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(54) **Title:** METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR APPLYING BLOCKING MATERIAL TO ASSAY SUBSTRATES

(57) **Abstract:** Methods of and systems for applying blocking material to assay substrates are disclosed. A method includes supply-
ing an assay substrate having at least one surface. A first portion of the surface of the substrate has at least one analysis feature there-
on, and a second portion of the surface of the substrate lacks analysis features. The method also includes generating a spray of a
blocking material in proximity to the surface of the substrate and continuing the spray generation in proximity to the surface of the
substrate at least until the second portion of the surface of the substrate is substantially covered by the blocking material.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - B05B 17/00 (2011.01) USPC - 239/1 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) USPC - 239/1, 239/679, 239/672, 239/650 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) PubWEST - PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB; Dialog Classic Files - 654, 652, 349, 348, 35, 65, 155; USPTO Web Page; Google Scholar; Search terms -- substrate surface, analytes, microtiter plate, functionalized slides, wells, nozzle, conveyer, spray, flow rate, flow pressure		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2006/0032747 A1 (ANDERSON et al.) 16 February 2006 (16.02.2006) para [0034], [0110], [0225]-[0228], [0231], [0234], [0238]-[0240], Fig 50, 51, 54	1-11
Y	US 2007/0020711 A1 (WHEAT) 25 November 2007 (25.11.2007) para [0005], [0060], [0061], [0172], Fig 1	1-11
Y	US 2010/0047845 A1 (WOODSIDE et al.) 25 February 2010 (25.02.2010) para [0107], [0164]	3-5
Y	US 2006/0189123 A1 (SAITOU et al.) 24 August 2006 (24.08.2006) para [0047]-[0049]	5, 6
Y	US 2008/0015116 A1 (BASS et al.) 17 January 2008 (17.01.2008) para [0021], [0139], [0429], [0499], [0530]	10, 11
Y	US 2009/0280649 A1 (MAYER et al.) 12 November 2009 (12.011.2009) para [0193], [0235], [0268], [0271]	5
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201		Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774