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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB98/03815 (22) International Filing Date: 17 December 1998 (17.12.98) (30) Priority Data: 9726669.6 17 December 1997 (17.12.97) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOTETRY LIMITED [GB/GB]; Kingsmead Mill, Little Somerford, Wiltshire SN15 5JN (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): DYSON, James [GB/GB]; Kingsmead Mill, Little Somerford, Wiltshire SN15 5JN (GB). (74) Agent: DEVONS, David, Jon; Marks & Clerk, 57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LS (GB).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(54) Title: A HANDLE FOR A VACUUM CLEANER (57) Abstract A handle for a vacuum cleaner (100) comprises a generally rigid pipe portion (10) connected to a generally flexible hose portion, the hose portion being fixedly connected to the main body (3) of the vacuum cleaner (100), the pipe portion (10) being selectively connectable to the main body (3) of the vacuum cleaner (100) in the manner of a handle or releasable from the main body (3) in the manner of a wand (9). According to the invention, the pipe portion (10) is formed by a straight, hollow tube having no internal bends. The handle may have an upwardly extending handle portion and a gripping portion (12), wherein the gripping portion (12) extends forwardly and downwardly from the handle portion so that, when the vacuum cleaner (100) is in use in an upright mode, the gripping portion (12) extends generally transverse to the forearm of the user. A cap (17) may also be provided at the distal end of the rigid pipe portion (10), the cap (17) being movable between a first position in which the end of the pipe portion (10) is closed by the cap (17) and a second position in which the end of the pipe portion (10) is not closed by the cap (17).		