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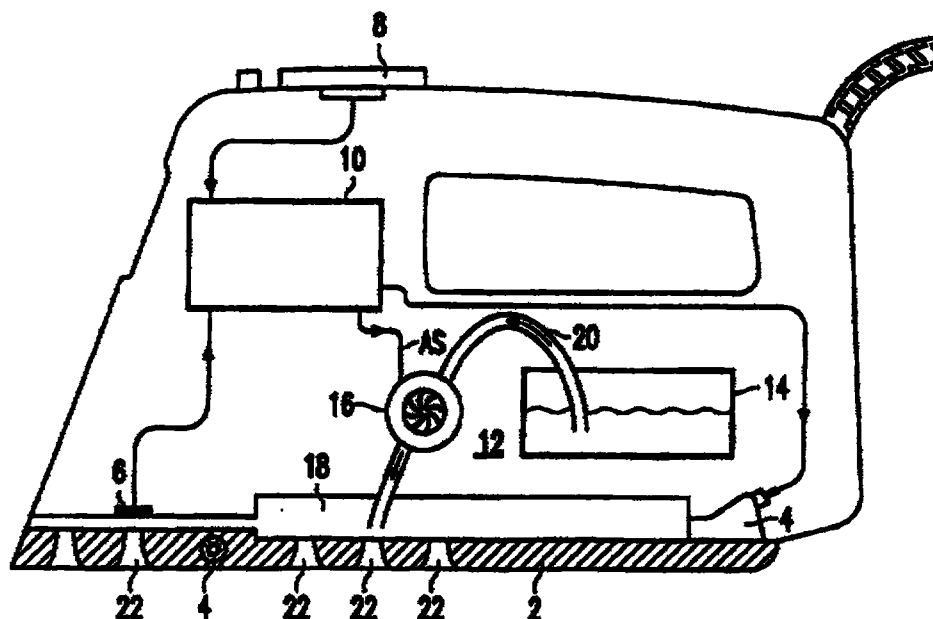
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(54) Title: FAST COOLING STEAM IRON



(57) Abstract

Steam iron having a soleplate (2) heated by a heater (4). A controller (10) controls the power of the heater (4) by comparing the actual temperature of the soleplate (2) sensed by a temperature sensor (6) with a desired temperature set by a temperature dial (8). The steam iron further has a steam generator (12) having a water tank (14), a water pump (16) and a steam chamber (18) which is heated by the soleplate (2). When the user of the iron selects a new desired soleplate temperature which is lower than the actual soleplate temperature, then the controller (10) activates the steam generator (12) by sending an appropriate activation signal to the water pump (16). The evaporating water withdraws heat from the soleplate (2) and reduces the cool-down time.