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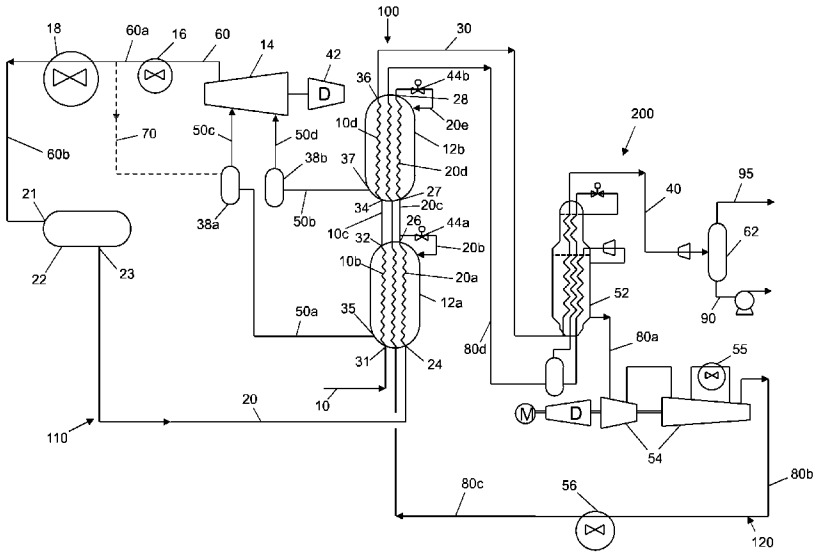
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(54) **Title:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COOLING A HYDROCARBON STREAM



(57) **Abstract:** A method of cooling a hydrocarbon stream such as natural gas from a feed stream (10), the method at least comprising the steps of : (a) passing the feed stream (10) and a first refrigerant stream (20) through a cooling stage (100) including one or more heat exchangers (12a, 12b) to provide a cooled hydrocarbon stream (30); and (b).circulating the first refrigerant stream (20) around a first refrigerant circuit (110) which includes one or more compressors (14), one or more coolers (16, 18) after the compressor (s), and a refrigerant accumulator (22) after the cooler (s); wherein there are no further coolers between the refrigerant accumulator (22) and the heat exchanger or the first of more than one heat exchanger (12a, 12b).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. F25J1/02 F25B43/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
F25J F25B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Göritz, Dirk

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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