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(54) **Improvements in thermal cyclers for PCR**

(57) An assembly for cycling vials of reaction mix-
 tures through a series of temperature excursions, com-
 prising:

a sample block (36) for receiving vials of reaction
 mixtures;

a plurality of thermoelectric devices (60);

a heatsink (34);

a clamping mechanism positioned so as to clamp
 said thermoelectric devices between said sample
 block and said heatsink;

a heater (74) positioned around the perimeter of
 said sample block; and

a pin (24) having a first end and a second end, said
 first end in close contact with said sample block and
 said second end in close contact with said heatsink
 so as to provide a thermal path between said sam-

ple block and said heatsink.

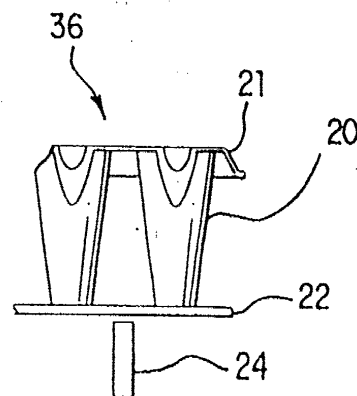


FIG. 1



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	6 July 2001	Hocquet, A	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

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