



- (51) International Patent Classification:  
*B01L 3/00* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2012/028680
- (22) International Filing Date:  
12 March 2012 (12.03.2012)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
61/468,295 28 March 2011 (28.03.2011) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **CORNING INCORPORATED** [US/US]; 1 Riverfront Plaza, Corning, New York 14831 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BEAR, Adam J.** [US/US]; 235 Buck Street, Gorham, Maine 04038 (US). **PENTHENY, Gail H** [US/US]; 27 Clearwater Drive, Dover, New Hampshire 03820 (US). **SEETO, Paul Kevin** [US/US]; 12 Horseshoe Lane, Clinton, Maine 01510 (US).
- (74) Agent: **WILKS, Susan S**; Corning Incorporated, Intellectual Property Department, SP-Ti-03, Corning, New York 14831 (US).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CONTAINER CAP WITH KINK-RESISTANT CONNECTOR

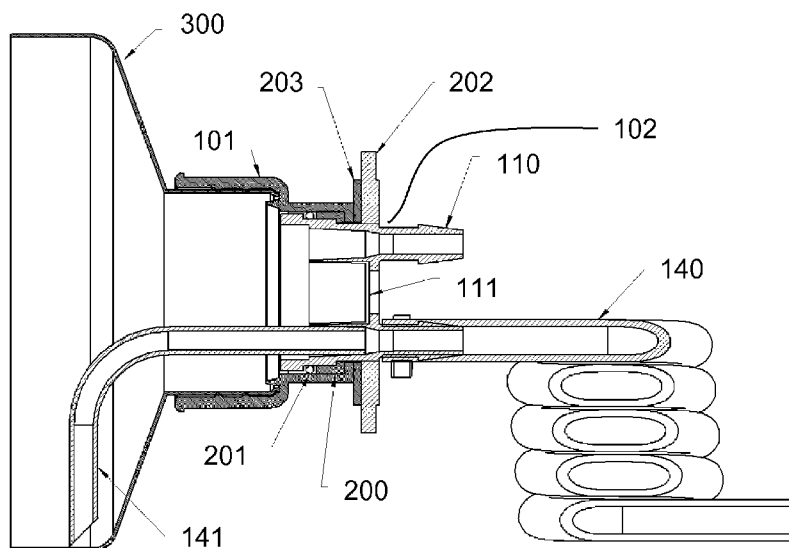


FIG. 8

(57) Abstract: A cap for use in a neck of a laboratory vessel, such as a roller bottle, is disclosed. In embodiments, the cap is assembled from two parts, an annular skirted cap body and a cap insert. In embodiments the cap insert has integral connectors for attaching tubing, vents, filters, or the like. In embodiments, the cap insert fits into the annular skirted cap body through a rotatable fitting. In embodiments, when the cap is assembled, the top portion of the cap, having integral connectors, is rotatably fitted to the annular side wall of the cap.



---

**Published:**

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

## **CONTAINER CAP WITH KINK-RESISTANT CONNECTOR**

### **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 61/468,295 filed on March 28, 2011, the content of which is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

### **FIELD**

[0002] This disclosure pertains to improved laboratory apparatus. More specifically, the disclosure relates to caps for use with rotating laboratory apparatus. In embodiments, the caps have connectors and a rotating mechanism to prevent twisting or kinking of equipment connected to the caps.

### **BACKGROUND**

[0003] Roller bottles are used in many laboratory and other applications. In general, roller bottles are cylindrical containers structured and arranged to rotate around a long axis when placed on a roller apparatus. This rolling motion increases the surface area available to cells for culture, and continually mixes cells and media in culture. Roller bottles may be used in cell and tissue culture applications for aseptic sampling, tissue and cell culture in media, pilot and process research and development, and sterile filling and transfer of liquid components of tissue and cell culture. In these applications, it is important to work with an aseptic closed system. The aseptic closed system often includes a vessel to hold the cell culture media with direct access to the media by way of a tubing accessory set that passes through the vessel cap. The tubing accessory set can include, for example, dip tubes, tubing, filters, Y connectors and quick connectors. Venting with tubing, which may require filtering may also be needed. Media can be placed or displaced within the vessel by way of pressure such as a vacuum pump, gravity or even a syringe. Each time that a tissue or cell culture container is manipulated manually, for example to remove or replace a lid, screw a lid onto a container or to insert a tube into a container, there is an increased risk of contamination of the culture. Therefore, there is a need for a roller bottle closure apparatus that both supports the maintenance of an aseptic environment and also allows for the motion of a roller bottle while still allowing the bottle to remain connected to accessories such as tubing passing through the vessel cap.

## SUMMARY

[0004] In embodiments, an additional bearing is used. In embodiments, a thrust bearing sits on a top surface of the annular skirted cap body. Secured to the top surface of the thrust bearing is an annular anti-rotation mounting plate. The cap insert, with at least one protruding port, is secured to the annular anti-rotation mounting plate. When two bearings are utilized, the annular skirted cap body, secured to a container, rotates with the container.

[0005] In an embodiment (1) a cap apparatus is disclosed having a cap apparatus assembled from two parts; (1) an annular skirted cap body having a side wall and a central opening defining an outer surface of the cap body, an annular top wall having an annular outer surface and an annular undersurface, a flanged bearing secured to an undersurface of the annular top wall, and an annular thrust bearing secured to the annular outer surface of the annular skirted side body, the thrust bearing having an outer surface; and, (2) a cap insert having at least one port; wherein the inner surface of the annular skirted cap body has a connector to connect the skirted side body to a container; wherein the cap insert is seated inside the skirted cap body so that the annular skirted cap body and the cap inserted are coupled through the flanged bearing, and the at least one port extends through the central opening of the annular skirted cap body; and wherein the top face of the cap insert is attached to an annular anti-rotation mounting plate. In an aspect (2) the cap apparatus of aspect 1 is described, further comprising an O-ring seated against the flanged bearing. In an aspect (3) the cap apparatus of aspect 2 is described wherein the O-ring is seated between the flanged bearing and the cap insert. In an aspect (4), the cap apparatus of any one of aspects 1-3 are described aspect 1 is described wherein the cap insert has at least two ports. In an aspect (5) the cap apparatus of any one of aspects 1-4 are described wherein the cap insert comprises a vent. In an aspect (6) the cap apparatus of any one of aspects 1-5 are described wherein the cap insert comprises a filter. In an aspect (7) the cap apparatus of aspect 5 is described wherein the vent comprises an adjustable vent opening. In an aspect (8) the apparatus of aspect 1 is disclosed further comprising a container structured and arranged to engage with the cap apparatus. In an aspect (9), the cap apparatus of aspect 8 is described wherein the container comprises threading. In an aspect (10), the cap apparatus of aspect 9 is described wherein the cap comprises threading structured and arranged to engage with the threading of the container, to secure the cap against a container. In an aspect (11), the cap apparatus of aspect 10 is described wherein the cap is removably secured to the container. In an aspect (12), the cap

apparatus of aspect 10 is described wherein the cap is permanently secured to the container. In an aspect (13) the cap apparatus of aspect 1 is described wherein annular skirted cap body is double skirted. In an aspect (14), the cap apparatus of aspect 1 is disclosed wherein the annular anti-rotation mounting plate comprises mounting holes. In an aspect (15), the cap apparatus of aspect 14 is disclosed wherein the mounting holes are threaded.

[0006] Additional features and advantages will be set forth in the detailed description which follows, and in part will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art from that description or recognized by practicing the embodiments as described herein, including the detailed description which follows, the claims, as well as the appended drawings.

[0007] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are merely exemplary, and are intended to provide an overview or framework to understanding the nature and character of the claims. The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate one or more embodiment(s), and together with the description serve to explain principles and operation of the various embodiments.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

[0008] **FIGURE 1** is an exploded view of an embodiment of a cap apparatus.

[0009] **FIGURE 2A – D** are illustrations of four embodiments (A, B, C and D) of cap inserts.

[0010] **FIGURE 3** is an exploded view of a partially assembled embodiment of the cap apparatus.

[0011] **FIGURE 4** is an additional exploded view of a partially assembled embodiment of the cap apparatus.

[0012] **FIGURE 5** is a perspective view of an embodiment of an assembled cap apparatus.

[0013] **FIGURE 6** cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a cap apparatus, attached to a container.

[0014] **FIGURE 7** is an illustration of an embodiment of a roller bottle with an embodiment of a cap apparatus of the present invention.

[0015] **FIGURE 8** is a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of the cap apparatus on a container, showing in dark areas the regions of the cap apparatus that rotate with the container.

[0016] **FIGURE 9** is an additional embodiment of the cap apparatus coupled to a flask.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0017] A cap apparatus for use in a neck of a container, such as a roller bottle, is disclosed. In embodiments, the cap is assembled from two parts, an annular skirted cap body and a cap insert. Once assembled, the cap is an integral part. In embodiments the cap insert has integral connectors for attaching tubing, vents, filters, or the like. In embodiments, the cap insert fits into the annular skirted cap body and couples to the annular skirted cap body through at least one rotatable fitting. In embodiments, when the cap is assembled, the cap insert of the cap apparatus is rotatably fitted to the annular skirted cap body. That is, the cap apparatus functions to allow the annular skirted cap body of the cap to be secured to a container, while the cap insert portion, having features such as ports or vents, is free to rotate in relation to annular skirted cap body and the container. Thus, when the container (and the annular skirted cap body of the cap apparatus) rotates, the cap insert portion can remain in a relatively stationary orientation, which prevents tubing attached to the ports from twisting or kinking.

[0018] In certain applications, such as tissue and cell culture, cell culture containers such as roller bottles are rotated. Rotating cells and tissues in culture may increase the efficiency of cultures, and support healthy cells. Often, during culture, air exchange is provided to the culture through a vented cap. In order to move liquids, including cells and media for example, into and out of roller bottles, caps having connectors are often attached to the bottles. These caps may have ports that are structured and arranged to couple with tubing to allow for the movement of liquids or gasses into or out of culture containers. Often, when it becomes necessary to stop rotating a cell culture container and move liquid into or out of the container, the cap must be changed. To change a cap from a cap having a vent to a cap having a tube connector, an operator must remove the first cap and exchange it for another cap. Each time this occurs, especially when this exchange is performed by a human operator, there is a risk of contaminating the culture. In addition, this type of manipulation of cell culture containers is labor and time intensive. Therefore, there is a need for a cell culture container that does not require changing a cap in order to introduce a tube connector.

[0019] Roller bottles are typically filled vertically and then laid horizontally on a roller machine. The vessel is not filled completely. Care is taken when the bottle is placed horizontally so that the vent membrane does not get wet with cell media. The bottle sits on and between two rotating rollers. The rotating rollers may have a rubber compound covering to provide friction to the roller bottle. The rolling action of the roller bottle provides increase exposure of the cells to oxygen for increased cell growth.

[0020] It may be preferable to have a connection, for example as a tube connection, to a roller bottle, while the bottle is rolling. If a container is directly connected to tubing, through a cap having a tubing connector for example, and the container is rotated, the tubing would rapidly become entangled. Therefore, there is a need for a container that can be rotated while attached to tubing, without causing the tubing to become entangled.

[0021] A cap apparatus for use in a neck of a container, such as a roller bottle, is disclosed. In embodiments, the cap apparatus is assembled from two parts, an annular skirted cap body having a skirted annular side wall and a central opening, and a cap insert. In embodiments, the cap insert has at least one port, and may have additional features such as one or more vents or one or more filter features. The annular skirted cap body may be secured to a container, removably or permanently. In embodiments, the annular skirted cap body has threads or snap-fittings to attach the cap apparatus to a container. In embodiments, a flanged bearing is inserted into the cap body, and then the cap insert is inserted into the cap body. The flanged bearing is seated between the cap insert and the cap body, forming a coupling that allows the two parts, the annular skirted cap body and the cap insert to slidingly rotate in relation to each other. Optionally, an O-ring may be seated beneath the flanged bearing. The O-ring may function to keep debris that might form from friction between the flanged bearing and the annular skirted cap body or the cap insert, from entering the cell culture container.

[0022] In embodiments, an additional bearing is used. In embodiments, a thrust bearing sits on a top surface of the annular skirted cap body. Secured to the top surface of the thrust bearing is an annular anti-rotation mounting plate. The cap insert, with at least one protruding port, is secured to the annular anti-rotation mounting plate. When two bearings are utilized, the annular skirted cap body, secured to a container, rotates with the container. In this embodiment, the cap insert is rotatably coupled to the annular skirted cap body in two locations: (1) through a flanged bearing and (2) through the annular anti-rotation mounting plate which is rotatably coupled to the annular skirted cap body through a thrust bearing. The port or ports may be connected to an external stationary port connection. For example, the

ports may be connected to tubing that extends from the cap, and holds the cap insert ports, and therefore the cap insert, stationary.

[0023] When the cap is secured to a container, and the container is rotated, the annular skirted cap body rotates, because the annular skirted cap body is secured to the container. However, the cap insert, seated against the flanged bearing inside the annular skirted cap body and optionally the annular anti-rotation mounting plate which is secured to a thrust bearing on the top side of the cap body, can remain stationary.

[0024] This mechanism allows a rotating container to remain secured to a stationary point, such as tubing, while rotating. When the cap includes both a venting feature and a tube connector feature or port, the container/cap combination may be utilized without requiring a change of caps from a vented cap to a cap with a port. This reduces the number of cap changes and reduces the risk of culture contamination.

[0025] Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiment(s), an example of which is/are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Whenever possible, the same reference numerals will be used throughout the drawings to refer to the same or like parts.

[0026] **FIGURE 1** is an exploded view of an embodiment of a cap. **FIG. 1** shows a cap **100** which is assembled from an annular skirted cap body **101** and a cap insert **102**. As shown in **FIG. 1**, the annular skirted cap body **101** has a side wall **120** and a central opening **121** defining an outer surface **122** of the annular skirted cap body **101**, an inner surface **123** of the annular skirted cap body **101** and an annular top wall **124** having an annular outer surface **125** and an annular undersurface (not shown). In the embodiment illustrated in **FIG. 1**, two ports **110** are shown, along with two vent openings **111**. In addition, shown in **FIG. 1**, the vent openings may be open or closed. In embodiments, the vent openings may be closed using, for example, foil seals **115**. In additional embodiments, the vent openings **111** may be opened or closed using a sliding vent closing mechanism (not shown). In embodiments, vent openings **111** may be filled with filter material **116** to prevent material from entering the cell culture container.

[0027] **FIGURE 2A – D** are illustrations of four embodiments (A, B, C and D) of cap inserts. **FIG. 2A** shows a cap insert **102** having 1 port **110**, and no vents. **FIG. 2B** shows a cap insert **102** having 1 port **110** and two vents **111**. **FIG. 2C** shows a cap insert **102** having 2 ports **110** and no vents. **FIG. 2D** shows a cap insert **102** having 2 ports **110** and two vents **111**. **FIG. 2** illustrates that the cap insert **102** may be available in many configurations, according to the needs of the user. Because of the way that the cap apparatus are assembled,



there is considerable flexibility in the cap inserts **102** that may be coupled to a cap body. That is, when manufacturing the cap apparatus, the manufacturer has flexibility in choosing the cap insert that may be combined with an annular skirted cap body to create the cap apparatus required by a customer. Cap insert parts having different features such as ports or vents or filters are interchangeable, and fit into the annular skirted cap body. The dimensions of the annular skirted cap body dictate the coupling between the cap and the container. The cap insert dictates the nature of the connectors and features found in the cap apparatus. Because of this method of assembly, there are numerous embodiments of cap apparatus disclosed herein. Only a few of these embodiments are shown in **FIG. 2A-D**.

[0028] **FIGURE 3** is an exploded view of a partially assembled embodiment of the cap apparatus. Shown in **FIG. 3** is an annular thrust bearing **203**, an embodiment of the annular skirted cap body **101** and an flanged bearing **200**. The embodiment shown in **FIG. 3** is a double-skirted annular cap body, having two skirts, **132** and **133**. The flanged bearing **200** is inserted into the skirted cap body **101** from below, and the thrust bearing **203** is coupled to the annular top wall **124** of the skirted cap body **122**. Also illustrated in **FIG. 3** is that the outer surface of the annular skirted cap body may be texturized to improve manipulation of the cap in relation to the container. The flanged bearing **200** is pressed into the annular skirted cap body **101**. The flanged bearing **200** and the thrust bearing **203** may be coupled to the annular skirted cap body **101** by any means known in the art including press-fitting, welding, heat-sealing or other methods. The thrust bearing, for example, may be ultrasonically welded to the face of the cap. The flanged bearing **200** and thrust bearing **203** are annular to allow the cap insert to pass through the center opening of the skirted cap body **101**.

[0029] **FIGURE 4** is an additional exploded view of a partially assembled embodiment of the cap apparatus. **FIG. 4** shows the annular skirted cap body **122** with the thrust bearing **203** attached to its annular top wall **124** (not shown in **FIG. 4**). The cap insert **102** is shown. The cap insert has a top face **105**. Also shown in **FIG. 4** is the anti-rotation mounting plate **202**. Once the cap insert **102** is assembled through the the annular skirted cap body and bearing assembly **400**, the anti-rotation mounting plate **202** is pressed onto the cap insert **102**. In embodiments, the anti-rotation mounting plate **202** is attached onto the cap insert **102** by, for example, a radial press fit such that the cap insert **102** and anti-rotation mounting plate **202** are solidly joined as one. In embodiments, it is pressed to an axial distance to allow clearance for the cap and bearing assembly to freely rotate.

[0030] **FIGURE 5** is a perspective view of an embodiment of an assembled cap apparatus **100**. **FIG. 5** shows the annular skirted cap body and bearing assembly **400**, with the cap insert threaded through the skirted cap body **101**. Ports **110** extend from the top face of the assembly. Tubing **140** is shown attached to one port **110**. Tubing may be attached to the port using a clamp **145**. The anti-rotation mounting plate **202** also shows a pilot diameter for mounting **501**. This additional diameter on the anti-rotation mounting plate **202** lends additional diameter that may be used to couple the anti-rotation mounting plate **202** to another apparatus (not shown). The anti-rotation mounting plate **202** may have mounting holes **500**. In embodiments, these mounting holes may be threaded. These mounting holes may be used to couple the anti-rotation mounting plate **202** to another apparatus (not shown).

[0031] **FIGURE 6** is a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a cap apparatus **101**, attached to a roller bottle **300**. **FIG. 6** shows the cap apparatus for the roller bottle aseptic closed system. To maintain the closed environment, the cap and tubing set must be able to tolerate rotation of the roller bottle vessel while remaining stationary itself. If the tubing rotated with the bottle, the tubing set would tangle and eventually detach itself. A flanged bearing **200** is pressed into the cap **101**. It can be secured by adhesive, weld, or press fit into the housing of the cap. It is made of a suitable bearing material. An annular thrust bearing **203** is secured to the outer surface of the top side of the cap. It too can be secured by adhesive or weld. The annular thrust bearing **203** has a top surface. An o-ring **201** is inserted into annular skirted cap body **101** right behind the flanged bearing **200**. The annular skirted cap body has a connector to connect to the container. Shown in **FIG. 6** are threads **130** to connect to a threaded neck of the container **300**. Other connectors may also be used, including a snap-fit connector, for example.

[0032] The cap insert **102** is slipped into the annular skirted cap body **101**, (from left to right), making contact with the flanged bearing **200** and then the o-ring **201**, so that the at least one port extends from the top of the cap apparatus. The o-ring **201** will prevent any wear debris from the bearings from entering into the container or vessel **300**. The anti-rotation mounting plate **202** is then pressed onto the cap insert **102**. Relative rotation occurs at the inside diameter of the flanged bearing **200** and the outer face of the thrust bearing **203**. Dip tubes **141** and tubing set accessories **140** are then added to the cap apparatus. The entire cap and tubing accessory is then screwed into the roller bottle to complete the assembly. Relative rotation occurs at the inside diameter of the flanged bearing **200** and the outer face of the thrust bearing **203**. Tubing **140** is shown coupled to a port **110**. A dip tube **141** is also shown inserted into the interior of the vessel **300**. The dip tube allows liquid to be removed

from the container or vessel without removing the cap apparatus **100**. It is important to note that if the cap has a right hand thread, the bottle is limited to only counterclockwise rotation as viewed from the cap end of the bottle. Otherwise, the cap would unscrew itself.

[0033] **FIGURE 7** is an illustration of an embodiment of a roller bottle **300** with an embodiment of a cap apparatus **100** of the present invention. As the roller bottle rotates (clockwise, as shown by the arrow), the ports coupled to tubing **140** do not rotate. And, the dip tube **141**, extending into the interior of the roller bottle **300**, also does not rotate.

[0034]

[0035] **4** is a top-down view of an embodiment of a cap apparatus on a container. **FIG. 4** illustrates the container **300**. The annular skirted cap body **120** is attached to the neck of the vessel **300** by threads **130**. The anti-rotation mounting plate **202** is attached, on it's underside, to the thrust bearing **203**. The cap insert **102** is attached to the anti-rotation mounting plate **202**. The cap insert as shown has two ports **110** and one vent **111**.

[0036] **FIGURE 8** is an additional cross-sectional view of an embodiment of the cap apparatus on a container, showing in dark areas the regions of the cap apparatus that rotate with the container. **FIG. 8** illustrates an embodiment of a cap apparatus **101**, attached to a roller bottle **300**. **FIG. 8** shows the cap apparatus for the roller bottle aseptic closed system. To maintain the closed environment, the cap and tubing set must be able to tolerate rotation of the roller bottle vessel while remaining stationary itself. If the tubing rotated with the bottle, the tubing set would tangle and eventually detach itself. A flanged bearing **200** is pressed into the cap **101**. It can be secured by adhesive, weld, or press fit into the housing of the cap. It is made of a suitable bearing material. An annular thrust bearing **203** is secured to the outer surface of the top side of the cap. It too can be secured by adhesive or weld, or by any suitable method. The annular thrust bearing **203** has a top surface. An o-ring **201** is inserted into annular skirted cap body **101** behind the flanged bearing **200**.

[0037] The cap insert **102** is slipped into the annular skirted cap body **101**, (from left to right), making contact with the flanged bearing **200** and then the o-ring **201**. The o-ring **201** will prevent any wear debris from the bearings from entering into the container or vessel **300**. The anti-rotation mounting plate **202** is then pressed onto the cap insert **102**. Relative rotation occurs at the inside diameter of the flanged bearing **200** and the outer face of the thrust bearing **203**. Dip tubes **141** and tubing set accessories **140** are then added to the cap apparatus. The entire cap and tubing accessory is then screwed into the roller bottle to complete the assembly. Relative rotation occurs at the inside diameter of the flanged bearing **200** and the outer face of the thrust bearing **203**. Tubing **140** is shown coupled to a port **110**.

A dip tube **141** is also shown inserted into the interior of the vessel **300**. The dip tube allows liquid to be removed from the container or vessel without removing the cap apparatus **100**. It is important to note that if the cap has a right hand thread, the bottle is limited to only counterclockwise rotation as viewed from the cap end of the bottle. Otherwise, the cap would unscrew itself.

[0038] The dark shaded region in **FIG. 8** illustrates parts of the cap apparatus which rotate along with the container or vessel. The roller bottle **300**, annular skirted cap body **101**, flanged bearing **200** and thrust bearing **203** all rotate as one unit, upon the rotation of the container or bottle. Typical rotation speed is under 5 rpm. The cap insert **102**, dip tubing **141**, anti-rotation mounting plate **202** and tubing **140** are stationary. They are held stationary by securing a portion of the cap insert **102**, tubing **140** or anti-rotation mounting plate **202** to a frame or equipment or some other available bulkhead that is immobile (unmovable). Relative rotational motion occurs at the inside diameter of the flanged bearing and an outside diameter of the cap insert. Relative motion also occurs between the face of the thrust bearing and the face of the anti-rotation mounting plate. For optimal operation, proper perpendicularity and axial alignment must be maintained when attaching the anti-rotation mounting plate or pre-mature wear of the bearings may occur. Flexible couplings mounted between the anti-rotation mounting plate and the bulkhead could help account for any gross misalignment.

[0039] **FIGURE 9** is an illustration of an additional embodiment of a use of the cap apparatus **100** disclosed herein, used in association with a flask **310**. Flasks are often used in applications that require shaking or motion. While this motion may not be rolling motion, the motion may cause the same concerns about keeping tubing un-kinked. Thus, embodiments of Container Cap with Kink-Resistant Connector are disclosed. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the apparatus and methods described herein can be practiced with embodiments other than those disclosed. The disclosed embodiments are presented for purposes of illustration and not limitation.

What is claimed is:

1. A cap apparatus comprising;

a cap apparatus assembled from two parts;

(1) an annular skirted cap body having a side wall and a central opening defining an outer surface of the cap body, an annular top wall having an annular outer surface and an annular undersurface, a flanged bearing secured to an undersurface of the annular top wall, and an annular thrust bearing secured to the annular outer surface of the annular skirted side body, the thrust bearing having an outer surface; and,

(2) a cap insert having at least one port;

wherein the inner surface of the annular skirted cap body has a connector to connect the skirted side body to a container;

wherein the cap insert is seated inside the skirted cap body so that the annular skirted cap body and the cap inserted are coupled through the flanged bearing, and the at least one port extends through the central opening of the annular skirted cap body;

and wherein the top face of the cap insert is attached to an annular anti-rotation mounting plate.

2. The cap apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an O-ring seated against the flanged bearing.
3. The cap apparatus of claim 2 wherein the O-ring is seated between the flanged bearing and the cap insert.
4. The cap apparatus of any one of claims 1-3 wherein the cap insert has at least two ports.
5. The cap apparatus of any one of claims 1-4 wherein the cap insert comprises a vent.

6. The cap apparatus of any one of claims 1-5 wherein the cap insert comprises a filter.
7. The cap apparatus of claim 5 wherein the vent comprises an adjustable vent opening.
8. The cap apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a container structured and arranged to engage with the cap apparatus.
9. The cap apparatus of claim 8 wherein the container comprises threading.
10. The cap apparatus of claim 9 wherein the cap comprises threading structured and arranged to engage with the threading of the container, to secure the cap against a container.
11. The cap apparatus of claim 10 wherein the cap is removably secured to the container.
12. The cap apparatus of claim 10 wherein the cap is permanently secured to the container.
13. The cap apparatus of claim 1 wherein the annular skirted cap body is double skirted.
14. The cap apparatus of claim 1 wherein the annular anti-rotation mounting plate comprises mounting holes.
15. The cap apparatus of claim 14 wherein the mounting holes are threaded.

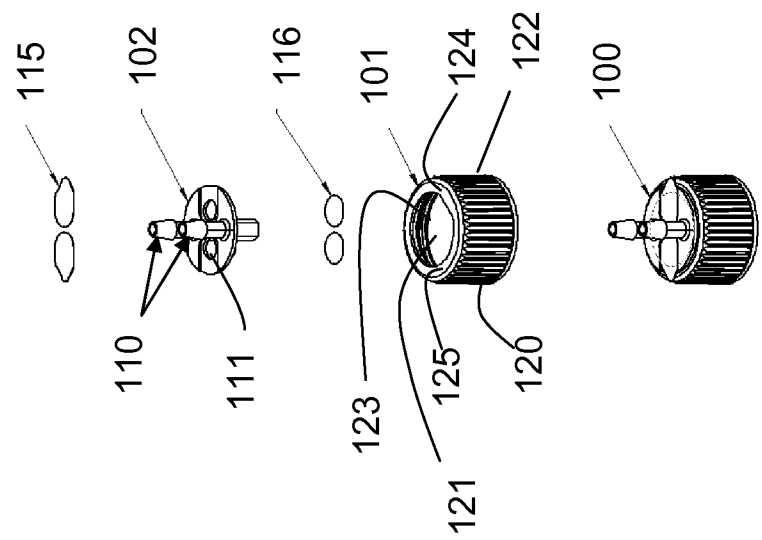


FIG. 1

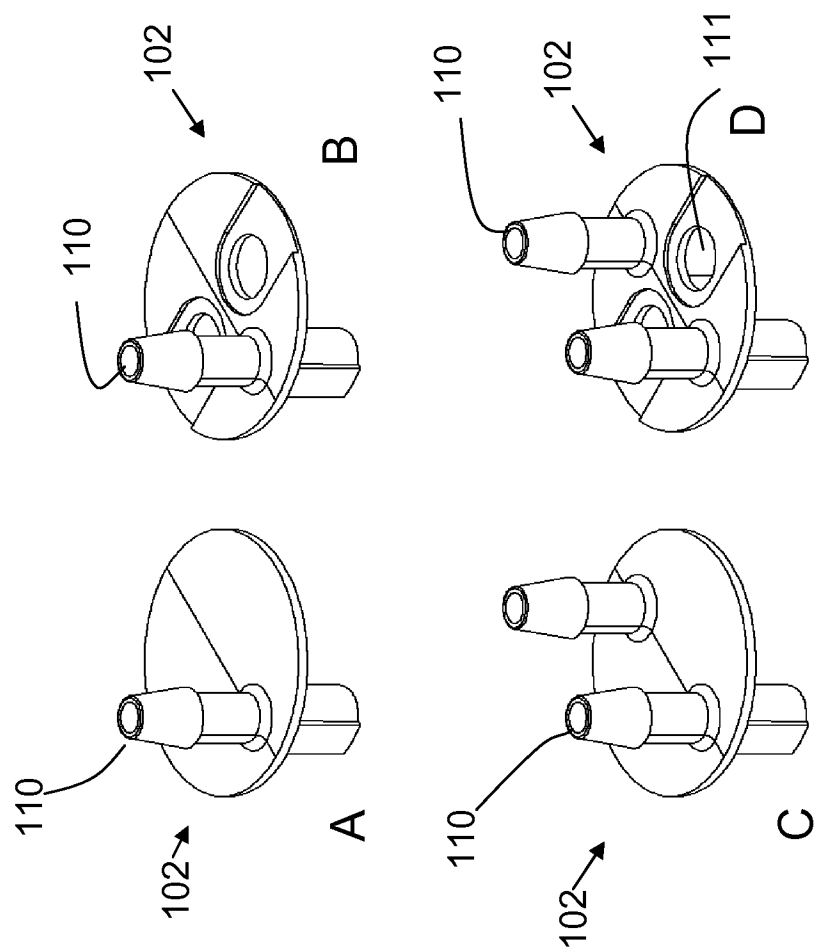


FIG. 2



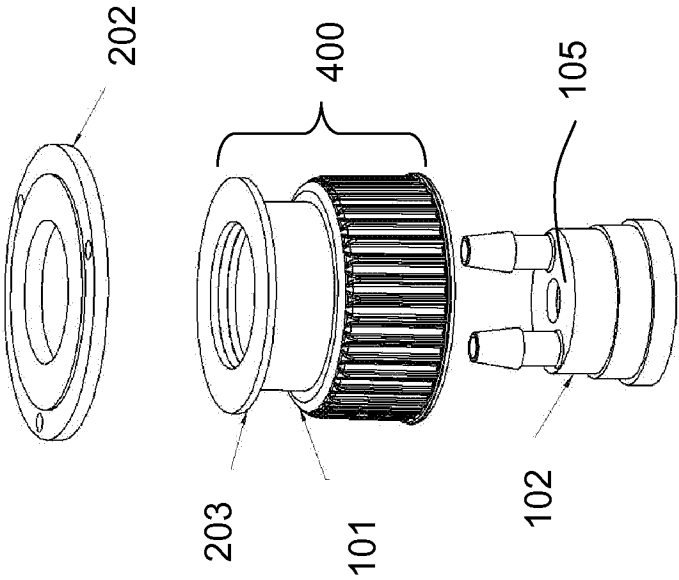


FIG. 4

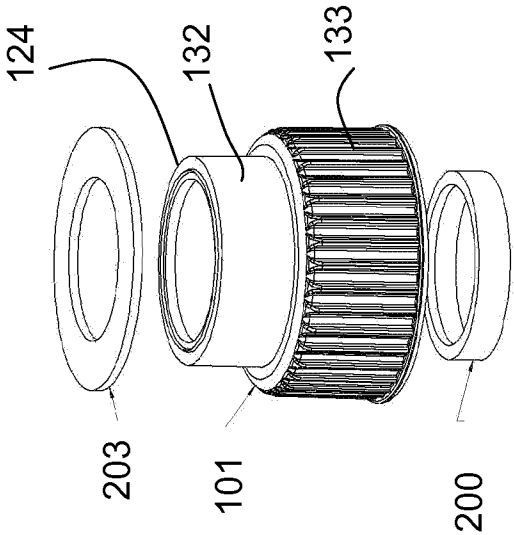


FIG. 3

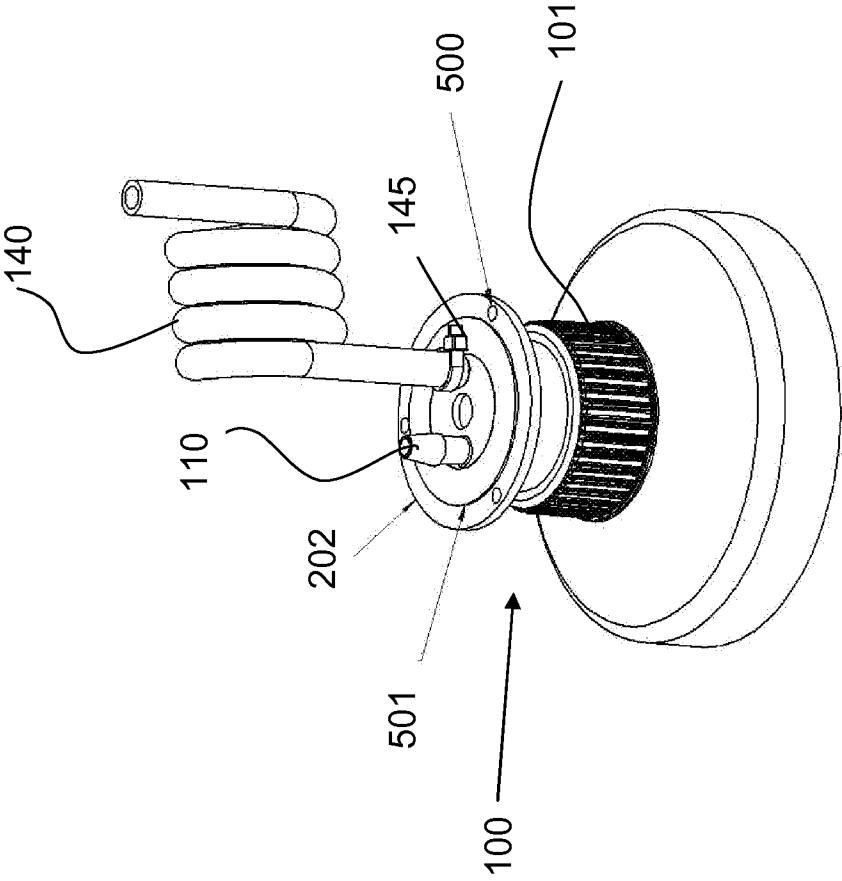


FIG. 5

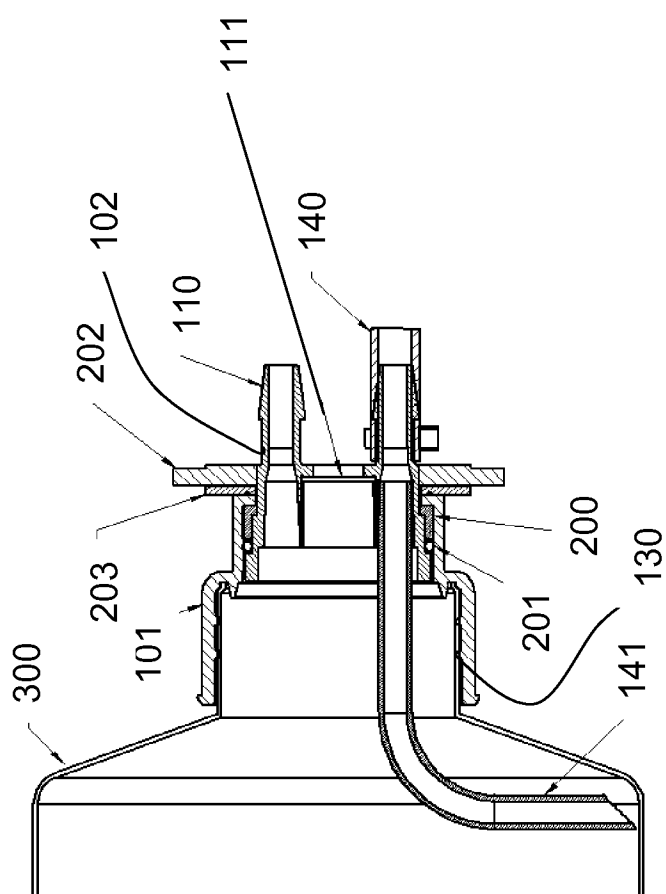


FIG. 6

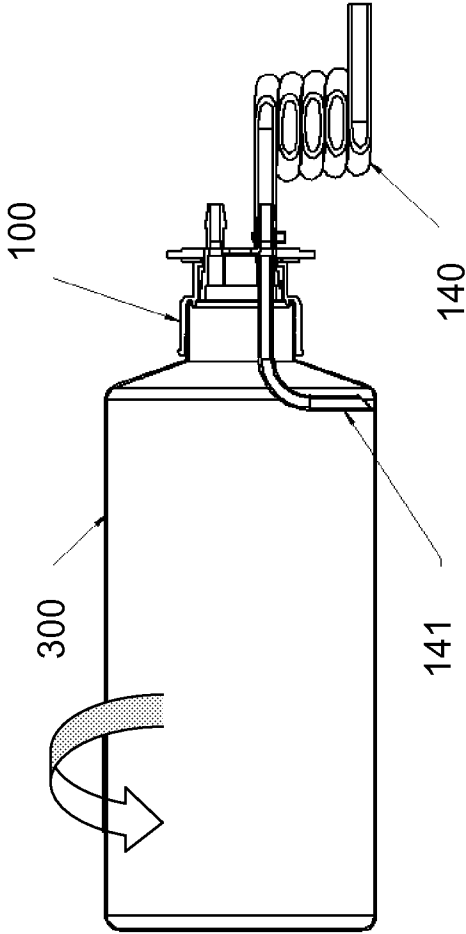


FIG. 7

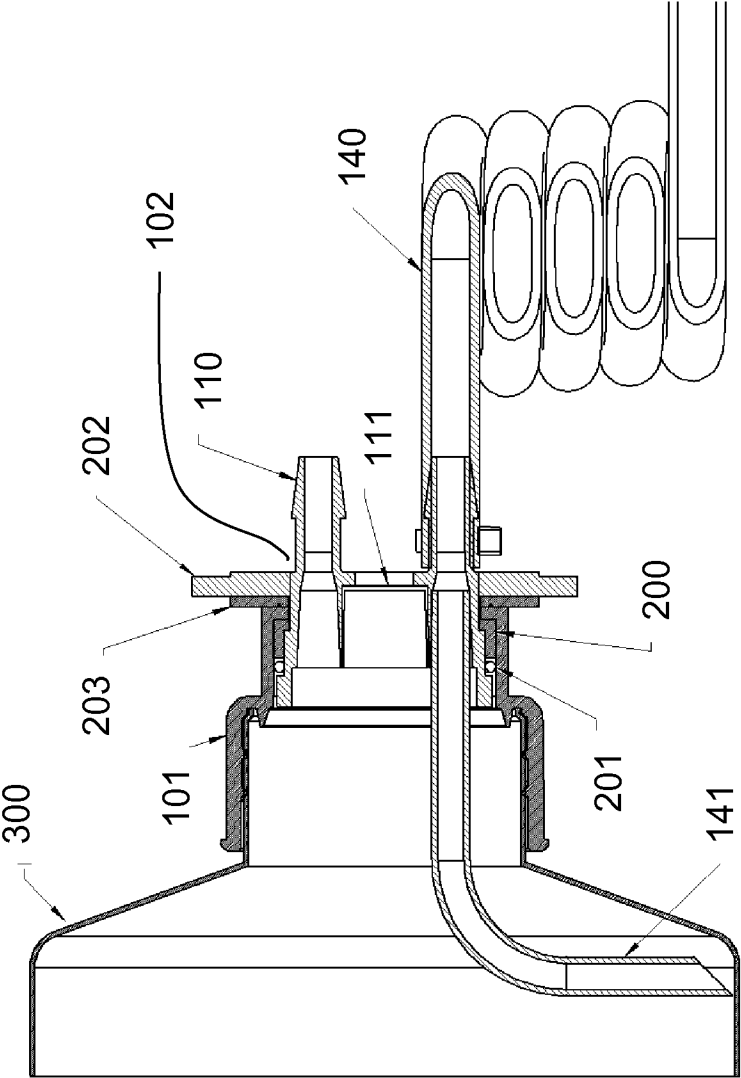


FIG. 8

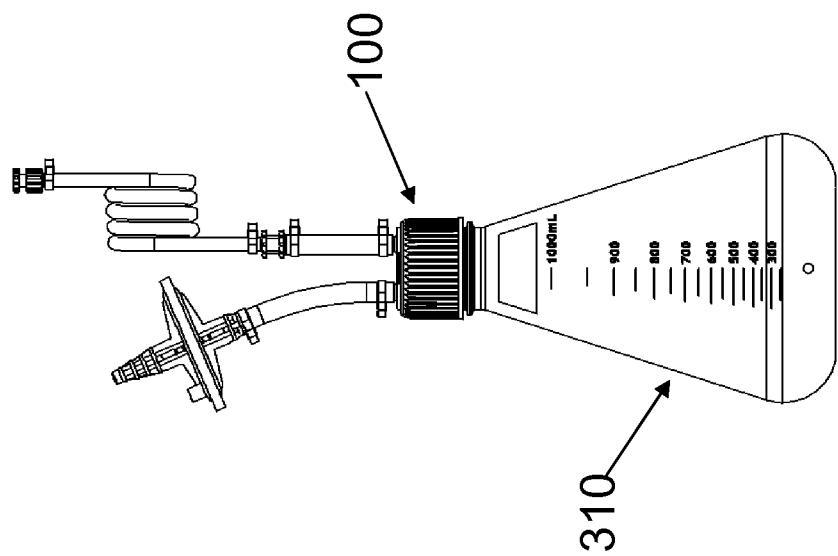


FIG. 9

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/US2012/028680

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B01L3/00  
ADD.

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)

B01L C12M

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 practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                                                                                                                          | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| X         | US 3 740 321 A (PAGANO J ET AL)<br>19 June 1973 (1973-06-19)<br>the whole document<br>-----                                                                                                                                 | 1-15                  |
| X         | EP 0 657 382 A2 (CIBA CORNING DIAGNOSTICS CORP [US] CIBA CORNING DIAGNOSTICS CORP)<br>14 June 1995 (1995-06-14)<br>column 7, line 26 - column 8, line 8<br>column 13, line 51 - column 14, line 8;<br>figures 1-36<br>----- | 1-15                  |
| X         | US 4 330 216 A (JOHNSON LUTHER R)<br>18 May 1982 (1982-05-18)<br>the whole document<br>-----                                                                                                                                | 1                     |
| A         | US 4 747 500 A (GACH PETER P [US] ET AL)<br>31 May 1988 (1988-05-31)<br>column 6, lines 22-38; figures 12, 13<br>-----<br>-/--                                                                                              | 1-15                  |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 June 2012

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/07/2012

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Viskanic, Martino

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2012/028680

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                        | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A         | US 4 289 854 A (TOLBERT WILLIAM R ET AL)<br>15 September 1981 (1981-09-15)<br>the whole document<br>----- | 1-15                  |



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2012/028680

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |    | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
|-------------------------------------------|----|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| US 3740321                                | A  | 19-06-1973          | NONE                       |                     |
| EP 0657382                                | A2 | 14-06-1995          | AT 167458 T                | 15-07-1998          |
|                                           |    |                     | AT 207850 T                | 15-11-2001          |
|                                           |    |                     | AT 207851 T                | 15-11-2001          |
|                                           |    |                     | AU 689473 B2               | 02-04-1998          |
|                                           |    |                     | AU 6601594 A               | 15-06-1995          |
|                                           |    |                     | CA 2125217 A1              | 10-06-1995          |
|                                           |    |                     | DE 69411134 D1             | 23-07-1998          |
|                                           |    |                     | DE 69411134 T2             | 22-10-1998          |
|                                           |    |                     | DE 69428920 D1             | 06-12-2001          |
|                                           |    |                     | DE 69428920 T2             | 11-04-2002          |
|                                           |    |                     | DE 69428921 D1             | 06-12-2001          |
|                                           |    |                     | DE 69428921 T2             | 11-04-2002          |
|                                           |    |                     | DK 657382 T3               | 06-04-1999          |
|                                           |    |                     | DK 0825148 T3              | 18-02-2002          |
|                                           |    |                     | DK 0829451 T3              | 21-01-2002          |
|                                           |    |                     | EP 0657382 A2              | 14-06-1995          |
|                                           |    |                     | ES 2117213 T3              | 01-08-1998          |
|                                           |    |                     | ES 2163706 T3              | 01-02-2002          |
|                                           |    |                     | ES 2163707 T3              | 01-02-2002          |
|                                           |    |                     | JP 2858634 B2              | 17-02-1999          |
|                                           |    |                     | JP 2993636 B2              | 20-12-1999          |
|                                           |    |                     | JP 8052343 A               | 27-02-1996          |
|                                           |    |                     | JP 10318887 A              | 04-12-1998          |
|                                           |    |                     | PL 306124 A1               | 12-06-1995          |
|                                           |    |                     | US 5573046 A               | 12-11-1996          |
|                                           |    |                     | US 5586590 A               | 24-12-1996          |
|                                           |    |                     | US 5586673 A               | 24-12-1996          |
|                                           |    |                     | US 5755269 A               | 26-05-1998          |
| US 4330216                                | A  | 18-05-1982          | NONE                       |                     |
| US 4747500                                | A  | 31-05-1988          | AU 6907087 A               | 03-12-1987          |
|                                           |    |                     | DE 3714582 A1              | 03-12-1987          |
|                                           |    |                     | FR 2602747 A1              | 19-02-1988          |
|                                           |    |                     | GB 2190903 A               | 02-12-1987          |
|                                           |    |                     | JP 62287859 A              | 14-12-1987          |
|                                           |    |                     | NZ 219354 A                | 27-03-1990          |
|                                           |    |                     | US 4747500 A               | 31-05-1988          |
|                                           |    |                     | ZA 8701909 A               | 26-10-1988          |
| US 4289854                                | A  | 15-09-1981          | CA 1162920 A1              | 28-02-1984          |
|                                           |    |                     | DE 3166446 D1              | 08-11-1984          |
|                                           |    |                     | EP 0042733 A2              | 30-12-1981          |
|                                           |    |                     | JP 1756284 C               | 23-04-1993          |
|                                           |    |                     | JP 4046555 B               | 30-07-1992          |
|                                           |    |                     | JP 57065180 A              | 20-04-1982          |
|                                           |    |                     | US 4289854 A               | 15-09-1981          |