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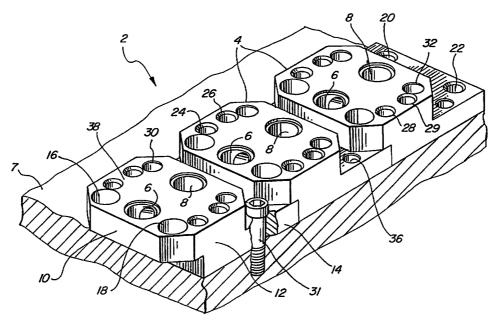
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(54) Title: MANIFOLD SYSTEM OF REMOVABLE COMPONENTS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FLUIDS



(57) Abstract: A manifold system for enabling a distribution of fluids includes a plurality of individual manifold blocks (4) that can be joined together to form a gas stick. Each manifold block will have a fluid passage way with an entrance port (6) and exit port (8) accessing a common surface (38). An active component can be mounted to one manifold block, while extending across a port of an adjacent manifold block. An alignment system can be provided to ensure that the entrance and exit ports are positioned in a plane containing the common surface to facilitate sealing.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

itional Application No PCT/US 99/15272

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F16K27/00

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Minimum documentation searched} & \mbox{(classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \mbox{IPC 7} & \mbox{F16K} & \mbox{F15B} \end{array}$

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT							
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	abstract; figures 1-5						
A	column 10, line 30 - line 34	24,29, 37,50,52					
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Α	FR 2 250 907 A (BOUTEILLE DANIEL) 6 June 1975 (1975-06-06)	1,24,29, 32,37, 50-52					
	figures 1-6						
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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in 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 document but published on or after the international filling 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 filling 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 2 November 1999	Date of mailing of the international search report $11/11/1999$		
Name and mailing address of the ISA 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	Authorized officer Bilo, E		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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