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(54) **ACCUMULATOR**

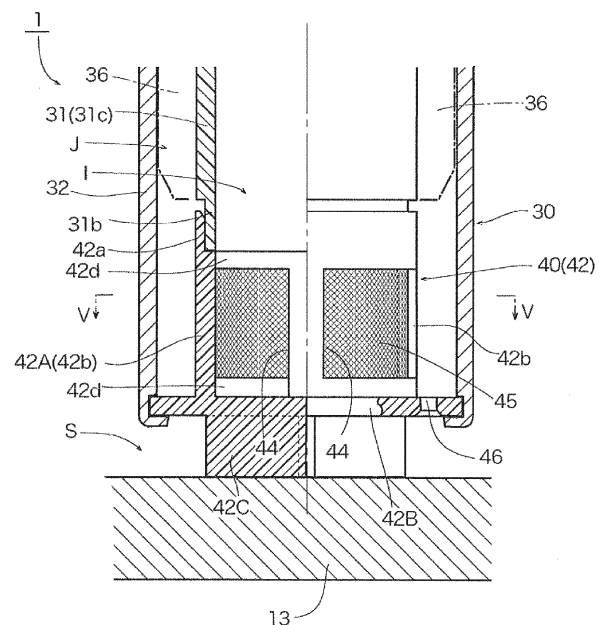
(57) [Object]

To provide an accumulator capable of trapping and removing a foreign material mixed with a liquid phase refrigerant even when the liquid phase refrigerant flows into an outflow pipe and hence decreasing the amount of the foreign material in the circulated refrigerant without causing an increase in size.

[Solving Means]

An accumulator includes an outflow pipe (30) having a double pipe structure including an inner pipe (31) and an outer pipe (32) and a strainer (40) provided in the vicinity of a lower end of the outflow pipe (30) and including a mesh filter (45), wherein the mesh filter (45) is disposed between a space (J) formed between the inner pipe (31) and the outer pipe (32) and a space (I) inside the inner pipe and a casing (42) of the strainer (40) is provided with a communication hole (46) causing the space (J) to communicate with a lower space (S) of the tank (10).

FIG. 3





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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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Y	* abstract; figure 9 *	6	
X	DE 10 2008 012262 A1 (DENSO CORP [JP]) 11 December 2008 (2008-12-11)	1-3	
Y	* paragraphs [0030] - [0040]; figure 2 *	6	
Y	US 5 802 868 A (RIEMENSCHNEIDER PAUL A [US]) 8 September 1998 (1998-09-08) * column 4, lines 51-56; figures 5,10,11,13 *	6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) F25B
A	JP 2004 132627 A (FUJI KOKI KK) 30 April 2004 (2004-04-30) * abstract; figures 1,6 *	4	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 19 January 2017	Examiner Ritter, Christoph
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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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**

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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. claim: 1(partially)

accumulator with a mesh filter disposed between an inner and
outer pipe of the outflow pipe

2. claims: 2-6(completely); 1(partially)

accumulator with a strainer having a communication hole with
the lower space of the tank

**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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