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(54) Title: END SECTION FOR A CATALYST, A CATALYST AND A METHOD OF OPERATING A CATALYST

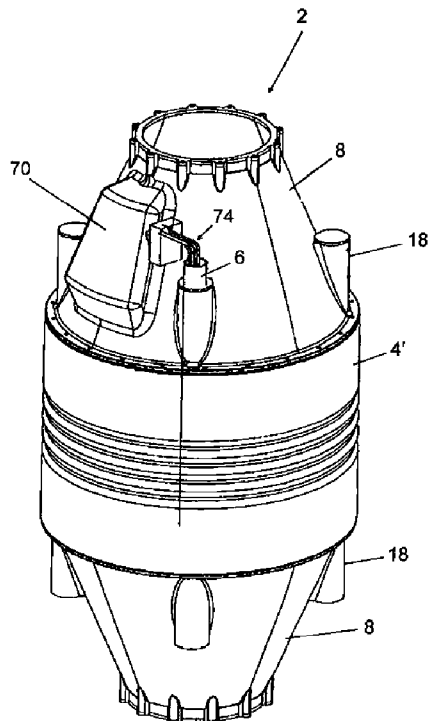


Fig. 9

(57) Abstract: The invention is related to an end section (8) for a catalyst (2). The catalyst (2) comprises at least one body section (4), which an exhaust gas flow (20) is guided to flow through, the body section (4) comprising at least one catalyst unit (12) supplied with catalyst elements (12b) for emission reduction. The end section (8) has been provided at least on one end (14) of the catalyst (2). The exhaust gas flow (20) has been arranged to flow through the end section (8) and the end section (8) has been adapted such that the body section (4) and the catalyst units (12) therewith can be supported via the end section (8). The invention is also related to a method for dampening a catalyst (2) by using the beam (6) as a dampener.



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End section for a catalyst, a catalyst and a method of operating a catalyst

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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An object of the present invention is an end section for a catalyst and a catalyst. Another object of the invention is a method for a catalyst.

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The invention relates specifically to emission reduction of large internal combustion engines, especially of type diesel. These are widely used on both mobile offshore applications, e.g. ships, as well as on immovable onshore applications, e.g. diesel power plants. As the regulations for emissions are getting ever tighter and green values are emphasized, the need for advanced emission reduction is increasing.

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One of the major techniques of controlling and reducing emissions of internal combustion origin is to use catalytic converters. They are based on using catalysts which promote chemical reactions in which toxic by-products of incomplete combustion are converted to less-toxic substances. As it comes to reduction of NO_x (nitrogen oxides) emissions, the SCR-type (selective catalytic reduction) plays the major role in the field. The SCR method is based on converting NO_x into diatomic nitrogen (N₂) with the aid of a catalyst and reductants, such as ammonia and urea. The reductant is added to a stream of exhaust gas and absorbed onto a catalyst.

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When applying catalyst solutions on internal combustion engines, one of the problems causing limitations on usability is the demand of space for necessary equipment. Restrictions set both by layout and available total space hamper the use of otherwise suitable solutions.

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As it comes to cost management, the field of shipbuilding has been under pressure of cost reduction and issues such as investments on overcapacity of

emission system for future upcoming needs has been forced to be excluded. In process of time, many vessels have become outdated in terms of emission reduction. Due to tightened legislation, expensive full scale renewals of emissions reduction systems have, however, been the only alternative for
5 further operation in many cases. Consequently, an evident need for more flexible system has emerged.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 An objective of the invention is to provide a solution to avoid the above-mentioned problems in an economically sound manner and to provide possibility and means for an effortless update of the emission reduction equipment. In order to achieve this objective, an end section according to the presently specified invention is characterized by what is set forth in the
15 characterizing part of claim 1. In addition, a few preferred embodiments of the invention are presented in the dependent claims. The characterizing features of a catalyst are set forth in the characterizing part of claim 6. On the other hand, the characterizing features of a method for dampening a catalyst are set forth in the characterizing part of independent method claim.
20 A few preferred embodiments of such a method are further presented in the dependent claims.

The invention now provides a fairly simple and flexible solution for the problem explained above. According to the invention, a redesigned catalyst
25 structure is proposed with a modular approach on the matter. The main structure of the catalyst arrangement is as such similar to previous catalyst apparatus in that catalyst units are disposed within an essentially cylinder or alike shaped shell section of the catalyst. In addition, beam elements or alike are provided to extend substantially parallel to the exhaust flow between the
30 end sections of the catalyst. They are to serve as supporting elements for the catalyst such that basically any equipment within the catalyst can be disassembled and assembled independently with the help of the support

means provided by one or several beam elements. The end sections of the catalyst are provided with suitable receiving means for the beam elements enabling a solid connection therebetween for major loads. Furthermore, the length of the beam elements is adapted/adaptable such that the number of
5 necessary catalyst units and such like equipment within the catalyst can be increased and thus enlarge the capacity of the catalyst installation.

ADVANTAGES PROVIDED BY THE INVENTION

10 The present invention now provides emission reduction system with several benefits and improvements in relation to prior art type solutions both in terms of economic efficiency, flexibility in capacity and improvements on serviceability. The primary objective of achieving an easily expandable catalyst installation is now attainable with technically rather simple and cost
15 effective means. The main benefits gained by the invention are based among others on the following facts.

First of all an arrangement according to present invention provides the emission reduction system with a flexible add-on capability. The ship owner
20 can first acquire an SCR-equipment capable of filling the current legislative needs for emission reduction. Once the limits are tightened, the SCR-equipment can be furnished with one or more additional catalyst units without need to scrap the old one and buy totally a new one. The invention thus provides a simple and economic solution for the main problem explained
25 above.

On top of that the new kind of arrangement also excels in easy serviceability. This is particularly based on easy assembly and disassembly of elements. By using suitably adapted beam-like elements as supporting structure for the
30 units and the end sections of the catalyst, assembling measures for individual catalyst units therein can be performed with ease without need for any other installation work. Also a possibility to lift whole unit with elements as well as

the whole catalyst installation is made possible with a suitable hinge or lifting system. Lifting can be performed both through the beam elements as well as through the end sections of the catalyst. Yet another benefit by the invention is realized in that the beam elements can provide the whole system and its individual units and components with support, whereby the positioning of the whole catalyst installation is basically free of any restrictions. All kinds of available spaces for the installation can be used and layout restrictions are thus far avoided.

Worth noticing is also the fact that the present invention provides a possibility to provide the catalyst and especially its beam elements with the additional equipment and functions without significant additional space requirements. The invention is also basically applicable on existing emission reduction systems with small modifications, thus providing an opportunity to utilize existing installations. Further advantages produced by the invention will be presented along with descriptions of the embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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Further characteristics and advantages of the invention will become better apparent from the following detailed description of a particular but not exclusive embodiment thereof, illustrated by way of non-limiting example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

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Figures 1a–1c present a general side view of a catalyst arrangement according to the invention and illustrate the flexibility of the system,

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Figures 2a–2b present a perspective view of a partially disassembled catalyst with hinge arrangement and support system by the beam elements,

- Figure 3 shows also in perspective view from above a close-up of the catalyst in partially disassembled condition,
- Figure 4 shows in a side view a catalyst with a shell section slid
5 aside,
- Figures 5a–5c illustrate in a schematic side view the modular principal of the catalyst,
- 10 Figures 6a–6c show in a view from above various embodiments of the location of the beam elements,
- Figures 7a–7b show partially a sectional side view of yet another embodiment of the catalyst and its shell section,
15
- Figure 8 shows in a perspective view a catalyst with auxiliary equipment installation on the beam elements,
- Figure 9 shows in a perspective view another additional
20 installation on the beam elements, and
- Figures 10a–10b present in a partial section view in a couple of another additional equipment with the beam elements.

25 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Figures 1a-1c show a side view of catalyst arrangements according to the present invention. They also illustrate the flexibility of a catalyst installation according to the present invention. The same catalyst is presented in all the
30 three figures 1a-1c simply furnished with different assemblies of catalyst units.

In figure 1a the catalyst 2 is equipped with one body section 4 arranged between end sections 8 on both ends of the catalyst 2. The end sections 8 are preferably of cast steel. The catalyst 2 is in the main of type SCR (selective catalyst reduction) especially aimed for reduction of nitrogen oxides (NO_x). The catalytic reactions performed by the catalyst takes place in the catalyst unit 12 disposed inside a body section 4 having a cylindrical outer shell 4'. The outer shell 4' is preferably provided with a bellows portion 4b, which can be used for eliminating possible heat elongations and vibrations.

10

Supporting beam elements 6 extend parallel to the catalyst and the exhaust flow 20 therein between the end sections 8 of the catalyst. The beam elements 6 can be hollow or solid. In latter case they can be used for several additional purposes, as will become apparent later. The end sections 8 are preferably of cast steel and they can provide support for the whole catalyst 2, especially when the catalyst is assembled horizontally the support beams carrying mainly the load of the body section 4. In a vertically assembled catalyst the support beams 6 can provide support for the whole catalyst 2 and its components such that the weight of basically all the main devices in the catalyst is carried with the help of the beam elements 6. The structure is designed such that the catalyst units 12 can be disassembled and assembled independently. There is no major need for dismantle of other equipment. Preferably the catalyst units 12 can be rotated around a beam 6 while at the same time hanging on it. This particularly eminent feature will, however, be described in more detail later.

The end sections 8 of the catalyst housing are provided with suitable receiving means 18 for the beam elements. The beam elements 6 are arranged to receive one or more catalyst units 12, as needed. Once the limits for emissions become tighter and more capacity is needed for emission reduction, the existing catalyst installation can be lengthen by adding one or more catalyst units 12 therein. In Fig. 1b one additional catalyst unit 12 is

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placed inside the body section 4 comprising an extended shell section 4' having bellows portion at its both ends, whereas the end sections 8 remain the same. Catalyst units 12 are suspended by the beam elements 6 through suitable connecting means 26 (see Fig. 3). In Figure 1c is shown an embodiment wherein a third catalyst unit 12 has been added. The shell section 4 is extended further but the end sections 8 remain the same. It should be noted that other equipment can be placed into the catalyst as well, such as particle filters, silencers and alike. In Figs. 1a–1c the catalyst 2 is supported at its lower end via braces 16 on a support structure.

10

In Figs. 1a–1c the beam elements 6 have been shown as having different lengths due to the different lengths of the body portion 4. However, the length of the beam elements is preferably fixed so that it can accommodate, e.g. up to three catalyst units, whereby the catalyst 2 can first be provided with, e.g. one unit, and, if more capacity is later needed, with one or two additional units. It is also possible to provide the catalyst 2 initially with the body section 4 having an extended shell section 4', e.g. as shown in Fig. 1c, such that when more capacity is needed it is only needed to add one or two catalyst units without need to change the shell section 4'.

20

It is also contemplated that the beam elements can be adjustable in length, e.g. with a telescope type feature or similar function. An increase in the capacity of the catalyst 2 is thus gained in most economic and effortless manner.

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Figures 2a–2b present a perspective view of a partially disassembled catalyst 2 comprising two catalyst units 12.

In Figure 2a the catalyst units 12 together with their platform 22 and beam elements 6 have been lifted up from the catalyst installation as a whole.

30

One eminent features provided by the catalyst installation has been illustrated in Figure 2b. In this case the shell section 4' has been slid over the upper end section 8 of the catalyst and all the beam elements 6 except for one have been disjointed or simply lifted up in order to enable a rotation of one catalyst unit 12 still hanging on the last beam element 6. With the help of this hinge arrangement the catalyst unit 12 together with its platform 22, which serves as a holder for the element, can thus be rotated out from the catalyst for further processing. In this way the system makes it possible to perform with ease all kinds of overhaul and repairing measures without need for notable and laborious dismantling of the system.

The same disassembled condition of the catalyst is illustrated in Figure 3 as well, where the catalyst 2 is presented in perspective view from above. One of the platforms 22 having receiving means 26 for the beams together with the associated catalyst unit 12 is rotated out while being supported by one of the beam elements 6. The three other beam elements 6 have been lifted up through the end section 8 to create needed space for the turning manoeuvre of the catalyst unit 12. Also the shell section 4' has been slid up over the upper end section 8 of the catalysts 2. Connecting flanges 40 between two consecutive shell sections 4' appears as well. The flanges 40 are preferably provided with through holes 40' for bolts or similar connecting means (not shown). Likewise the general configuration of a catalyst unit 12 becomes apparent, where a normal structure of a grid of catalyst modules 12a consisting of single elements 12b is used.

25

On the beam structure it is also possible to build in other exhaust components after the catalyst units 12, for instance by extending the bars of the beam elements and moving the outlet cone, i.e. end section 8. The turning of the element frame platform 22 together with catalyst units 12 etc. in service position enables easy access to the elements compared to manholes. A service hatches (not shown) are of course still possible to use

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but not needed especially when the whole outer shell 4' of the body section 4 is easy and fast to lift for service.

Figure 4 shows in a side view a catalyst 2 in a horizontal position extending parallel to the exhaust flow 20 therein between the end sections 8 of the catalyst. In this case the end sections 8 can provide support for the whole catalyst 2 the support beams 6 carrying mainly the load of the body section 4 only. It is also possible to use suitable means 16 for the fastening of beam elements 6 to external fixing points, whereby the beams 6 can provide main support for the catalyst 2. In Fig. 4 the shell section 4' is shown slid aside to expose the catalyst units 12 for further measures.

The modular concept of the invention appears particularly in Figures 5a-5c. The catalyst 2 is supported by the beams 6 via braces 16 to an external support structure (not shown). Beams 6 are received by receiving means 18 at the end sections 8. The number of various modules within a single and very same catalyst can be varied purely on the basis of the current need for functions and capacity. Catalyst 2 in Figure 5a includes just a single catalyst unit 12 and an additional valve unit 41 between one end section 8 and the body section 4. The shell section 4' comprises a T-piece 42 for instance for possible by-pass or recirculation. Instead or in addition to the valve unit 41, the catalyst can be provided with other additional elements between an end section 8 and the body section 4, e.g. a heating or cooling source, silencer, trap etc.

25

In Figure 5b the body section 4 of the catalyst 2 comprises three shell sections 4' each including one catalyst unit 12. Analogously to Figure 5a, the shell sections 4', are furnished with a T-piece 42.

30 The embodiment in Figure 5c comprises one of the additional features of the invention. The beams 6 can be utilized for a large number of additional purposes. These are such as assembly space for sootblowing pipes,

sensing cables etc. and as space for the equipment and piping of gas and fuel injection and reductant agent injection, recirculation of exhaust gas etc. This is illustrated schematically by reference 56. This particular embodiment of the invention will be described in more detail later on in this specification.

- 5 Worth noticing is also the fact that no extra bellows components between the end sections 8 and the body section 4 are needed. Any heat elongation will be taken care of due to the body section 4 being arranged to float along the beams 6 provided with graphite sealings or alike (not shown) and due to the bellow parts 4b in the shell sections 4'.

10

Figures 6a-6c show in a view from above various embodiments as it comes to the location of the beam elements 6. These can be arranged to locate both inside the body section, i.e. inside the main casing 4' of the catalyst 2 (as shown e.g. in Figs. 1a-1c), or outside the body section as illustrated in

- 15 Figures 6a-6c. In Figure 6a the beams 6 are arranged to go through connecting holes 6' arranged at the periphery of the connecting flange 40 of the outer shell 4'. In case the beams 6 are located outside, cheaper steel for beams can be used, when standing in colder, non corrosive environment. Outer shell 4', is preferably round in cross-section but it can have any other
20 shapes, e.g. as shown in Fig. 6c.

- Figures 7a-7b show partially a sectional side view of the catalyst 2 as yet another embodiment of the invention. Here is presented big modularity since the body section 4 is assembled of complete modules 150 interconnected by
25 joining sheets 150. Each module 150 comprises an element grid of the catalyst unit 12 and insulation layer 44 and silencer layer 45. The insulation layer 44 can also be replaced with reactive silencer element. This performs in particular for lower frequency noise reduction. The support function of the beam elements 6 becomes apparent as well. End sections 8 are provided
30 with connecting braces 36 for fixing into the beams 6. Fig. 7b shows a module 150 in sectional side view. The module includes outer sheet 146, insulating layer 44, silencer layer 45, sheet 144 between the insulation and

silencer layers, and inner sheet 145. The sheets 145, 146 and 144 can all be made as bellows, e.g. of steel plate. In some applications the outer sheet 146 could be also of fibreglass. Arrow 20 shows the exhaust flow direction.

5 Figure 8 shows in a perspective view a special embodiment of the catalyst 2 with the previously mentioned auxiliary equipment in the form of tanks 66 each tank being connected between two adjacent receiving means 18 via connections 67. The adjacent receiving means 18 can be connected to each other also without the tanks, in which case fluid is supplied to the
10 connections 67 and via the receiving means 18 to the beams 6 from an external reservoir (not shown). Connection 67 to the inside volumes of the beams 6 going through the receiving means 8 at the end sections 8 and inside the shell 4' can be furnished with a valve therebetween, flexible or non flexible, or any other means suitable for the desired purpose. One of the
15 particular additional purposes of the beams 6 is to serve as assembly platform and room for the equipment used for sootblowing. The tanks 66 and/or beam volumes can be used as air reservoirs for sootblowing (1 or up to 4 tanks). The air or other suitable fluid to sootblowing nozzles can be transported inside the beams 6 by means of separate feedpipes (not
20 shown). The beam can provide space for solenoids, mechanical valves and other possible purposes to name but a few. It is also possible to connect an external tank to the beams 6 and/or tanks 66. These tanks 66 and/or beam volumes can be used for separate purpose, e.g. one as an air tank, one as a reductant agent tank and one as a gas tank.

25

Figure 9 shows in a perspective view yet another additional installation on the beam elements 6 going through the receiving means 8 at the end sections 8 and inside the shell 4'. A tank 70 or equipment room can be integrated into the end section 8 of the catalyst 2, e.g. the tank 70 can be
30 cast together with the end section 8. Here is just presented one shape of integrated tank. Shape can basically be whatever. And also one or several integrated tanks 70 can be used.

Several different systems can be build up with this method. Equipment such as air piping for sootblowing that is taken through beams for catalyst element sootblowing is furnished with reference 74. Several other applications can be performed likewise. For instance, it is possible to take
5 preheated urea from this integrated tank 70 and inject into beams 6 and secondary circuit of exhaust gas, and inject reductant agent in gas format.

While using the beams 6 as air tanks, it is preferable to use a mechanical device for blowing into the sootblowing pipes. This in order to protect
10 cheaper solenoid valves from excessive heat. Mechanical valves can be used for this function, for instance rotating type distributor or a suitable "piston" system. Each integrated tank 70 can be connected to one or several beam volumes.

15 Figures 10a-10b present in a partial section view in a couple of another additional equipment with the beam elements. Tank 70 on a vertically positioned catalyst 2 extending essentially parallel to the exhaust flow 20 can be used all for same purposes as presented above. However, one important additional purpose of the tank 70 is its use as damping mass for damping the
20 mass of catalyst elements or possibly the whole mass of the catalyst.

In a damping solution the lower end 6b of beam 6 can be plugged by a plug 6a at the end or small distance therefrom, as shown in Fig. 10a. External support structure 106 is utilized in this case. As it comes to damping of the
25 beam equipment, hydraulic or pneumatic (air or exhaust gas) damper 101 for normal damping or jacket for servicing can be used. In case totally plugged damping is applied, the pressure media can be stored in an external tank 118. In addition, a cylinder part 108 for fluid damping can be integrated in the end section 8 as illustrated in Figure 10b. In Fig. 10b the catalyst 2 is
30 supported by the lower end section 8 via braces 16 on the support structure 106. In Fig. 10b the beams are shown to go inside the outer shell 4' provided with the bellow part 4b.

- It is obvious that the present invention can be embodied by a person skilled in the art in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof. The disclosed embodiments in this specification are therefore considered in all respects to be illustrative and not restricted. The
- 5 present invention may vary within the scope of the claims and features of the different embodiments can be combined. The foregoing description and all changes that come within the meaning and range and equivalence thereof are rather intended to be embraced therein.

Claims

1. End section (8) for a catalyst (2), the catalyst (2) comprising at least one body section (4), which an exhaust gas flow (20) is guided to flow through, the body section (4) comprising at least one catalyst unit (12) supplied with catalyst elements (12b) for emission reduction, **characterized** in that the end section (8) is provided with receiving means (18) for at least one beam element (6) such that the body section (4) and the catalyst units (12) therewith is supportable via the end section (8).
2. The end section (8) of claim 1, **characterized** in that it is composed essentially as a one-piece unit.
3. The end section (8) of claim 2, **characterized** in that it is cast.
4. The end section (8) as set forth in any of claims 1–3, **characterized** in that the end section (8) has at least two receiving means (18) for the beam elements (6), said receiving means being connected to each other via a connection (67) for fluid.
5. The end section (8) of claim 4, **characterized** in that an external reservoir (66) is provided between the at least two receiving means (18) via connections (67).
6. The end section (8) as set forth in any of claims 1–5, **characterized** in that the end section (8) is provided with an integrated reservoir (70) for fluid.
7. Catalyst (2) comprising at least one body section (4), which an exhaust gas flow (20) is guided to flow through, the body section (4) comprising at least one catalyst unit (12) supplied with catalyst elements (12b), **characterized** in that an end section (8) as set forth in any of claims 1–6

has been provided at least on one end (14) of the catalyst (2) such that the exhaust gas flow (20) flows through the end section (8).

8. A catalyst (2) as set forth in claim 7, **characterized** in that the end
5 section (8) has been provided on both ends (14) of the catalyst (2).

9. A catalyst (2) as set forth in claim 8, **characterized** in that the distance
between the end sections (8) and/or the number of the catalyst units (12) of
the body section (4) can be adjusted by varying the length of the beam
10 element(s) (6).

10. The catalyst (2) as set forth in any of claims 7–9, **characterized** in that
the body section (4) and the catalyst units (12) therewith have been adapted
to be supported via the end sections (8).

15

11. A catalyst (2) as set forth in any of claims 7–10, **characterized** in that at
least one elongated beam element (6) has been connected to the end
section(s) (8) for supporting the body section (4) and the catalyst units (12)
therewith, the exhaust gas flow (20) going through the body section (4) in a
20 direction substantially parallel to the beam (6).

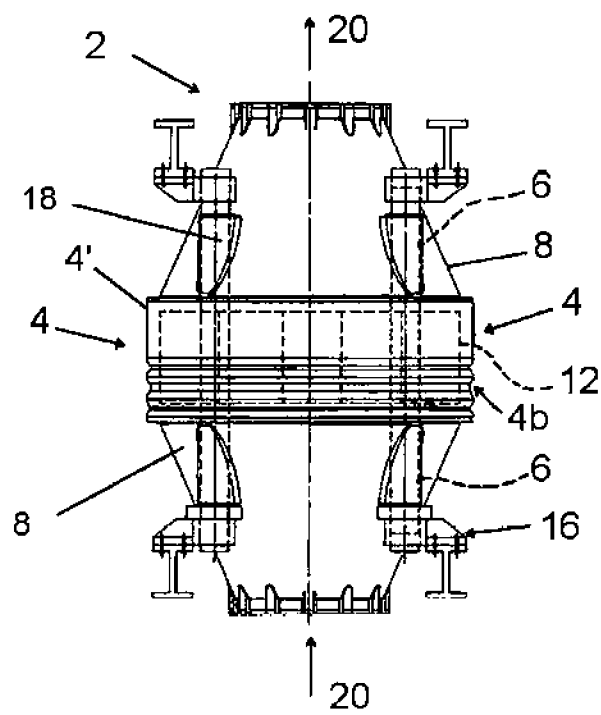
12. Method of operating a catalyst (2) as set forth by any of claims 7–11,
characterized in that fluid is supplied to an end section (8) and at least
part of said fluid is used as a dampening fluid for the catalyst (2).

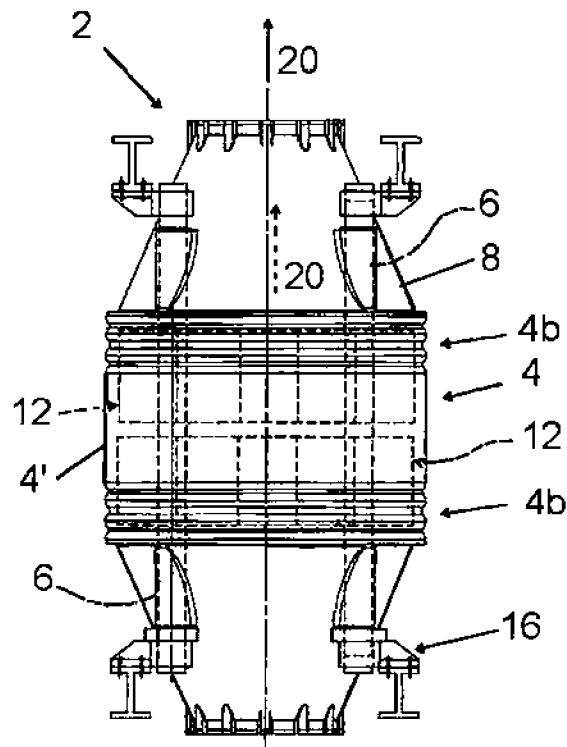
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13. The method of claim 12, **characterized** in that the beam (6) is hollow
and is supplied with fluid, and the beam is plugged (6a) at its lower end (6b)
or near its lower end such that the beam (6) acts as a dampener.

30 14. The method of claim 12 or 13, **characterized** in that the catalyst (2) is
provided at its lower end with a reservoir (70) for fluid, which fluid is
supplied via the beam (6) to the catalyst unit(s) (12).

15. The method of claim 14, **characterized** in that the reservoir (70) is used as dampening mass for the catalyst (2).

**Fig. 1a**

2/11**Fig. 1b**

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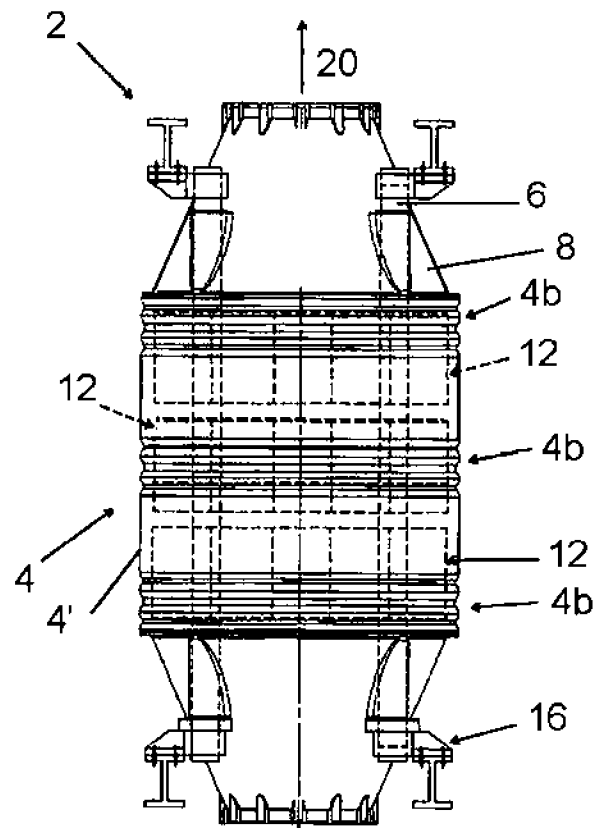


Fig. 1c

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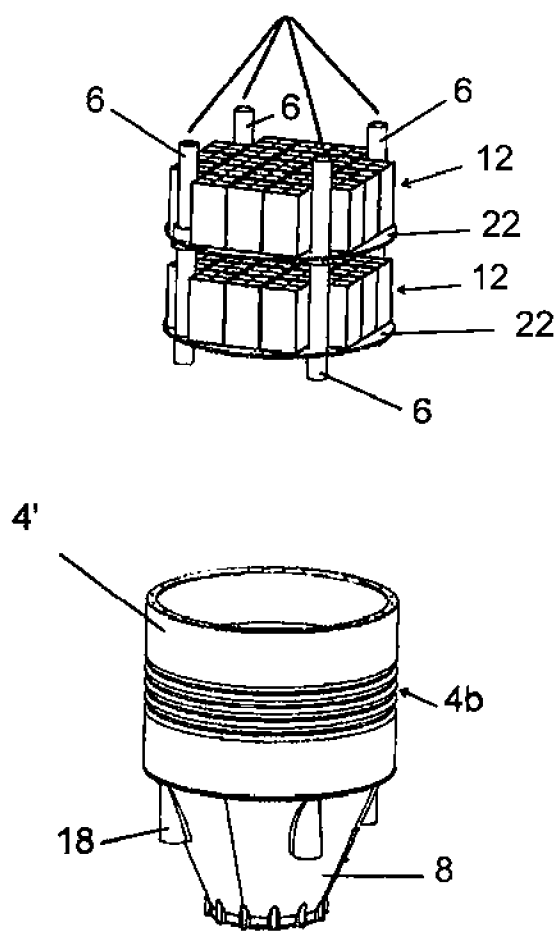


Fig. 2a

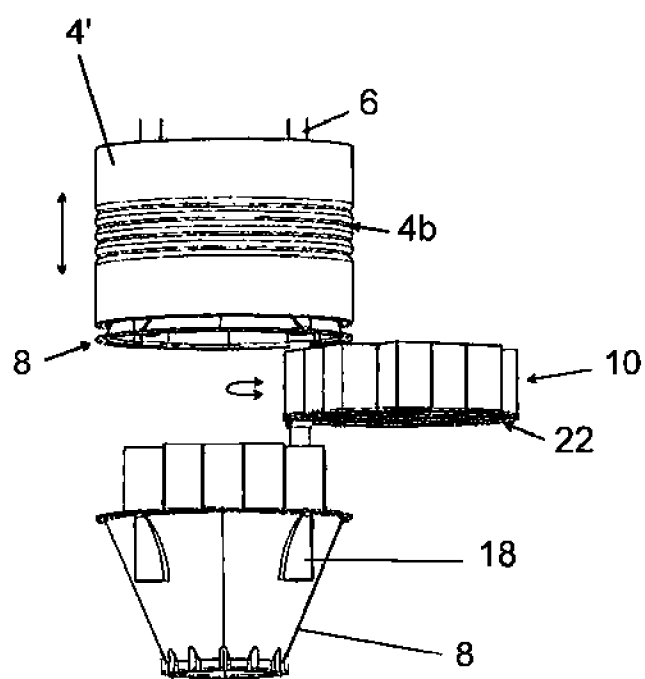
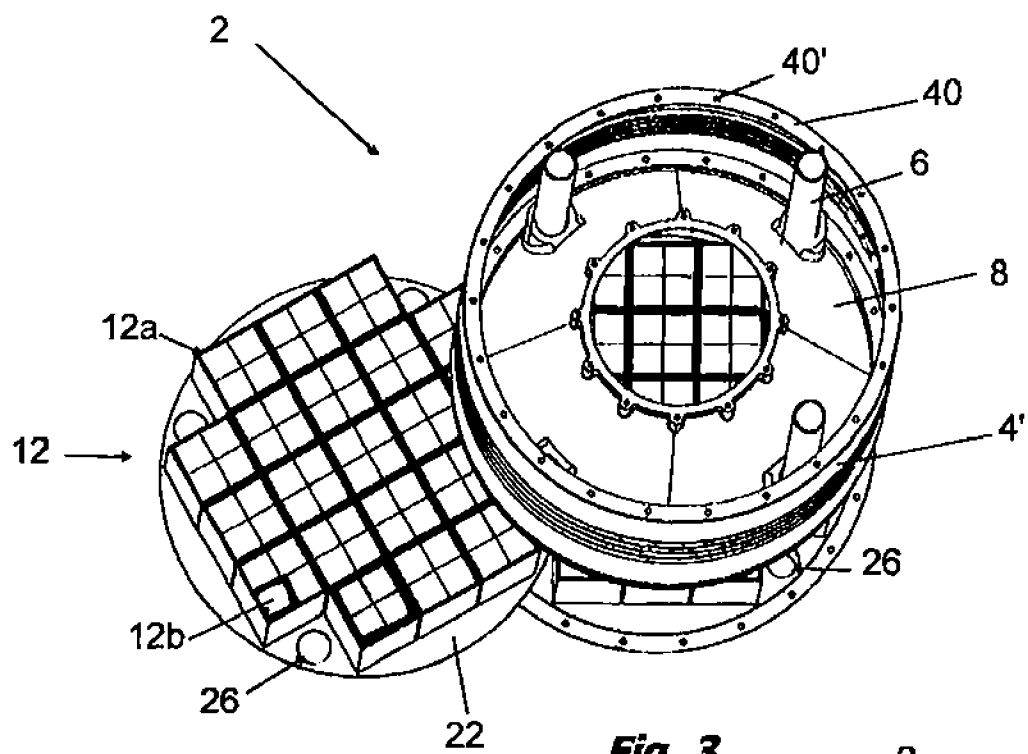
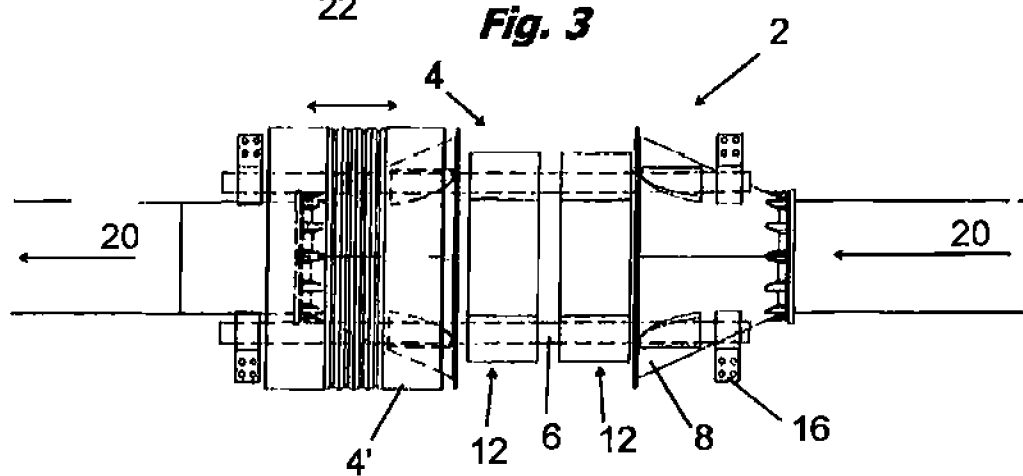


Fig 2 b

**Fig. 3****Fig. 4**

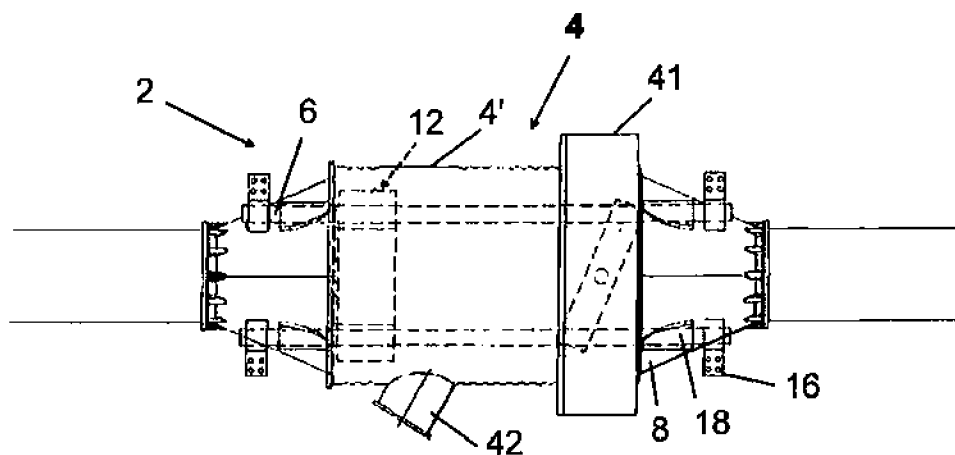


Fig. 5a

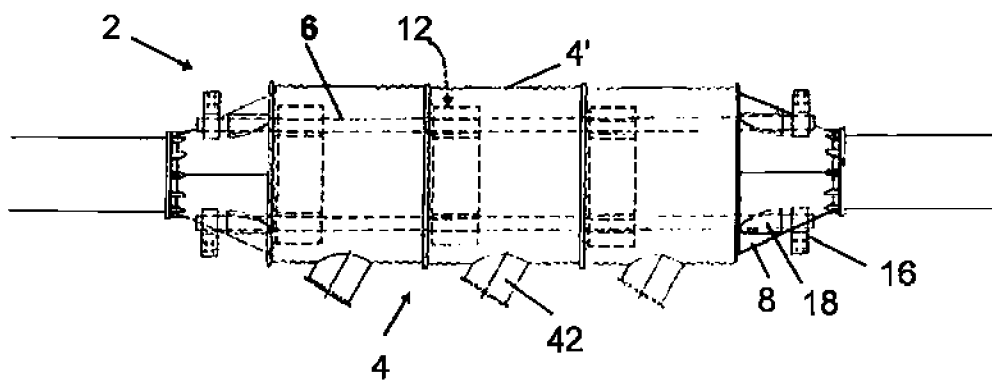


Fig. 5b

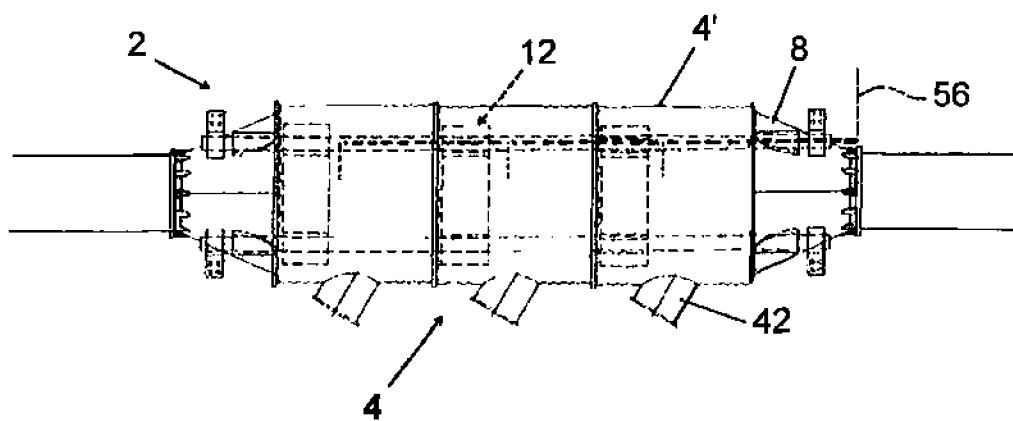


Fig. 5c

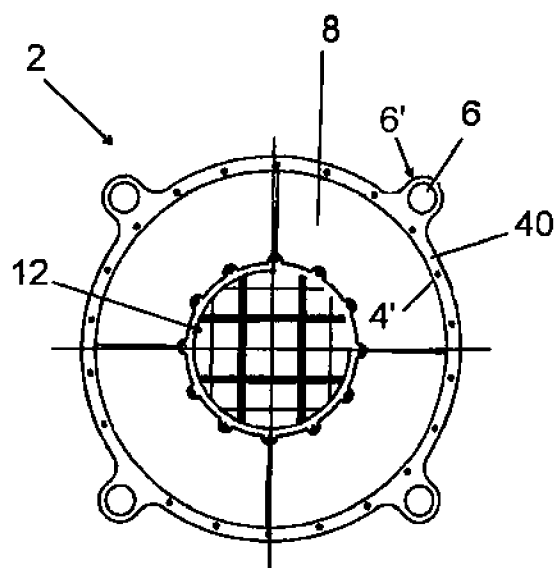


Fig. 6a

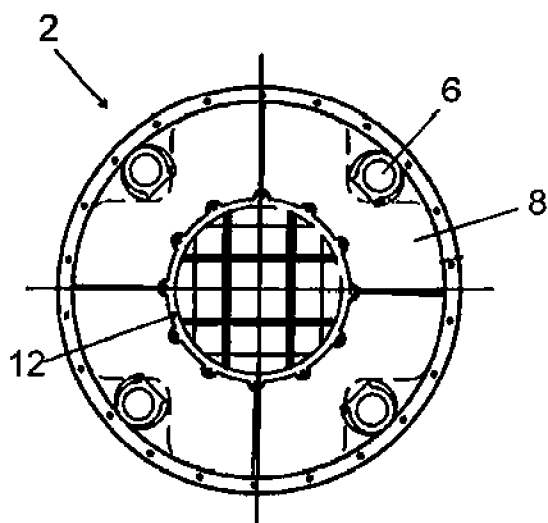


Fig. 6b

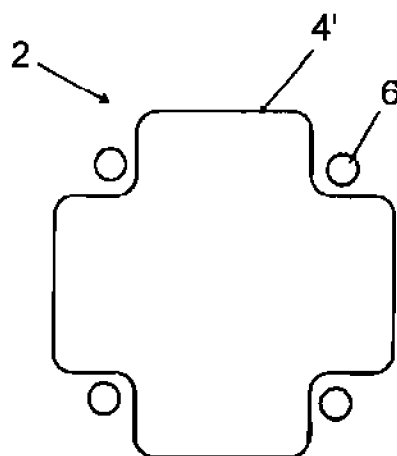


Fig. 6c

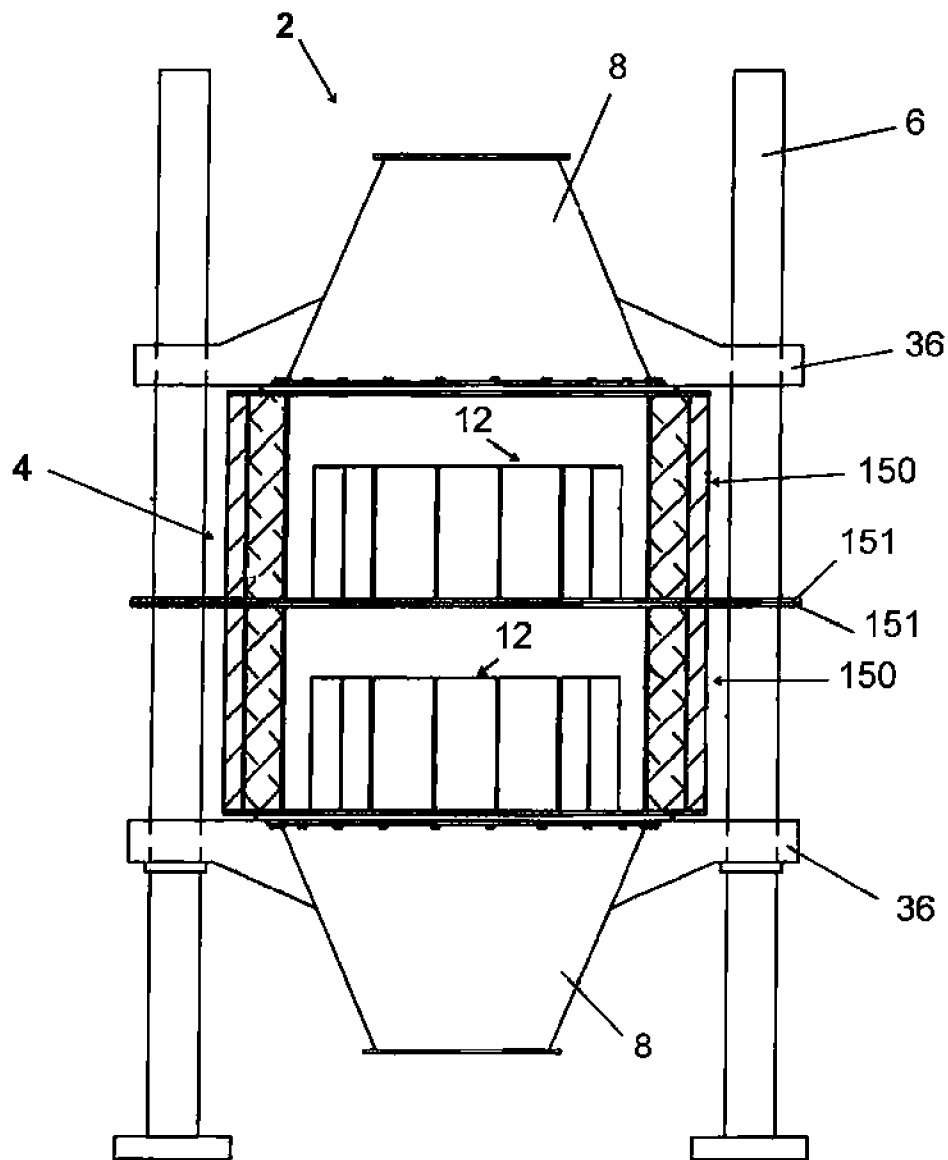


Fig. 7a

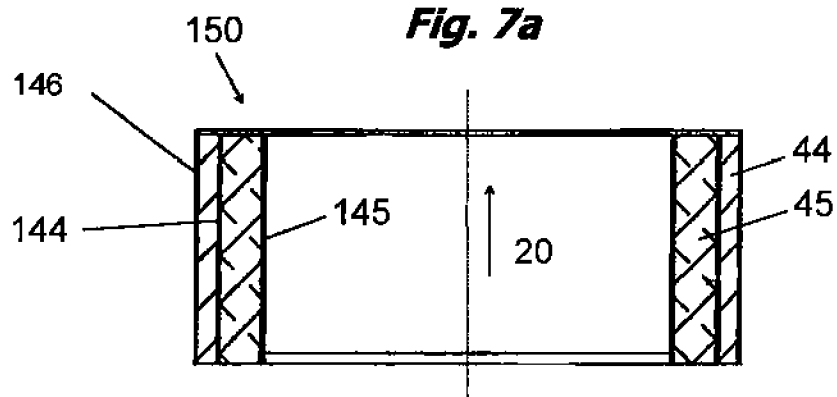


Fig. 7b

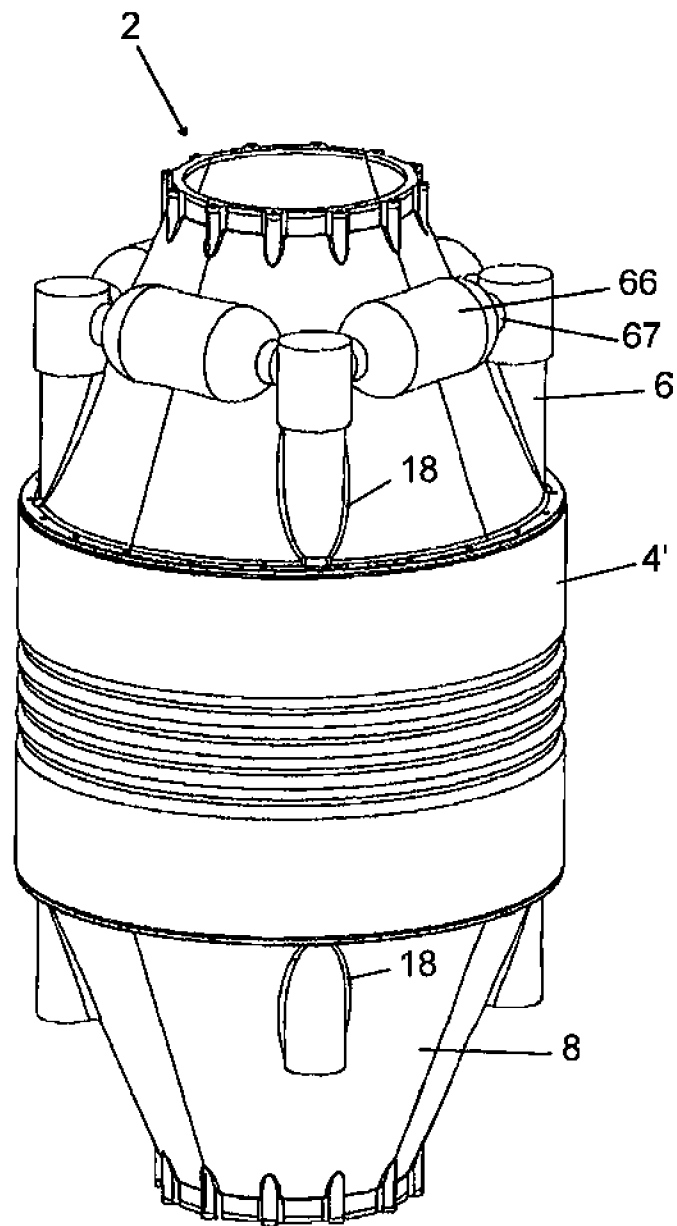


Fig. 8

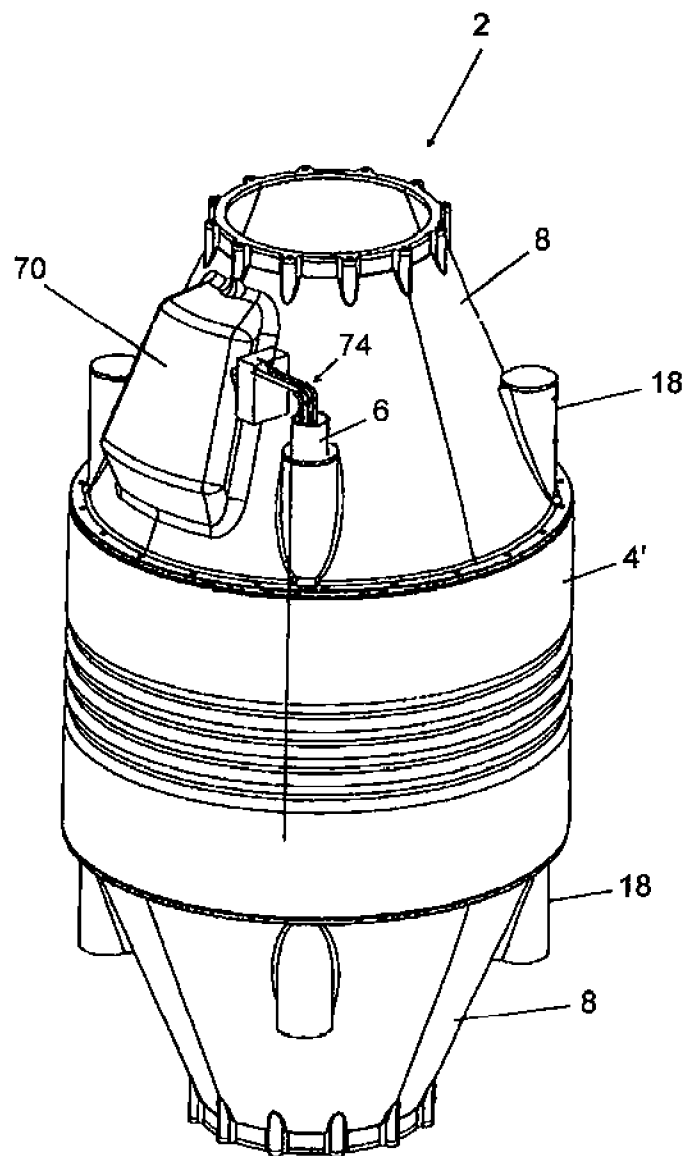


Fig. 9

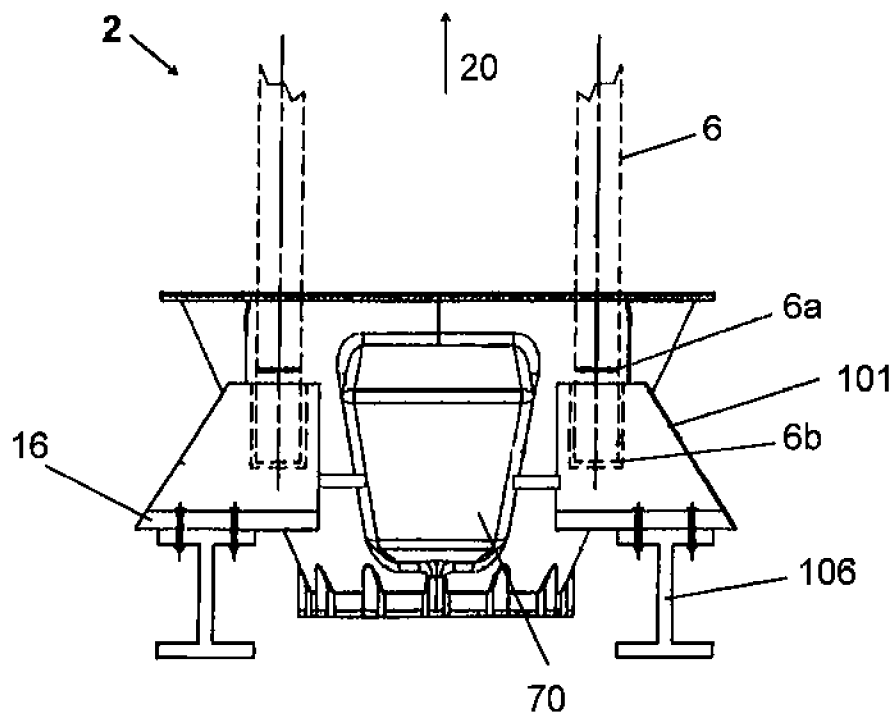


Fig. 10a

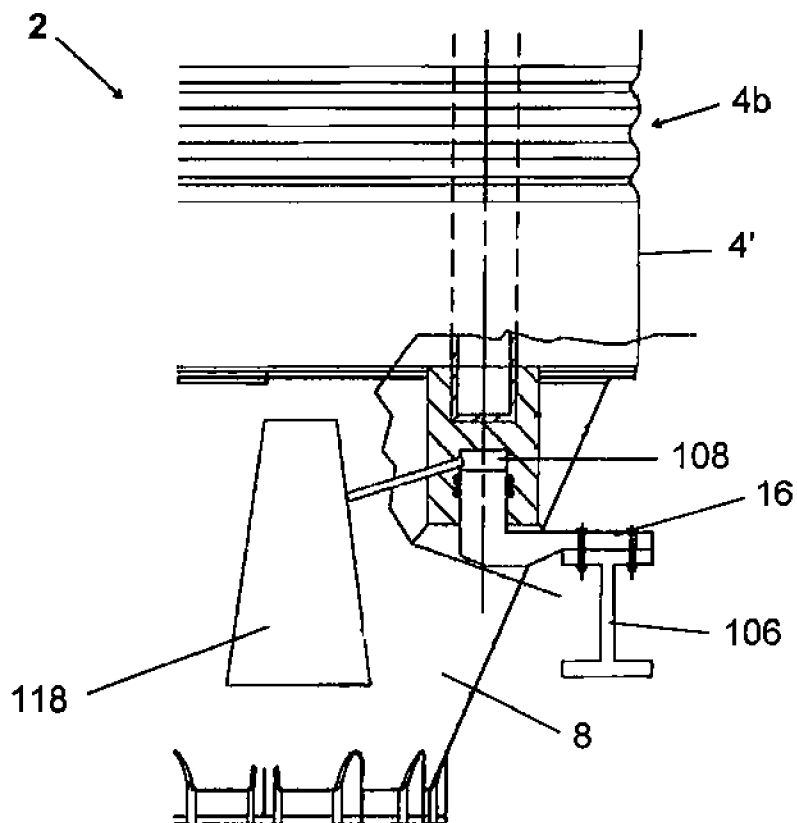


Fig. 10b

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/FI2012/050491

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. F01N3/28
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)
F01N

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)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	page 23, paragraph 1; figures 1,2 page 26, paragraph 3	4-6
X	----- WO 2008/064001 A1 (LAMBE PETER [US]) 29 May 2008 (2008-05-29) paragraph [0011]; figures 1,11	1-3,7-11
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X	----- WO 95/23918 A1 (AMOCO CORP [US]) 8 September 1995 (1995-09-08) page 10, line 32 - line 35; figure 8	1-3,7-11
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 September 2012

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/09/2012

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Schmitter, Thierry

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/FI2012/050491

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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