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(54) SMOKE AND CLEAN AIR GENERATING MACHINE FOR DETECTING PRESENCE AND LOCATION OF LEAKS IN A FLUID SYSTEM

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See application file for complete search history.

(56) References Cited

To view the complete listing of prior art documents cited during the proceeding for Reexamination Control Number 90/011,916, please refer to the USPTO's public Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system under the Display References tab.

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(57) ABSTRACT

A smoke and clean air generating machine for detecting the presence and location of leaks in a fluid system (e.g. the evaporative or brake system of a motor vehicle). A source of gas (e.g. air or nitrogen) under pressure is delivered to a smoke generating apparatus or to a flow meter by way of a multi-position selector valve. With the selector valve in a first position, gas is delivered to the system under test via the flowmeter to detect the presence of a leak in need of repair depending upon the reading of the flow meter. With the selector valve in a second position, gas is delivered to the smoke generating apparatus so that smoke can be supplied to the system under test to locate the leak. With the selector valve in a third position between the first and second positions, pressure is bled from the machine to disable the smoke generating apparatus and thereby terminate the production of smoke.

