SYSTEM AND METHOD OF APPLYING A MASSAGE AND EMITTING AN AROMATIC SCENT

BACKGROUND

[0001] **1. Field of the Invention**

[0002] The present invention generally relates to massage apparatuses having scent-emitting modules.

[0003] **2. Description of the Related Art**

[0004] Massage apparatuses currently available on the market are equipped with a massage member capable of applying diverse types of massage actions on a user's body. According to the needs, a user may select a massage program corresponding to a predetermined combination of movement and pressure actions of the massage member for producing certain desirable relaxing effects. However, the mere application of massage actions may not provide sufficient relaxing results.

[0005] Therefore, there is a need for massage apparatuses that can address at least the foregoing issues.

[0005A] Any discussion of documents, acts, materials, devices, articles or the like which has been included in the present specification is not to be taken as an admission that any or all of these matters form part of the prior art base or were common general knowledge in the field relevant to the present disclosure as it existed before the priority date of each of the appended claims.

SUMMARY

[0006] Throughout this specification the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps, but not the exclusion of any other element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps.

[0007] The present application describes a massage apparatus that can enhance massage actions using aromatherapy to provide enhanced relaxation effects. Some embodiments relate to a massage apparatus includes a massage system, a scent-emitting module having a first aromatic scent subsystem and a second aromatic scent subsystem, the first aromatic scent subsystem configurable to receive a first scent medium, the second aromatic scent subsystem configurable to receive a second scent medium, each of the first and second aromatic scent subsystems independently configurable to be in a scent-emitting state or a scent non-emitting state; and a microcontroller including a memory and respectively connected with the massage system and the scent-emitting module, the memory storing a massage program that contains an instruction which, when executed by the microcontroller, is operable to selectively configure both the first aromatic scent subsystem and second aromatic scent subsystem to simultaneously be in a scent-emitting state, wherein the microcontroller is further configurable to cause the massage system to apply a massage action when the first aromatic scent subsystem and second aromatic scent subsystem are simultaneously in the scent-emitting state.

[0008] Some embodiments relate to a method of configuring massage a massage system, the massage system having a microcontroller, a massage subsystem for applying a massage sequence, and a scent-emitting module, the scent-emitting module

having a first aromatic scent subsystem and a second aromatic scent subsystem, the first aromatic scent subsystem for use in housing a first scent medium, the second aromatic scent subsystem for use in housing a second scent medium, the method comprising: configuring the first aromatic scent subsystem to be switchable between a scent-emitting state and a scent non-emitting state; configuring the second aromatic scent subsystem to be switchable between a scent-emitting state and a scent non-emitting state; and configuring a microcontroller to be in communication with the first aromatic subsystem and second aromatic subsystem, the microcontroller configurable to cause both the first aromatic scent subsystem and second aromatic scent subsystem to simultaneously be in a scent-emitting state while the massage system is applying a massage action.

[0009] Advantages of the systems and methods described herein include the ability to apply massage actions and emit an aromatic scent so as to effectively relieve stress and provide enhanced relaxation effects. As a result, a user can enjoy enhanced massage experience and obtain effective relaxation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. 1 is a schematic view illustrating an embodiment of a scent-emitting module suitable for use in a massage apparatus;

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A massage apparatus comprising:

a massage system;

a scent-emitting module having a first aromatic scent subsystem and a second aromatic scent subsystem, the first aromatic scent subsystem configurable to receive a first scent medium, the second aromatic scent subsystem configurable to receive a second scent medium, each of the first and second aromatic scent subsystems independently configurable to be in a scent-emitting state or a scent non-emitting state; and

a microcontroller including a memory and respectively connected with the massage system and the scent-emitting module, the memory storing a massage program that contains an instruction which, when executed by the microcontroller, is operable to selectively configure both the first aromatic scent subsystem and second aromatic scent subsystem to simultaneously be in a scent-emitting state,

wherein the microcontroller is further configurable to cause the massage system to apply a massage action when the first aromatic scent subsystem and second aromatic scent subsystem are simultaneously in the scent-emitting state.

2. The massage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the massage system applies the massage action, and when the first and second aromatic scent subsystems receives the first scent medium and second scent medium respectively, the microcontroller is configurable to cause, based on the massage program, both the first

and second aromatic subsystems to simultaneously emit the first scent medium and second scent medium.

3. The massage apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the scent-emitting module includes a housing having one or more outlet holes for scent emission outside the scent-emitting module, and a scent release actuator assembled with the housing, the scent release actuator being operable to selectively allow or disable scent emission.

4. The massage apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the scent release actuator includes an operating portion exposed outward for manual operation, the operating portion being arranged near the outlet hole.

5. The massage apparatus according to claim 3 or 4, wherein each of the first aromatic scent subsystem and second aromatic scent subsystem further includes a scent cartridge containing the first scent medium and the second scent medium, respectively, each scent cartridge being removably installed in the housing.

6. The massage apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each scent cartridge includes one or more second outlet holes through which aromatic scent is emitted outside the respective scent cartridge, and the scent release actuator is operable to selectively open or seal the second outlet hole of the respective scent cartridge.

7. The massage apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the scent release actuator is spring biased to seal the second outlet hole of the respective scent cartridge.

8. The massage apparatus according to claim 5, 6 or 7, wherein the housing further includes a plurality of electric conductors, and each scent cartridge includes a heater, the

heater being electrically connected with the electric conductors when the scent cartridge is placed in the housing.

9. The massage apparatus according to claim 5, 6, 7 or 8, wherein the housing is assembled with a lid operable to open and close the housing to respectively allow and prevent access to a cavity where is arranged the scent cartridge.

10. The massage apparatus according any preceding claim, wherein the scent-emitting module is connected with a flowing device via a duct, the flowing device being operable to flow air through an interior of the scent-emitting module for facilitating outward diffusion of the aromatic scent.

11. The massage apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the flowing device is arranged in an operator controller of the massage apparatus.

12. The massage apparatus according to any preceding claim, being implemented as an eye massage apparatus.

13. The massage apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the eye massage apparatus includes a left-eye portion and a right-eye portion, and a bridge connecting the left-eye portion with the right-eye portion, the scent-emitting module being arranged in the region of the bridge.

14. The massage apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 11, being implemented as a massage chair.

15. The massage apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the massage chair includes a head resting region, and a left and a right wing portion respectively

protruding forward near the head resting region, the scent-emitting module being arranged in one of the left and right wing portions.

16. A method of configuring massage a massage system, the massage system having a microcontroller, a massage subsystem for applying a massage sequence, and a scent-emitting module, the scent-emitting module having a first aromatic scent subsystem and a second aromatic scent subsystem, the first aromatic scent subsystem for use in housing a first scent medium, the second aromatic scent subsystem for use in housing a second scent medium, the method comprising:

configuring the first aromatic scent subsystem to be switchable between a scent-emitting state and a scent non-emitting state;

configuring the second aromatic scent subsystem to be switchable between a scent-emitting state and a scent non-emitting state; and

configuring a microcontroller to be in communication with the first aromatic subsystem and second aromatic subsystem, the microcontroller configurable to cause both the first aromatic scent subsystem and second aromatic scent subsystem to simultaneously be in a scent-emitting state while the massage system is applying a massage action.