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54 **Formation sampling apparatus.**

57 An apparatus and method for taking fluid samples from earth formations surrounding a borehole while minimizing the erosion of the formations which occurs during such sample-taking, in which a specialized tool is brought into communication with the desired formation and the fluid pressure which exists within the formation prior to taking a sample is used to restrict the flow of fluids into the tool. This restriction is however opposed with a pre-determined biasing force in combination with the dynamic fluid pressure during the sample-taking process. These opposing forces control the rate of flow of formation fluids into the tool in a manner diminishing the erosion which occurs.

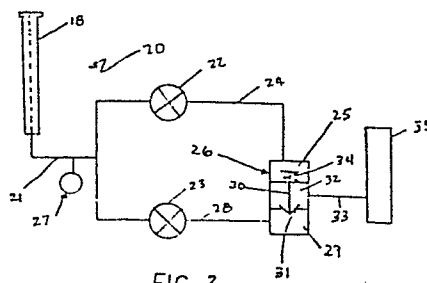


FIG. 2



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

01 26680
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EP 84 40 0946

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
D, A	US-A-3 530 933 (WHITTEN) * Whole document *	1, 2, 8, 9	E 21 B 49/10
A	--- US-A-3 104 712 (WHITTEN) * Column 4, line 62 - column 5, line 20; figures * -----	1-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
			E 21 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 14-02-1986	Examiner BENZE W.E.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
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		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	

