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(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: CARROLL, Noel [AU/AU]; 'Strathalbyn', The Crescent, Sassafras, VIC 3787 (AU).

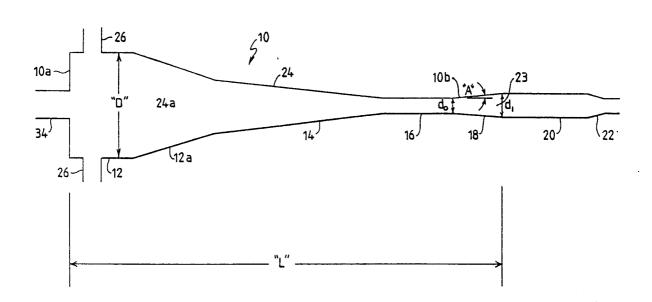
(74) Agents: LESLIE, Keith et al.; Davies & Collison, 1 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000 (AU).

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With international search report.

(54) Title: CYCLONE SEPARATOR



(57) Abstract

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A cyclone separator (10) for separating oil from oily water and having a tapered separating chamber (24a) with tangential inlets (26), an axial overflow outlet (34), for separated oil, at the larger diameter end, and an axial underflow outlet (23), for separated water, at the smaller diameter end. An enlarged end portion (18) is provided at the underflow outlet (23) to facilitate separation.

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#### CYCLONE SEPARATOR

This invention relates to cyclone separators.

The invention has particular, but not exclusive, application in liquid-separators, particularly separators for separating oil and water from an oil-water mixture such as of the kind described in International Application

PCT/AU83/00028, United States patent specification 4,464,264, United States patent specification 4,576,724 or United States patent specification 4,237,006.

According to the invention there is provided a cyclone separator having an elongate separating chamber extending from a larger diameter end to a smaller diameter end, and having an overflow outlet at the larger diameter end, an underflow outlet at the smaller diameter end and inlet means, for inlet of fluid to be separated to the separating chamber,

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at a lengthwise location at least adjacent the larger diameter end; wherein the underflow outlet leads to an axially extending end portion of the separator, through which, in use of the separator, outflow from the underflow outlet passes, said end portion extending from a smaller diameter end to a larger diameter end, the smaller diameter end of the end portion being closest to the larger diameter end of the separating chamber. Preferably, said end portion is of frustoconical form with conicity (half-angle) in the range 6° to 20°, preferably 8°.

The invention is further described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawing, the single figure of which is a cross sectional diagram of a cyclone separator constructed in accordance with the invention.

The exemplary cyclone separator shown comprises an outer casing 24 which defines an elongate separating chamber 24a therewithin. separating chamber is axially symmetrical and of circular transverse cross section. Chamber 24a extends from a larger diameter end 10a of the separator to a smaller diameter end 10b of the separator. In this instance, the separating chamber defines a first portion 12 of cylindrical form, a second tapered portion 14, which tapered portion 14 in turn leads to a third portion 16 of cylindrical form. A tapered portion 12a extends between portions 12, 14. Portion 16 presents, at its end remote from portion 12, an underflow outlet 23. The portion 16 thence leads to an end portion 18 of the separator. The separating chamber 24a has an underflow outlet 23, for the denser fluid, this being located at the end of portion 16 remote from the larger diameter end 5

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10a of the separator. The separating chamber 24a also has one or more tangential fluid inlets 26 positioned adjacent the larger diameter end of the separator and an axial overflow outlet 34 arranged at the larger diameter end (for outflow of the less dense of the components of the fluid to be separated).

The separator 10 is designed specifically, in this particular instance, for separation of oil from an oil-water mixture, the mixture being admitted via inlets 26, the separated water being taken off via outlet 23 and the separated oil being taken off via outlet 34. Separators of this or other type suitable for separating liquid components one from the other are generally designed to ensure relatively low shear stress within the liquid as it is moving within the separating chamber 24a. International Application PCT/AU83/00028, United States patent specification 4,464,264, Australian patent specification 84713/82 and United States patent specification 4,237,006 describe cyclone separators effective for separating oil from an oily water mixture where water predominates. These disclose particular configurations and dimensional constraints applicable to this type of separator. Generally, these separators are characterized by having relatively long length to diameter ratio, for example the diameter  $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{I}}$  at the larger diameter end of the separator may be related to the overall length of the separator so that the overall length "L" is at least five times the diameter d<sub>1</sub>. More particularly, the separator may be characterised by the following:

$$10 \le 1_2/d_2 \le 25$$
  
.04  $\le 4A_1/\pi d_1^2 \le 0.10$ 

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 $d_0/d_2 < 0.25$  $d_1 > d_2$ 

 $d_2 > d_3$ , where  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$ ,  $d_3$  and  $l_1$ ,  $l_2$ ,  $l_3$  are the diameters and lengths of the first portion 12, second portion 14 and third portion 16, respectively,  $A_i$  is the total cross sectional area of the or of all of the inlets 26 measured at the points of entry normal to the inlet flow, and  $d_0$  is the diameter of the outlet 34.

Where provided, the tapered portion 12a may have a taper whose conicity (half-angle) is 10°. The portion 14 may have a taper whose conicity (half-angle) is 20° to 1°. Where a portion such as portion 14 is tapered, the respective diameter such as diameter d<sub>2</sub> thereof in the above formulae is to be taken as the diameter thereof at the largest diameter end. These ratios are described in United States patents 4,576,724 and 4,237,006. In a particular form, disclosed in United States patent 4,576,724, the following relationship applies:

 $d_0/d_2 < 0.1.$ 

The portion 18 is of frustoconical form increasing, away from the outlet 23 from a diameter  $d_3$  at the end closest the outlet 23 to a diameter  $d_4$  at the end remote therefrom. The conicity (half-angle) "A" of the portion 18 may be 8° and portion 18 may be of length  $l_4$  rather more than the smallest diameter  $d_3$  thereof such as 1 <  $l_4/d_3$  < 5. In accordance with conventional practice, the outlet 23 may be coupled such as via a pipe 20 through a suitable flow restricting means, or choke 22, which may be constructed in accordance with

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the teachings of United States patent specification 4,464,264, or International Application PCT/AU83/00028 for outflow therefrom of the denser liquid (water in this instance) from the separator. Particularly, the flow restricting means may present a passageway 22a which is of generally frustoconical form decreasing in diameter away from the end portion 18 to a diameter at the end remote from the end portion 18 which is in the range 1/3 to 2/3 the diameter of the passageway 22a at the end adjacent end portion 18.

The provision of the portion 18 has been found to be particularly useful in that it permits a relative shortening of the length of the separator as compared with its diameter, as compared with what would be the case otherwise. As mentioned, separators for separating liquid components, particularly the aforementioned oily water mixtures, are generally characterized by being of relatively great length and the reduction in length achievable by use of the portion 18 is therefore of practical significance in enabling fitment of separators into confined spaces and, furthermore, in reducing manufacturing costs. The provision of the portion 18 is thought to facilitate operation by permitting recovery of a dynamic pressure head loss which normally occurs in the operation of separators of the kind in question. In particular, there will normally be a substantial static pressure loss from the inlets 26 to the outlet 23 of the separator, and the frustoconical configuration of the portion 18 aids in minimising this loss.

As described in International Application PCT/AU85/00010, the multiple tangential inlets 26

shown may be replaced by a single inlet of involute form.

#### CLAIMS:

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- A cyclone separator having an elongate 1. separating chamber extending from a larger diameter end to a smaller diameter end, and having an overflow outlet at the larger diameter end, an underflow outlet at the smaller diameter end and inlet means, for inlet of fluid to be separated to the separating chamber, at a lengthwise location at least adjacent the larger diameter end; wherein the underflow outlet leads to an axially extending end portion of the separator, through which in use of the separator, outflow from the underflow outlet passes, said end portion extending from a smaller diameter end to a larger diameter end, the smaller diameter end of the end portion being closest to the larger diameter end of the separating chamber.
- 2. A cyclone separator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said end portion is of frustoconical form, with a conicity (half-angle) in the range of 6° to 20°.
- 3. A cyclone separator as claimed in claim 2 wherein the conicity (half-angle) of the end portion is substantially 8°.
- 4. A cyclone separator as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein the end portion is longer than the diameter thereof at the smallest diameter end of the end portion.

5. A cyclone separator as claimed in claim 4 wherein

$$1 < 1_4/d_3 < 5$$

where  $\mathbf{l}_4$  is the length of the end portion and  $\mathbf{d}_3$  is the diameter of the end portion at its smallest diameter end.

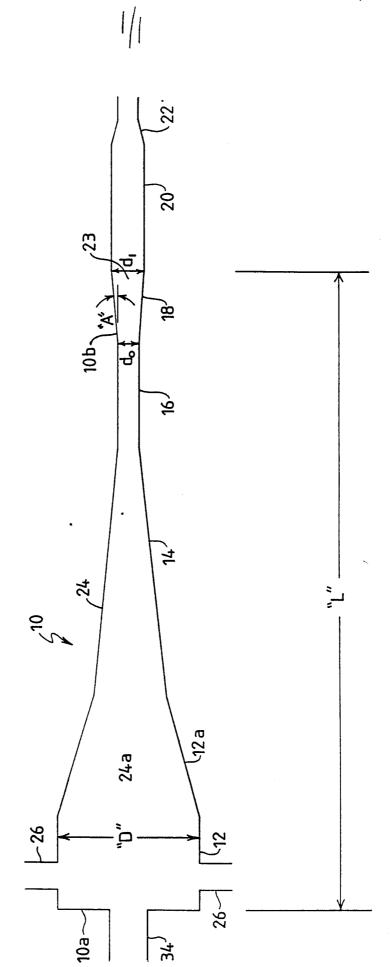
6. A cyclone separator as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said separating chamber comprises first, second and third chamber portions axially arranged in that order, the inlet means comprising at least one inlet open to the first portion, the overflow outlet and underflow outlet being arranged to axially outlet from the first portion and the third portion respectively, and wherein the first and third portions are of substantially cylindrical form and the second portion is of tapered form, wherein

$$10 \le l_2/d_2 \le 25$$
  
 $.04 \le 4A_i / \pi d_1^2 \le 0.10$   
 $d_0/d_2 < 0.25$   
 $d_1 > d_2$   
 $d_2 > d_3$ 

where  $l_1$ ,  $l_2$  and  $l_3$  are the lengths of the first, second and third portions respectively,  $d_1$  and  $d_3$  are the diameters of the first and third portions respectively,  $d_2$  is the diameter of the second portion at its largest diameter end,  $d_0$ 

is the diameter of the overflow outlet and  $A_i$  is the total cross-sectional area for inflow of material to the separating chamber as presented by the inlet means and measured at the points of entry normal to inlet flow.

- 7. A cyclone separator as claimed in claim 6 including a tapered portion of the separating chamber, joining said first and second portions thereof.
- 8. A cyclone separator as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7 wherein the conicity (half-angle) of the second portion is in the range 20' to 1°.
- 9. A cyclone separator as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8 wherein  $d_0/d_2 < 0.1$ .
- 10. A cyclone separator as claimed in any preceding claim including flow restriction means coupled to the larger diameter end of said end portion to restrict flow from the end portion.
- 11. A cyclone separator as claimed in claim 10 wherein said flow restricting means comprises a passageway which decreases in diameter away from said end portion to a diameter at the end of the passageway remote from said end portion which is in the range 1/3 to 2/3 of the diameter of the passageway adjacent said end portion.



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/AU 87/00118

International Application No PCT/AU 87	100110
1, CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (* several classification symbols apply, indicate ail) *	
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC	•
Int. Cl. 4 B04C 5/14	
II. FIELDS SEARCHED	
Minimum Documentation Searched ?	
Classification System Classification Symbols	<del></del>
IPC B04C 5/14	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched	
AU : IPC as above	
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT?  Category *   Citation of Document, ** with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages **   Relevant pass	ent to Claim No. 13
X AU,B, 27819/63 (291918) (COLLECTRON) 27 August 1964 1,2 (27.08.64)	2,3,4,5,10,11
X US,A, 3501014 (FITCH et al) 17 March 1970 (17.03.70) 1,2	2,3,4,5,10,11
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	,3,4,5
Pergamon Press, see pages 152 & 153	
CONTINUED	
*T" later document published after the interr or priority date and not in conflict with to considered to be of particular relevance.	the application but
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the cannot be considered novel or cannot	cisimed invention be considered to
"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)  TOT document solvens to an early declarate use application or	claimed invention live step when the other such docu-
other means  "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed  "A" document member of the same patent la	to a person skilled
IV. CIRTIFICATION	
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search 2 July 1987 (02.07.87)  2 July 1987 (02.07.87)  14 July 19	
Australian Patent Office  Signature of Authorized Officer  A. HE	NDRICKSON

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET							
Y	AU,B, 47105/79 (521482) (NRDC) 6 December 1979 (06.12.79)	6,7,8,9					
Υ	AU,B, 84713/82 (559530) (VORTOIL) 6 January 198 (06.01.83)	6,7,8,9					
	ORCEDVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE						
' ''' '	VESTATATIONS	17(0) (a) for the following reasons:					
This in	nternational search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article Claim numbers, because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by	this Authority, namely:					
	·	-					
2. Claim numbers, 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							
1 -1	Claim numbers because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance (PCT Rule 6.4(a).	with the second and third sentences of					
VI.I	OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING 2						
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:							
	As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international sear of the international application.	rch report covers all searchable claims					
2□	As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this i those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:	nternational search report covers only					
3.	No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this inte the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:	ornational search report is restricted to					
4.	As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the In invite payment of any additional fee.	ternational Searching Authority did not					
Rem	nark on Protest  The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.						
-	No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.						

# ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/AU AU 87/00118

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

	ent Document ed in Search Report			Patent	Family Mem	bers	
US	3501014	DE	1929771	GB	1237167		
GB	2011285	CA US	1117034 4337068	DE US	2849201 4380105	US ZA	4316729 7806322
US	3716137	CA GB	951650 1280598	DE	2013499	FR	2039041
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AU	47105/79	CA	1117441	GB	1583742	US	4237006
AU	84713/82	CA JP	1191111 58030356	EP NO	68809 822136	GB US	2102310 4576724

END OF ANNEX