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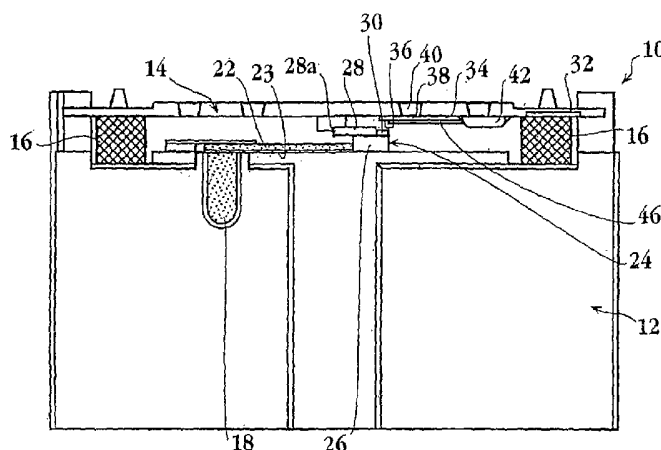
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AUTOMATED IMMUNOASSAY CASSETTE, APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: An immunoassay cassette, apparatus, and method for detecting an analyte in a liquid body-fluid sample are disclosed. The cassette has a body and a support mounted on the body, for movement relative to the body to first and second transfer positions. Sample supplied to a sample well in the cassette body is transferred to a reagent reservoir on the cassette body, by moving the support to its first transfer position. Here the sample reacts with a first reagent composition in the reservoir effective to form a modified sample. The modified sample is then transferred to a reagent strip on the support by moving the support to its second transfer position. The reagent strip has a transfer zone at which sample material is transferred to the strip, a second reagent composition effective to react with the modified sample to form a detectable analyte-dependent product, and a detection zone located downstream at which the detectable product can be observed. By controlling movement of the support to its first and second positions, the cassette can effectively handle a variety of samples having different flow rates.



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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : Please See Continuation Sheet

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,147,609 A (GRENNER) 15 September 1992 (15.09.1992), see entire document.	1-19
A	US 5,167,922 A (LONG) 01 December 1992 (01.12.1992), see entire document.	1-19
A	US 5,482,839 A (ASHIHARA et al) 09 January 1996 (09.01.1996), see entire document.	1-19



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 1:

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