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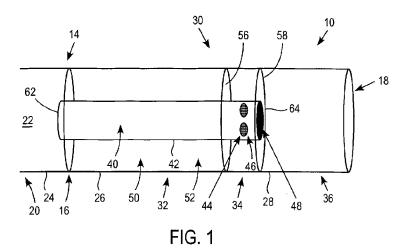
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(54) Title: FILTER DESIGN FOR IMPROVING SENSORY PROFILE OF CARBON FILTER-TIPPED SMOKING ARTICLES



(57) Abstract: A filter (30) for a smoking article (10), which includes an upstream segment (32) having a carbon filter (50) and a downstream segment (36) of filtering material. The upstream segment (32) includes a carbon filter (50) with a hollow tubular member (42) concentrically positioned within the carbon filter (50), and one or more holes (44) around an outer circumference (46) of the hollow tubular member (42) to allow mainstream smoke to bypass the carbon filter (50) during the first puff. During use, the hollow tubular member (42) has a lower resistance to draw than the carbon filter (50) during an initial puff or puffs, and after the initial puff or puffs, mainstream smoke is drawn through the carbon filter (50).





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FILTER DESIGN FOR IMPROVING SENSORY PROFILE OF CARBON FILTER-TIPPED SMOKING ARTICLES

BACKGROUND

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Smoking articles, particularly cigarettes, generally comprise a tobacco rod of shredded tobacco (usually, in cut filler form) surrounded by a paper wrapper, and a cylindrical filter aligned in an end-to-end relationship with the tobacco rod. The tobacco rod is generally between about 7 and about 10 millimeters in diameter and between about 60 millimeters and about 125 millimeters in length.

Typically, the filter includes a plug of cellulose acetate tow attached to the tobacco rod by tipping paper. Ventilation of mainstream smoke can be achieved with a row or rows of perforations about a location along the filter. In addition, activated carbon can be added to the filter to remove many gas phase components from the smoke. Unfortunately, American smokers perceive a taste deficit with carbon-filter cigarettes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a smoking article in accordance with one embodiment;
- FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a smoking article in accordance with another embodiment;
- FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a smoking article in accordance with a further 20 embodiment;
 - FIG. 4A is an image of an unblocked hole of a smoking article as shown in FIGS. 1-3;
 - FIG. 4B is an image of a hole blocked by tar of the smoking article of FIG. 4A after the smoking article was smoked on a smoking machine under Federal Trade Commission (FTC) conditions (35 cubic centimeters, 2 second duration, sine wave profile);
 - FIG. 5 is a graph of acetaldehyde evolution versus puff count in accordance with one embodiment for three different filter configurations with a 105 mg carbon filter;
 - FIG. 6 is a graph of isoprene evolution versus puff count in accordance with another embodiment for two different filter configurations with a 105 mg carbon filter;
 - FIG. 7 is a graph of acetaldehyde evolution versus puff count for a smoking article as shown in FIG. 1;
 - FIG. 8 is a graph of isoprene evolution versus puff count for a smoking article as shown in FIG. 1;
 - FIG. 9 is a graph of acetaldehyde evolution versus puff count for a smoking article in accordance with another embodiment;
 - FIG. 10 is a graph of isoprene evolution versus puff count for a smoking article in accordance with a further embodiment;

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FIG. 11 is a graph comparing percent of mainstream smoke (MS) constituent reductions of a filter design in accordance with one embodiment to a commercially available cigarette;

FIG. 12 is a graph of acetaldehyde evolution versus puff count for a smoking article as shown in FIG. 3; and

FIG. 13 is a graph of isoprene evolution versus puff count for a smoking article as shown in FIG. 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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It would be desirable for a smoking article that provides an acceptable flavor during the first puff or puffs and thereafter directs the mainstream smoke through a carbonaceous and/or highly ventilated filter. In addition, it would be desirable to have that filter deliver a flatter profile for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and subsequently a more balanced taste with an initial bypassing of the carbonaceous and/or highly ventilated filter portion of the filter.

In accordance with one embodiment, a filter for a smoking article comprises: an upstream segment comprising: a carbon filter; and a hollow tubular member concentrically positioned within the carbon filter and having one or more holes around an outer circumference of the hollow tubular member to allow mainstream smoke to bypass the carbon filter during the first puffs, and after the initial puff or puffs, mainstream smoke is drawn through the carbon filter; and a downstream segment of filtering material.

In accordance with another embodiment, a smoking article comprises: a tobacco rod of a smokable material; and a filter attached to the tobacco rod of smokable material, the filter comprising: an upstream segment of an activated carbon material, wherein the upstream segment includes a hollow tubular member concentrically positioned within the activated carbon material, and wherein the hollow tubular member has one or more holes around an outer circumference of the hollow tubular member to allow mainstream smoke to bypass the activated carbon material during the first puffs; a downstream segment of filtering material; a cavity located between the upstream segment and the downstream segment; and wherein the hollow tubular member has a lower resistance to draw than the activated carbon material during an initial puff or puffs on the smoking article, and wherein after the initial puff or puffs the mainstream smoke is drawn through the activated carbon material.

FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of a smoking article 10 in the form of a cigarette comprised of a tobacco rod 20 and a filter 30 in accordance with one embodiment. The filter 30 is comprised of an upstream segment 32, a downstream segment 36, and an open cavity 34 located between the upstream and downstream segments 32, 36. In accordance with one embodiment, the upstream segment 32 is a carbon filter 50 having a channel 40 concentrically

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positioned therein. In accordance with one embodiment, the channel 40 is comprised of a hollow tubular member 42 (*i.e.*, a bypass tube) having one or more holes 44 around an outer circumference 46 of the tubular member 42. In use, the channel 40 preferably has a lower resistance to draw than the carbon filter 50, such that mainstream smoke from the initial puffs (*i.e.*, first, second, third, *etc.*) bypasses the carbon filter 50. The channel 40 delivers mainstream smoke at the initiation of smoking that at least in substantial part, has not contacted any carbonaceous material and is therefore without the taste deficits commonly associated with a carbon-filter cigarette. Following the initial puffs on a smoking article 10, the holes 44 become clogged or blocked such that the smoke from the subsequent puffs will be drawn through the carbon filter 50 containing a carbonaceous material, or optionally other filter adsorbent or catalyst materials.

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As shown in FIG. 1, smokable material 22 is contained in a circumscribing outer wrapper 24. The outer wrapper 24 is typically a porous wrapping material or paper wrapper. The rod 20 is typically referred to as a "tobacco rod" and has a lit end or upstream end (not shown) and a downstream or tipped end 14. The smokable material 22 is preferably a shredded tobacco or tobacco cut filler. However, any suitable smokable material 22 can be used.

The filter 30 is adjacent to the tipped end 14 of the tobacco rod 20 such that the filter 30 and tobacco rod 20 are axially aligned in an end-to-end relationship, preferably abutting one another. The filter 30 has a generally cylindrical shape, and the diameter thereof is essentially equal to the diameter of the tobacco rod 20. The ends (*i.e.*, upstream end 16 and downstream end 18 (*i.e.*, mouth end or buccal end)) of the filter 30 are open to permit the passage of air and smoke therethrough.

In accordance with one embodiment, the filter 30 comprises an upstream segment 32 comprised of the carbon filter 50 and a hollow tubular member 42, which is concentric to the carbon filter 50, a downstream (or mouth end) segment 36, and a cavity 34 located between the upstream and the downstream segments 32, 36. The carbon filter 50 is preferably comprised of an activated carbon material mixed with a cellulose acetate material or carbon on tow (COT) segment 52. Alternatively, the carbon filter 50 can be a crimped carbon paper, a carbon monolith or a cavity filled with granular or beaded carbon, or other suitable carbon material or composition.

A plug wrap 26 preferably circumscribes the entire length of the filter 30 including the upstream segment 32, the cavity 34 and the downstream segment 36. In accordance with one embodiment, the plug wrap 26 is a paper, which optionally may incorporate a carbonaceous material. The filter 30 is attached to the tobacco rod 20 by a tipping paper 28, which circumscribes both the entire length of the filter 30 and an adjacent region of the tobacco rod 20.

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The tipping paper 28 is typically a paper like product; however, any suitable material can be used.

In accordance with one embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1, the channel 40 is preferably comprised of a hollow tubular member 42 having one or mores holes 44 in an outer circumference 46 in fluid communication with cavity 34, and an impermeable plug 48 on a downstream end 64 of the hollow tubular member 42. In accordance with one embodiment, the downstream end 64 of the hollow tubular member 42 preferably abuts against the downstream segment 36 of the filter 30. Alternatively, the downstream end 64 of the hollow tubular member 40 can be positioned within the cavity 34 or located at a downstream end 56 of the upstream segment 32 (FIG. 3). On the upstream end 62, the tubular member 42 optionally extends into the tobacco rod 20 or abuts the tipped end 14 of the tobacco rod 20.

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The hollow tubular member 42 can be comprised of an impermeable material and/or a permeable material depending on desired permeability and/or resistance to draw (RTD) of the filter 30 in the axial and radial directions. In accordance with one embodiment, the hollow tubular member 42 can be a hollow paper tube or a hollow plastic tube. In another embodiment, the hollow tubular member 42 can be filled with a suitable material to controlled permeability and/or controlled resistance to draw (RTD) of the hollow tubular member 42.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment, the carbon filter 50 is a carbon on tow segment 52 having a length of approximately 22 mm surrounding a tubular member 42 having a length of approximately 25 mm in length. As a result of the differential length between the carbon filter 50 and the hollow tubular member 42, the hollow tubular member 42 extends into the cavity 34 located between the upstream segment 32 and the downstream segment 36.

The downstream end 64 of the hollow tubular member 42 preferably extends beyond a downstream end 56 of the carbon filter 50 of the filter 30 by approximately 1 to 5 mm and more preferably approximately 2 to 3 mm. As shown in FIG. 1, the holes 44 are located around an outer circumference 46 of the hollow tubular member 42 near the sealed end 48. The holes 44 preferably comprise at least one circumferential row of at least two openings or holes 44. In accordance with one embodiment, the at least one row of holes 44 is preferably positioned around the outer circumference 46 of the sealed end 48 and number between two (2) and six (6) depending on the size of the openings or holes 44. In accordance with an embodiment, the holes 44 preferably have a diameter of approximately 0.5 mm or less.

The downstream segment 36 (*i.e.*, mouth end) of the filter 30 is preferably comprised of a filtering material such as a starch-based, polypropylene, or plasticized cellulose acetate tow. The filtering material of the downstream segment 36 can also have the form of a gathered web (for example, polypropylene web, polyester web, cellulosic web or starch-based web).

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During an initial puff or puffs, smoke is drawn through the concentric hollow tube or channel 40 due to its low resistance to draw. Thus, by the time of subsequent puffs on the smoking article 10, the holes 44 of the tubular member 42, which forms the channel 40, are partially or totally blocked, such that the mainstream smoke no longer passes preferentially through the tubular member 42 but instead is drawn through the length of the carbon filter 50.

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In accordance with one embodiment, the channel 40 has a lower resistance to draw (RTD) than the carbon filter 50 allowing a portion of the mainstream smoke to pass through the hollow tubular member 42 without coming in contact with the carbonaceous material within the carbon filter 50. As particulate matter is drawn through the holes 44 at the sealed end 46 of the hollow tubular member 42, the holes 44 become clogged with the particulate matter and tar preventing further bypass and the entirety of the mainstream smoke is then filtered through the carbon filter 50.

It can be appreciated that the resistance to draw (RTD) and the flow distribution of the channel 40 and the carbon filter 50 can depend on several factors including the length of the filter 30, and the nature or type of filter materials within the carbon filter 50 and the downstream segment 36. Alternatively, the resistance to draw (RTD) and flow distribution of the filter can be changed and/or controlled based on the amount and the activity of carbonaceous material of the carbon filter 50.

As shown in FIG. 2, the filter 30 includes a channel 40, which is coaxially or concentrically positioned within the carbon filter 50. The channel 40 preferably extends from the upstream end 16 of the filter 30 to an upstream end 58 of the downstream segment 36 and abutting against the downstream segment 36 of the filter 30. The channel 40 is preferably comprised of a hollow tubular member 42 having a plurality or series of holes 44 in the outer circumference 46, and an impermeable plug 48 on the downstream end of the hollow tubular member 42. In accordance with one embodiment, the hollow tubular member 42 includes a series of holes 44 around the outer circumference 46 of the tubular member 42 and extending the length of the tubular member 42. The series of openings or holes 44 preferably comprise at least two circumferential rows of at least two openings or holes 44 along the length of the tubular member 42.

As shown in FIG. 3, the hollow tubular member 42 includes a series of one or more openings or holes 44 around the circumference of the tubular member 42 and extending the length of the tubular member 42. In accordance with one embodiment, the tubular member 42 extends from an upstream end 54 of the carbon filter 50 to the downstream end 56 of the carbon filter 50. The impermeable plug 48 at the downstream end of the tubular member 42 is preferably adjacent to, or optionally located within the cavity 34. The plurality of openings or

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holes 44, preferably comprises at least two circumferential rows of at least two openings or holes 44 along the length of the tubular member 42. In accordance with one embodiment, the impermeable plug 48 at the downstream end of the tubular member 42 includes a bypass opening or hole 66. Preferably, the bypass opening or hole 66 is centrally located within the impermeable plug 48 and has an outer diameter of approximately 0.5 mm or less. Preferably, the impermeable plug 48 is a hot melt glue plug or other suitable plug. In accordance with one embodiment, the bypass opening or hole 66 is preferably punched into the impermeable plug 48 and permits tar impaction at the downstream segment 36 (or cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece).

FIGS. 4A and 4B show images of an unblocked hole of a smoking article, and a hole blocked by tar of the smoking article of FIG. 4A after the smoking article was smoked on a smoking machine under FTC conditions (35 cubic centimeters, 2 second duration, sine wave profile), respectively. The results as shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B were obtained using a filter as shown in FIG. 2 having a carbon on tow segment (COT) of approximately 22 mm in length, and a bypass tube of approximately 25 mm in length.

FIGS. 5, 7, 9 and 12 are graphs showing acetaldehyde evolution versus puff count in accordance with various filter configurations. FIGS. 6, 8, 10 and 13 are graphs showing isoprene evolution versus puff count in accordance with various filter configurations. As shown in FIGS. 5-10 and 12-13, the higher volatile organic compound (VOC) deliveries, especially in the early puffs, and the flatter profile for the cellulose acetate (CA)/carbon on tow (COT) 105 mg custom filter, with 4 holes suggests that carbon bypass is taking place and that the initial carbon bypass may contribute to an improved removal efficiency at the late puffs. FIGS. 9 and 10 show that a filter with a 105 mg carbon on tow (COT) design with a bypass tube has similar deliveries for acetaldehyde in the first puffs as the 60 mg COT control (no tube). The deliveries, however, diverged as puff count increased.

FIGS. 5 and 6 show acetaldehyde evolution and isoprene evolution versus puff count for three different filter configurations with a 105 mg (milligram) carbon on tow filter. As shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, curve A is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a cellulose acetate (CA) filter; curve B is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a 105 mg carbon on tow filter segment with multiple holes and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; curve C is a commercially available tobacco rod with a 110 mg carbon on tow filter segment (unplugged tube) and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; curve D is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a 105 mg carbon on tow filter segment and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; and curve E is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra

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low delivery) with a 105 mg carbon on tow filter segment with 4 holes and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece.

FIGS. 7 and 8 show acetaldehyde evolution and isoprene evolution versus puff count from a 4 (four) hole tubular design for several commercially available cigarette configurations. As shown in FIGS. 7 and 8, curve A is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) rod with a cellulose acetate (CA) filter; curve B is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a 105 mg carbon on tow segment with multi-holes and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; curve C is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a 60 mg carbon on tow segment with a bypass and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; curve D is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a 105 mg carbon on tow segment and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; and curve E is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) rod with a 60 mg carbon on tow segment and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece.

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FIGS. 9 and 10 show acetaldehyde evolution and isoprene evolution versus puff count from experimental cigarettes on a puff by puff basis. As shown in FIGS. 9 and 10, curve A is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) rod with a 105 mg carbon on tow segment with bypass and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; and curve B is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a 60 mg carbon on tow segment and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece.

FIG. 11 is a graph comparing percent of mainstream smoke (MS) constituent reductions of a filter design in accordance with one embodiment to another commercially available cigarette. As shown in FIG. 11, the bars on the left is a commercially available cigarette with a 105 mg carbon on tow segment with bypass, and the bars on the right are a commercially available cigarette with a restriction and a 60 mg carbon on tow segment.

FIGS. 12 and 13 show acetaldehyde evolution and isoprene evolution versus puff count from experimental cigarettes on a puff by puff basis. As shown in FIGS. 12 and 13, curve A is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; curve B is a commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) rod with a 22 mm carbon on tow segment and a 22 mm bypass tube (10 holes), and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; curve C is commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a 26 mm Carbon on tow and a 26 mm bypass tube (10 holes), and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; curve D is commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a 22 mm carbon on tow and a 25 mm bypass tube (10 holes), and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; curve E is commercially available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) rod with a 12 mm carbon on tow (*i.e.*, 60 mg carbon on tow) and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece; and curve F is a commercially

available tobacco rod (ultra low delivery) with a 26 mm carbon on tow without a bypass tube, and a cellulose acetate (CA) mouthpiece.

Table 1 shows total particulate material (TPM) delivery for a plurality of smoking articles. As shown in Table 1, the TPM delivered in the 105 mg carbon on tow (COT) filter was typical of a commercially available cigarette with full flavor because there was no dilution. The 50 mg COT cigarettes were commercially available cigarettes with 12 dilution holes around the circumference of the filter.

Total Particulate Matter (TPM) Delivery from Experimental Filters						
Filter Configuration	Mean Tar Delivery (mg)	Standard Deviation (mg)				
CA / CA Control	15.6	1.9				
CA / 60 mg COT 4 hole tube	12.9	1.6				
CA / 110 mg COT 4 hole tube	12.3	1.9				
CA / 110 mg COT multi hole tube	14.5	2.2				
CA / 110 mg COT open ended tube	14.8	2.1				
CA / 60 mg COT no tube	10.2	N/A				
CA / 110 mg COT no tube	10.7	1.9				

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Table 2 shows acetaldehyde and isoprene delivery with respect to a number of commercially available cigarettes and smoking articles in accordance with one embodiment. As shown in Table 2, there was a significant decrease in both acetaldehyde and isoprene deliveries. For example, the values for acetaldehyde fall within the range for a commercially available cigarette while delivering the total particulate matter (TPM) of a full flavor smoking article, and the isoprene dropped well below the value currently seen on the commercially available cigarette configuration.

It will be understood that the foregoing description is of the preferred embodiments, and is, therefore, merely representative of the article and methods of manufacturing the same. It can be appreciated that many variations and modifications of the different embodiments in light of the above teachings will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the exemplary embodiments, as well as alternative embodiments, may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the articles and methods as set forth in the attached claims.

Acetaldehyde and Isoprene Delivery with Respect to Commercially Available Products						
Cigarette Type	Acetaldehyde	SD in Acetaldehyde	Isoprene	SD in Isoprene		
	(µg/cig)	(µg/cig)	(µg/cig)	(µg/cig)		
Full Flavor	742.17	60.01	442.69	23.5		
Low Delivery	684.92	51.82	409.50	28.63		
Ultra Low Delivery	406.17	42.94	265.79	10.89		
CA / 60 mg COT 4 holes	479	48	203	28		
CA / 110 mg COT 4 holes	376	48	151	37		
CA / 110 mg COT multi-hole	473	93	154	32		

TABLE 2

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CLAIMS:

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A filter for a smoking article comprising:
 an upstream segment comprising:

a carbon filter; and

a hollow tubular member concentrically positioned within the carbon filter and having one or more holes around an outer circumference of the hollow tubular member to allow mainstream smoke to bypass the carbon filter during the first puffs, and wherein after the initial puff or puffs, mainstream smoke is drawn through the carbon filter; and

a downstream segment of filtering material.

- 2. A filter according to claim 1, further comprising a cavity between the upstream segment and the downstream segment, the hollow tubular member extending into the cavity.
- 15 3. A filter according to claim 2, wherein the hollow tubular member extends from an upstream end of the filter to a downstream end of the cavity.
 - 4. A smoking according to claim 1, wherein the hollow tubular member extends from an upstream end of the filter to a downstream end of the upstream segment.

5. A filter according to claim 1, wherein the one or more holes is comprised of at least one row of holes around the outer circumference of the hollow tubular member, which are partially or totally blocked following the initial puff or puffs.

- 6. A filter according to claim 1, wherein the one or more holes are located in a cavity between the upstream segment and the downstream segment.
 - 7. A filter according to claim 1, wherein the one or more holes comprises at least two rows of holes around the circumference of the hollow tubular member.
 - 8. A filter according to claim 1, wherein the one or more holes comprise at least two circumferential rows of at least two holes, and wherein the at least two circumferential rows of at least two holes extend from an upstream end to a downstream end of the hollow tubular member.

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- 9. A filter according to claim 1, further comprising an impermeable plug on a downstream end of the hollow tubular member.
- 10. A smoking article according to claim 9, wherein the impermeable plug located on the downstream end of the hollow tubular member has an opening therein.
 - 11. A filter according to claim 9, wherein the impermeable plug abuts the downstream segment of filtering material.
- 10 12. A filter according to claim 9, wherein the impermeable plug is located within a cavity located between the upstream segment and the downstream segment.
 - 13. A filter according to claim 1, wherein the carbon filter includes an activated carbon material and a cellulose acetate material.
 - 14. A filter according to claim 1, wherein the carbon filter further includes a filter adsorbent or a catalyst material or a combination thereof.
 - 15. A smoking article comprising:

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- 20 a rod of smokable material; and
 - a filter according to any of claims 1 to 14 attached to the rod of smokable material.

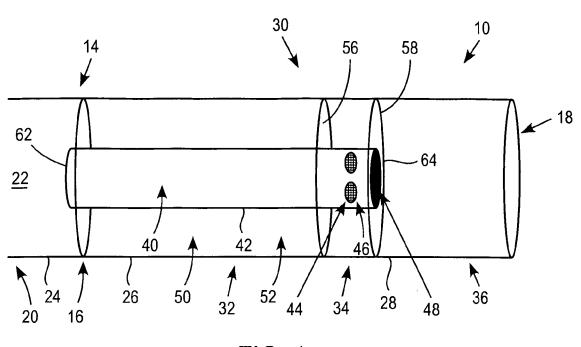


FIG. 1

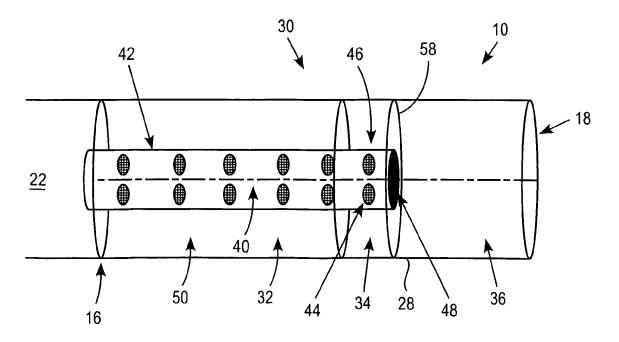


FIG. 2

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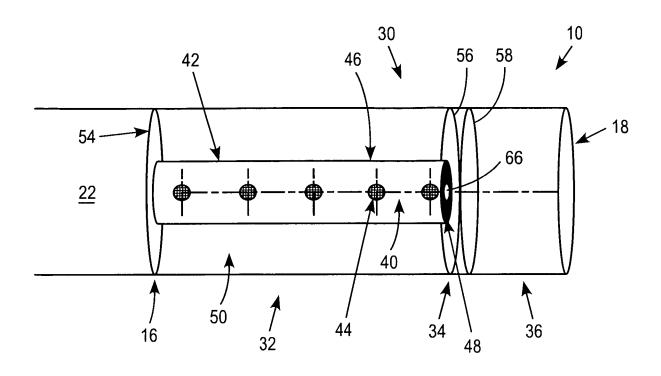


FIG. 3

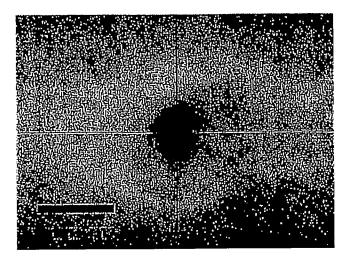


FIG. 4A

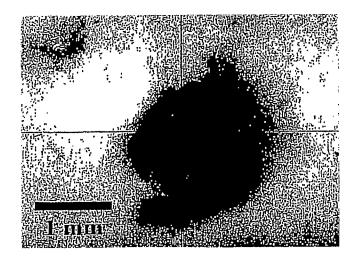
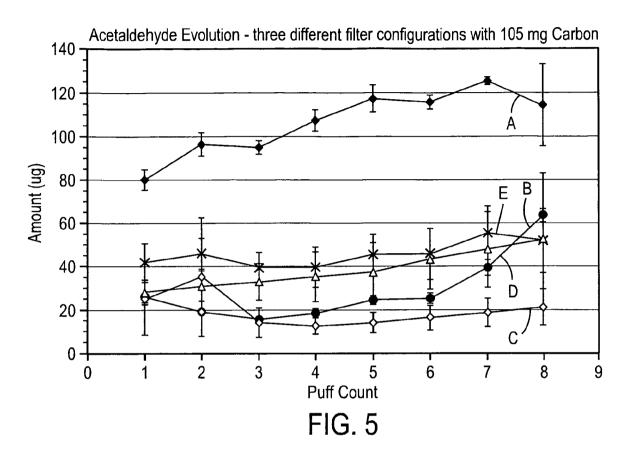
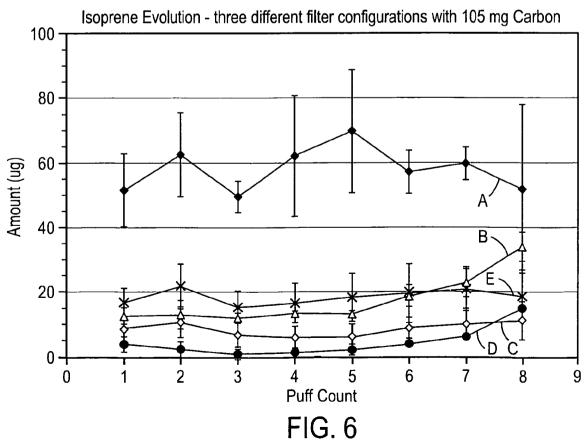
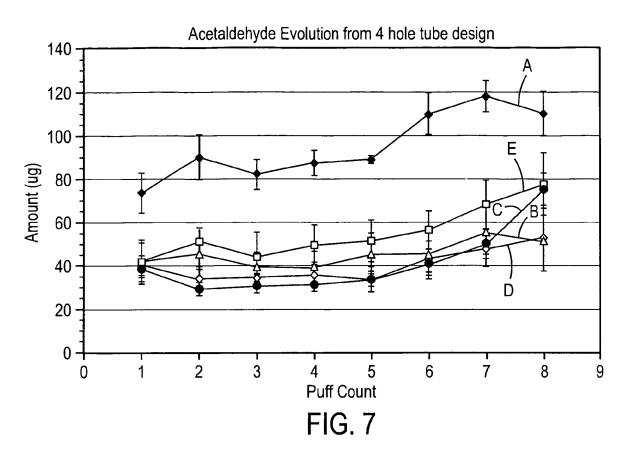
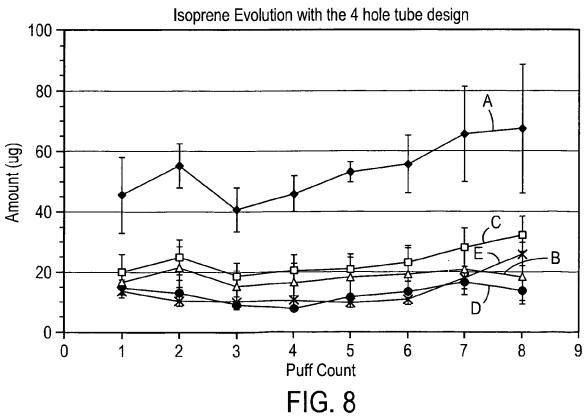


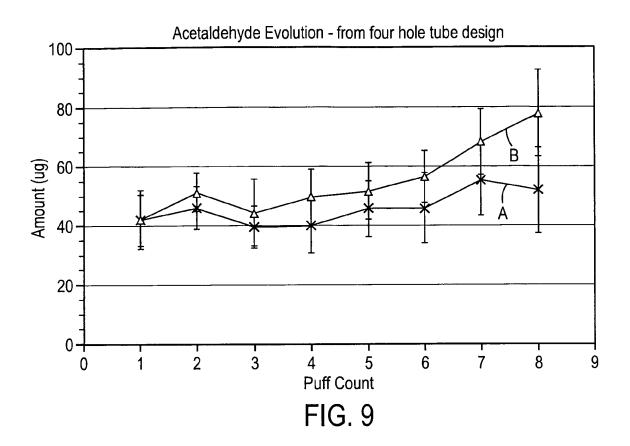
FIG. 4B

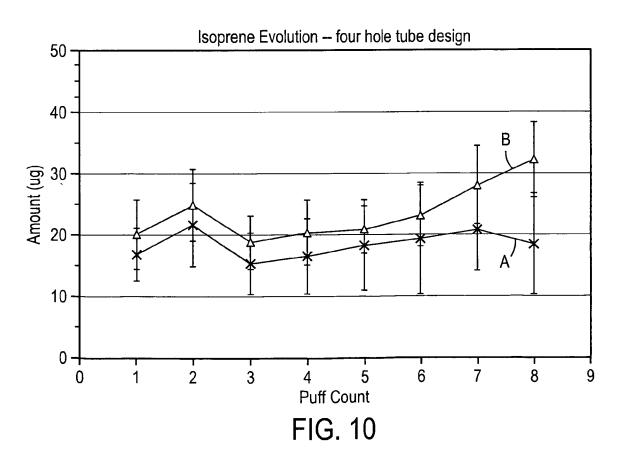


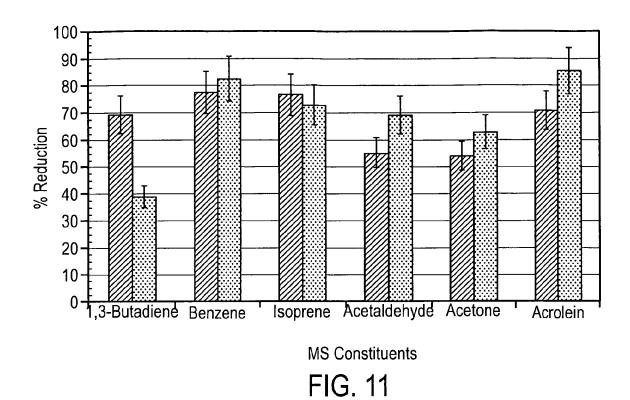


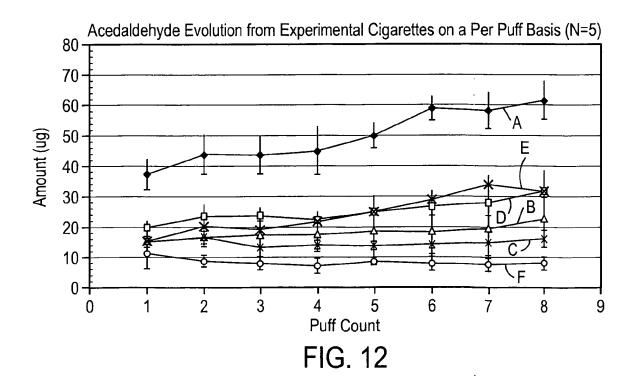


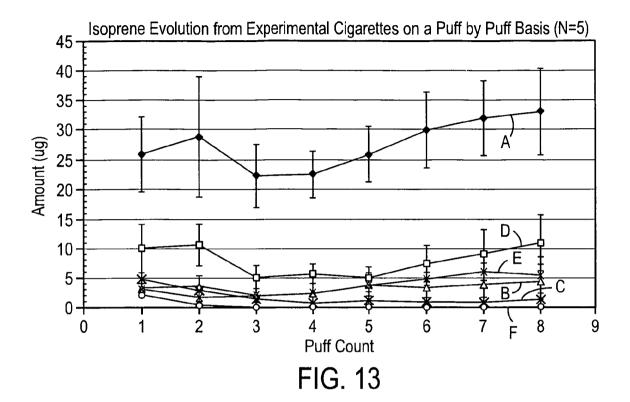












INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2010/006194

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A24D3/04 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) A24D 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, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. γ EP 0 636 324 A1 (REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO R 1,4,5,7, [US]) 1 February 1995 (1995-02-01) 8,13-15 page 5, line 25 - page 11, line 5 Υ EP 0 295 835 A1 (TABAC FAB REUNIES SA 1,4,5,7, 8,13-15 [CH]) 21 December 1988 (1988-12-21) column 2, line 55 - column 4, line 15 EP 0 630 587 A1 (BAT CIGARETTENFAB GMBH 2.6 Α [DE]) 28 December 1994 (1994-12-28) column 4, line 5 - column 8, line 28 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: "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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 3 February 2011 10/02/2011 Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Koob, Michael Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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