



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : D06F 37/10, 21/04, 37/28		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/28126
			(43) International Publication Date: 18 May 2000 (18.05.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/NZ99/00183 (22) International Filing Date: 9 November 1999 (09.11.99) (30) Priority Data: 332708 9 November 1998 (09.11.98) NZ (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): FISHER & PAYKEL LIMITED [NZ/NZ]; 78 Springs Road, East Tamaki, Auckland (NZ). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SEAGAR, Neville, David [NZ/NZ]; 60B Godden Crescent, Mission Bay, Auckland (NZ). HUNTER, Gordon, Sharpe [NZ/NZ]; 42 Lynmore Drive, Manurewa, Auckland (NZ). OLIVER, Joanne, Mercia [NZ/NZ]; 4/511 Remuera Road, Auckland (NZ). TREEBY, Cameron, Bruce, William [NZ/NZ]; 80 Prospect Terrace, Mt Eden, Auckland (NZ). JACKSON, Russell, Joseph [NZ/NZ]; 32 Mason Avenue, Otahuhu, Auckland (NZ). (74) Agents: CALHOUN, Douglas, C. et al.; A J Park & Son, Huddart Parker Building, 6th floor, Post Office Square, P.O. Box 949, Wellington 6015 (NZ).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, 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, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RU, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, 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 With international search report.	
(54) Title: TOP LOADING LAUNDRY APPLIANCE			
(57) Abstract			
A laundry appliance such as a washing machine (2, 300) or a clothes drier (200) where user access to the clothes containing vessel (1, 201, 301) is facilitated by supporting the vessel in a structure (105, 205, 305) which may be tilted or slid out of the front of the appliance cabinet. When the structure is withdrawn from the cabinet the vessel hatch (35) is accessed substantially from the top. The vessel is preferably mounted with its axis horizontal and oriented in a side to side or "east-west" direction. The appliance motor (44/45, 210) control system sets the rotational position of the clothes vessel (1, 201, 301) so that when the structure (105, 205, 305) is withdrawn from the cabinet the hatchway is upper most. The hatch (35) is slid back to allow access to the vessel interior as part of the rotational positioning process.			