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(54) **METHODS OF HEATING A MEDIUM,
VAPORIZATION MODULE, CARTRIDGE
AND INHALATION APPLIANCE**

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(71) Applicant: **Dmitrii Sergeevich SHEPELEV,**
Moscow (RU)

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(72) Inventor: **Dmitrii Sergeevich SHEPELEV,**
Moscow (RU)

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(57)

ABSTRACT

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The invention relates to appliances for the inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance, with a liquid-containing vessel, such as hookahs. A novel method of heating a medium releases an active substance, which produces a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance without combustion. A medium is heated, releasing particles of an active substance, for the inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance. The appliance includes a cartridge containing the medium, air entering the inhalation appliance is heated to a temperature of up to 400° C., then is passed around the cartridge and through the medium. A vaporization module for carrying out the method, a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, and an appliance for the inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance.

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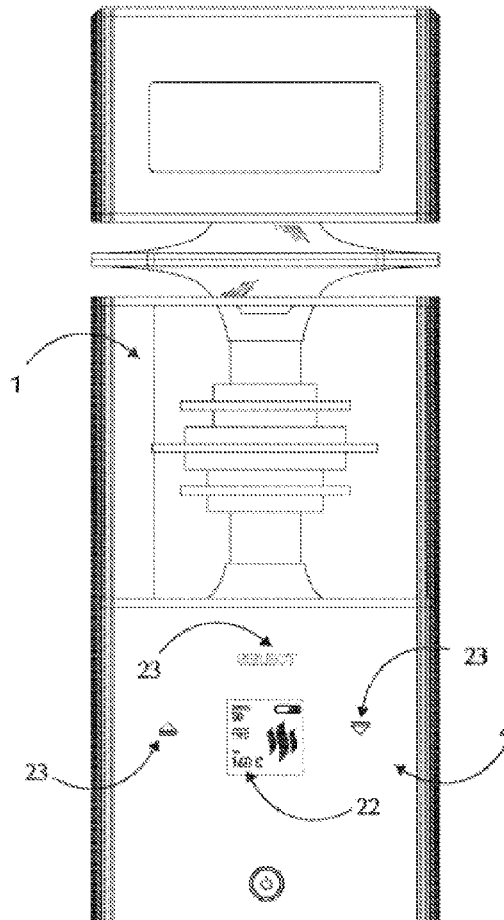
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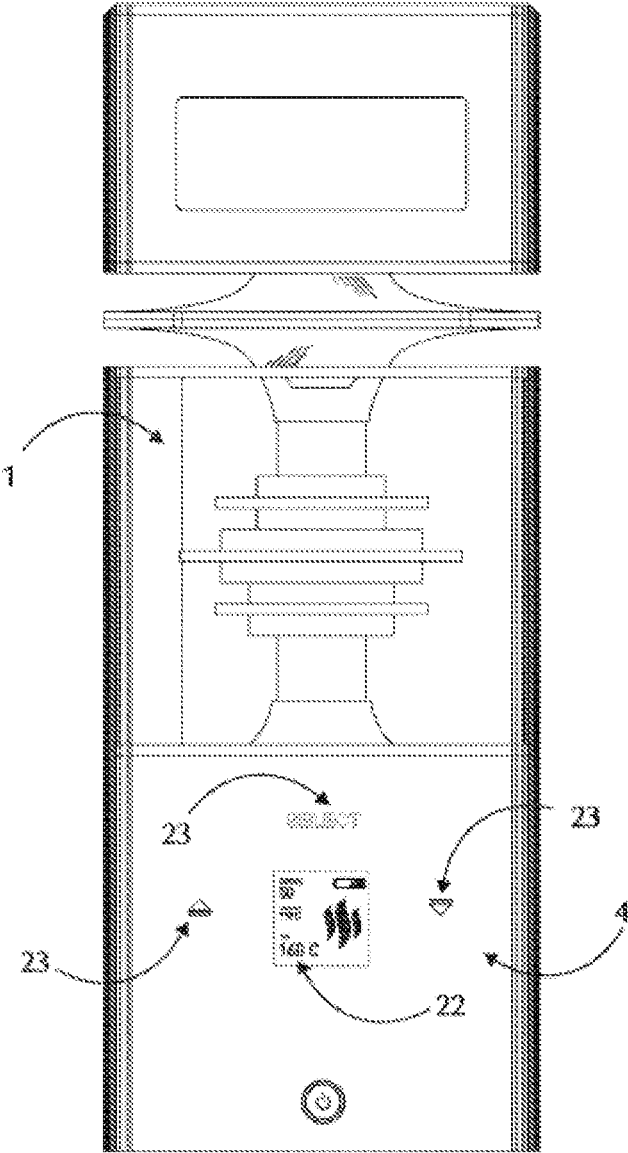


FIG. 1

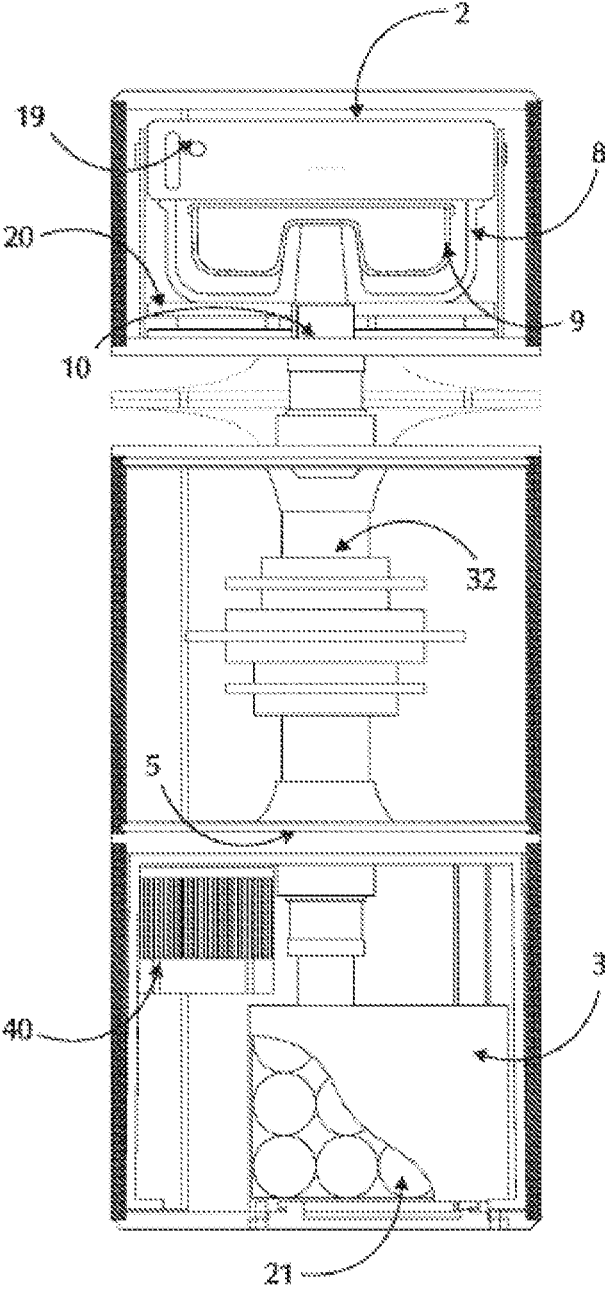


FIG. 2

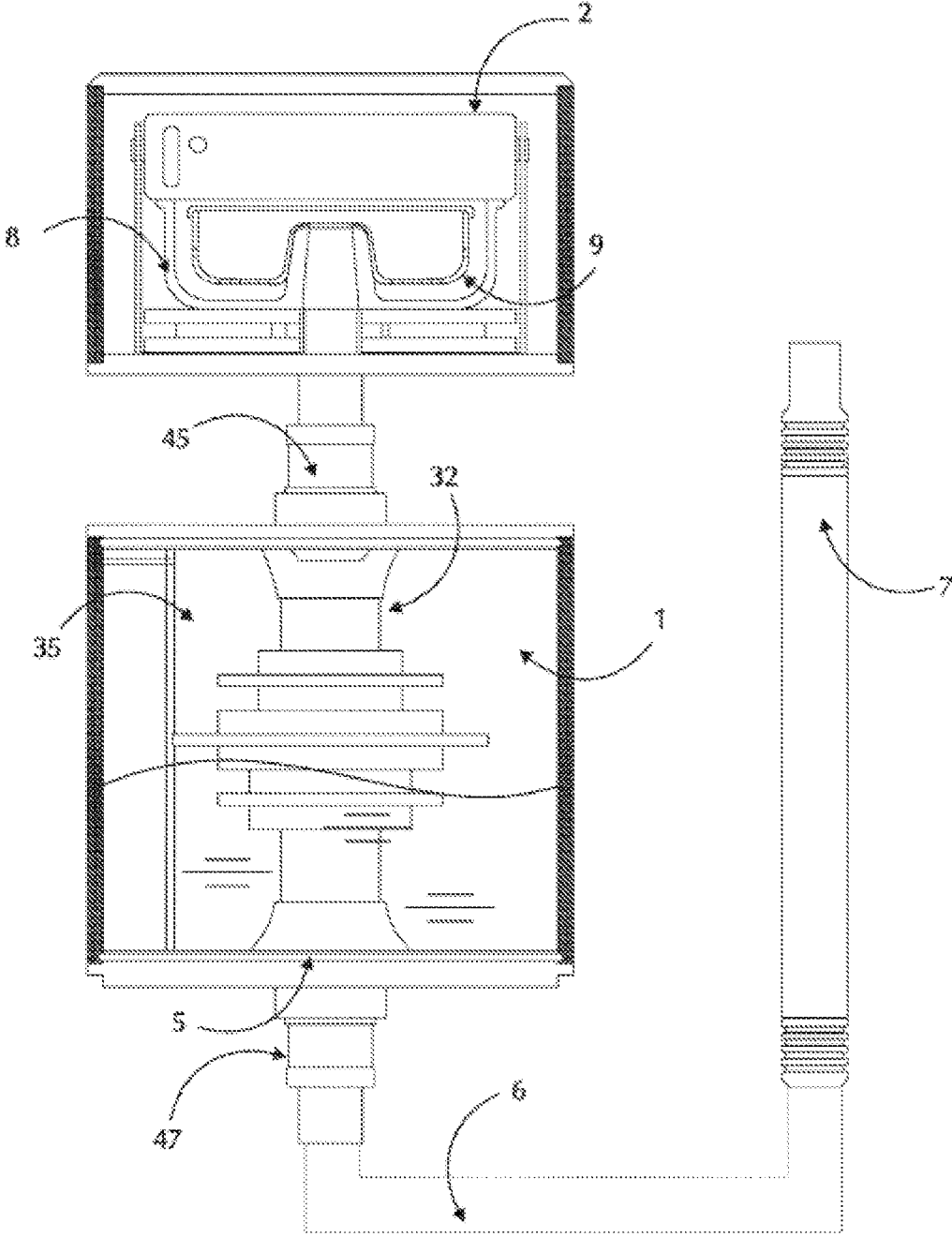


FIG. 3

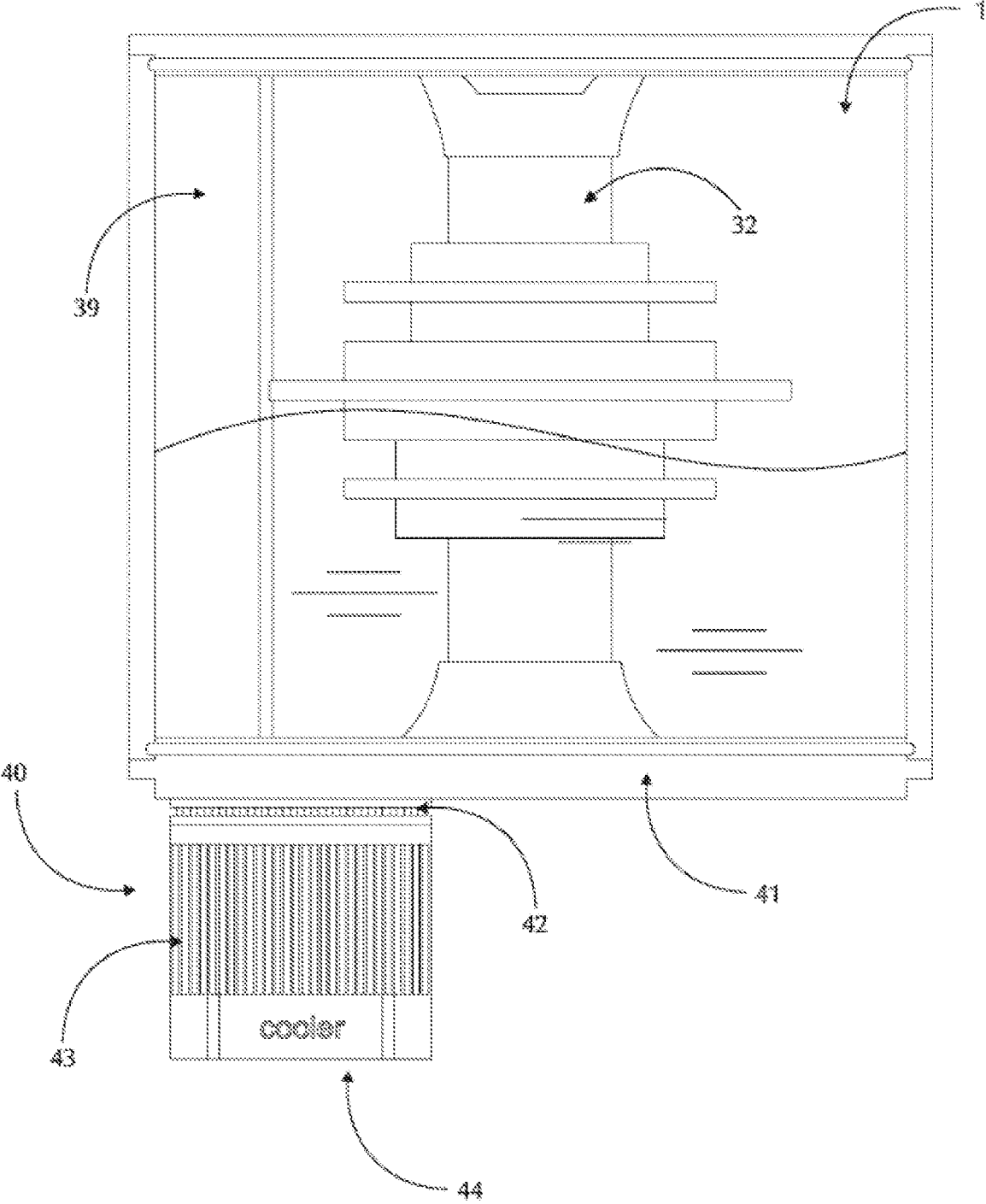


FIG. 4

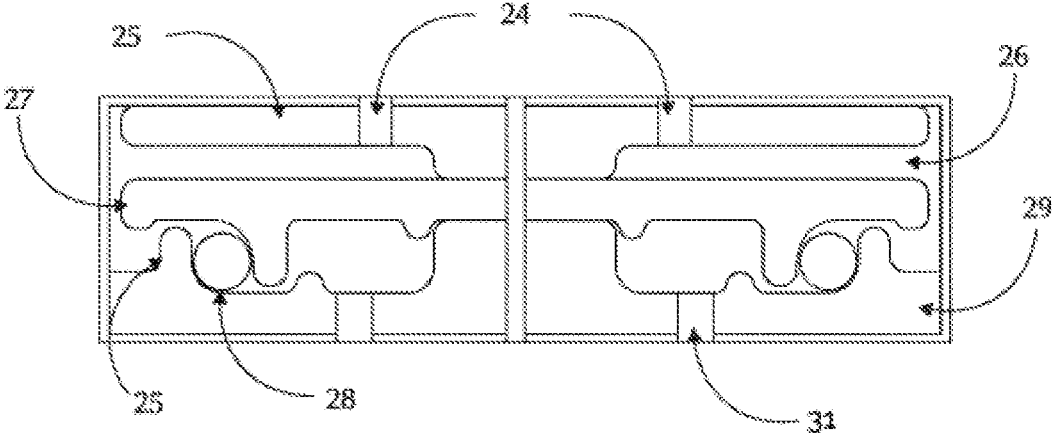


FIG. 8

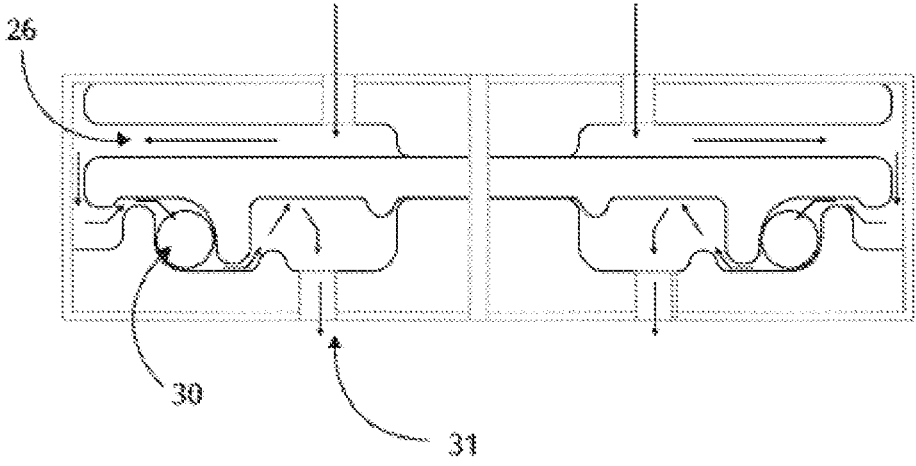


FIG. 9

FIG. 11

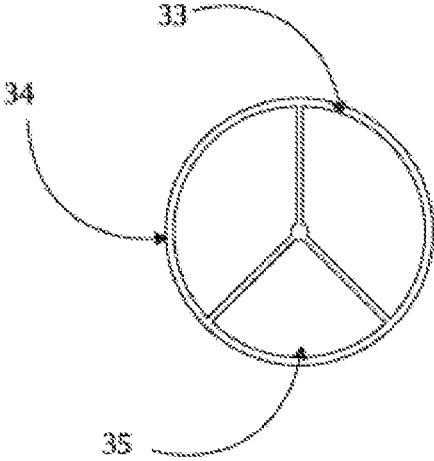


FIG. 12

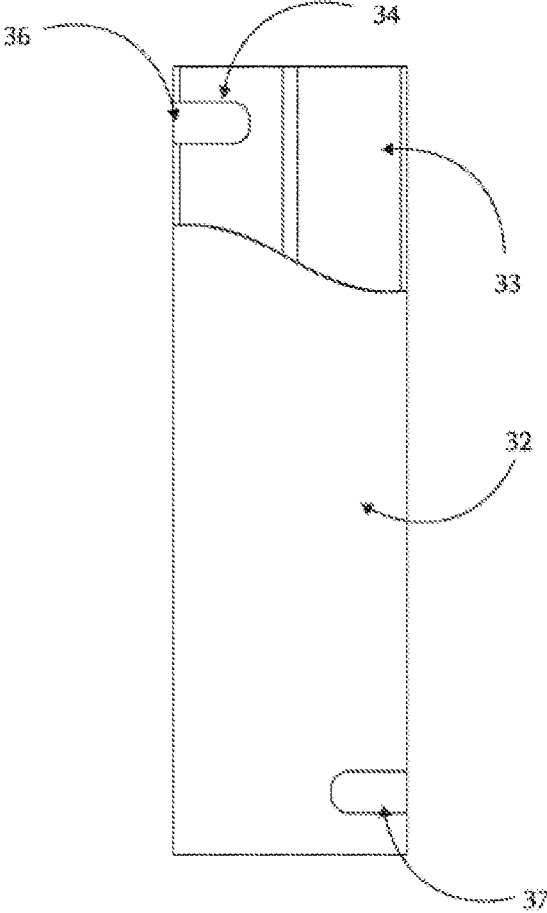
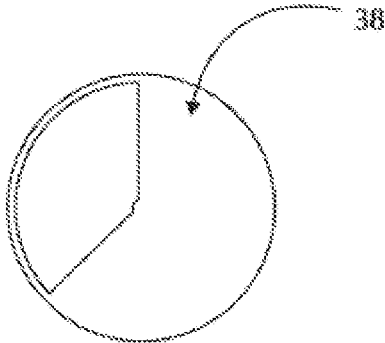


FIG. 10

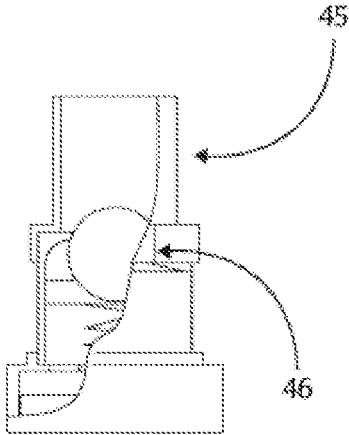


FIG. 13

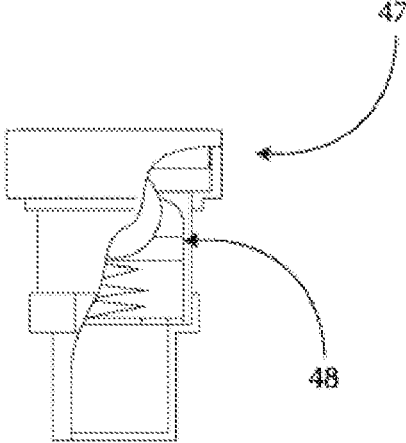


FIG. 14

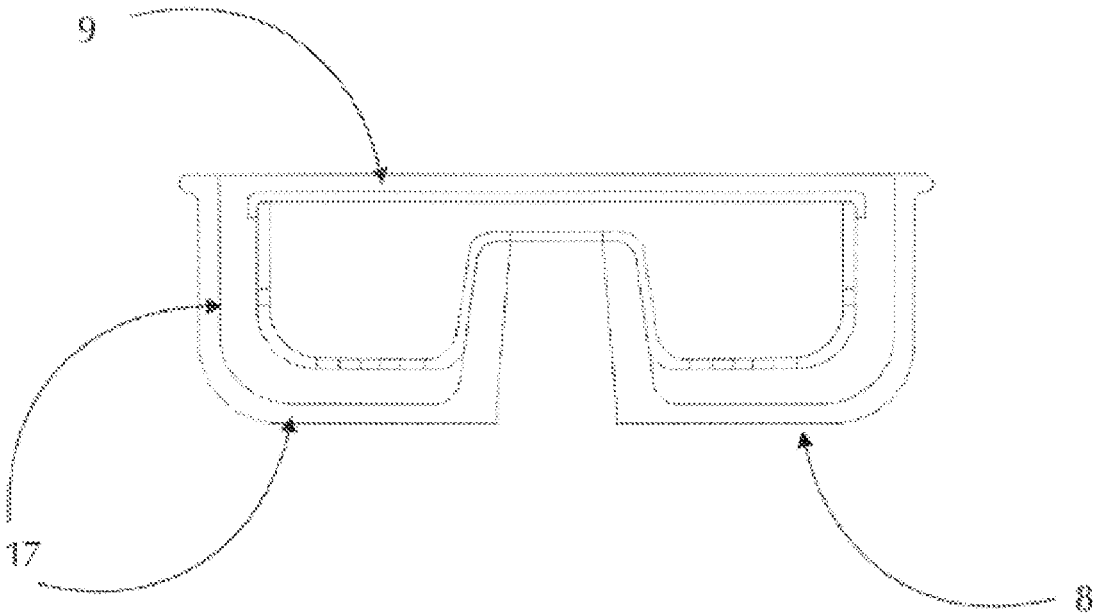


FIG. 15

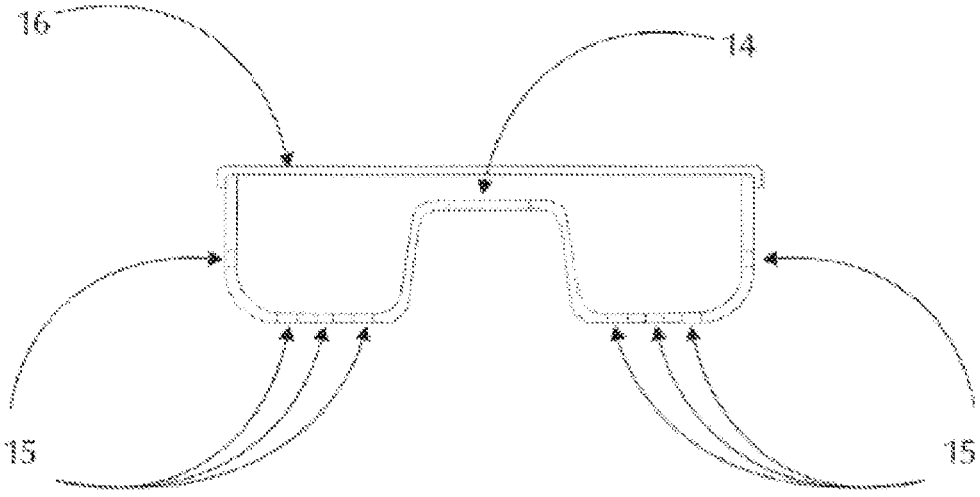


FIG. 16

**METHODS OF HEATING A MEDIUM,
VAPORIZATION MODULE, CARTRIDGE
AND INHALATION APPLIANCE**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates to the service sector and can be used in the creation of appliances for the inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance, which comprise a liquid-containing vessel, for example smoking appliances, preferably hookahs.

BACKGROUND OF THE RELATED ART

[0002] Smoking appliances, which firstly appeared in the countries of the East, known as hookahs, became extremely popular in recent years, and they are an alternative to ordinary cigarettes, particularly, among young adults. Smoking appliances comprise a vessel partially filled with water or any other liquid medium. Suction through a tip creates a low air pressure in a vessel. Besides, a smoke tube goes to the water level, its head part is located near an upper end, where tobacco is placed, which is heated by coal from an upper side. A mixture of air, vapor and smoke particles appears as a result of tobacco heating, then this mixture is inhaled by the smoker. It is obvious that the heat produced by combusting coal may lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, burns or, in extreme cases, even a fire. As hookahs are filled manually, high-quality preparation of hookahs for the use is also not guaranteed. For this reason, hookahs, which are more common today, should only be used outdoors or in rooms with a guaranteed supply of fresh air. In addition, hookahs according to the state of the art are very heavy and bulky, hookahs shall be made up of several parts, and their individual parts are inconvenient to transport. They are also difficult to clean and often do not meet hygiene standards.

[0003] E-hookahs are known from patent documents U.S. Pat. No. 4,133,318 published on Jan. 9, 1979, U.S. Pat. No. 10,820,626 published on Feb. 11, 2020 or from the published application US 2012/0199572 published on Sep. 8, 2012; some of the above-mentioned problems can be reduced when using them, but the result is still not satisfactory enough.

[0004] The technical solution closest to the claimed method, a vaporization module and an appliance is the method and appliances described in Eurasian patent EA 034667 dated Nov. 10, 2016.

[0005] The patented appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance (a smoking appliance-a water tube) is a compact device with a reservoir-like vessel to be filled with water or any other liquid, such appliance has at least one suction device, through which the user inhales a mixture of air, vapor and, in this particular case, smoke particles. There is a heating chamber for a medium that releases smoke, for example, tobacco, located on the opposite end of the body of a vessel and containing an air inlet. The heating chamber comprises a slot for a capsule for a medium that releases smoke.

[0006] A smoking unit of a smoking device is characterized by the fact that a slot for a capsule for a medium that releases smoke is designed for tight contact with the walls of a capsule, heating elements are also in direct contact with the walls of a capsule. Heating a medium that releases smoke occurs only through the specified walls. The disadvantages of such technical solution are difficulty of maintaining a

constant temperature of a medium, high probability of overheating a medium, and probability of a medium combustion with release of undesirable substances, as well as consumption of high power.

[0007] The closest to claimed cartridge is a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, described in U.S. Pat. No. 10,820,626, a cartridge is made with exterior walls, a cover and a bottom with a first opening in the center. A first opening is made in the form of a hollow protrusion, consisting of side walls extending upward to the top of the body for contact with a cartridge slot, and having a plurality of second openings for passage of heated air. The openings are made in the walls of the hollow protrusion and in a cover.

[0008] The object of the present invention is to broaden the range of appliances for the inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance with a liquid-containing vessel by developing a novel, effective and safe method of heating a medium that releases an active substance, ensuring the production of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance without combustion, a vaporization module and a cartridge implementing this method and a device for inhalation of the mixture using such a module.

[0009] The object set in the method of heating a medium that releases particles of an active substance for an appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance using a cartridge containing the medium, characterized in that the air entering an appliance for inhalation is heated to a temperature of up to 400° C., then heated air is passed around a cartridge and through the medium.

[0010] The stated problem in a vaporization module for an appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance through an inhalation hose with a liquid-containing vessel (an appliance for inhalation contains a heating unit, a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, and a slot adapted for a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, and also contains a tube between the slot for a cartridge and the vessel) has been solved in that a cartridge is made with a bottom, with a hollow protrusion in the center with the formation of a first opening for connection with the tube, and with a plurality of second openings for passage of heated air, and a cartridge is provided with an unbroken cover, the slot for a cartridge has a wall surrounding a cartridge from the side and from below and forming a gap with a wall and a bottom of a cartridge for passage of heated air; and a total cross-sectional area of the gap is not less than cross-sectional area of an inhalation hose. A heating unit contains an upper heating element made with the possibility of through-passage and heating of external air, and an upper heating element is placed above a cartridge cover with a gap.

[0011] A module may be provided with a lower heating element placed under a cartridge slot parallel to its bottom.

[0012] Upper and lower heating elements are preferably adjustable.

[0013] The stated object in a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, made with exterior walls, a cover and a bottom with a hollow protrusion formed in the center, consisting of side walls extending upward to the top of the body for contact with a slot for a cartridge, and a plurality of second openings for the passage of heated air, has been solved in that second openings are made in the

exterior walls of a cartridge and in the side walls of the body; second openings are made closed at the top, and the cover and bottom of a cartridge are made unbroken.

[0014] Preferably, the second openings in the upper third of side walls of the body have a total cross-sectional area from 50 to 201 mm², and the second openings in central part of the exterior walls of a cartridge have a total cross-sectional area from 50 to 201 mm².

[0015] The stated problem in an appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance through an inhalation hose with a liquid-containing vessel, provided with an opening for the hose, a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, a vaporization module containing a heating unit and a slot adapted for the cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, and containing a tube between the slot for a cartridge and the vessel, and an electronic unit including a power supply unit and a programmable controller is solved in that a vaporization module and/or a cartridge are made in accordance with the claimed invention.

[0016] The controller has been preferably developed to provide controlled power to a heating unit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ATTACHED FIGURES

[0017] The accompanying drawings, which are attached to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

[0018] In the drawings:

[0019] FIG. 1 is a schematic view of the appearance of the claimed appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance;

[0020] FIG. 2 is a schematic view of the spatial arrangement of the appliance in FIG. 1;

[0021] FIG. 3 is a schematic view of the spatial arrangement of the appliance in FIG. 1 with a filled up vessel;

[0022] FIG. 4 is a schematic view of a filled up vessel of the appliance in FIG. 1 with the assembly of forced cooling;

[0023] FIG. 5 is a schematic view of the appearance of claimed embodiment of a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, no cover;

[0024] FIG. 6 is a schematic view of the cutaway view of claimed embodiment of a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, with a cover.

[0025] FIG. 7 is a schematic view of the cross-sectional layout of a slot with claimed embodiment of a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, and air pathways;

[0026] FIG. 8 is a schematic view of the spatial arrangement of an upper heating element;

[0027] FIG. 9 is a view of the pathway of air through an upper heating element in FIG. 8;

[0028] FIGS. 10-12 are schematic views of the example of a tube system of claimed appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance;

[0029] FIG. 13 is a schematic view of the example of a check valve of an upper part of a transition section of claimed appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance;

[0030] FIG. 14 is a schematic view of the example of a check valve of a lower part of a transition section of claimed

appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance;

[0031] FIG. 15 is a schematic view of the spatial arrangement of a slot with other examples of cartridges for a medium that releases the particles of an active substance;

[0032] FIG. 16 is a schematic view of the spatial arrangement with other examples of cartridges for a medium that releases the particles of an active substance.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0033] Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

[0034] An appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance (hereinafter referred to as the aerosol) in this particular example is represented in the form of a hookah or a smoking pipe (FIG. 1, 2, 3), and the appliance comprises a liquid-containing vessel 1, a vaporization module 2, an electronic module, including a power adapter 3 and a programmed controller 4. The vessel 1 comprises an opening 5 for an aerosol-inhaling hose 6 (in this particular example—smoke); the hose 6 is equipped with a tip 7.

[0035] The vaporization module 2 (FIG. 1) comprises a heating unit, a slot 8, and a tube 10 between the slot 8 for a cartridge 9 and the vessel 1. A slot 8 is adapted for a cartridge 9 for a medium that releases particles of an active substance (for example, tobacco mixtures that release smoke).

[0036] A cartridge 9 for a medium 11 that releases particles of an active substance (one of the embodiment examples (see FIG. 16)) is made with a bottom 12 with a hollow protrusion 13 formed in the center with the formation of a first opening 14 for connection with the tube 10 and a plurality of second openings 15 for passage of heated air; and a cartridge is provided with an unbroken cover 16.

[0037] A slot 8 (FIG. 15) for the described embodiment example of a cartridge 9 has a wall 17 surrounding a cartridge 9 from the side and from below and forming a gap with exterior wall 18, and bottom 12 of a cartridge 9 for passage of heated air, and total cross-sectional area of the gap is not less than cross-sectional area of an inhalation hose 6.

[0038] A heating unit (see FIGS. 2, 3) contains an upper heating element 19 (see FIGS. 5, 6), an upper heating element 19 has the possibility of through passage and heating of external air and placed above a cartridge 9 cover 16 with a gap.

[0039] In this example, a heating unit comprises a lower heating element 20 placed under a slot 8 for a cartridge 9 parallel to the bottom.

[0040] Upper 19 and lower 20 heating elements are adjustable. Control of heating, cooling, and other ongoing processes (charging and discharging batteries, networks and communication protocols with external devices, switching the device on and off) is performed according to a specified algorithm using a programmable controller 4.

[0041] Heating elements, as well as other electronics, are powered by a power supply unit 3, which is a Li-ion battery 121 (FIG. 2) and/or an external power supply (not shown in the drawings).

[0042] The appliance status is shown on display 22, which can be integrated into an exterior shell of the device (FIG. 1). The user can issue commands using touch buttons 23 on

a front panel, via an application on a mobile device (not shown in the drawings) or some other method of human-machine interaction. Connection with the mobile device is carried out via Bluetooth or based on some other wireless connection.

[0043] The main purpose of an upper heating element **19** (FIG. **8**) is heating of air passing through it up to the stated temperature. In order to solve this problem, an upper heating element **19** was provided in a complex form, for example, in the form of a stack of ceramic plates. Cold air is sucked in through at least one opening **24** in an upper ceramic plate **25** (in this example, FIG. **8** demonstrates two openings **24**, in reality, there are several openings, and they are placed in a circle), and then cold air passes tunnel **26** formed by plates **25** and **27**. Since a middle ceramic plate **27** is in a close proximity to a thermoelectric element **28**, air mass is pre-heated. The bend on a lower ceramic plate **29** allows to increase a preheating area by increasing the length of air path. A thermoelectric element **28** is placed in a chamber **30** formed by plates **27** and **29**, air temperature increases from 10° C. to 400° C. when passing through it, then heated air passes through channel **31** and enters a slot **8**, located directly under an upper heating element **19**. No gap is formed between these elements due to the precise adjustment of a plane of plate **28** and a slot **8**, which eliminates the ingress of air bypassing this system.

[0044] A tube **10** between the slot **8** for a cartridge **9** and the vessel **1** may be a system of tubes made of aluminum, copper, stainless steel, glass, ceramics, various types of plastics or any other material with a diameter from 10 to 60 mm, or may be made as part of a multi-segment tube **32** (FIG. **10-12**) made of aluminum, copper, stainless steel, glass, ceramics, various types of plastics or any other material with a diameter from 10 to 60 mm. When using a multi-segment tube **32**, an extrusion method of production with subsequent processing is used. In this example, a cross-section of a tube **32** is divided into three sectors (FIG. **11**). Sector **33** performs the functions of the previously indicated tube **10** and is a channel for transferring the aerosol from the slot **8** or a cartridge **9** to the vessel **1**; sector **34** performs the functions of a previously indicated section of hose **6** and is a channel for transferring the aerosol from the vessel **1** to the hose **6** to the tip **7**. Sector **35** is a cable channel for laying power and signal cables from the power supply unit **3** and a programmable controller **4** to an upper heating element **19**. The shape and arrangement of sectors may be different, depending on the design features of this particular device for inhaling the aerosol.

[0045] In an upper part of a tube **32** in sector **33**, there is an opening **36** for transferring the aerosol from the vessel **1** to a hose **6** to a tip **7**. In a lower part of a tube **32** in sector **34**, there is an opening **37** for transferring the aerosol from a cartridge **9** to the vessel **1**. In order to ensure the correct operation of a system on the basis of a multi-segment tube **32**, sectors **34** and **35** should be plugged in an upper part of a tube **32**, and sectors **33** and **35**—in a lower part of a tube **32**. For this purpose, a silicone, rubber or other heat-resistant material plug **38** is used.

[0046] The vessel **1** is designed for liquid, which serves as the cooling liquid filter for filtration and cooling of the aerosol. The volume of liquid depends on shape and size of the vessel **1** and ranges from 10% to 80% of its total volume. In this case, an upper “water-free” volume **39** is formed in the vessel **1**.

[0047] In this example, in claimed appliance for inhaling the aerosol, the vessel **1** is equipped with a forced cooling unit **40** (see FIG. **2**). Forced cooling of liquid allows for enhancing the filtering effect, improving the taste of the aerosol, and reducing the volume of the required filtering liquid. A forced cooling unit consists of a liquid cooling radiator **41**, a thermoelectric element **42** based on the Peltier effect, an additional heat dissipation radiator **43**, and a hot air removal fan **44**. A liquid cooling radiator **41** can completely occupy the bottom of the vessel **1** or be only a part of it. A forced cooling unit is controlled using a programmable controller **4**. The user can, at will, turn on or off a forced liquid cooling using touch buttons **23** on the front panel of an inhalation appliance or in a special application launched on the user’s third-party device (not shown in the drawings). Forced cooling can be turned on/off during the inhalation process, and it can also be turned on in advance from sleep mode, manually or automatically (using a timer) in the special application.

[0048] In this embodiment of inhalation appliances, an upper part **45** of a transition section is provided (see FIG. **3**) in order to match a sector-shaped cross-section of sector **33** of a tube **32** with radial section of a slot **8** and an opening **14** in a cartridge **9**. An upper part **45** may include a first check valve **46** (FIG. **13**). This valve may be made according to the principle of a ball check valve, a mushroom check valve, a cone check valve, a membrane check valve, or it may have another design that allows to implement the function of preventing water from penetrating from the vessel **1** to lower **20** and upper **19** heating elements, for example, when the device is overturned or when excess pressure is created in “water-free” volume **39** of the vessel **1**, as excess pressure is capable of displacing liquid from the vessel **1** through a tube **10** to heating elements.

[0049] In this embodiment of an inhalation appliance, a lower part **47** of a transition section is provided (see FIG. **3**) in order to match a radial section of a hose **6** with a sector-shaped cross-section of sector **34** of a tube **32**. A lower part **47** may also include a second check valve **48** (FIG. **14**). This valve may also be made according to the principle of a ball check valve, a mushroom check valve, a cone check valve, a membrane check valve, or it may have another design that allows to implement the function of preventing the creation of excess pressure in “water-free” volume **39** of the vessel **1**, as excess pressure is capable of displacing liquid from the vessel **1** through a tube **10** to heating elements, this design is one of the stages of protecting heating elements from liquid getting on them. Also, thanks to this valve, the probability of viruses and bacteria getting from the user into the vessel **1** may be reduced.

[0050] All processes occurring in claimed appliance for inhaling the aerosol are regulated by a programmable controller **4**. Its aim includes monitoring and controlling the temperature of heating elements **19** and **20**, liquid temperature, charging and discharging batteries **21**, networks and communication protocols with external devices, switching on and off the device for inhaling the aerosol.

[0051] The appliance status is displayed on display **22**, which in this example is integrated into a wall of a body of an inhalation appliance (FIG. **1**). The user can issue commands using touch buttons **23** on the front panel of an inhalation appliance or via a special application launched on a third-party device of the user (not shown in the drawings) or some other method of human-machine interaction. Con-

nection with the user's device is carried out via Bluetooth or based on some other wireless connection.

[0052] The claimed embodiment of a cartridge is presented on FIGS. 5-7; moreover, the numbering of identical features is preserved.

[0053] According to claimed embodiment, a cartridge 9 for a medium 11 that releases particles of an active substance (FIGS. 6, 7) is made with exterior walls 18, an unbroken bottom 12 with a hollow protrusion 13 formed in the center and closed at the top with the formation of a first opening 14 in the center for connection with the tube 10 and a plurality of second openings 15 for the passage of heated air, and a cartridge 9 is provided with unbroken cover 16. A hollow protrusion 13 closed at the top consists of side walls 49 extending upward to the top of a protrusion 13. Second openings 15 are made in the outer walls 18 of the cartridge 9 and in the side walls 49 of the protrusion 13.

[0054] In this embodiment, second openings 15, made in the upper third of the side walls 49 of the protrusion 13, have a total cross-sectional area of 50 to 201 mm², and the second openings, made in the central part of the exterior walls 18 of cartridge 9, have a total cross-sectional area of 50 to 201 mm².

[0055] The claimed appliance for inhalation of the aerosol is used as follows.

[0056] The claimed appliance for inhalation of the aerosol is a fully automated device powered by built-in battery 21. Average operation time is 1.5 hour.

[0057] Before the use, the vessel 1 is filled with water or any other liquid harmless for people.

[0058] Interaction with the user occurs via touch buttons 23 on the front panel of an aerosol inhalation appliance or in a special application (QR-code for downloading the application is indicated on the packaging of each cartridge 9—not shown in the drawings) running on a third-party device. Current information is displayed on a display 22, which in this embodiment is integrated into a wall of an aerosol inhalation appliance body (see FIG. 1).

[0059] The user places a specialized cartridge 9 into a slot 8 and presses any sensor button 23 on the front panel of an appliance for aerosol inhalation. When the user switches on an appliance for aerosol inhalation, the onboard electronics is launched.

[0060] The command takes a vaporization module 2 out of sleep mode and starts heating the heating elements 19, 20 according to the specified algorithm. Within 3-7 minutes (depending on the air temperature), a medium that releases particles of an active substance is heated to the temperature specified by the program, a display 22 on the front panel shows the heating icon, the current temperature and the specified power expressed as percentage. After entering the operating mode, the power of a heater 20 is automatically reduced to almost zero, and the power of a heater 19—to the value specified in the settings. From this moment on, the user can use an appliance for inhalation of the aerosol.

[0061] Since different mediums that release particles of an active substance, including tobacco mixtures, can have different temperature modes for revealing the taste, the user can set the temperature modes both manually and using preset values. This function can be used in one of the following ways:

[0062] 1. On display 22, select the “PRESETS” item in heating element control menu. Then select the desired setting.

[0063] 2. Select the “PRESETS” item in the application running on the user's third-party device. Then select the desired setting.

[0064] 3. If you have an original cartridge 9, scan the QR-code on the packaging using the application running on the user's third-party device. After that, the settings for this tobacco will be automatically loaded into the application running on the user's third-party device and transferred to a vaporization module 2 via Bluetooth and/or another wireless connection.

[0065] Information about the loaded presets will be shown on display 22 and in the application running on the user's third-party device. To remove the presets, simply decrease or increase the temperature using touch buttons 23 on the front panel of an aerosol inhalation appliance or in the application running on the user's third-party device. This will return the original settings.

[0066] The process of air filtration with particles of an active substance through liquid is similar to the traditional hookah.

[0067] When air is sucked from a tip 7 through a hose 6, a slot 36, sector 30 of a tube 32, some exhaustion is formed in “water-free” volume 39 of the vessel 1. In this case, air with aerosol from a cartridge 7 and a slot 6 passes sector 33 through a slot 37, and air with aerosol gives off heat when passing through liquid in the vessel 1. Then air with aerosol is concentrated in an upper water-free volume 39 of the vessel 1 already cooled. From where it enters a slot 36, sector 34 of a tube 32 and goes into a tip 7 through the silicone, rubber or other plastic hose 6 having an internal cross-section diameter from 8 to 22 mm.

[0068] During passage through a liquid-filled part of the vessel 1, part of heavy substances in the aerosol settles on the surface of liquid. Due to the rapid temperature drop, some of tarry substances are also retained by liquid. This is how the aerosol is filtered. Organic and/or inorganic substances can be added to liquid to improve the filtration properties. Substances can also be added to liquid to enhance the aesthetic effect and/or additional organic and/or inorganic flavors.

[0069] As shown above, when air is sucked from a tip 7 through a hose 6, air with aerosol is sucked out of a cartridge 9, where it enters through an upper heating element 19 in the following way. Cold air is sucked through at least one opening 24 (in this example, FIG. 8 demonstrates two openings 24, in reality, there are several openings, and they are placed in a circle) in an upper ceramic plate 25, passes through tunnel 26 formed by plates 25 and 27. Since a middle ceramic plate 27 is in a close proximity to a thermoelectric element 28, preheating of air mass occurs. The bend on a lower ceramic plate 29 allows increasing the area of preheating due to the increase in length of air path. In a chamber 30 formed by plates 25 and 29, a thermoelectric element 28 is placed, when passing through it, the air temperature increases from 10° C. to 400° C., then the heated air passes through channel 31 and enters slot 8, located directly under an upper heating element 19. Due to the precise adjustment of a plane of plate 29 and a slot 8, no gap is formed between these elements; this eliminates the ingress of air bypassing this system.

[0070] As described, a cartridge 9 for a medium 11 that releases particles of an active substance (in one of the embodiments (FIG. 16)) is made with a bottom 12 with a hollow protrusion 13 formed in the center with the formation

of a first opening 14 for connection with the tube 10 and a plurality of second openings 15 for the passage of heated air. A cartridge 9 is provided with an unbroken cover 16. A slot 8 for a cartridge has a wall 17 surrounding a cartridge 9 from the side and from below and forming a gap with the wall and the bottom of a cartridge 9. Since an upper heating element 19 fits tightly to ends of walls of a slot 8, but does not touch an unbroken cover 16 of a cartridge due to a gap, the heated air with a temperature of up to 400° C. practically does not affect a medium 11 in a cartridge 9 from above, and through the gap between the walls of slot 8 and the cartridge 9. The heated air passes along outer walls 18 of a cartridge 9 to its bottom 12, uniformly heating a medium 11 in a cartridge 9 from the side, and then heated air enters a gap between bottom of a slot 8 and bottom 12 of a cartridge 9. Due to the fact that bottom 12 of a cartridge 9 is made with a plurality of second openings 15, the heated air seeps into a cartridge 9, through the entire volume of a medium 11 that releases particles of an active substance; the heated air uniformly increases the temperature in the entire volume of a medium 11 without burning it. Then the heated air accumulates under cover 16 of a cartridge 9 capturing the particles of an active substance, from where the air is sucked into a tube 10 and, then, as described above, through a liquid filter, a hose 6 and a tip 7 gets to the user.

[0071] Thus, the claimed design of a vaporization module embodies an effective and safe method of heating a medium that releases an active substance, ensuring the production of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance without combustion.

[0072] The total cross-sectional area of a gap between walls and bottom of a slot 8 and walls and bottom of a cartridge 9 is not less than the cross-sectional area of an inhalation hose 6, which ensures easy and unimpeded inhalation of the aerosol formed by air, vapor and particles of an active substance.

[0073] When using the claimed embodiment of a cartridge (FIGS. 5-7), a cartridge 9 and a slot 8 also form a gap, through which the heated air (not shown in FIG. 7) passes from a heating element to second openings 15 in external walls 18 of a cartridge 9.

[0074] Air flows 50, passing through second openings 15 in external walls 18 (having a diameter capable of providing a total cross-sectional area from 50 to 201 mm² to provide light draft) enter the internal volume of a cartridge 9 with a medium 11 that releases particles of an active substance, limited from below by unbroken bottom 12, from above by a cover 16 (made of foil, heat-resistant plastic, aluminum or other suitable material), side wall 49 of a protrusion 13 and external wall 18 of a cartridge 9.

[0075] In this case, air flows 50 pass through a medium 11 that releases particles of an active substance (for example, a tobacco or non-tobacco mixture), heating a medium and releasing the aerosol. The aerosol, together with air flows 50, moves to second openings 15 in side wall 49 of a protrusion 13, getting inside a protrusion 13. Since a protrusion 13 is closed from above, the aerosol can then only pass into an opening 11, from where it is sucked into a tube 10 and, then, as described above, it gets to the user through a liquid filter, a hose 6 and a tip 7.

[0076] Due to such arrangement of second openings 15 and given path of air flows 50, maximum temperature is achieved in zone 51 of a medium 11 that releases the particles of an active substance, and maximum temperature

weakens away from main air flow (see FIG. 7), thereby allowing not to dry the entire volume of a medium 11 that releases particles of an active substance. In zone 52, a medium 11 has a lower temperature than in zone 51. First, the aerosol is released in zone 51, in zone 52 the aerosol is released as a medium 11 warms up. This improvement allows more rational use of a medium 11 that releases particles of an active substance, reduces the initial aromatic shock, increases the quality time of use of a medium, and reduces the amount of released harmful impurities per time unit.

[0077] Elimination of second openings in a bottom 12 of a cartridge 9 made it possible to reduce the ingress of liquid component of a medium 11 onto surface of a slot 8 many times over, which in turn reduces the need to clean a slot 8. Absence of second openings in a cover 16 of a cartridge 9 reduces the possibility of vaporization from a medium 11 getting onto an upper heating element 19 (not shown in FIG. 7).

[0078] Thermoelectric element 28 is controlled using commands from a programmable controller 4.

[0079] A controller 4 regulates all processes occurring in heating elements 19 and 20. If an emergency occurs, for example, an inhalation appliance overturns, a command is sent to heating elements 19 and 20 to disconnect them from a power supply unit 3. Together with the system of valves described above, this allows for making the safest possible device for inhaling aerosol.

[0080] In the claimed appliance for inhaling the aerosol, an air exhaustion sensor (not shown in the drawing) may be installed, due to which it may be possible to quickly increase the power on a thermoelectric element 28. Due to sharp increase in the temperature of the air passing through chamber 30, it becomes possible to act with a thermal shock on the environment in a cartridge 9.

[0081] Without receiving a signal from an exhaustion sensor, a thermoelectric element 28 switches to a temperature balance maintenance mode. This reduces the energy costs of a device and, as a result, increases battery life of a device. It also helps to reduce the consumption of a medium that releases particles of an active substance, since there is no burning of it, and to improve taste of the aerosol. Maximum temperature of a thermoelectric element 24 is selected for the types of specified medium for better disclosure of taste and reduction of harmful substances in the formed aerosol.

[0082] Thus, a novel original vaporization unit has been developed, implementing a novel, effective and safe method of heating a medium that releases an active substance. Such unit ensures the production of a mixture of air, steam and particles of an active substance without combustion, as well as a novel effective and safe device for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance without combustion using the vaporization unit.

[0083] Having thus described a preferred embodiment, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that certain advantages of the described method and apparatus have been achieved.

[0084] It should also be appreciated that various modifications, adaptations and alternative embodiments thereof may be made within the scope and spirit of the present invention. The invention is further defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for heating a medium that releases an active substance for an appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance using a cartridge containing the medium, characterized in that

the air entering the appliance is heated to a temperature of up to 400° C.,

the heated air is passed around the cartridge and through the medium.

2. A vaporization module for the appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance through an inhalation hose with a liquid-containing vessel, a vaporization module comprises a cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, a heating unit and a slot adapted for the cartridge for a medium that releases particles of an active substance, and a vaporization module comprises a tube between the slot for cartridge and the vessel, characterized in that a cartridge is made with a bottom with a hollow protrusion formed in the center with the formation of a first opening for connection with the tube, and a plurality of second openings for the passage of heated air, and is provided with an unbroken cover, the slot for the cartridge has a wall surrounding a cartridge from the side and from below and forming a gap with a wall and a bottom of the cartridge for the passage of heated air, wherein a total cross-sectional area of the gap is not less than a cross-sectional area of the inhalation hose, and the heating unit comprises an upper heating element made with the possibility of through passage and heating of external air and placed above a cartridge cover with gap.

3. Module according to claim 2, characterized in that it is equipped by a lower heating element placed under the slot for the cartridge.

4. Module according to claim 2, characterized in that upper and lower heating elements are made adjustable.

5. A cartridge for a medium that releases the mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance, made with exterior walls, a cover and a bottom with a hollow protrusion formed in the center, consisting of side walls extending upward to the top of the protrusion for contact with the slot for the cartridge, and a plurality of second openings for the passage of heated air, characterized in that second openings are made in the outer walls of the cartridge and in the side walls of the protrusion, made closed at the top, wherein the cover and bottom of the cartridge are made unbroken.

6. The cartridge according to claim 5, characterized in that the second openings, made in the upper third of the side walls of the protrusion, have a total cross-sectional area from 50 to 201 mm², and the second openings, made in the central part of the outer walls of the cartridge, have a total cross-sectional area from 50 to 201 mm².

7. An appliance for inhalation of a mixture of air, vapor and particles of an active substance through inhalation hose, an appliance is made with a vessel filled with liquid, the vessel being provided with an opening for the hose, a cartridge for medium that releases particles of an active substance, vaporization module containing an heating unit and an appliance contains a slot adapted for a cartridge for medium that releases an active substance particles, and also contains a tube between the slot for the cartridge and the vessel, and an electronic unit including a power supply and a programmable controller, characterized in that the vaporization module is made according to any of claims 2-4, and the cartridge for a medium releasing active substance particles is made according to any of claims 5-6.

8. The appliance according to claim 5, characterized in that the controller is designed with the ability to control the power supply of the heating unit.

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