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(54) **Knitted wire mesh alignment separation and support ring for automotive catalytic converter systems**

(57) A profiled knitted metal mesh wire ring interposed between the end of tile fixed metal cone and the nearest face of the ceramic monolithic block containing the catalytic reagents, of such a shape and configuration that it serves to hold the said metal cone and monolithic block in correct axial alignment.

This correct axial alignment ensures the optimum flow of the hot engine exhaust gases from the metal cone into the monolithic block such that the required catalytic reactions may occur.

The flexible construction of the knitted metal mesh wire ring permits the thermal expansion of the fixed metal cone linearly towards the face of the ceramic block to be compensated for without permitting the two components to make contact and cause damage one to the other.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 97 30 6237

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 July 2000	Examiner Torle, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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