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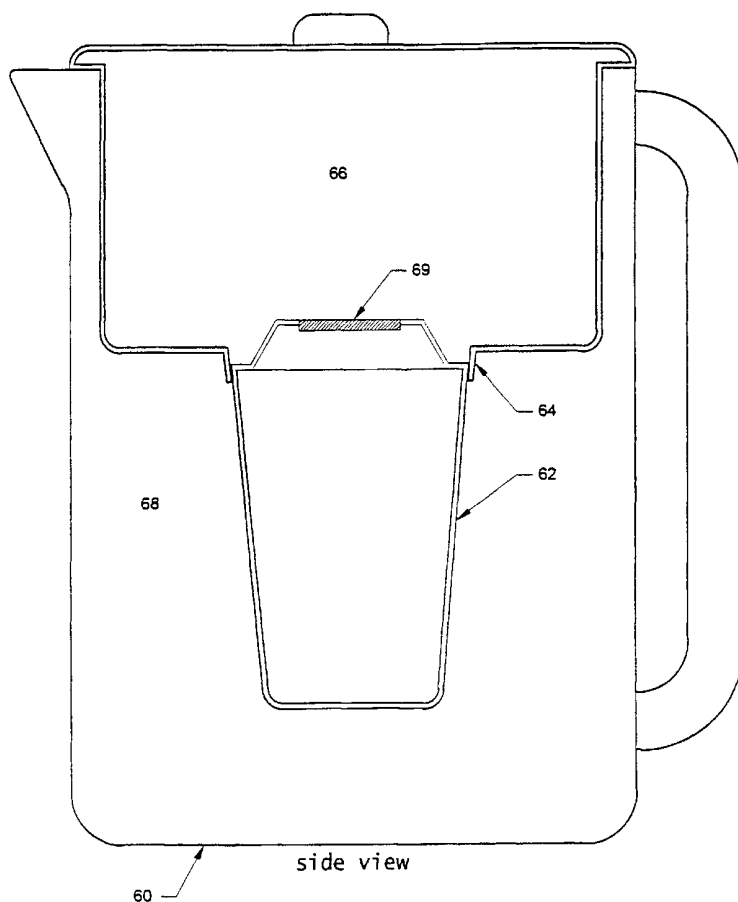
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(54) Title: WATER-FILTER LIFETIME INDICATOR



(57) Abstract: An indicator, and method of indicating, the expiration of substantially the predetermined useful life of a water filter, use color change in a simple but very effective manner. The water migrates into a color change mechanism which may include a porous medium, and causes first and second reagents to react producing a color change. The reaction system between the reagents may be selected from the group consisting essentially of chelation of a metal ion by a chelating agent, reaction of an acid/base with a pH indicator, reaction of an electron donor/acceptor with a redox indicator, and an enzymatic reaction between an enzyme and a substrate. The color change mechanism displays a gradual advance of the color change over time, and may incorporate a scale to display the elapsed time. A mask containing scale indicia may be used to relate the progress of the diffusion to substantially the predetermined useful life of the filter.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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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.
X	US 4 432 656 A (ALLMENDINGER THOMAS) 21 February 1984 (1984-02-21)	1-8, 10, 15, 16, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29 12-14
Y	the whole document ---	
Y	WO 89 00680 A (ALLMENDINGER THOMAS) 26 January 1989 (1989-01-26) the whole document --- -/--	12-14

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) 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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