par. No. [0018]; Fig. 1 & EP 1703138 A2 | 2,4,6 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

| Date of the actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the international search report |
|---|---|
| 17 June, 2008 (17.06.08) | 01 July, 2008 (01.07.08) |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/<br>Japanese Patent Office<br><br>Facsimile No. | Authorized officer<br><br>Telephone No. |

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2007)

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.
PCT/JP2008/055477

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|---|---|---|
| X<br>Y | Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 176896/1987(Laid-open No. 80698/1989)<br>(Daikin Industries, Ltd.),<br>30 May, 1989 (30.05.89),<br>Page 5, line 12 to page 11, line 1; Figs. 1 to 4<br>(Family: none) | 3,7<br>4,6 |
| X<br>Y | JP 2006-138268 A (Fujitsu General Ltd.),<br>01 June, 2006 (01.06.06),<br>Par. Nos. [0015] to [0029]; Figs. 1 to 4<br>(Family: none) | 5,7<br>6 |

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (April 2007)

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.
PCT/JP2008/055477

**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The inventions of claims 1-3, and 5 are common in the structure of "a sirocco fan having a scroll, a fan body rotatably placed in the scroll and having a large number of blades arranged in a circular tube-like form, and a motor for rotationally driving the fan body." However, the structure is so well known as not to require an explanation with examples, and therefore, the structure is not a "special technical feature" within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence.
(continued to extra sheet)

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

the

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (2)) (April 2007)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP2008/055477

Continuation of Box No.III of continuation of first sheet(2)

Accordingly, the invention of claim 1 and the invention of claim 2, 3, and 5 have no special technical features that are the same or corresponding to each other.

Between the inventions of claims 1-3, and 5 is no technical relationship involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features, and therefore, they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (extra sheet) (April 2007)

## REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

*This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.*

### Patent documents cited in the description


- JP 9126193 A **[0003]**
- JP 2006138268 A **[0003]**