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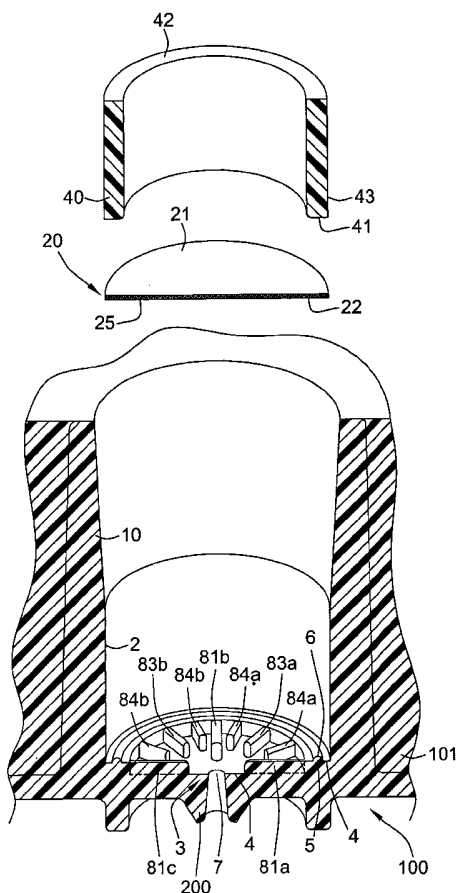
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: WELL FOR PROCESSING AND FILTERING A FLUID

(57) Abstract: A well (50) comprising a side wall (10), a sealing ring (40), a rib arrangement (5), and a filter (20), for use in processing a fluid, e.g., by microtitration or microfiltration, is disclosed.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International
Application No.
PCT/US 02/16686A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B01L3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B01L B01D A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 403 679 A (MILLIPORE CORP) 27 December 1990 (1990-12-27) figures 2,3,5 column 3, line 14 -column 4, line 26 ---	1-3, 12-22
Y	US 4 170 056 A (MEYST RICHARD P ET AL) 9 October 1979 (1979-10-09) figure 2 column 3, line 47 - line 50 ---	1-3,5-8, 12-22
A	DE 41 14 611 A (SARTORIUS GMBH) 14 November 1991 (1991-11-14) figure 1 column 2, line 27 - line 48 ---	1,12,22
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 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International	Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 047 215 A (MANNS ROY) 10 September 1991 (1991-09-10) figures 5-7,10 column 2, line 13 - line 55 column 4, line 36 - line 62 ---	1,12,22
X	US 6 159 368 A (FRYE WARD K ET AL) 12 December 2000 (2000-12-12)	4,9
Y	figure 4 column 15, line 41 -column 16, line 42 ---	5-8
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P,X	EP 1 110 611 A (3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES CO) 27 June 2001 (2001-06-27) figures 2-4,6 ---	4,9
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A	US 5 918 273 A (HORN MARCUS J) 29 June 1999 (1999-06-29) column 11, line 14 - line 18; figures 3,4 -----	10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/US 02/16686

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. Claims: 1-3, 12-18, 19-21 (in part), 22

well with a rib, a sealing ring and a filter wherein the filter is sealed between the rib and the sealing ring

2. Claims: 4-9, 19-21 (in part), 23-25

well with a lip, a sealing ring and a filter wherein the filter is sealed between the lip and the sealing ring.

3. Claims: 10, 11

multiple well device, comprising top plate, plurality of filters, and plurality of inserts, wherein filters are sealed in the well between the top plate and the inserts.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internatio
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