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(54) **DOCKING UNIT FOR A SURFACE CLEANING APPARATUS**

(57) A mobile free standing air treatment unit comprises an air treatment unit, a first docking unit for a first vacuum cleaner comprising a first dirty air inlet in flow communication with an outlet port of the first vacuum cleaner and a first clean air outlet in flow communication

with an inlet port of the first vacuum cleaner and a vacuuming unit, wherein the mobile free standing air treatment unit is operable in a docking mode using a first air flow path and a cleaning mode using a second air flow path.

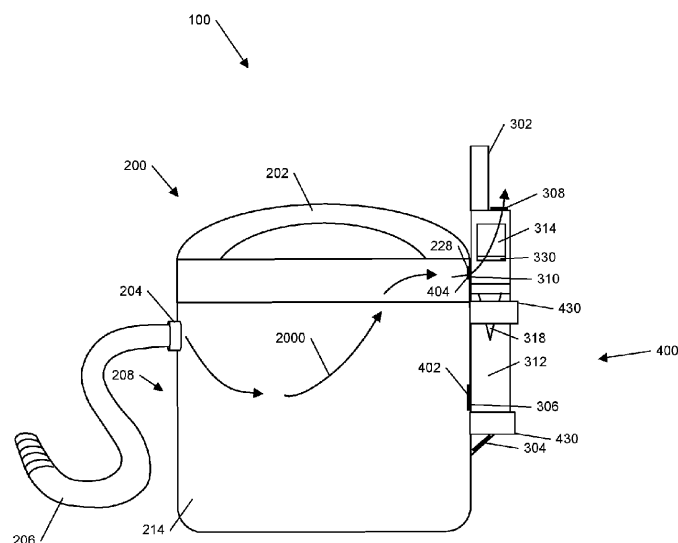


FIG. 3

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC): (Cont.)
A47L 2201/024



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 23 18 7532

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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Y	* paragraphs [0031], [0032], [0033], [0042], [0037], [0043]; figure 11 * -----	1-14	A47L5/24 A47L5/36 A47L9/00
Y	WO 2022/124782 A1 (LG ELECTRONICS INC [KR]) 16 June 2022 (2022-06-16) * paragraphs [0074], [0079], [0077], [0056], [0054] * -----	1-14	A47L5/28 A47L9/10 A47L9/14 A47L9/12 A47L9/28 A47L9/16
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A47L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 9 July 2024	Examiner Rippel, Andreas
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**

Application Number

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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: 1-15

mobile free standing air treatment unit

1.1. claim: 15

docking station

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.

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

EP 23 18 7532

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
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09 - 07 - 2024

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