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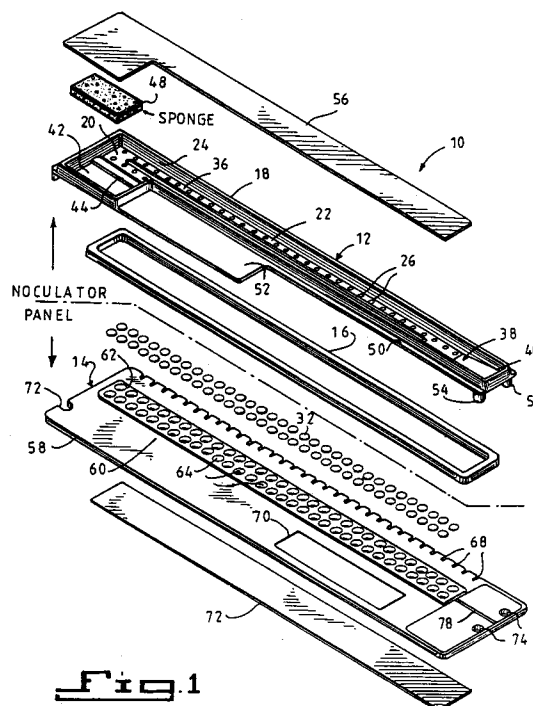
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W-5000 Köln 1(DE)(54) **Capillary inoculator and assembly for inoculating multiple test sites and method of inoculating test sites therewith.**

(57) A capillary inoculator assembly is provided for inoculating multiple test sites with small, precise volumes of inoculum. The inoculator employed in the assembly includes a trough-shaped carrier (12) and one or more rows of capillaries extending therethrough. The capillaries (26) extend through one or more rows of projections which form the lower part of the carrier. They are completely filled by capillary action, and the inoculum is retained therein by forces of adhesion and surface tension. A test device may be employed in conjunction with the capillary inoculator and includes discrete test sites which are aligned with the ends of the respective projections. Each of the test sites may be provided with an absorbent material such as a cellulose disk (32). A dry reagent may be deposited upon each disk so that the inoculum may be analyzed by testing equipment or by visual observation. A method is provided which includes the steps of filling the capillaries, aligning the capillaries with the test sites within the test device, and depositing the liquid inoculum on the respective test sites through wicking action or other procedures. A method is also disclosed for providing a plurality of discrete, liquid samples having small, precise volumes from a quantity of liquid

which may be of indeterminate volume.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 10 3353

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.5)
X	GB-A-1 572 596 (THE OPTO ELECTRONIC DISPLAYS LIMITED) * page 3, line 109 - page 4, line 19; figures 7,8 *	1,3,5, 7-9,11	C12M1/32 B01L3/02
X	US-A-4 699 884 (GERHARD NOSS ET AL.) * claims; figures 1-3 *	1,3-5,7, 9,12	
A	GB-A-1 552 128 (JOHN T. BENNETH) * claims; figures * * page 2, line 39 - line 100 *	1,3,5,9, 11,12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			C12M B01L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 05 OCTOBER 1992	Examiner COUCKE A.O.M.
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, hut 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	