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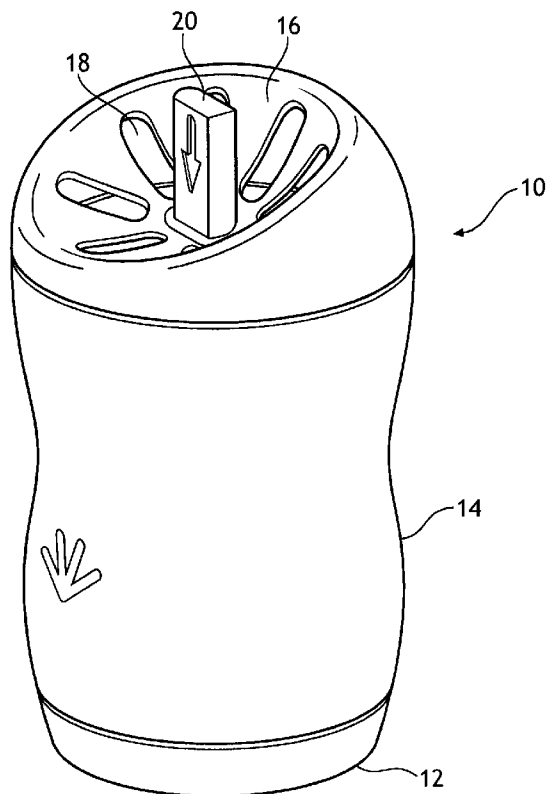
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHODS FOR DESIGNING, MAKING, AND USING A PERSONAL APPLIANCE FOR PRODUCING WATER VAPOR**



(57) Abstract: Disclosed are methods for designing and employing a portable device for effecting a desired environment proximate to the device (including carrying out such methods under business arrangements encompassing two or more business entities). The effected environment includes, in part, temporary increases in the amount of water vapor as the device emits water vapor over some time duration, typically from about 1 or 2 minutes or so to about 15 to 30 minutes or so. Heat from a chemical heating engine is employed to drive off the water vapor. The device may also emit one or more ingredients adapted to be detected by olfaction. The device may be used to help address symptoms of various ailments, e.g., cold, flu, allergies, sinusitis, and the like. Also, the device may be employed to help promote a desired emotive state for the user of the device. The device promotes one or more desired states through auditory, tactile, visual, and/or olfactory signals. Furthermore, the device may be used to open pores in skin; or to treat skin or tissue.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A61L9/02 A61L9/03				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A61L				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 5 538 020 A (FARRIER ERNEST G [US] ET AL) 23 July 1996 (1996-07-23) column 3, lines 25-41 column 4, lines 3-52 column 5, lines 36-64 column 6, line 44 - column 8, line 2 column 12, line 38 - column 13, line 16 column 15, lines 8-21 -----	5-8		
X	US 6 548 015 B1 (STUBBS JACK B [US] ET AL) 15 April 2003 (2003-04-15) column 2, line 1 - column 3, line 42 column 3, line 64 - column 4, line 5 column 4, lines 26-44 column 5, line 24 - column 7, line 65 column 8, lines 10-45; figure 3 ----- -/-	5-7		
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex. </td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.			
* Special categories of cited documents :				
'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'O ¹ ' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means 'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. '&' document member of the same patent family			
Date of the actual completion of the international search <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">11 March 2008</p>	Date of mailing of the international search report <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">25/07/2008</p>			
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center;">Maremonti, Michele</p>			

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2007/053874

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 2005/021056 A (CNS INC.; SCHANSBERG TODD [US]; STUBBS JACK B [US]) 10 March 2005 (2005-03-10) paragraphs [0010] - [0016], [0021] - [0037], [0041] - [0047]; figures -----</p>	
A	<p>WO 02/055117 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE [US]; HILL SIMON DAVID JULIAN [GB]) 18 July 2002 (2002-07-18) page 1, lines 11-18 page 3, line 24 - page 4, line 11 page 5, line 18 - page 10, line 9 page 11, line 7 - page 12, line 30; figures -----</p>	
A	<p>WO 99/48539 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE [US]; YAGNIK CHETAN KANTILAL [IN]; JAYACHANDRAN ANURA) 30 September 1999 (1999-09-30) page 2, lines 20-24 page 3, line 12 - page 6, line 31 page 7, lines 19-30 -----</p>	

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 1-4,9-12,19,20

Independent claim 1 is directed to "a method of addressing upper-respiratory health symptoms of a user" by using a vaporizer, which method includes inter alia the step of placing the vaporizer so that the emitted vapour "contact the nasal passage, throat or lungs of a user". The subject-matter of claim 1 is hence to be regarded as a method of treatment of the human body by therapy. This is also confirmed by several passages of the description (see for example par. [0005], [0015] and [0092]) stating that the vaporizer as defined in claim 1 is used to "address the symptoms of various upper-respiratory health ailments, such as colds, allergies, flu, and the like". Methods of treatment of the human body by therapy represent a subject-matter under Article 17(2)(a)(i) PCT, that the International Search Authority (ISA) shall not be required to search (see Rule 39.1(iv) PCT). It is policy of the EPO acting as ISA, not to search subject-matter as listed under Rule 39.1 PCT. Therefore, no search report is established for claim 1 and claims 2-4 dependent thereof.'

The same objection as above applies to independent claim 9. In fact, claim 9 is directed to "a method of directing water vapour to skin or tissue" by using a vaporizer, which method includes inter alia the step of placing the vaporizer so that the emitted vapour "contact skin or tissue of the user". The subject-matter of claim 9 is hence to be regarded as a method of treatment of the human body by therapy. This is also confirmed by several passages of the description (see for example par. [0005] and [0093]) stating that the vaporizer as defined in claim 9 is used to "alleviate pain, stiffness, or other such muscular, joint, or tissue/skin problems" and "to treat, skin or tissue of a user". As mentioned above, methods of treatment of the human body by therapy represent a subject-matter under Article 17(2)(a)(i) PCT, that the International Search Authority (ISA) shall not be required to search (see Rule 39.1(iv) PCT). It is policy of the EPO acting as ISA, not to search subject-matter as listed under Rule 39.1 PCT. Therefore, no search report is established for claim 9 and claims 10-12 dependent thereof.

Independent claim 19 is directed to "a method of selling a personal vaporizer", including the steps of "participating in a business arrangement with a contract manufacturer", "receiving the personal vaporizer made by the contract manufacturer" and "selling the personal vaporizer". The subject-matter of claim 19 is hence to be regarded as a method of doing business. Methods of doing business represent a subject-matter under Article 17(2)(a)(i) PCT, that the International Search Authority (ISA) shall not be required to search (see Rule 39.1(iii) PCT). It is policy of the EPO acting as ISA, not to search subject-matter as listed under Rule 39.1 PCT. Therefore, no search report is established for claim 19.

The same objection applies to independent claim 20, as well. In fact, claim 20 includes the step of "participating in a business arrangement to design the personal vaporizer". The subject-matter of claim 20 is hence to be regarded as a method of doing business. Methods of doing business represent a subject-matter under Article 17(2)(a)(i) PCT, that

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCTASA/ 210

the International Search Authority (ISA) shall not be required to search (see Rule 39.1(iii) PCT). It is policy of the EPO acting as ISA, not to search subject-matter as listed under Rule 39.1 PCT. Therefore, no search report is established for claim 20.

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 1-4, 9-12, 19, 20
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

see additi onal sheet

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 5-8

Method for emitting water vapour by means of a personal vaporizer.

2. claims: 13-18,21-23

Method of making a personal vaporizer.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2007/053874

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5538020	A	23-07-1996	NONE
us 6548015	B1	15-04-2003	NONE
WO 2005021056	A	10-03-2005	NONE
WO 02055117	A	18-07-2002	EP 1351718 A1 15-10-2003 JP 2004530532 T 07-10-2004 MX PA03006306 A 16-09-2003
WO 9948539	A	30-09-1999	AU 6767498 A 18-10-1999 BR 9815750 A 09-10-2001 CA 2324594 A1 30-09-1999 CN 1294521 A 09-05-2001 EP 1064029 A1 03-01-2001 JP 2000510384 T 15-08-2000