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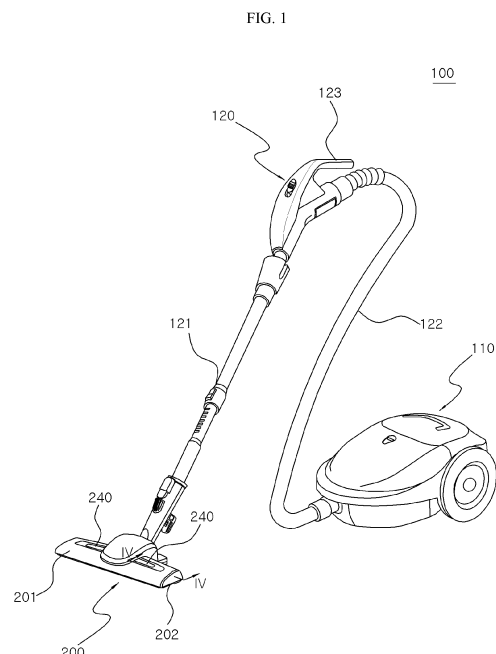
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(54) **Inlet means with multiple ports**

(57) An inlet means (200) with multiple suction ports and a vacuum cleaner (100) in which the inlet means is disposed are provided. The inlet means (200) includes an upper casing (201) having a secondary suction port (231) formed therein, a lower casing (202) engaged with the upper casing. The inlet means (200) further has a main suction port (203) formed therein and a shutter (240) formed in the upper casing; a secondary flow path (230) and an shutter flow path (210) are each formed between the upper casing and the lower casing, the shutter (240) opens the secondary suction port (230) and closes an upper end of the shutter flow path (210), when the vacuum at a lower area of the lower casing is increased. Accordingly, a constant contact force is maintained between the inlet means and the surface being cleaned.



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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

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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	NL 1 030 311 C1 (KERSSIES GEERT [NL]) 3 May 2007 (2007-05-03) * figures 1-7 *	1	INV. A47L9/00 A47L9/02
A,D	JP 2008 086549 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 17 April 2008 (2008-04-17) * abstract; figures *	1	
A	JP S61 82547 U (-) 31 May 1986 (1986-05-31) * figures *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A47L
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: see sheet C</p>			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 17 June 2013	Examiner Masset, Markus
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	

EPC FORM 1503 03.82 (P04E07)

**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C**Application Number
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The applicant failed to respond to the examiner's objections in time, the search will be based on the first independent claim in each category (Rule 62a EPC). In examination the claims have to be restricted to the searched subject-matter (claims 1-4).

Claim(s) completely searchable:
1-4

Claim(s) not searched:
5-9

Reason for the limitation of the search:

The applicant failed to respond to the examiner's objections in time, the search will be based on the first independent claim in each category (Rule 62a EPC). In examination the claims have to be restricted to the searched subject-matter (claims 1-4).

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

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17-06-2013

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