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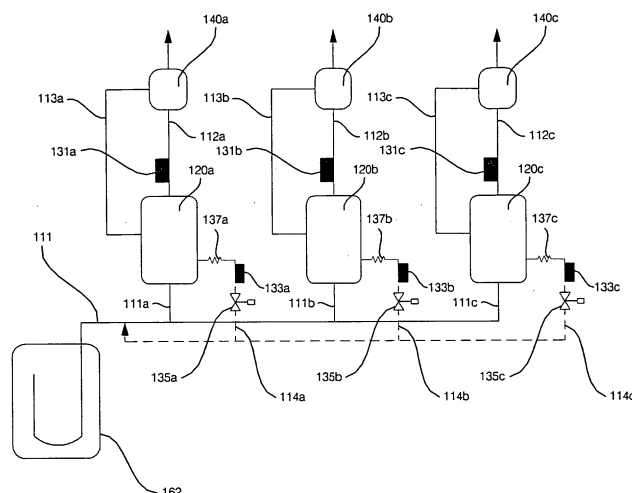
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(54) **Air conditioner and method of controlling the same**

(57) An air conditioner includes a plurality of compressors (120a, b, c), a common intake pipe (111), and a plurality of oil equalizing pipes (114a, b, c) that connect the compressors (120a, b, c) to the common intake pipe (111) such that oil existing above a reference oil level in the compressors (120a, b, c) can be transferred to the

common intake pipe (111). An oil equalizing valve (135a, b, c) provided on at least two of the oil equalizing pipes (114a, b, c) controls oil flowing through the oil equalizing pipes, where at least two of the oil equalizing valves can be opened together during performance of oil equalizing operation such that amounts of the oil in at least two compressors can be equalized.

FIG. 3





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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) |
| | | | F25B |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search Munich | | Date of completion of the search 28 February 2011 | Examiner Szilagyi, Barnabas |
| 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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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