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(54) Title: ELECTROSTATIC FILTER AND METHOD OF INSTALLATION

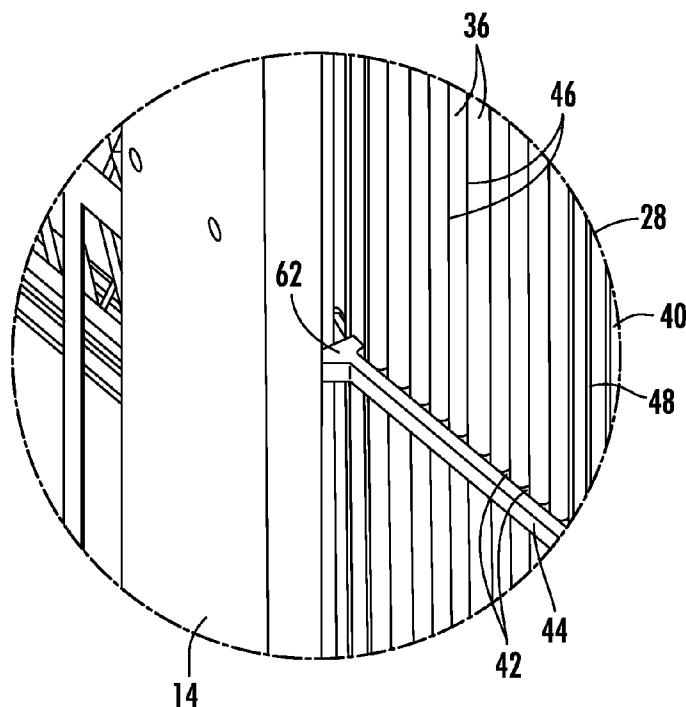


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: An air filtration system includes a frame directing an airflow through the air filtration system and a media filter disposed in the frame including one or more filtration elements. The system further includes one or more alignment features and one or more sealing elements interactive with the one or more alignment features to prevent incorrect installation of the media filter into the frame. A method of installing a media filter in an air filtration system includes aligning an alignment feature of the media filter with an opening in a frame of the air filtration system and inserting the media filter into the frame. The alignment feature ensures that the media filter is inserted in the frame in a correct orientation.



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— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

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- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

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- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

ELECTROSTATIC FILTER AND METHOD OF INSTALLATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The subject matter disclosed herein relates to air filtration systems. More specifically, filters for electrostatic air filtration systems and installation thereof.

[0002] In air filtration systems, for example, electrically enhanced air filtration systems, electrostatic filters installed in the systems collect impurities in an airflow through the system before the airflow is circulated through a space such as a home or other building. Such filters are periodically removed and replaced as their effectiveness diminishes. In some systems, improper filter installation, or installation of an incorrect filter as a replacement can result in reduced effectiveness of the filter and the filtration system, and in some cases safety issues.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0003] According to one aspect of the invention, a media filter for an air filtration system includes a filtration element and one or more alignment features. The one or more alignment features are interactive with one or more sealing elements of the air filtration system to prevent incorrect installation of the media filter into the air filtration system.

[0004] According to another aspect of the invention, an air filtration system includes a frame directing an airflow through the air filtration system and a media filter located in the frame including one or more filtration elements. The system further includes one or more alignment features and one or more sealing elements interactive with the one or more alignment features to prevent incorrect installation of the media filter into the frame.

[0005] According to yet another aspect of the invention, a method of installing a media filter in an air filtration system includes aligning an alignment feature of the media filter with an opening in a frame of the air filtration system and inserting the media filter into the frame. The alignment feature ensures that the media filter is inserted in the frame in a correct orientation.

[0006] These and other advantages and features will become more apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The subject matter, which is regarded as the invention, is particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in the claims at the conclusion of the specification. The foregoing and other features, and advantages of the invention are apparent from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

[0008] FIG. 1 schematically illustrates an embodiment of an air filtration system;

[0009] FIG. 2 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an embodiment of an air filtration system;

[0010] FIG. 3 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a media filter for an air filtration system;

[0011] FIG. 4 illustrates an embodiment of a comb for a media filter if an air filtration system;

[0012] FIG. 5 is a view of an embodiment of a media filter being installed in an air filtration system;

[0013] FIG. 6 is a enlarged view of the circled portion of FIG. 5;

[0014] FIG. 7 is a view of an embodiment of a media filter being incorrectly installed in an air filtration system; and

[0015] FIG. 8 is an enlarged view of the circled portion of FIG. 7.

[0016] The detailed description explains embodiments of the invention, together with advantages and features, by way of example with reference to the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0017] Shown in FIG. 1 is a view of an embodiment of an air filtration system 10. The air filtration system 10 of FIG. 1 is an electrically enhanced air filtration system 10, but it is to be appreciated that utilization of the present invention with other types of air filtration systems 10 having replaceable filters is contemplated within the present scope.

[0018] The air filtration system 10 includes a filter enhancement module (FEM) 12, shown in FIG. 1. At an upstream end 16 of the FEM 12, relative to an airflow direction 18 of air through the filtration system 10 is a safety screen 20 which also acts as an upstream ground for the FEM 12. Downstream of the safety screen 20 is an ionization array 22, and a field-generating array 24 located downstream of the ionization array 22. The ionization array 22 is an array of points sufficiently sharp such as to produce corona discharge when a pre-determined voltage is applied. For example, the ionization array may comprise a plurality of thin wires, barbed wires, or any structure capable of producing the corona needed to yield

ions. The field-generating array 24 and the ionization array 22 are both connected to and powered by a high voltage power supply 26. The FEM 12 is located and secured in a frame 14 of the filtration system 10. A media filter 28 is disposed in the frame 14 downstream of the field-generating array 24.

[0019] Referring now to FIG. 2, when the power supply 26 is activated, the ionization array 22 ionizes particles 30 in an airstream 32 passing through the FEM 12. The voltage across the field-generating array 24 polarizes media fibers 34 of the media filter 28, which causes the ionized particles 30 to be attracted to and captured by the media fibers 34.

[0020] The media filter 28 comprises the plurality of media fibers 34 arranged in a plurality of pleats 36. One or more combs 38 are inserted in the media filter 28 from a downstream side 40 of the media filter 28 to separate the pleats 36 and to keep the pleats 36 from collapsing. As shown in FIG. 4, the comb 38 includes a plurality of comb teeth 42 extending from a spine 44. Referring again to FIG. 3, the comb 38 is inserted into the media filter 28 such that the comb teeth 42 extend between adjacent pleats 36 of the plurality of pleats 36 to keep the adjacent pleats 36 separated.

[0021] In some embodiments, the media filter 28 must be placed in close proximity to the field-generating array 24 so the desired electrical field is generated in the media fibers 34. The media filter 28 thus contacts or has a small gap to the field generating array 24. Further, the media filter 28 is configured to have a grounded downstream side 40. In some embodiments, the downstream side 40 of the media filter 28 includes a carbon paint on tips 46 of the plurality of pleats 36 to create a grounding plane 48 at the downstream side 40. During the operational life of the filtration system 10, the media filter 28 is often replaced with a replacement media filter 28. Because of the unique features of an upstream side and the downstream side 40 of the media filter 28, it is imperative that the replacement media filter 28 is installed in the correct orientation. Such correct orientation of the media filter 28 is critical to the operation and function of the electrically-enhanced air filtration system 10.

[0022] Referring to FIG. 5, the media filter 28 is slidable into a filter opening 52 in the frame 14. When installed, a downstream filter frame 54 contacts an air sealing element 56 protruding from the frame 14 and extending substantially along an insertion direction of the media filter 28. The contact between the sealing element 56 and the media filter 28 prevents the airstream 32 from moving around the media filter 28, forcing the airstream 32 through the media filter 28. Thus, when the media filter 28 is properly installed in the frame 14, because of the presence of the sealing element 56, a downstream filter gap 60 between the downstream side 40 and the frame 14 is larger than an upstream filter gap 70 between the

upstream side 50 and the field-generating array 24 and/or frame 14. As shown in FIG.6, the comb 38 includes one or more tabs 62, or other similar features, extending from the spine 44 in a substantially downstream direction. The tabs 62 are configured such that when the media filter 28 is oriented correctly at installation, as the media filter 28 is moved into the filter opening 52, the tabs 62 do not interfere with the frame 14, thus allowing installation of the media filter 28. If, however, as shown in FIGs. 7 and 8, a user attempts to install the media filter 28 with the downstream side 40 facing an upstream direction, the tabs 62 interfere with field-generating array 24 and/or the frame 14, thus not allowing the media filter 28 to be installed in this incorrect orientation. The presence of the sealing element 56 at the downstream side causes the creation of the downstream filter gap 60 which allows for passage of the tabs 62 past the frame 14 allowing for full installation of the media filter 28.

[0023] In some embodiments, further sealing elements may be included which are located substantially perpendicular to the insertion direction of the media filter 28. In the embodiment described above, the additional sealing elements are located either on the ends of the media filter 28 or on the downstream side 40 of the media filter 28 to ensure creation of the downstream filter gap 60 by the sealing elements 56.

[0024] The sealing elements 56 described herein may be of any suitable cross-sectional shape including, for example, fin seals or bulb seals. It is to be appreciated that these configurations are merely exemplary and other cross-sectional shapes are within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0025] In other embodiments, the configuration may be substantially reversed. In such embodiments, the protruding or raised sealing element 56 is located at the media filter 28 and the tabs 62 or other alignment features are located at the frame 14. Similar to the embodiment described above, attempting to install a media filter 28 incorrectly will result in interference between the media filter 28 and the tabs 62, thus not allowing the installation to be completed. Further, additional sealing elements perpendicular to the insertion direction of the media filter 28 may be included and located on the frame 14.

[0026] While the invention has been described in detail in connection with only a limited number of embodiments, it should be readily understood that the invention is not limited to such disclosed embodiments. Rather, the invention can be modified to incorporate any number of variations, alterations, substitutions or equivalent arrangements not heretofore described, but which are commensurate with the spirit and scope of the invention. Additionally, while various embodiments of the invention have been described, it is to be understood that aspects of the invention may include only some of the described

embodiments. Accordingly, the invention is not to be seen as limited by the foregoing description, but is only limited by the scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A media filter for an air filtration system comprising:
 - a filtration element; and
 - one or more alignment features interactive with one or more sealing elements of the air filtration system to prevent incorrect installation of the media filter into the air filtration system.
2. The media filter of Claim 1, wherein the one or more alignment features comprise one or more tabs extending from media filter.
3. The media filter of Claim 2, wherein the one or more tabs extend substantially downstream relative to an airflow through the air filtration system.
4. The media filter of Claim 1, wherein the alignment features are configured to permit installation of the media filter in the frame if the media filter is in a correct orientation, and the alignment features interfere with another element of the air filtration system if it is attempted to install the media filter in an incorrect orientation.
5. The media filter of Claim 5, wherein the alignment features interfere with one of the frame or a filter enhancement module.
6. The media filter of Claim 1, further comprising a ground plane disposed at a downstream side of the media filter.
7. The media filter of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - a plurality of media fibers arranged in a plurality of pleats; and
 - one or more combs including:
 - a spine; and
 - a plurality of comb teeth extending from the spine and insertable between adjacent pleats of the plurality of pleats;
 - wherein the one or more alignment features extend from the spine.
8. An air filtration system comprising:
 - a frame directing an airflow through the air filtration system;
 - a media filter disposed in the frame including one or more filtration elements;
 - one or more alignment features; and
 - one or more sealing elements interactive with the one or more alignment features to prevent incorrect installation of the media filter into the frame.
9. The air filtration system of Claim 8, wherein the one or more alignment features are disposed at the media filter.

10. The air filtration system of Claim 9, wherein the one or more sealing strips are disposed at the frame.

11. The air filtration system of Claim 9, wherein the one or more alignment features extend substantially downstream relative to the airflow through the air filtration system.

12. The air filtration system of Claim 8, wherein the alignment features are configured to permit installation of the media filter in the frame if the media filter is in a correct orientation, and the alignment features interfere with another element of the system if it is attempted to install the media filter in an incorrect orientation.

13. The air filtration system of Claim 12, wherein the alignment features interfere with one of the frame or a filter enhancement module.

14. The air filtration system of Claim 13, wherein the media filter is electrically polarized via proximity to a field-generating array disposed directly upstream of the media filter.

15. The air filtration system of Claim 14, wherein incorrect installation of the media filter reduces the effectiveness of the media filter.

16. The air filtration system of Claim 8, further comprising an ionization array disposed upstream of the field-generating array.

17. The air filtration system of Claim 8, wherein the media filter comprises a ground plane disposed at a downstream side of the media filter.

18. A method of installing a media filter in an air filtration system comprising:

aligning an alignment feature of the media filter with an opening in a frame of the air filtration system; and

inserting the media filter into the frame, the alignment feature ensuring that the media filter is inserted in the frame in a correct orientation.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein an incorrect orientation of the media filter results in interference between the alignment feature and another element of the air filtration system.

20. An air filtration system comprising:

a frame directing an airflow through the air filtration system;

a media filter disposed in the frame; and

one or more sealing elements disposed between the media filter and the frame, the one or more sealing elements interactive with the one or more alignment features to prevent incorrect installation of the media filter into the frame.

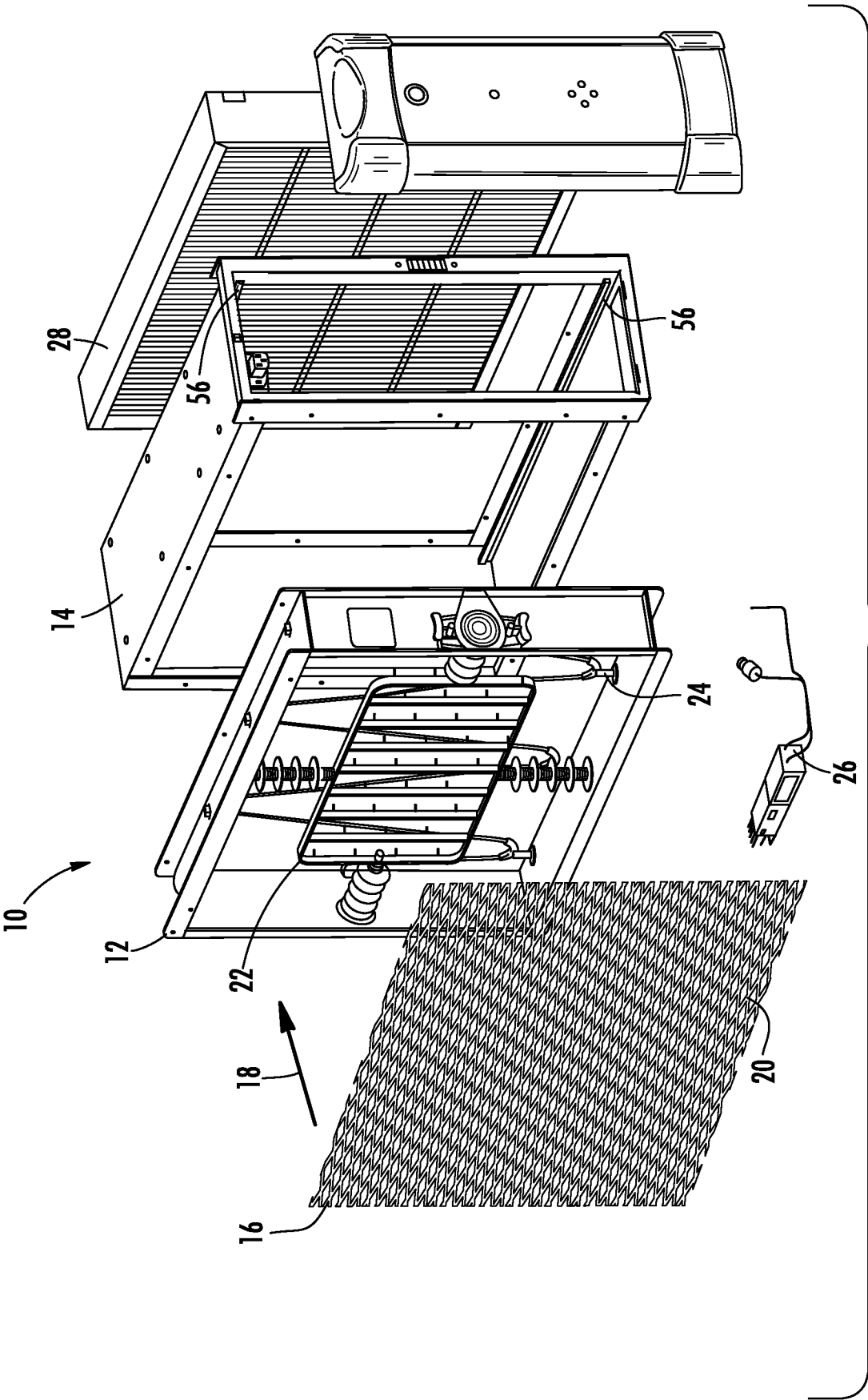


FIG. 1

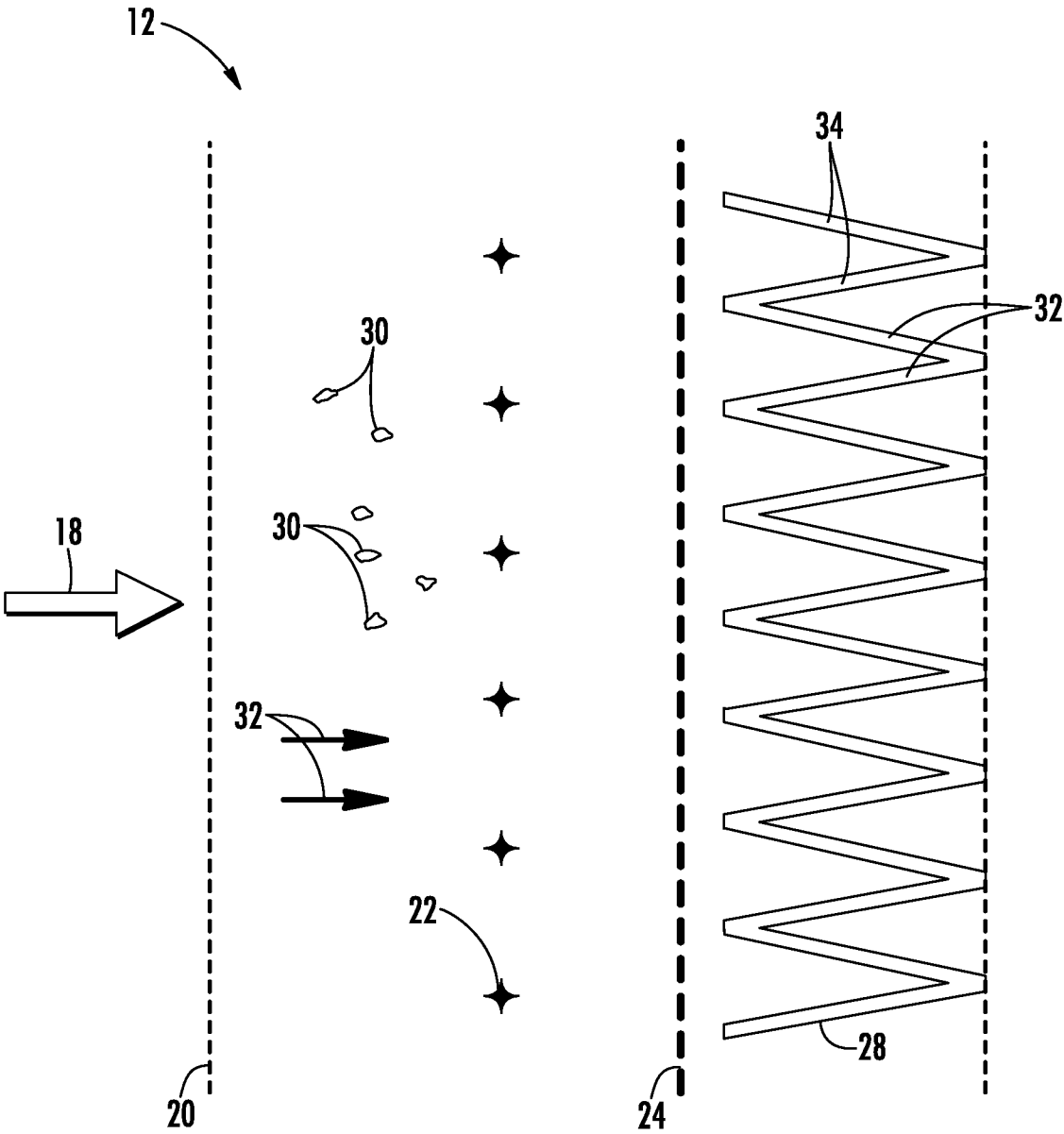


FIG. 2

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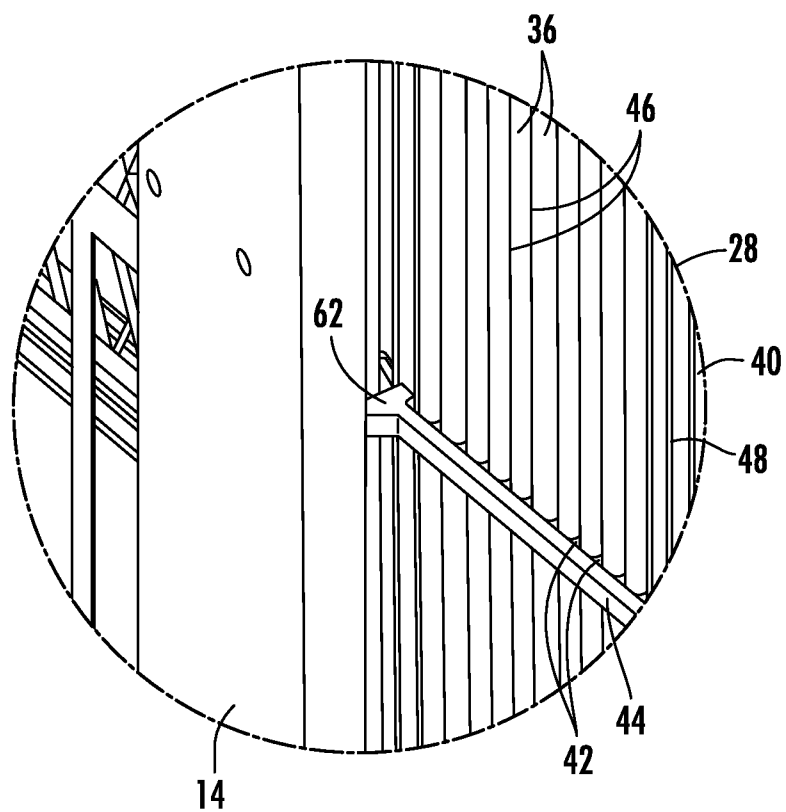


FIG. 3

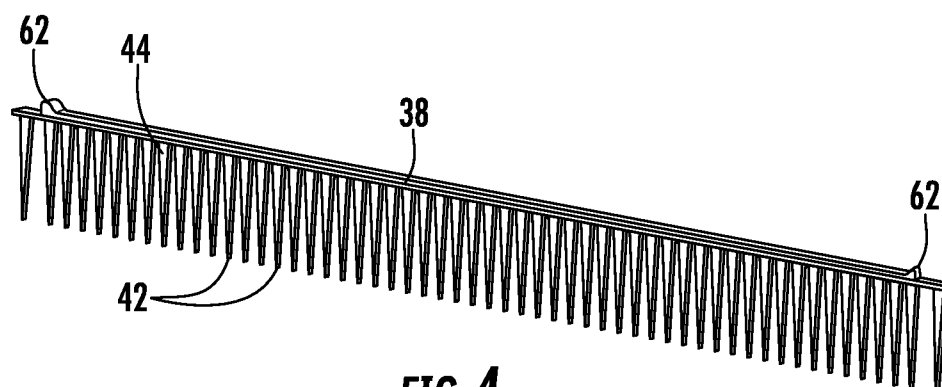
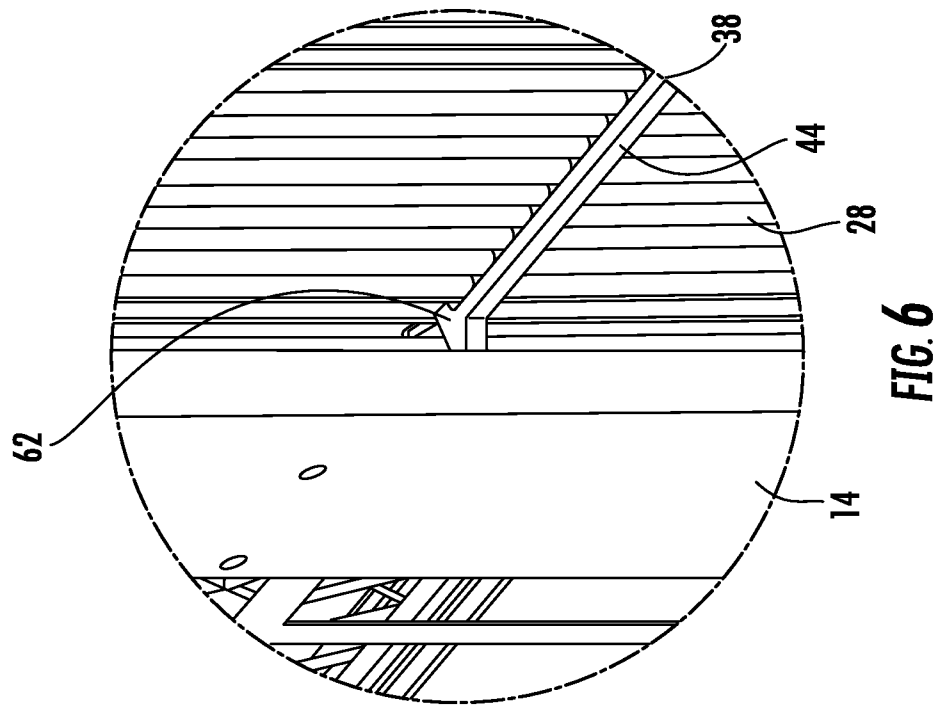
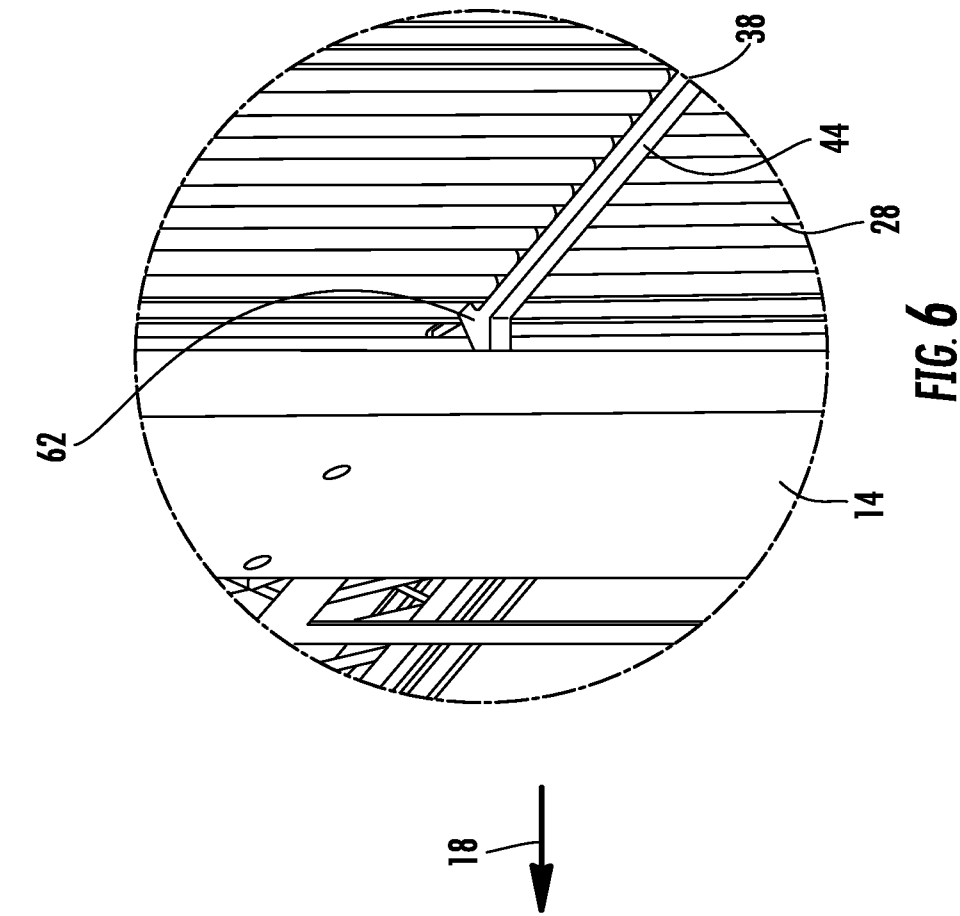
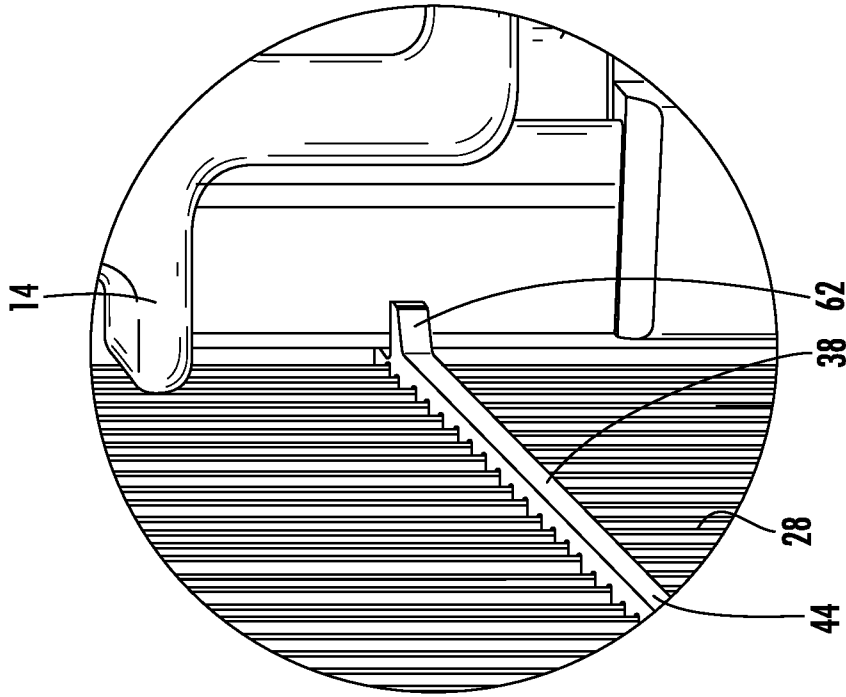
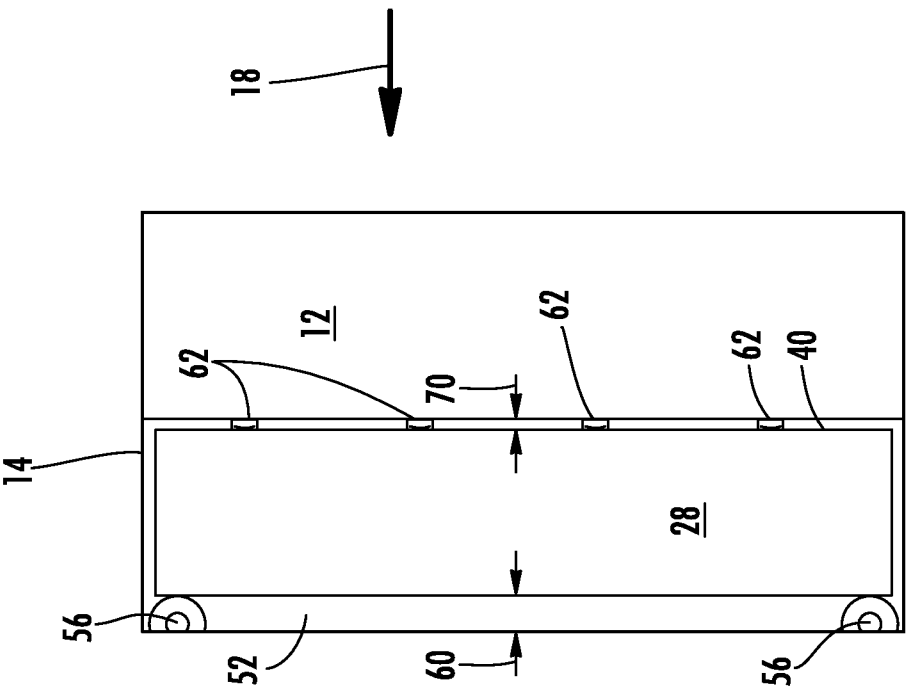


FIG. 4





INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B01D46/00 B03C3/82
ADD.

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)
B01D B03C

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)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2010/085253 A1 (Y2 ULTRA FILTER INC [US]) 29 July 2010 (2010-07-29) the whole document -----	1-20
X	FR 2 940 918 A3 (EXPANSION ELECTRONIC S R L [IT]) 16 July 2010 (2010-07-16) the whole document -----	1-20
X	US 2007/039472 A1 (BIAS LARRY S [US] ET AL BIAS LARRY STEPHEN [US] ET AL) 22 February 2007 (2007-02-22) the whole document -----	1-20



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

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"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

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"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

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

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