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(54) Fan impeller

(57) An impeller for a fan, comprising a hub and a plurality of blades extending from the hub, wherein each blade has a leading edge and a trailing edge and wherein each blade has a first portion made from a rigid material and a second portion formed on the leading edge of the first portion and formed from a resilient material. The impeller increases the safety of the impeller by reducing the potential damage or injury caused by collision with the impeller. Consequently, a fan with such an impeller does not require a protective grill in order to meet safety regulations. The absence of a grill increases the efficiency of the fan and reduces the noise caused by turbulence as air passes through the grill. A method of making the impeller is also provided.

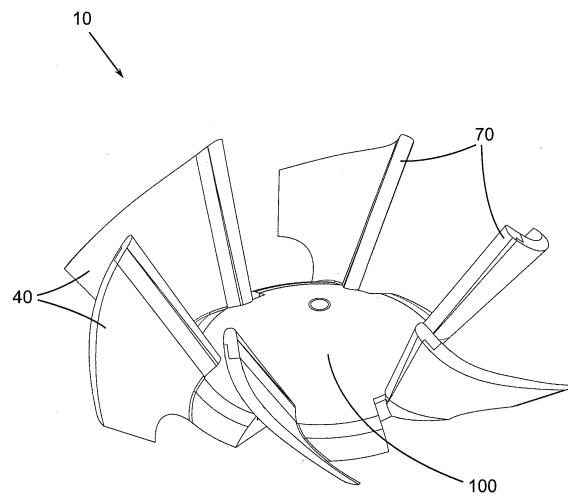


Fig. 3



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			F04D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
1	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
50	The Hague	29 May 2015	Ingelbrecht, Peter
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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