



(11) EP 4 317 795 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
24.04.2024 Bulletin 2024/17

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):
F24C 15/00 (2006.01) **F24C 15/32** (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
07.02.2024 Bulletin 2024/06

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):
F24C 15/003; F24C 15/327

(21) Application number: **23189203.5**

(22) Date of filing: **02.08.2023**

(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 ME MK MT NL
NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**
Designated Extension States:
BA
Designated Validation States:
KH MA MD TN

(30) Priority: **02.08.2022 KR 20220096379**

(71) Applicant: **LG Electronics Inc.**
Yeongdeungpo-gu
Seoul 07336 (KR)

(72) Inventor: **Shin, Myeongsu**
08592 Seoul (KR)

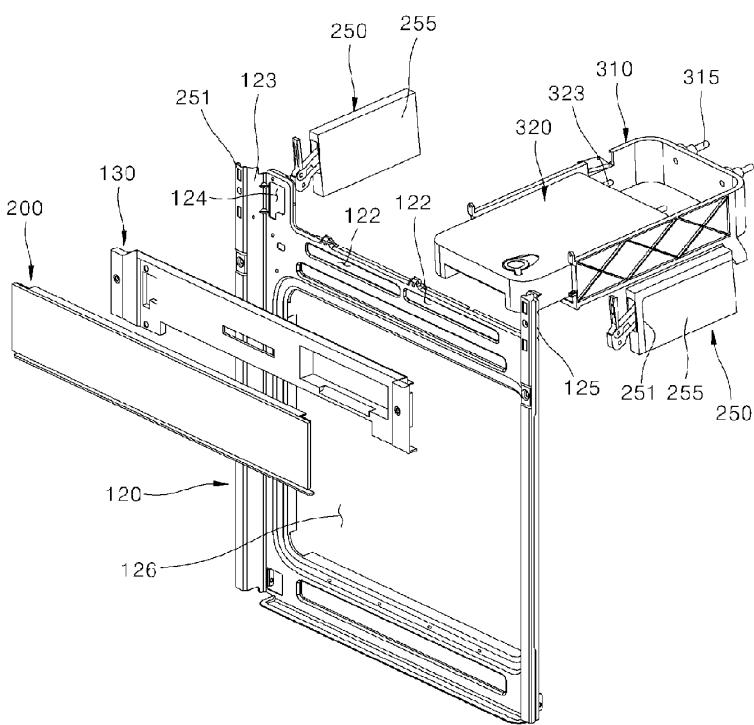
(74) Representative: **Ter Meer Steinmeister & Partner**
Patentanwälte mbB
Nymphenburger Straße 4
80335 München (DE)

(54) COOKING APPLIANCE

(57) Disclosed herein is a cooking appliance. In the cooking appliance, a housing is coupled to a second front panel being disposed at a front of an electronic component space, the housing accommodating a water tank is coupled to the second front panel, the second front panel

has an access hole for allowing the water tank to come in and out, and the second front panel and the housing are coupled in a way that an open front surface of the housing connects to the access hole.

FIG. 6





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 23 18 9203

5

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
10	X US 2018/070757 A1 (LEE HYUN JU [KR] ET AL) 15 March 2018 (2018-03-15) * paragraph [0080]; figures 2-4, 6 * -----	1, 2, 7, 8, 11 13-15	INV. F24C15/00 F24C15/32
15	X EP 2 518 413 A2 (SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO LTD [KR]) 31 October 2012 (2012-10-31) * paragraph [0040]; figures 2, 4-6 * -----	1, 3-5	
20	Y EP 0 276 458 A2 (BUDERUS KUECHENTECHNIK [DE]) 3 August 1988 (1988-08-03) * figures 2, 2a, 2b * -----	13-15	
25	A KR 2007 0054992 A (SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO LTD [KR]) 30 May 2007 (2007-05-30) * figure 1 * -----	13, 14	
30	Y EP 3 594 573 A1 (TEKA PORTUGAL S A [PT]) 15 January 2020 (2020-01-15) * figure 5 * -----	13-15	
35			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
40			F24C
45			
50	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
55	2 Place of search The Hague	Date of completion of the search 6 December 2023	Examiner Rodriguez, Alexander
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			



Application Number
EP 23 18 9203

5

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.

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:

20 **see sheet B**

25 All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

30 As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

35 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:

40 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:

45 **1-5, 7, 8, 11 (completely); 13-15 (partially)**

50 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 23 18 9203

5

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: 1-5, 7, 8, 11(completely); 13-15(partially)

comprising a housing (301) for accommodating a water tank (320), the housing (301) is coupled to the second front panel (130), wherein the second front panel (130) has an access hole (132) for inserting or withdrawing of the water tank (320)

2. claims: 6(completely); 13-15(partially)

comprises a bottom surface part (311) being disposed in a lower portion of the water tank (320), and a lateral surface part (313) disposed in a lateral portion of the water tank (320) and connected to the bottom surface part (311), the lateral surface part (313) is provided with a first front coupling part (311c) and a second front coupling part (311d) protruding forward, wherein the first front coupling part (311c) is fitted and coupled to the second front panel (130), and the second front coupling part (311d) is coupled to the second front panel (130) by a fastening member (s) fixing the second front coupling part (311d) to the second front panel (130)

3. claims: 9(completely); 13-15(partially)

the second front panel (130), further comprising an outer wall part (131d) protruding rearward from the panel main body part (131) such that the outer wall part (131d) is disposed at an upper side of the second inner wall part (131b); and a connection rib (133d) protruding from the panel main body part (131) and connecting between the outer wall part (131d) and the second inner wall part (131b)

4. claims: 10(completely); 13-15(partially)

a duct part (143) being disposed at an upper side of the main body (110), the housing (310) is disposed at an upper side of the duct part (143), wherein the duct part (143) forms a passage for discharging air from the electronic component space (103) out of the electronic component space (103) through an inside of the duct part (143), and at least a portion of the housing (310) is disposed to overlap the duct part (143) in an up-down direction

5. claims: 12(completely); 13-15(partially)

wherein a pair of the sliding projections (327) is spaced a

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 23 18 9203

5

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:

10 predetermined distance apart from each other in a lateral direction, and a pair of guide projections (317) protrudes upward from the bottom surface part (311), the sliding projection (327) is disposed between the pair of guide projections (317); and/or the cooking appliance further comprises a lateral projection (329) protruding from the guide projection (317) or the sliding projection (327) in a way that the lateral projection (329) is disposed between the guide projection (317) and the sliding projection (327) facing each other in the lateral direction

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

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

EP 23 18 9203

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.

06-12-2023

10	Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
	US 2018070757 A1	15-03-2018	KR	20180028642 A	19-03-2018
			US	2018070757 A1	15-03-2018
			WO	2018048255 A1	15-03-2018
15	-----				
	EP 2518413 A2	31-10-2012	CN	102755102 A	31-10-2012
			EP	2518413 A2	31-10-2012
			KR	20120122141 A	07-11-2012
			US	2012273477 A1	01-11-2012
20	-----				
	EP 0276458 A2	03-08-1988	AT	E67579 T1	15-10-1991
			EP	0276458 A2	03-08-1988
25	-----				
	KR 20070054992 A	30-05-2007	CN	1969723 A	30-05-2007
			KR	20070054992 A	30-05-2007
30	-----				
	EP 3594573 A1	15-01-2020	CN	110693311 A	17-01-2020
			EP	3594573 A1	15-01-2020
			ES	2869965 T3	26-10-2021
			PT	3594573 T	26-04-2021
35	-----				
40	-----				
45	-----				
50	-----				
55	-----				