96/2390-6 IPDS' copy

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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6: **D06F 75/26, G05D 23/24** — **A1**

(11) International Publication Number: **WO 96/23098**

(43) International Publication Date: 1 August 1996 (01.08.96)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB96/00019

(22) International Filing Date: 10 January 1996 (10.01.96)

(30) Priority Data:
95200147.7 23 January 1995 (23.01.95) EP
(34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: NL et al.

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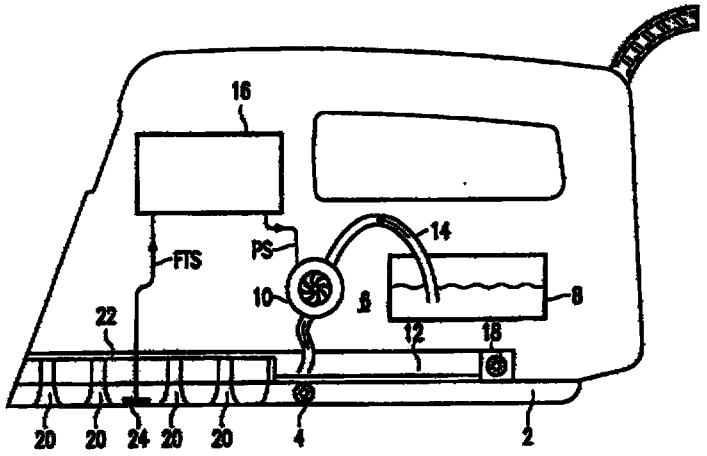
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(81) Designated States: BR, CN, JP, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: STEAM IRON HAVING A FABRIC TEMPERATURE SENSOR FOR CONTROLLING STEAM PRODUCTION



(57) Abstract

Steam iron having an electrically heated soleplate (2), a steam generator (6) comprising a water tank (8), a water pump (10) and a steam chamber (12) for supplying steam via steam vents (20) in the soleplate (2). The steam production is made dependent on the temperature of the fabric by means of a fabric temperature sensor (24) embedded in the soleplate (2). A cool fabric triggers the production of steam. The production is stopped as soon as the fabric temperature reaches the condensing temperature of steam. Since no more steam is absorbed in the fabric when the condensing temperature is reached, any more steam production is waste of water and power. In this way any further steam production is prevented and waste of water and power is avoided. After steaming has stopped the fabric temperature sensor (24) can be advantageously used to control the drying power of the soleplate (2) to avoid scorching of the fabric and to avoid waste of power.