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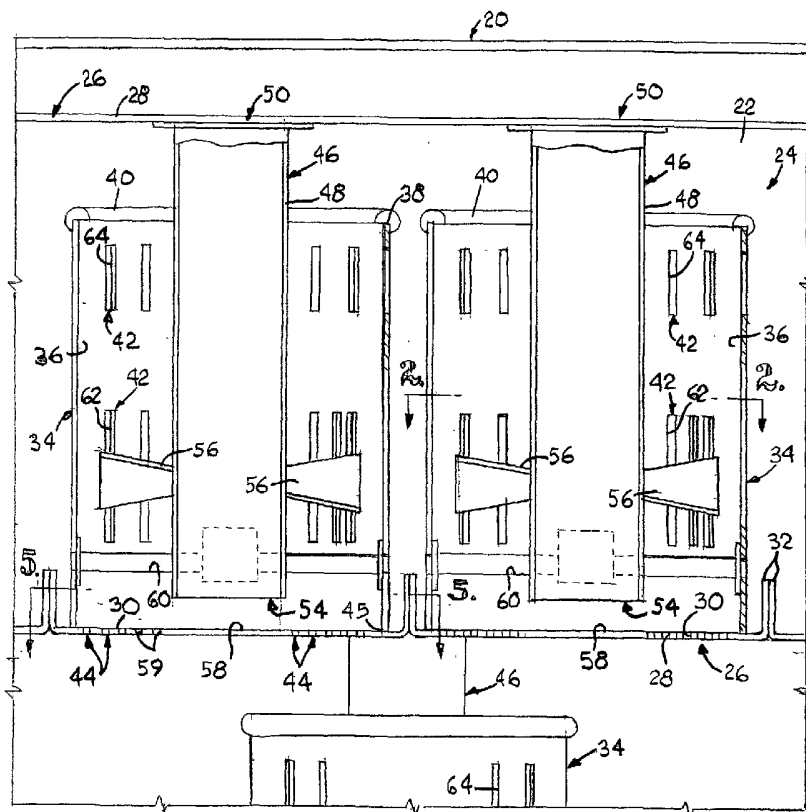
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VAPOR-LIQUID CONTACT TRAY AND METHOD EMPLOYING SAME



(57) Abstract: A vapor-liquid contact tray (26) is provided with a tray deck (28) having at least one opening for removing liquid from an upper surface of the tray deck and a plurality of vapor passages (44) for allowing vapor to flow upwardly through the tray deck to interact with the liquid on the upper surface. At least one can (34) extends upwardly from the tray deck and is formed by a perimeter wall (36). A downcomer (46) is interposed within the can to provide a passageway for liquid and has an upper inlet (50) for liquid entry and a lower outlet (54) above the tray deck (28) for feeding liquid into the can and onto the tray deck. A plurality of deflector blades (56) are positioned above the tray deck to induce a swirling movement in the vapor ascending into the can. The portion of the tray deck surrounded by the perimeter wall of the can contains sieve holes, valves or other types of vapor passages. The tray may further include a sleeve (76), a plurality of cans (34) of two or more sizes or combinations thereof.

WO 2004/000433 A3



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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	US 5 837 105 A (B.K.STOBER ET AL.) 17 November 1998 (1998-11-17) the whole document -----	1
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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