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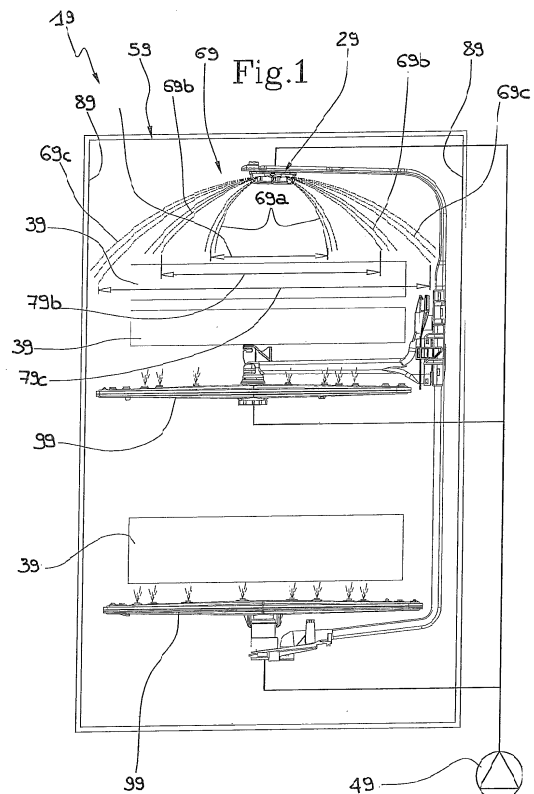
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**(54) Dish washing method**

(57) A dish washing method, comprising the steps of: distributing washing water to at least one impeller (29) arranged above a rack (39) for containing dishes; and generating through the impeller (29) a jet of water (69a-69c) directed at a predefined area (79a-79c) of the rack (39) to hit the dishes with said water; said step of distributing the water being actuated by supplying the water to the impeller (29) according to a plurality of predefined values each of which represents a different area (79a-79c) subtended by a respective jet (69a-69c) dispensed from the impeller (29).



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## 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)
X	EP 1 277 430 A1 (ELECTROLUX HOME PROD CORP [BE]) 22 January 2003 (2003-01-22) * column 1, paragraph 1 * * column 1, paragraph 3 - column 3, paragraph 14 * * column 5, paragraph 17 - column 7, paragraph 29 * * figures 1-4 *	1-10	INV. A47L15/00 A47L15/42
X	US 2011/240060 A1 (WINKLER RALF [US] ET AL) 6 October 2011 (2011-10-06) * the whole document *	1-10	
X	US 2006/108454 A1 (EICHHOLZ HEINZ-DIETER [DE]) 25 May 2006 (2006-05-25) * the whole document *	1-10	
X	EP 1 040 787 A1 (ELECTROLUX ZANUSSI ELETTRODOME [IT]) 4 October 2000 (2000-10-04) * abstract * * figures 2,3 *	1,8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A47L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>Munich</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>29 April 2014</b>	Examiner <b>Redelsperger, C</b>
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 ..... &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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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:

1-10

☐ 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**

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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

Group 1 (Claims 1-10)

A dish washing method and a dish washing cycle comprising the steps of:

- distributing washing water to at least one impeller (29) arranged above a dish containment rack (39) ; and
- generating through the impeller (29) a jet of water (69a-69c) directed towards a predefined area (79a-79c) of the rack (39) to hit the dishes with said water;
- said step of distributing the water being actuated by supplying water to the impeller (29) according to a plurality of predefined values each of which represents a different area (79a-79c) subtended by a respective jet (69a-69c) dispensed by the impeller (29).

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2. claims: 11, 12

A method for washing dishes placed in a washing compartment (2) housing only two racks (4, 5), comprising the steps of:

- setting the bottom spraying of a lower rack (4) through first bottom spraying means (6);
- setting the bottom spraying of an upper rack (5), positioned above said lower rack (4), through second bottom spraying means (7);
- acting on a selector (11) to switch the supply of a washing liquid at least between a first conduit (9a) which supplies the first spraying means (6) and a second conduit (9b) which supplies the second spraying means (7);
- said method comprising a step of setting the top spraying of said upper rack (5) through top spraying means (8) positioned above said upper rack (5) and supplied through a third conduit (9c) which connects them to said selector (11); the step of setting the top spraying of said upper rack (5) comprising a step of removing the dirt built up in said third conduit (9c) during the change from the spraying of the lower rack (4) to the spraying of the upper rack (5) or vice versa.

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3. claims: 13-15

A dishwasher (1) comprising:

- a washing compartment (3);
- a lower rack (4) and an upper rack (5) intended to house dishes, said upper rack (5) being positioned above the lower rack (4) within the washing compartment (3);
- first bottom spraying means (6) arranged below the lower rack (4) so as to spray it with washing liquid;
- second bottom spraying means (7) arranged below the upper

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
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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:

rack (5) so as to spray it with washing liquid;  
- conveying means (9) suitable to connect the washing compartment (3) to said first and second spraying means (6, 7);  
- a motorised pump (10) operatively active on the conveying means (9) to take the washing liquid from the washing compartment (3) and send it to said first and second spraying means (6, 7),  
- said dishwasher comprising top spraying means (8) pertaining to said conveying means (9) and positioned above the upper rack (5) so as to spray it with the washing liquid for durations shorter by an order of magnitude than the spraying durations from said first and second spraying means (6, 7), said racks (4, 5) being the only racks present in the dishwasher (1).

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**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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29-04-2014

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