

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION IS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

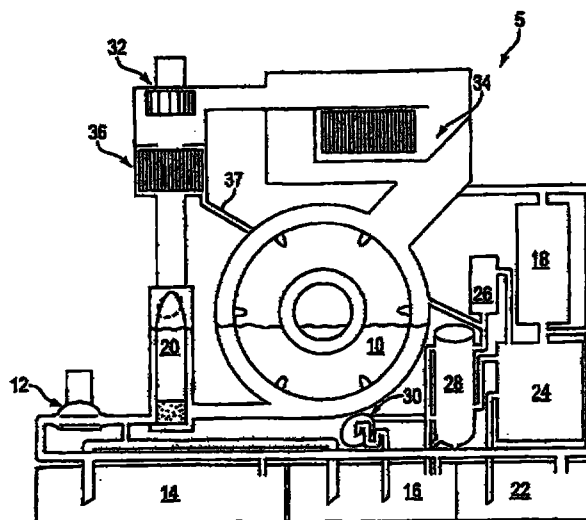
(43) International Publication Date
5 July 2001 (05.07.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/48297 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: D06L 1/08, D06F 43/08
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/19255
- (22) International Filing Date: 13 July 2000 (13.07.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/354,387 14 July 1999 (14.07.1999) US
- (71) Applicant: GREENEARTH CLEANING, LLC
[US/US]; 3724 West 119th Terrace, Leawood, KS 66209 (US).
- (74) Agents: STEPHENS, L., Keith et al.; Carlton, Fields, Ward, Emmanuel, Smith & Cutler, P.A., 777 S. Harbour Island Blvd., Tampa, FL 33602 (US).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, 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, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, 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.
— With amended claims.
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DRY CLEANING APPARATUS AND METHOD CAPABLE OF UTILIZING A SILOXANE COMPOSITION AS A SOLVENT



(57) Abstract: A system and method are provided for dry cleaning articles utilizing a siloxane solvent. The system (5) includes a cleaning basket (10) for receiving articles therein and one or more tanks (14, 16) for containing a siloxane solvent. Coupled between the tank and the cleaning basket is a pump (12) for immersing the articles in the cleaning basket with the siloxane solvent. Also included is a still (24) for distilling the dirty siloxane solvent to recover the pure siloxane solvent. A condenser (26) is coupled to the cleaning basket and/or the still for recovering condensed vapors. For decanting any water in the siloxane solvent received from the condenser, a separator (28) is coupled to the condenser. A fan (32) is coupled to the cleaning basket for circulating air past the condenser, then the heater coils (34) and into the cleaning basket for drying and cooling the articles.