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- (71) Applicant: **BW TECHNOLOGIES LTD** [GB/GB]; Abbey Business Park, Monks Walk, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8HT (GB).
- (72) Inventor: **GRANT, Jon**; c/o BW Technologies Ltd, Abbey Business Park, Monks Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8HT (GB).
- (74) Agents: **FRY, David John** et al.; Agile IP LLP, Airport House, Croydon, Surrey CR0 0XZ (GB).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PURIFIED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

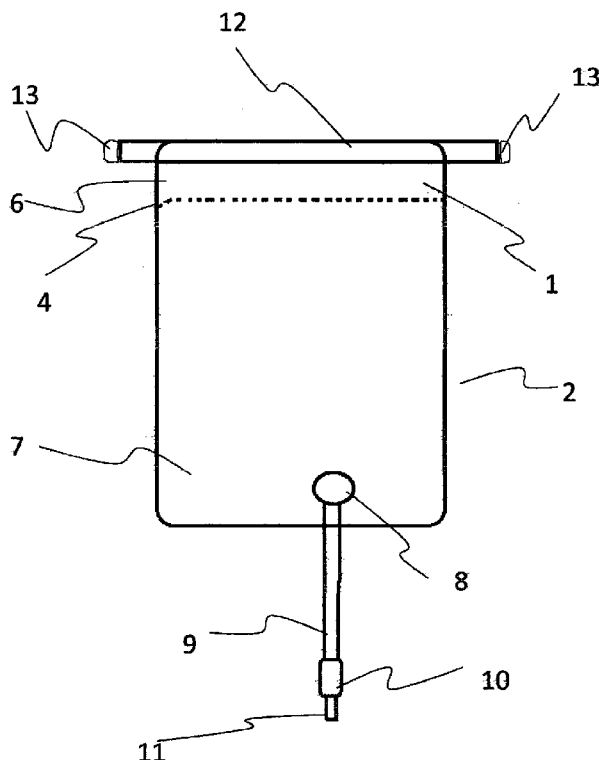


Fig. 3

(57) Abstract: A purified water supply system comprising a water container (2) having an outlet (8) leading to a purification device (10) through which water within the container (2) flows prior to being made available the consumer, the container (2) having a foldable bag structure and having therein a filter sleeve (1) which is foldable with the bag.



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Purified Water Supply System

Field of invention

- 5 The present invention relates to a purified water supply system. More especially the invention relates to a portable supply system for purified water.

Background to the invention

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- Many different types of water purification systems are known. Portable systems are also known. Such systems generally comprises a water container, such as a plastic container or bag, which has an outlet leading to a
- 15 purification device through which water within the container exits prior to being available as drinking water to the consumer.

- One problem with many portable systems is the longevity
- 20 limitations of the purification device within the system which can quickly get clogged up by physical contaminants in the water, particularly if the source of the water is unclean, which is often the case for systems designed for use in disaster zones or war-torn countries.

25

One aim of the present invention is to provide a portable purified water supply system including a pre-filter within the water container.

- 30 Portable purified water supply systems for use on a commercial scale within disaster zones or war-torn countries must be compactable to a minimal size for storage and transportation to the desired location. Consequently the water container of choice is preferably a

bag structure which, by its nature, can be folded to a minimal size when empty. Any form of pre-filter therefore must not be complex and must fold with the bag in which it is located.

5

Moreover, it is important that the presence of a pre-filter must be suitable for continued, often extensive, use and not hinder or otherwise reduce the speed at which the water travels through the system to be available for the consumer. Consequently it is preferable that the pre-filter forms a pointed tip when unfolded to accelerate the water flow through the pre-filter to the purification device.

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Statement of invention

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a purified water supply system comprising a water container having an outlet leading to a purification device through which water within the container flows prior to being made available to the consumer, the container having a foldable bag structure and having therein a filter sleeve which is foldable with the bag whereby the filter forms a pointed tip when unfolded.

Preferably the filter extends across the entire width of the container.

Preferably the filter is made from a polymer fibre material. Preferably still the filter is made from polypropylene.

Preferably the filter has, or is treated with, a surfactant.

Brief description of the drawings

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One embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying figures in which :

10 Figure 1 is a schematic view of a filter for use in a purified water supply system constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a schematic view of the filter of figure 1 in
15 a folded position when not in use; and

Figure 3 is a schematic illustration of a purified water system.

20

Detailed description of preferred embodiments

Figure 1 shows a pre-filter 1 for use with a purified water supply system. The filter 1 sits within an outer
25 bag 2 (see figure 3) which, in use, contains the water for purification. The filter 1 is secured to the inner sides of the bag 2 through connecting tabs 3. Alternatively, the opening edge of filter 1 may be stitched along each side of the inner surface of the bag 2 near to its
30 opening. The filter 1 is generally rectangular in shape and extends across the bag opening along the width of the bag 2 to ensure that all water that is poured into the bag opening is captured first within the pre-filter 1 before

entering the rest of the bag containment area 7 directly below the filter 1.

In an alternative embodiment the filter 1 only extends
5 across the opening in a middle part of the bag 2 and may, for example, be cone shaped. A funnel may be used to direct water into the filter before it enters the rest of the bag.

10 The filter is made from a polymer fibre material such as polypropylene. This paper-like material is malleable and foldable but also has sufficient strength for continued use without disintegration, which would be the case with paper filters of this nature, commonly designed for single
15 use in coffee machines and the like.

The polymer fibre chosen for the filter 1 must be food grade.

20 One problem with using polymer fibre material is the material's inherent hydrophobic property in its natural state. Consequently the flowrate of the water through the filter is impeded and drastically reduced.

25 The Applicant has found that the flowrate through the filter 1 can be greatly enhanced by first dipping the filter into a surfactant. A suitable surfactant found to provide this affect is one commonly referred to as "Washing Up liquid".

30

Applying a surfactant to the polymer fibre filter increases the filter flow rate whilst all other filtration properties relating to containment collection remain unaffected.

As can be seen in Figures 1 and 2, the polymer fibre material of the filter 1 allows the filter 1 to fold and collapse with the bag 2 for the purposes of storage and transportation.

To increase the flow rate through the filter further, the filter 1 is formed with a delivery end which, when unfolded, forms a downwardly pointing tip 4. A series of folds 5 in one end 6 of the filter 1 provide the tip formation 4 when the filter is opened, which automatically occurs when bag 2 is opened for filling.

As can be seen in figure 2, the filter 1 is naturally creased or folded along its longitudinal axis, and along the fold lines 5 when the opening of the bag 2 is closed flat.

When the bag 2, and hence the filter 1 are opened, the filter 1 effectively provides an inner sleeve for water entering the bag 2 to initially be collected before being directed through the tip 4 of the filter 1 and further to the main bag 7 containment area below.

An outlet 8 is provided at the bottom of the bag 2 which is connected through a tube 9 to a purification device 10. At this point the water is largely free of physical contaminants (that are trapped in the pre-filter 1) and, as such, the purification device is less likely to become clogged or blocked thereby increasing the working life of the purification device.

Once purified the water leaves the purification device 10 through a second tube 11 to a final outlet for delivery to the consumer.

5

The periphery of the opening of the bag 2 is provided with a belt or tie 12 with clips 13 at each end to allow the bag 2 to be hung up (for example from a post or tree) so that the water is fed through the system through gravity.

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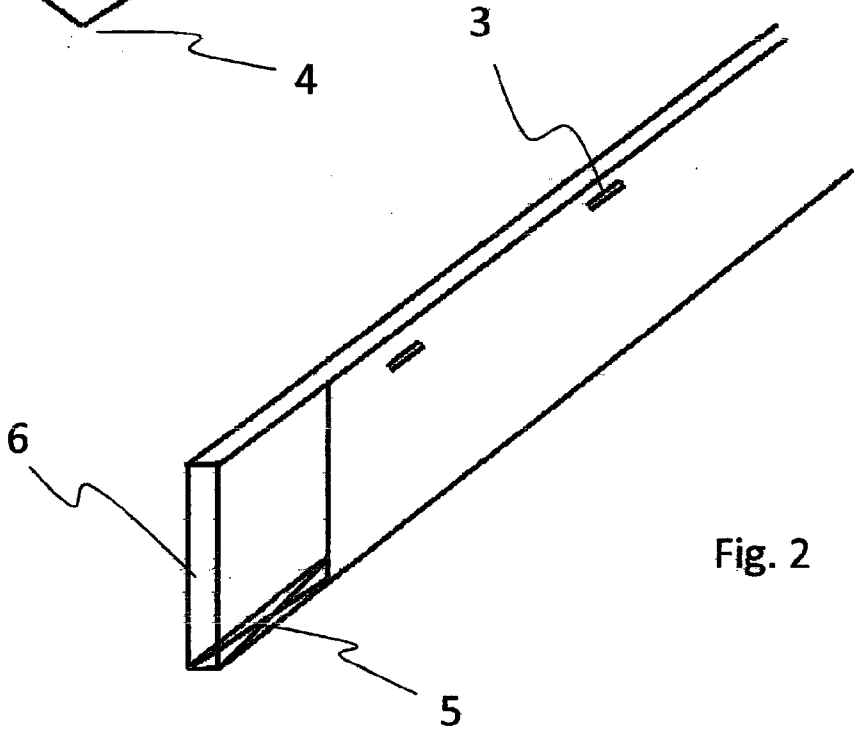
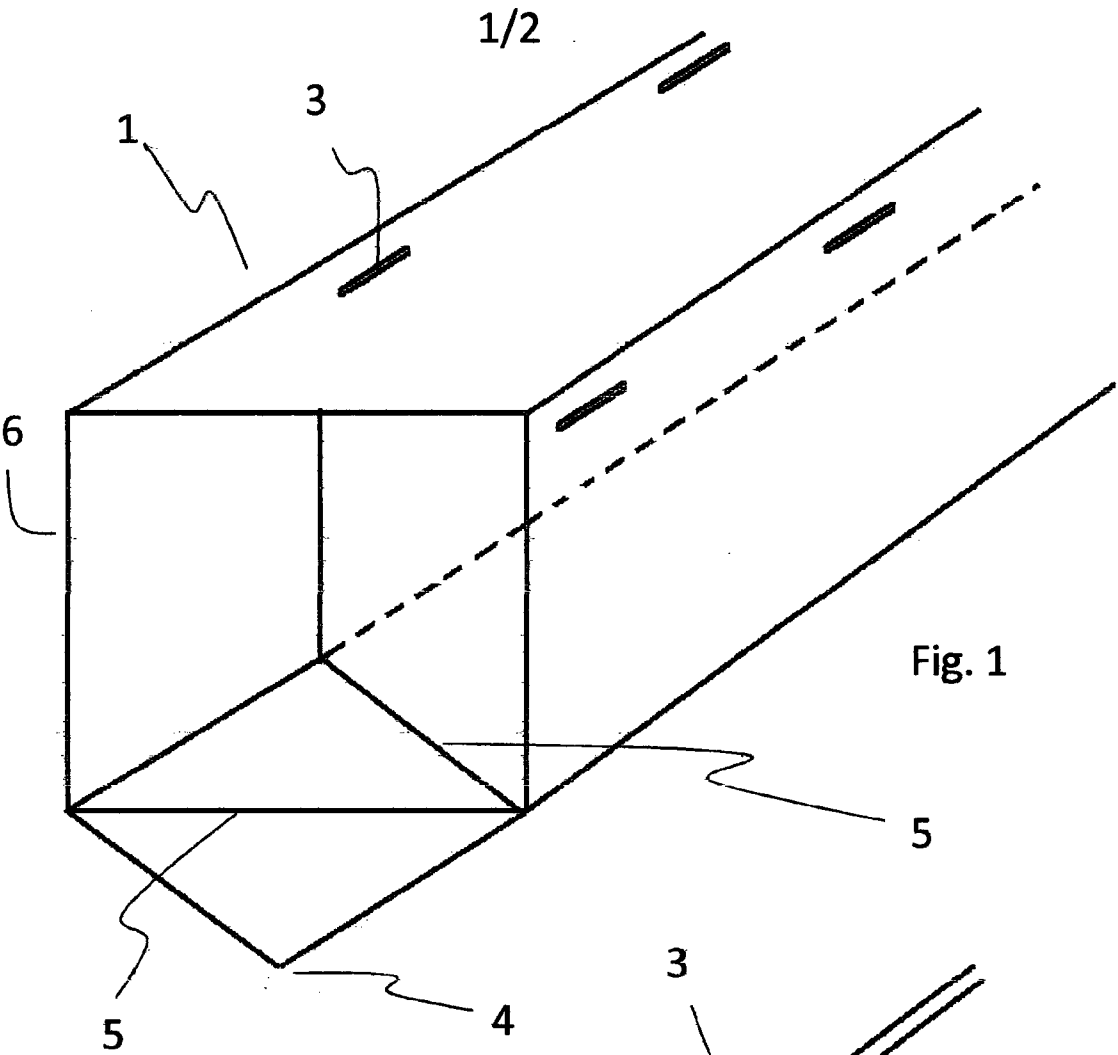
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Claims

- 1.A purified water supply system comprising a water container having an outlet leading to a purification
5 device through which water within the container flows prior to being made available the consumer, the container having a foldable bag structure and having therein a filter sleeve which is foldable with the bag.
- 10 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the filter forms a pointed tip when unfolded.
3. A system according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the filter extends across the entire width of the container.
- 15 4. A system according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the filter is made from a polymer fibre material.
5. A system according to claim 4, wherein the filter is
20 made from polypropylene.
6. A system according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the filter has, or is treated with, a surfactant.
- 25 7. A system as hereinbefore described or referred to in the accompanying figures.



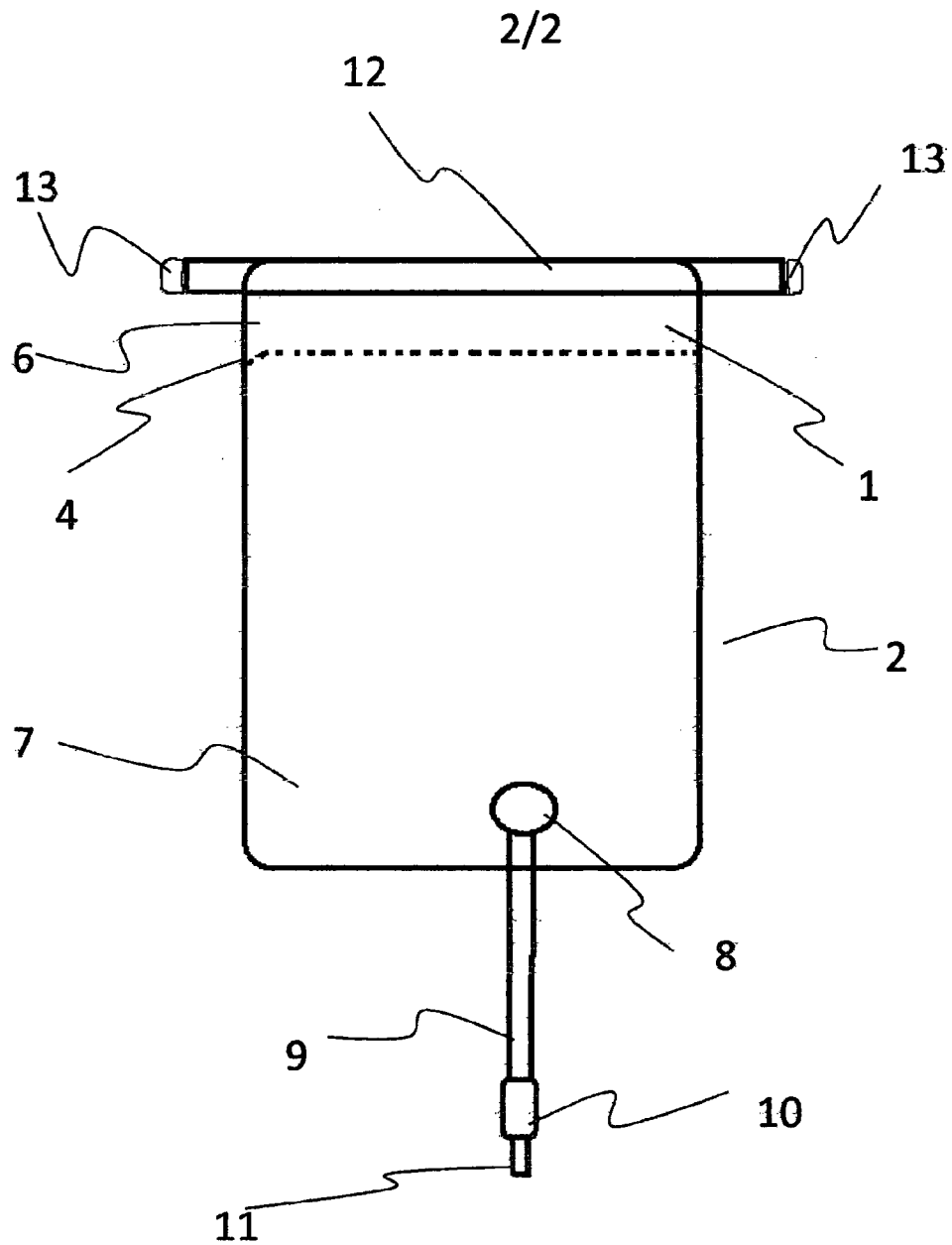


Fig. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2015/000060

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. C02F1/00 B01D35/30
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)
C02F B01D A45F

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 2004/040899 A1 (WU GW0-SEN [TW]) 4 March 2004 (2004-03-04) figures 1-5 paragraph [0001] paragraph [0003] - paragraph [0004] paragraph [0006] - paragraph [0014] paragraph [0024] - paragraph [0027] paragraph [0029] - paragraph [0040] -----	1-7
X	FR 2 804 881 A1 (FOURNIER GEORGES [FR]) 17 August 2001 (2001-08-17) the whole document -----	1-7
A	US 3 744 639 A (TEEPLE G ET AL) 10 July 1973 (1973-07-10) the whole document -----	1-7



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

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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

Zsigmond, Zoltán

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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