PATENT ASSIGNMENT

Electronic Version v1.1 Stylesheet Version v1.1

| SUBMISSION TYPE: | NEW ASSIGNMENT |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| NATURE OF CONVEYANCE: | ASSIGNMENT |

CONVEYING PARTY DATA

| Name | Execution Date |
|----------------|----------------|
| Seth E. Bixby | 05/05/2006 |
| Raymond L. Yao | 05/05/2006 |

RECEIVING PARTY DATA

| Name: | Whirlpool Corporation | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Street Address: | 2000 M-63 North | |
| City: | Benton Harbor | |
| State/Country: | MICHIGAN | |
| Postal Code: | 49022 | |

PROPERTY NUMBERS Total: 1

| Property Type | Number | |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| Application Number: | 29246159 | |

CORRESPONDENCE DATA

Fax Number: (616)742-1010

Correspondence will be sent via US Mail when the fax attempt is unsuccessful.

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER: 71546-0221

Mark A. Davis NAME OF SUBMITTER:

Total Attachments: 2 source=g0226202#page1.tif source=g0226202#page2.tif

PATENT

500144998 **REEL: 018189 FRAME: 0136**

_<u>Joint</u> Corporation

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, Seth E. Bixby and Raymond L. Yao residing, respectively, at 6192 Dreamcatcher Rd., Stevensville, Michigan 49127 and 1162 Maiden Lane, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085, (hereinafter "Assignors") have invented certain new and useful improvements in:

LAUNDRY STORAGE DEVICE

for a full description of which reference is here made to an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America executed by Assignors as of the respective dates associated with their respective names herein; and

WHEREAS, Whirlpool Corporation, a corporation of the State of Delaware, having its principal office and place of business in the City of Benton Harbor, County of Berrien, State of Michigan, (hereinafter "Assignee") is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title, and interest in, to, and under said invention and application above-identified, and in, to, and under any Letters Patent that may be obtained for said invention, together with all foreign rights corresponding thereto, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

NOW, THEREFORE, TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, be it known that, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), and other valuable and legally sufficient consideration, the receipt of which by Assignors from Assignee is hereby acknowledged, Assignors have agreed to sell, assign, and transfer and by these presents do hereby seil, assign, and transfer unto Assignee the entire right, title, and interest in, to, and under: said invention and application above identified; any Letters Patent of the United States of America that may be obtained in respect thereof; any corresponding applications for Letters Patent and Letters Patent therefor in all other areas of the world; and any reissues, extensions, substitutions, confirmations, divisions, and continuations of any of the foregoing (hereinafter "Invention Rights"), to have and to hold for the sole and exclusive use and benefit of Assignee forever.

Assignors hereby covenant and agree, for themselves and for their respective legal representatives, to assist and cooperate with Assignee in the preparation and prosecution of any applications included within the Invention Rights and in the prosecution or defense of any interference, opposition, or other proceeding that may arise in connection with any applications or Letters Patent included within the Invention Rights and further to execute and deliver to Assignee any and all additional papers that may be requested by Assignee for the purpose of implementing the terms of this ASSIGNMENT.

Assignors hereby authorize and empower Assignee to invoke and claim for any applications or Letters Patent included within the Invention Rights the benefit of any rights to which Assignors might be entitled under international law or under the laws of any particular country (such as, without limitation, the right of priority provided by the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended) and to invoke and claim such rights without further written or oral authorization from Assignors.

Assignors hereby consent that a copy of this **ASSIGNMENT** shall be deemed a full legal and formal equivalent of any assignment, consent to file, or like document that may be required in any particular country for any purpose and more particularly in proof of the right of Assignee to claim the aforesaid benefit of the right of priority provided by the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended.

Assignors covenant and agree that this **ASSIGNMENT** and all of the terms hereof shall inure to the benefit of the successors, assigns, legal representatives, or nominees of Assignee, without further written or oral authorization from Assignors.

PATENT REEL: 018189 FRAME: 0137

Assignors hereby authorize and request Assignee to fill in the following blanks specifying the United States Serial No. and filing date for said application above identified:

| U.S. Serial No. | 29/246,159 |
|-----------------|------------|
| Filed | 02/28/2006 |

but Assignee's failure to do so shall have no bearing whatsoever upon the validity or legal effect of this ASSIGNMENT.

Assignors hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to issue Letters Patent to Assignee in accordance with the terms of this ASSIGNMENT.

| indicated below. | KEOF, the said Assignors | s nave respectively ne | , could set men mands on the dates |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Dated: 5-5-06 | SIGNATURE: | 5/5/ | |
| 7 | NAME: | Seth E. Bixby | BARBARA L KATOWICH Notgry Public - Michigan |
| STATE OF Michigan |)))ss. | , N | Bertien County by Commission Expires Oct 3, 2011 cting in the County of |
| COUNTY OF Server | | 3 | - HVO Ny tana Coo si A or The The Coo si A or |
| On this 5 14 day of | n to me to be the person of | , personally appeared lescribed in and who | before me the above-named Seth executed the foregoing instrument |
| and acknowledged the same to be | his/her free act and deed in | and for the purposes | set forth in said instrument. |
| | | | |
| Notary Public, | County, | | |
| My commission expires: | - | <u> </u> | |
| | | | |
| Dated: <u>5-5-</u> 66 | SIGNATURE: | Kaymon | 2 zon |
| м | NAME: | Raymond L. Yao | 0 |
| STATE OF Michigan |)) ss. | • | |
| COUNTY OF Berien |) 33. | | |
| On this day of | | | ed before me the above-named and who executed the foregoing |
| | | | for the purposes set forth in said |
| | MINITOR CHARGE CONTRACTOR CONTRAC | _ , | BARBARA L KATOWICH |
| Notary Public, | _County, | : | Notary Public - Michigan |
| My commission expires: | | I | My Commission Expires Oct 3, 2011 |

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RECORDED: 08/30/2006