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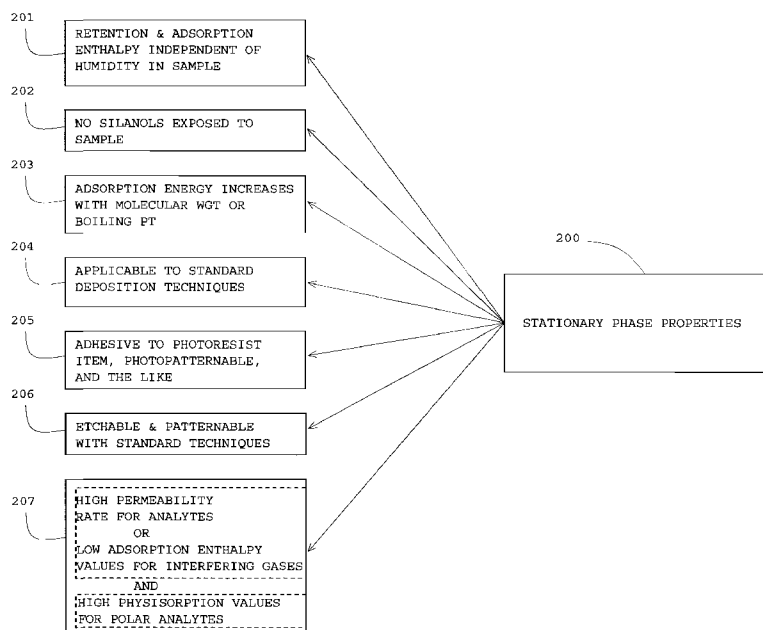
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(54) Title: STATIONARY PHASE FOR A MICRO FLUID ANALYZER



(57) Abstract: Selecting a stationary phase for a fluid analyzer using certain criteria to determine an appropriate material for use in, for instance, a micro fluid analyzer. High absorption of an analyte or sample, low water sorbency and high porosity or permeability of the material may be sought. A selected material may incorporate a toughening agent using a neutral leaving group. A selected material may have a capping agent to promote hydrophobicity. A selected material might be a hydrophobic polymer, such as possibly a fluoropolymer. The selection of a stationary phase may involve molecular modeling.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B01J20/00

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

B01J

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

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

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/011255 A1 (GIANGRASSO ANTONIO) 22 January 2004 (2004-01-22) paragraph [0032] - paragraph [0033]; claim 1; examples 1,2; table 1	12-19
X	EP 0 355 025 A (HOECHST AG [DE]) 21 February 1990 (1990-02-21) claims 1,8,9	20

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 document 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.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2007/068760

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 1-11
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 1-11

Independent claim 1 of present application relates to a method for providing a stationary phase for a fluid analyser, comprising : selecting a material; and wherein the material comprises a high porosity, a high adsorption and a low water sorbency.

This method for selecting a material involves a method of performing a mental act that is not to be searched in accordance with Art.17(2)(a)(i) and Rule 39(1)(iii) PCT.

Claims 12-19 do not comply with the requirements of Art. 5 and 6 PCT to such an extent that a meaningful search is not possible.

Claim 12 describes a system for selecting, which does not provide any information on how the selection is to take place, as a result it is not disclosed how the selection is performed, leading to a lack of disclosure (Art. 5 PCT). In addition it is remarked that the category of the claim is unclear as it appears to relate to a method, although described as a "system". Also it is not clear whether the material is actually provided in a physical form or merely an entry from a database, leading to a lack of clarity (Art. 6 PCT).

In addition, the claims 12-19 appear to be separate embodiments of an integral method as described in Figure 2, but do not appear to have been disclosed as separate stand-alone methods. It appears only support and disclosure exists for a method comprising all features of claims 12-19, which in any case appear to be essential features in the method of selection. However, such a method appears to rely on a number of desiderata without giving the technical features necessary for solving the problem of, for example, improving the porosity level of a material.

Claims 1-19 appear to be an attempt to define a material by means of relative parameters ("high", "low" etc.) not giving any clear information on the material. These claims lack clarity to such an extent that they cannot be searched.

As a whole, claims 1-19 lack clarity and support (Art. 6 PCT) as well as disclosure (Art. 5 PCT) to such an extent that a meaningful search of these claims is not possible.

Therefore no meaningful search could be conducted on the subject-matters of claims 1-19. However a search was performed on claims 12-19 in so far they relate to figure 2 as a whole.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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PCT/US2007/068760

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