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(54) **A washing machine, in particular a laundry washing machine**

(57) The present application describes a washing machine, in particular a laundry washing machine, fitted with at least conventional and ultrasonic cloth washing systems, and comprising a tub (1) having at least one

hole (20) for housing an ultrasonic transducer (2), wherein said hole (20) is delimited by a flange (4) jutting out from the tub (1) and cooperating with a counterflange (6) for securing the ultrasonic transducer (2) to the tub (1).

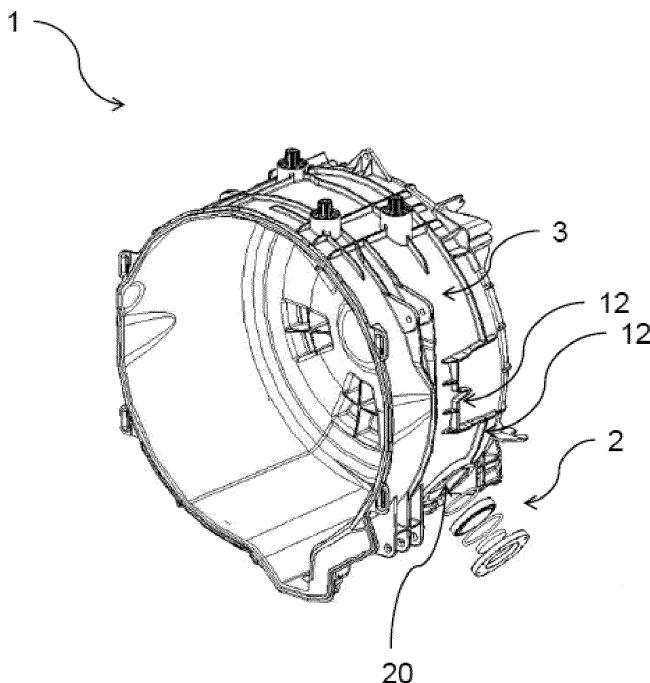


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 11 18 6039

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	DE 38 43 110 C1 (GRÜNBECK WASSERAUFBEREITUNG GMBH [DE]) 22 February 1990 (1990-02-22) * column 1, lines 13-33 * * column 3, lines 1-68 * * figures 1-4 *	1-9	INV. A47L15/00 D06F37/26 D06F35/00 D06F19/00
Y,D	FR 2 614 325 A1 (DELTASONIC [FR]) 28 October 1988 (1988-10-28) * page 3, lines 11-34; figures 1-2 *	1,3-9	
Y	EP 1 837 432 A1 (MIELE & CIE [DE]) 26 September 2007 (2007-09-26) * figures 1-5 * * paragraphs [0006] - [0022] *	1,3-9	
A	DE 41 01 981 A1 (LICENTIA GMBH [DE]) 30 July 1992 (1992-07-30) * column 1, lines 41-56; figure 1 *	1	
A	EP 1 605 089 A1 (PROCTER & GAMBLE [US]) 14 December 2005 (2005-12-14) * paragraphs [0006], [0019] * * paragraphs [0026] - [0030] *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) D06F A47L
A	WO 2005/006936 A1 (NEPS CO LTD [KR]; YOON MAN-SOON [KR]; PARK YOUNG-MIN [KR]) 27 January 2005 (2005-01-27) * page 4, line 20 - page 5, line 4 * * page 7, line 16 - page 8, line 4 * * page 10, line 1 - page 16, line 16 * * figures 1-12 *	1-9	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 16 December 2011	Examiner Weinberg, Ekkehard
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:

1-9

☐ 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: 1-9

relate to a washing machine wherein the hole in the wash tub for housing the ultrasonic transducer is delimited by a flange jutting out from the tub and cooperating with a separate counter-flange for securing the ultrasonic transducer to the tub;

2. claim: 10

relates to a washing machine wherein the housing portion of the wash tub for an element of an ultrasonic transducer is made in one piece with said element.

**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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16-12-2011

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