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(54) **Washing appliance**

(57) A ballast system for a washing machine is described. The ballast system is comprised of a reservoir (109) having means for permitting water to flow between said reservoir and the washing machine drum (101), the reservoir (109) further comprising an inlet for enabling said reservoir (109) to be filled with water and an outlet for enabling water to be drained from said reservoir (109), the system further comprising means for filling said reservoir (109) and maintaining said reservoir (109) substantially full of water between washing cycles of said washing machine. In which the weight of said reservoir (109) when it is substantially full of water acts to counter balance vibrations generated by rotation of said washing machine drum (101) during a washing cycle.

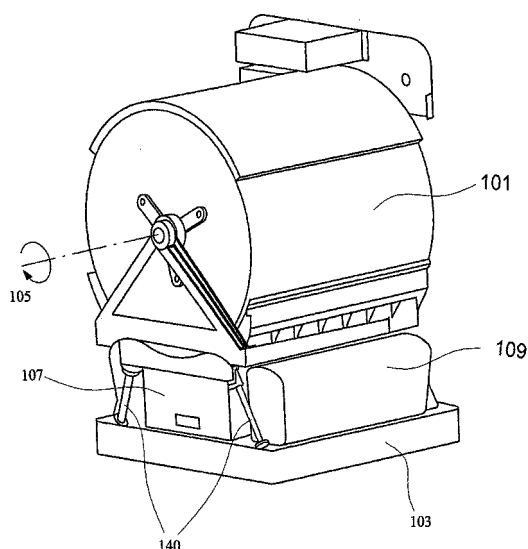


Figure 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 11 18 8127

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	GB 1 240 034 A (IND A ZANNUSSI S P A [IT]) 21 July 1971 (1971-07-21)	1,4,5,8,9	INV. D06F37/26
Y	* the whole document *	11,12,14	D06F39/00

X	EP 0 326 502 A1 (MARTINEZ GEORGES) 2 August 1989 (1989-08-02)	1,4,8	
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A	EP 1 284 317 A1 (MARTINEZ GEORGES [FR]) 19 February 2003 (2003-02-19)	1-10	
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X	US 3 283 547 A (SEVERANCE GLEN R) 8 November 1966 (1966-11-08)	1,3,4,8	
	* column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 21; figures *		

A	DE 196 51 292 A1 (BOSCH SIEMENS HAUSGERAETE [DE] BSH BOSCH SIEMENS HAUSGERAETE [DE]) 18 June 1998 (1998-06-18)	11-15	
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Y	GB 1 160 274 A (ENGLISH ELECTRIC CO LTD [GB]) 6 August 1969 (1969-08-06)	11,12,14	
	* the whole document *		

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 23 May 2012	Examiner Diaz y Diaz-Caneja
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)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- ☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-10

The problem solved by the first group of inventions is to reduce vibrations generated by the rotation of the drum of the washing machine.

2. claims: 11-15

The problem solved by the second group of inventions is to allow the washing machine to be moved easily on rollers.

**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
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23-05-2012

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EPO FORM P0459

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