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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/04111 (22) International Filing Date: 6 December 1999 (06.12.99) (30) Priority Data: 9827754.4 18 December 1998 (18.12.98) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOTETRY LIMITED [GB/GB]; Kingsmead Mill, Little Somerford, Wiltshire SN15 5JN (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DYSON, James [GB/GB]; Kingsmead Mill, Little Somerford, Wiltshire SN15 5JN (GB). BURLINGTON, Geoffrey, Michael [GB/GB]; Podgwell Cottage, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge, Gloucestershire GL6 6NJ (GB). (74) Agents: SMITH, Gillian, Ruth et al.; Dyson Research Limited, P.O. Box 2080, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 0SW (GB).		(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, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, 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 <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: VACUUM CLEANER**(57) Abstract**

The invention provides a vacuum cleaner (10) having a chassis (12), supporting wheels (14) mounted on the chassis (12), drive means (15) connected to the supporting wheels (14) for driving the supporting wheels (14) and a control mechanism for controlling the drive means (15) so as to guide the vacuum cleaner (10) across a surface to be cleaned. A cleaner head (22) having a dirty air inlet (24) facing the surface to be cleaned is mounted on the chassis (12) and separating apparatus (52) is supported by the chassis (12) and communicates with the cleaner head (22) for separating dirt and dust from an airflow entering the vacuum cleaner (10) by way of the dirty air inlet (24). The separating apparatus (52) comprises at least one cyclone (54, 56). This type of separating apparatus is not prone to clogging and therefore the pick-up capability of the cleaner (10) is maintained at a high standard.

