



- KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations
 - as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 03/26768

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61M1/36 A61M1/02 B04B9/14 B04B5/04

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)
IPC 7 A61M B04B

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 01 02037 A (HAELLGREN EMANUEL ;HOEGBERG NICLAS (SE); PIHLSTEDT PETER (SE); SAN) 11 January 2001 (2001-01-11) the whole document	1-19, 48-55
A	US 6 315 706 B1 (UNGER PETER ET AL) 13 November 2001 (2001-11-13) column 2, line 27 -column 3, line 19; figures 1,5,6 column 4, line 9-29 column 4, line 49-57 column 5, line 1-3 column 6, line 1-6	1-19, 48-55

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *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
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *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

17 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 03/26768

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 01 97943 A (MEDICEPT INC) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27)</p> <p>page 4, line 18 -page 6, line 15 page 10, line 11-33 page 12, line 5-21 page 13, line 28-33</p> <p>---</p>	<p>1,15,18, 19,42, 48,50,52</p>
A	<p>US 5 964 724 A (RIVERA JOHN ET AL) 12 October 1999 (1999-10-12)</p> <p>column 4, line 40-51</p> <p>---</p>	<p>1,15, 17-19, 51,53,55</p>
A	<p>EP 0 771 569 A (HAEMONETICS CORP) 7 May 1997 (1997-05-07)</p> <p>page 4, line 55 -page 5, line 1 page 5, line 41-56 page 8, line 24,25 page 9, line 2-5</p> <p>---</p>	<p>1,15, 17-19, 51,53,55</p>
X	<p>US 6 296 602 B1 (HEADLEY THOMAS D) 2 October 2001 (2001-10-02) column 2, line 3-40 column 3, line 24 -column 4, line 31</p> <p>---</p>	<p>20-28</p>
X	<p>US 4 990 132 A (UNGER PETER ET AL) 5 February 1991 (1991-02-05) column 3, line 15 -column 4, line 58; figures 1,2</p> <p>---</p>	<p>30,32, 34,39</p>
Y	<p>---</p>	<p>33,38, 41,42</p>
X	<p>US 4 850 995 A (TIE THOMAS K ET AL) 25 July 1989 (1989-07-25) column 2, line 14-25; figure 1</p> <p>---</p>	<p>30</p>
Y	<p>US 3 297 244 A (HEIN GEORGE N) 10 January 1967 (1967-01-10) column 1, line 52-55; figure 1</p> <p>---</p>	<p>41,42</p>
Y	<p>US 5 427 695 A (BROWN RICHARD I) 27 June 1995 (1995-06-27) figure 4</p> <p>---</p>	<p>33,38</p>
X	<p>EP 0 499 891 A (MILES INC) 26 August 1992 (1992-08-26) column 4, line 37-45; figure 2</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>42</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 03/26768

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-19,48-55

An apparatus for centrifugally separating a volume of a composite fluid into at least a first and second fluid components.

2. Claims: 20-28

A method for centrifugally separating a volume of a composite fluid into at least a first, a second and a third fluid components, said components having different densities, said method including a first and a second centrifugation speed, wherein said method includes suspending the third fluid component into the remaining portion of the first fluid component, and wherein the third fluid component is finally transferred into a third fluid component container.

3. Claim : 29

A method for centrifugally separating a volume of a composite fluid into at least a first, a second and a third fluid components, said components having different densities, wherein the separation container is connected by a first tube to a first fluid container and by a second tube to a second fluid component container and wherein the first tube opens within the separation container in a lower density area and the second tube opens within the separation container in a higher density area, and wherein the third fluid component remains finally in the separation container.

4. Claims: 30-42

A set of containers comprising a separation container being connected to at least one collection container for a fluid component, and having an annular chamber and a distribution channel attached to the annular chamber.

5. Claims: 43-47

A device for loading a set of bags into the rotor of a centrifuge, said device comprising a loading container having an annular rim and said container being shaped so as to fit within the compartment of the rotor.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 03/26768

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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