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54 Etching process for zirconium metallic objects.

57 A process for determining the dissolved zirconium content of a hydrofluoric acid - nitric acid etching bath (7) for zirconium articles by determining the rise in temperature of a volume of the bath (7) upon immersion therein of a known quantity of zirconium metal (15), immersing a known quantity of zirconium metal (15) into a portion of the bath (7), measuring the rise in temperature over a predetermined period of time of said portion (7), determining the dissolved zirconium content of the bath (7) as a function of the rise in temperature, and treating the bath (7) dependent upon the dissolved zirconium content so determined to be in the bath (7).

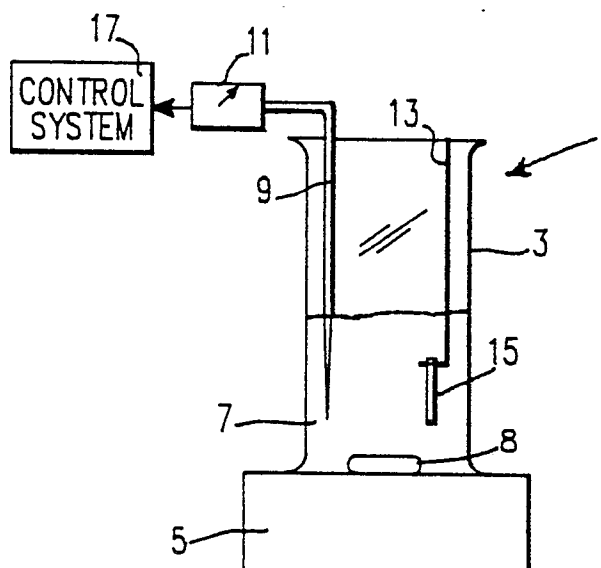


FIG. 4

EP 0 305 943 A3



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.4)
A	NL-A-6 515 842 (N.V. PHILIPS' GLOEILAMPENFABRIEKEN) * Claim 1; page 3, lines 3-7 * ----	1	C 23 F 1/26
D,A	DE-A-2 828 547 (DIDIER-WERKE AG) ----		
A	US-A-3 419 446 (R.C. BENTON) ----		
D,P A	EP-A-0 254 539 (WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			C 23 F 1/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 06-10-1989	Examiner TORFS F.M.G.
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			