(11) **EP 3 009 357 A3**

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3: 22.06.2016 Bulletin 2016/25

(51) Int Cl.: **B65B 31/04** (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2: **20.04.2016 Bulletin 2016/16**

(21) Application number: 15002927.0

(22) Date of filing: **14.10.2015**

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

Designated Extension States:

BA ME

Designated Validation States:

MA

(30) Priority: 14.10.2014 US 201462063796 P

(71) Applicant: Sunbeam Products, Inc. Boca Raton, FL 33431 (US)

(72) Inventors:

Picozza, Augusto A.
 Boca Raton, Florida 33498 (US)

Plazarte, Enrique
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306 (US)

Harris, Jason
 Boca Raton, Florida 33498 (US)

 Morales, Gustavo Brunswick, Ohio 44212 (US)

(74) Representative: Vossius, Tilman Barkhoff Reimann Vossius Prinzregentenstrasse 74 81675 München (DE)

(54) VACUUM SEALER WITH ADJUSTABLE HEAD

(57) A vacuum sealer (10) including a base (12) defining a support surface (16) and a body (20) extending from the base (12). A suction head (40) is supported by the body (20) and is moveable along the body (20) toward and away from the support surface (16). The suction head (40) supports a suction assembly (60) including a suction inlet (66) with a sealing member (64) thereabout. A suction pump (40) is configured to selectively provide a suction force to the suction inlet (66).

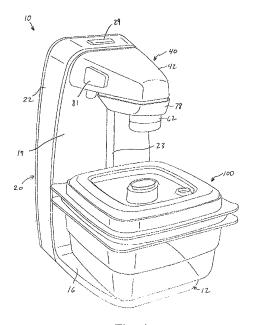


Fig. 1

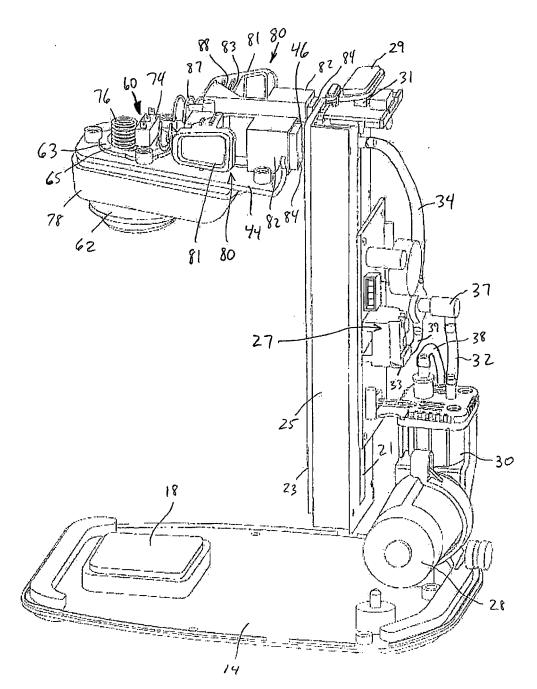


Fig. 3



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Application Number

EP 15 00 2927

| 74C | Munich |
|-----|--------|
| | |

| Category | Citation of document with in of relevant passa | dication, where appropriate, ges | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| X Y A | US 2010/132831 A1 (AL) 3 June 2010 (20 * paragraphs [0043] [0060] - [0078]; fig | - [0046], [0052], | 1-3,5, 7-9 10,11 4,6, 12-14 | INV. B65B31/04 |
| X Y A | | pàge 4, line´4; 9 * | 1,3,4,6, 12 13,14 2,5,7-11 | |
| Υ | GB 2 313 557 A (KHA 3 December 1997 (19 | LID FASIH UDDIN [HK]) | 10,11 | |
| A | * page 4, line 5 - | line 24; figures 1,2 * | 1-9, 12-14 | |
| Υ | US 2005/039420 A1 (| ALBRITTON CHARLES WADE uary 2005 (2005-02-24) | 13,14 | |
| А | * paragraphs [0004] [0011], [0070]; fi | , [0006], [0007], | 1-12 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) |
| Α | 1 February 2000 (20 | D SR CLIFTON K [US]) 90-02-01) - column 4, line 16; | 1-14 | B65B A47J |
| A | US 2 087 963 A (BAX 27 July 1937 (1937- * figures 1, 2 * | | 1-14 | |
| А | US 6 391 629 B1 (JE 21 May 2002 (2002-0 * figures 1, 2, 3, | 5-21) | 1-14 | |
| | The present search report has b | · | | |
| | Place of search Munich | Date of completion of the search 11 May 2016 | Vas | soille, Philippe |
| X : parti Y : parti docu A : tech O : non | ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS icularly relevant if taken alone icularly relevant if combined with anoth iment of the same category nological background -written disclosure mediate document | T : theory or principle E : earlier patent doc after the filing dat er D : document cited fo L : document cited fo | e underlying the ir nument, but publis e n the application or other reasons | nvention shed on, or |



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 15 00 2927

| 10 | |
|----|--|
| 15 | |
| 20 | |
| 25 | |
| 30 | |
| 35 | |
| 40 | |
| 45 | |
| 50 | |

55

| Category | Citation of document with in of relevant passa | idication, where appropriate, | | levant slaim | | CATION OF THE TION (IPC) |
|----------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| A | • | HOTT ELEKTROGERAETE | 1-1 | 4 | | |
| A | WO 98/22571 A1 (FOR 28 May 1998 (1998-0 * figures 1, 2 * | D CLIFTON K SR [US]) 5-28) | 1-1 | 4 | | |
| A | US 2003/136791 A1 (24 July 2003 (2003- * figures 1, 4 * | TARLOW KENNETH P [US] 07-24) |) 1-1 | 4 | | |
| A | EP 0 211 686 A1 (BI 25 February 1987 (1 * figures 1-3 * | LBATE LTD [GB]) 987-02-25) | 1-1 | 4 | | |
| A | US 2013/101442 A1 (25 April 2013 (2013 * figures 1-9 * | | 1-1 | 4 | | |
| | | | | | TECHNIC SEARCH | CAL FIELDS ED (IPC) |
| | | | | | | (/ |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | The present search report has b | peen drawn up for all claims | | | | |
| | Place of search | Date of completion of the search | n | | Examiner | |
| | Munich | 11 May 2016 | | Vas | soille, | Philippe |
| | ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | T : theory or prir E : earlier paten | t document, | | | |
| Y∶part docu | cularly relevant if taken alone cularly relevant if combined with anoth ment of the same category | after the filing ner D : document ci L : document cit | date ted in the ap ed for other | plication reasons | · | |
| | nological background -written disclosure | & : member of ti | | | | |



5

Application Number

EP 15 00 2927

| | CLAIMS INCURRING FEES |
|----|--|
| | The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due. |
| 10 | 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): |
| 15 | 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. |
| 20 | 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: |
| 25 | |
| | see sheet B |
| | see sheet b |
| 30 | |
| | All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims. |
| 35 | As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee. |
| 40 | 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: |
| | |
| 45 | |
| | 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: |
| 50 | |
| | |
| 55 | 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

EP 15 00 2927

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: 1-7 10 relates to means of aligning a container with the suction assembly 1.1. claim: 7 15 relates to means for ensuring quality of a seal between a container and the suction head 1.2. claims: 3-6 20 relates to means for controlling the suction 2. claims: 8-11 25 relates to means for moving the suction head 3. claims: 12-14 relates to means for avoiding contamination of the suction 30 pump with liquid Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee. 35 40 45 50 55

6

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

EP 15 00 2927

5

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 The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-05-2016

| 10 | | Patent documer cited in search rep | | Publication date | | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|----|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|
| 15 | | US 20101328 | 31 A1 | 03-06-2010 | AT EP ES FR FR US WO | 519680 2146901 2368365 2915864 2915865 2010132831 2008152235 | A2 T3 A1 A1 A1 | 15-08-2011 27-01-2010 16-11-2011 14-11-2008 14-11-2008 03-06-2010 18-12-2008 |
| 20 | | WO 9631396 | A1 | 10-10-1996 | AU ID WO | 5283396 15813 9631396 | Α | 23-10-1996 14-08-1997 10-10-1996 |
| 25 | | GB 2313557 | A | 03-12-1997 | GB US | 2313557 5836687 | | 03-12-1997 17-11-1998 |
| | | US 20050394 | 20 A1 | 24-02-2005 | CA US | 2476900 2005039420 | | 31-01-2005 24-02-2005 |
| | | US 6019034 | | 01-02-2000 | NONE | | | |
| 30 | | US 2087963 | | | NONE | | | |
| 35 | | US 6391629 | B1 | 21-05-2002 | AT DE EP US | 239071 50001931 1038949 6391629 | D1 A1 | 15-05-2003 05-06-2003 27-09-2000 21-05-2002 |
| | | DE 8305271 | U1 | 13-10-1983 | NONE | | | |
| 40 | | WO 9822571 | A1 | 28-05-1998 | AU US WO | 5181098 5778763 9822571 | Α | 10-06-1998 14-07-1998 28-05-1998 |
| 45 | | US 20031367 | 91 A1 | 24-07-2003 | US US US | 2003136791 2003200874 2004226458 | A1 | 24-07-2003 30-10-2003 18-11-2004 |
| 50 | | EP 0211686 | A1 | 25-02-1987 | AU AU EP GB US ZA | 576971 6118086 0211686 2179334 4699190 8606039 | A A1 A | 08-09-1988 26-02-1987 25-02-1987 04-03-1987 13-10-1987 25-03-1987 |
| 55 | DRM P0459 | US 20131014 | 42 A1 | 25-04-2013 | US WO | 2013101442 2011059269 | | 25-04-2013 19-05-2011 |

55

 $[\]stackrel{\bigcirc}{\mathbb{H}}$ For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

EP 3 009 357 A3

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

EP 15 00 2927

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 The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-05-2016

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

 $\stackrel{
m C}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{
m L}}{\stackrel{
m L}}}{\stackrel{$