

(19)



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets



(11)

EP 2 749 694 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
02.07.2014 Bulletin 2014/27

(51) Int Cl.:
D21D 1/00 (2006.01) *B02C 7/12 (2006.01)*

(21) Application number: 13199333.9

(22) Date of filing: 23.12.2013

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO
PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**
Designated Extension States:
BA ME

(30) Priority: 26.12.2012 US 201261746011 P
03.12.2013 US 201314095151

(71) Applicant: **Andritz, Inc.**
Glens Falls, NY 12801 (US)

(72) Inventor: **Ihalainen, Ismo**
Chester, CH1 4JX (GB)

(74) Representative: **HOFFMANN EITLE**
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4
81925 München (DE)

(54) disperger plate with grooved teeth

(57) A disperger plate segment for removing contaminants from fiber stock, the segment comprising: radially inner and outer edges, multiple radially concentric rows of teeth, each row of teeth having multiple teeth defining multiple channels disposed intermediate the teeth, each

of the channels having a lower channel base surface and each of the teeth having a top surface, at least one face surface extending from the channel base surface to the top surface, and wherein at least one of the face surfaces comprises at least two grooves.

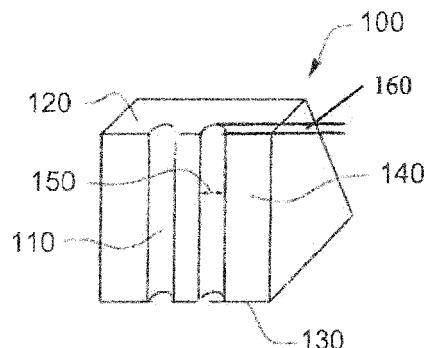


Fig. 2

Description**TECHNICAL FIELD**

[0001] This disclosure relates to disperser plate segments.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Recovered paper and packaging materials are known as "fiber stock" to those skilled in the art. Fiber stock is generally subjected to several processes designed to remove ink and toner in the case of copy paper. Contaminants such as plastics generally referred to as "stickies" by those skilled in the art. The removal processes are not completely efficient and the residual ink, toner, and stickies are typically dispersed to avoid the stickies adhering to parts of the paper machine, which can cause holes or weak spots in new paper. The agglomeration and accumulation of stickies on the paper machine can cause idle time thereby increasing the cost of the manufacturing process itself. Residual ink particles typically appear as specs in the reconstituted paper, which can lower its value considerably.

[0003] A machine called a disperser (or a disperger) can be used to reduce the size of the ink and stickie particles so that in subsequent paper machine operations, paper qualities may be minimally impacted. Disperser machines generally have two circular discs facing each other. One disc, generally referred to as a rotor, can be rotated while the other disc, generally referred to as a stator, is generally stationary. Conical machines can also be used where a rotor cone can move while a stator cone generally remains stationary.

[0004] On the faces of the discs or cones may be mounted plate segments having pyramids or teeth mounted in tangential rows. The rows are at radii generally chosen to allow the rotor and stator teeth to intersect a plane between the discs or cones so that the fiber passing from the center of the stator to the periphery of the discs or cones generally receives impacts from the rotor teeth as they pass close to the stator teeth. The clearance between rotor and stator teeth is on the order of about 1 to about 12 mm so that the fibers are generally not cut but rather are typically severely and alternately flexed. This action usually breaks the ink and toner particles into smaller particles and also breaks down the stickie particles. It is also generally thought that the fresh smaller sticky surfaces collect fine fiber particles and may be further passivated as smaller particles. Increasing the number of flexures the fibers experience has generally been shown to improve the unwanted particle reduction process. Adding more teeth generally improves the efficiency of the dispersion process but the size of the teeth that can be manufactured at reasonable costs limits this number. A conventional disperser plate is described in US 7,172,148 where a single groove extends from the tooth top surface to a point intermediate the top surface

and the channel base surface.

[0005] For conical dispersers, where the cones contain the pyramids or teeth, the same action usually occurs and the designs of the teeth are substantially the same as those for flat discs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The efficiency of dispersion may be improved and the amount of ink, toner, and stickies entering a paper-making machine may be reduced by increasing the number of edges that contact the fiber stock. By configuring grooves into one or more sides of the teeth, the amount of contact edges may be increased while substantially maintaining the structural integrity of the teeth. The plane defined by sides of the teeth may be known as "face surfaces" throughout this disclosure.

[0007] A disperser plate segment for removing contaminants from fiber stock, the segment comprising: radially inner and radially outer edges, multiple radially concentric rows of teeth, each row of teeth having multiple teeth defining multiple channels disposed intermediate the teeth, each of the channels having a lower channel base surface and each of the teeth comprising: an top surface, at least one face surface extending from the channel base surface to the top surface, and wherein at least one of the face surfaces comprises at least two grooves.

[0008] At least one tooth may have multiple grooves on at least one of its surfaces. The additional grooves to the faces surfaces of the tooth may help to increase circumferential friction applied to the material in between the intermeshing row of teeth thereby improving separation of the contaminants from the desired material. By using a groove angled relative to the vertical axis of the face of the tooth surface, the angled groove may help to redirect material along the axis of the height of the teeth, as the teeth move material vertically between the channel base surface and the tooth top surface.

[0009] The inner and outer surfaces of each tooth may extend at an acute angle from the channel base surface to the top surface, such that the tooth may have a truncated pyramid shape. With multi-grooved teeth, a segment of the top surface may separate the inner face and

outer face surface grooves from each other when the grooves extend to the top surface of the tooth. Additionally, for multi-grooved teeth, a segment of the top surface may separate the grooves along a face surface; this face surface may be an inner face surface or outer face surface. In some example embodiments, the face surface may be the side surfaces of the teeth that define a channel between two teeth.

[0010] In some exemplary embodiments, the grooves on the inner face surface and outer face surface may be tapered. For example, for at least one of the grooves, the width of the groove may taper outward on the face surface from the top surface toward the channel base surface. In another example embodiment, the depth of the groove

may taper from the face surface into or inward to the tooth mass as the groove extends from the top surface toward the channel base surface. In example embodiments involving a tapered groove, a segment of the top surface may separate the inner face and outer face surface grooves from each other.

[0011] In some embodiments the width of at least one of the grooves may change along its length. For example, at least one of the grooves may taper outwardly on the tooth face surface. In other exemplary embodiments, the depth of at least one of the grooves may change along its length. For example, the depth of at least one of the grooves may taper inward into the tooth face surface as the groove extends across the tooth face surface toward the channel base surface. In some exemplary embodiments, the grooves may not connect with each other through the teeth. In other exemplary embodiments, it is possible to have at least two of the grooves connect.

[0012] Each of the teeth may also have oppositely disposed leading and trailing edges. The grooves of the inner face surface of each tooth and the grooves of the outer face surface of each tooth may define additional leading edges and additional trailing edges.

[0013] In an exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, multiple grooves on the inner face or outer face surfaces of the teeth may extend the substantially similar lengths between the top surface and the channel base surface, that is from the top surface to a point intermediate the top surface and the channels base surface.

[0014] In another example embodiment of this disclosure, multiple grooves on the inner face surface or outer face surface of the teeth may extend the same lengths between the top surface and the channel base surface; for example, at least one of the grooves may extend from the tooth top surface to or substantially to the channel base surface.

[0015] In another example embodiment of the disclosure, multiple grooves on the inner face surface or outer face surface of the teeth may extend different lengths between the top surface and the channel base surface. For example, one or more grooves may extend from the top surface to the channel base surface, and one or more grooves may extend from the top surface to a groove lower most end point intermediate the top surface and the channel base surface, and one or more grooves may extend from the channel base surface upward toward-but not to-the top surface, and one or more grooves can extend from below the top surface to a point intermediate the channel base surface.

[0016] In yet another embodiment, widths of the individual grooves on the inner face surface or outer face surface of teeth may vary. The widths of the individual grooves on the inner face surface or outer face surface may also vary among any individual tooth. For example, one groove may have a wider width than the remaining grooves on the face surface of the tooth. The lengths of each of the grooves, whether wide or narrow may be any of the previously identified lengths, e.g. the entire length

from the top surface to the channel base surface or the length from the top surface to a point intermediate the top surface and the channel base surface or the length from the channel base surface to a point below the top surface. Moreover, one or more grooves can extend from below the top surface to a point intermediate the channel base surface.

[0017] In still another embodiment of the disclosure, the multiple tapered grooves of varying lengths (as described previously) may exist on the inner face surface or the outer face surface of the teeth.

[0018] In another embodiment of the disclosure, the grooves on the inner face surface or outer face surface may be angled relative to the vertical axis of the face of the tooth surface and each groove may be the same length or may be different lengths. The angled grooves may be the same width or different widths and may have tapering. Both the width and depth of the groove may be tapered. Conversely, either the width or depth of the groove may be tapered. The angle of the grooves may be about 5 degrees to about 60 degrees.

[0019] A disperser plate segment for removing contaminants from fiber stock has been conceived, the segment comprising: radially inner and outer edges and multiple of radially concentric rows of teeth; each row of teeth having multiple teeth defining multiple channels disposed intermediate the teeth; each of the channels having a lower channel base surface and each of the teeth comprising: a top surface, at least one face surface extending from the channel base surface to the top surface, the at least one face surface defining at least two grooves at an angle θ relative to the vertical axis of the face surface.

[0020] It is also possible to have the inner face surface with one embodiment of the disclosure and the outer face surface with a different embodiment or both the inner face and outer face surfaces may use the same embodiment of the disclosure. In yet another embodiment, any combination of previously described grooves on any of the surfaces of the teeth may be used.

[0021] A disperser plate comprising: multiple radially concentric rows of teeth, wherein each row may be configured to mesh between rows of teeth on an opposing plate; adjacent teeth of the radially concentric rows defining channels between the adjacent teeth, wherein the channels each are aligned with a respective row of teeth on the opposing plate, and multiple grooves on a face surface of each of the teeth in at least one of the concentric rows.

[0022] Additionally, the disperser plate may be segmented into disperser plate segments. In some embodiments, the disperser plate may have the teeth in at least one of the concentric rows each having an upper surface and the grooves extend from one of the channels to the top surface of the respective tooth. In at least some of the embodiments of the disperser plate, the depth of at least one of the grooves on each of the teeth may vary along the length of the groove. In some embodiments, the groove extends only partially along the height of the

tooth and the grooves may be parallel. In other embodiments the grooves are oblique to a plane of rotation of the disperser plate. In at least some embodiments, the width of at least one of the grooves on each tooth differs from the width of another one of the grooves on the tooth.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] The foregoing will be apparent from the following more particular description of example embodiments of the disclosure, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, with emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating embodiments of the disclosed device.

FIGS. 1a, 1b, and 1c show a conventional disperser with plate segments.

FIG. 2 shows an exemplary face view of a tooth with multiple grooves of similar length and width.

FIG. 3 shows an exemplary face view of a tooth with multiple grooves having differing lengths.

FIG. 4 shows an exemplary face view of a tooth with multiple grooves having differing widths.

FIG. 5 shows an exemplary face view of a tooth having a groove with a tapered width.

FIG. 6 shows an exemplary face view of a tooth having a groove with a tapered depth.

FIG. 7 shows an exemplary top view of the tooth having an asymmetrical shape to the depth tapering.

FIG. 8 is the mirror image of FIG. 6.

FIG. 9 shows an exemplary top view of the tooth with multiple grooves having different shapes.

FIG. 10 shows an exemplary face view of a tooth with angled grooves.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0024] Increasing the number of contact edges available for the material may improve the breaking down of the contaminants and stickies in the fiber stock and may improve the efficiency of a disperser machine.

[0025] A disperser plate segment according to any of the embodiments of the disclosure has at least one of the teeth of the inner face surface or outer face surface comprising at least two grooves. The teeth with at least two grooves can be any combination of groove lengths, groove widths, groove shape, tapered width grooves, ta-

pered depth grooves, or angled grooves on the inner face surface or outer face surfaces.

[0026] Although the grooves are depicted as ovoid, cylindrical, or conical in the figures, the grooves may have triangular, pyramidal, or quadrilateral shapes in other embodiments.

[0027] FIGS. 1a, 1b, and 1c show a conventional plate segment 10 for a disperser. In FIG. 1a, the conventional plate segment 10 is a stator plate segment 15. Each conventional plate segment 10 is typically a molded metal piece formed as a pie-shape, such as an annularly truncated wedge-shape, having a generally planar substrate. However, the conventional plate segment 10 may be circular or semi-circular and the substrate may be conical or partially conical. Each conventional plate segment 10 has an inner edge 22 towards the common center axis 19 of the disc to which the conventional plate segment 10 may be attached (disc not shown). Each conventional plate segment 10 also has an outer edge 24 near the periphery of the disc to which the conventional plate segment 10 may be attached (disc not shown). Each conventional plate segment 10 has concentric rows 26 of teeth 28. People skilled in the art may refer to the teeth 28 as pyramids. The concentric rows 26 of teeth 28 are each at a common radial distance (see radii 32) from the common center axis 19.

[0028] FIG. 1b is a cross-sectional view of one of the stator plate segment 15. As the fiber stock (not shown) contacts the stator plate segment 15 near the inner edge 22 of the stator plate segment 15, the fibrous material may flow over concentric rows 26 of teeth 28 towards the outer edge 24 of the stator plate segment 15.

[0029] FIG. 1c is a cross-sectional view of a rotor disc 12 and a stator disc 13 arranged opposite to each other. The stator disc 13 has an annular array of the stator plate segments 15 and a rotor disc 12 has an annular array of rotor plate segments 14.

[0030] The teeth 28 on rotor plate segments 14 intermesh with the rows of teeth on the array of stator plate segments 15, as is shown in FIG. 1c. The intermeshing teeth 28 intersect a radially extending plane in the gap 30 between rotor disc 12 and stator disc 13.

[0031] The array of rotor plate segments 14 on the rotor disc 12 and the array of stator plate segments 15 on the stator disc 13 generally rotate about a common center axis 19.

[0032] As the rotor disc 12 rotates, fiber stock (not shown) generally moves through the serpentine gap 30 between the arrays of stator plate segments 15 and rotor plate segments 14 as a pad of fiber material. The flexing and bending of the fiber stock as the pad moves over and between the teeth 28 dislodges stickies from fibers in the fiber stock.

[0033] The rotation of the rotor disc 12 and the rotor plate segments 14 apply a centrifugal force that moves the fiber stock straight through the gap 30 between the opposing arrays of plate segments. As the fiber stock moves radially beyond the outer edges 24 of the rotor

plate segments 14 and stator plate segments 15, the fiber stock enters a casing 31 of the disperser.

[0034] For similar elements, similar reference numbers are used for the remaining figures. FIG. 2 shows a face surface 140 of a tooth 100 having grooves 110 of substantially the same length. The grooves 110 can extend from the top surface 120 of the tooth 100 to the channel base surface 130. The width 150 and depth 160 of each groove 110 may be similar or substantially the same.

[0035] FIG. 3 shows a face surface 240 of a tooth 200 having grooves 210 of differing lengths. The grooves 210 may extend from the top surface 220 to the channel base surface 230 or from the top surface 220 to a point 255 intermediate the top surface 220 and the channel base surface 230 or from the channel base surface 230 to a point below the top surface 220, or one or more grooves 210 can extend from below the top surface 220 to a point intermediate the channel base surface 230, or any combination with at least one of the grooves 210 being a different length from the other grooves 210, with the width 250 and depth of all grooves 210 being the same or substantially the same.

[0036] FIG. 4 shows face surface 340 of a tooth 300 having grooves 310 of the same lengths. In other embodiments, the lengths of the grooves may be different. The grooves 310 may extend from the top surface 320 to the channel base surface 330 or from the top surface 320 to a point intermediate the top surface and the channel base surface 330 or from the channel base surface 330 to a point below the top surface 320, or one or more grooves 310 can extend from below the top surface 320 to a point intermediate the channel base surface 330, or any combination with at least one of the grooves being a different length from the other groove or grooves 310, with at least one of the grooves 310 being a different width 350 from the other groove or grooves 310. The depth 360 of the groove 310 into the tooth 300 may vary, e.g., linearly, in a direction towards the top of the tooth or in an opposite direction. Further, the depth 360 of the grooves 310 may vary from groove 310 to groove 310 on the same tooth 300.

[0037] FIG. 5 shows face surface 440 of a tooth 400 having a single groove 410. Groove 410 may have a width 450, which tapers from narrowest point at or near the top surface 420 and widest at or near the channel base surface 430. There may be grooves 410 that have widths 450 tapering along the face surface 440, while the depth 460 and lengths of the grooves 410 may remain constant or the depths 460 of the grooves may remain constant while the lengths of the grooves may vary.

[0038] FIG. 6 shows face surface 540 of a tooth 500 having a single groove 510. Groove 510 has a first depth 560 which tapers from the top surface 520 to a second depth 570 at the lowest point of the groove 510. The first depth 560 may be measured as the distance between the face surface 540 and the top internal backside 580 of the groove 510 at the top surface 520. The lowest point of the groove 510 may be the point closest to the channel

base surface 530. The second depth 570 may be measured as the distance from the face surface 540 and the lowermost internal backside 590 of the groove 510. The tapering of the groove 510 may increase from the first depth 560 to the second depth 570 and can be for example about 1 mm to about 10 mm, or possibly about 2 mm to about 10 mm, or possibly about 1 mm to about 3 mm, or possibly about 2 mm to about 5 mm and any dimension in between. There may be grooves 510 with varying tapered depths where the first depth 560 and the second depth 570 can be the same for each groove 510 or can be different for each groove 510. In addition to having different depths in the grooves 510, the depth of each groove 510 may taper. Further, the length of the grooves 510 on the face surface 540 may vary as the first depth 560 and second depth 570 varies. There may be a lowest most point of the groove 510 at or near the channel base surface 530 while the upper end of the groove 510 may be located at any point between the channel surface base 530 and the top surface 520, or the groove 510 may extend from the top surface 520 to a point intermediate the channel base surface 530, or have the groove 510 located along the face surface 540 but not extend to either the top surface 520 or the channel base surface 530 while having at least one groove 510 with a first depth 560 and a second depth 570. While not shown in FIG. 6, the depth of the groove may be greater in the top of a tooth 500 as compared to bottom of the tooth 500.

[0039] FIGs. 5 and 6 depict exemplary groove embodiments that may be used on the claimed disperser plate segments. It should be noted that the claimed disperser plate segments would also feature at least one additional groove on the same face surface as the grooves depicted in FIGs. 5 and 6.

[0040] FIG. 7 shows a top view of a tooth 600 having an asymmetrical shape to the depth tapering. On the left side 612 of the opening 621, the angle from the face surface 640 to the innermost point of the groove 655 may be shallow and sharp such as less than about 90 degrees. On the right side 613, the angle from the face surface 640 to the innermost point of the groove 655 may be about 90 degrees. In some embodiments, the angles from the front surface 640 to the innermost point of the groove 655 may be symmetrical. In other embodiments, the angles from the front surface 640 to the innermost point of the groove 655 may be asymmetrical.

[0041] FIG. 8 shows a top view of a tooth 700 having an asymmetrical shape to the depth tapering a mirror image of FIG. 7. On the right side 712 of the opening 721, the angle from the face surface 740 to the innermost point of the groove 755 may be shallow and sharp, such as less than about 90 degrees. On the left side 713, the angle from the face surface 740 to the innermost point of the groove 755 may be about 90 degrees. In some embodiments, the angles from the front surface 740 to the innermost point of the groove 755 may be symmetrical. In other embodiments, the angles from the front surface 740 to the innermost point of the groove 755 may be asymmetrical. In other embodiments, the angles from the front

surface **740** to the innermost point of the groove **755** may be asymmetrical.

[0042] FIG. 9 shows a top view of a tooth **800** when multiple grooves are used and may be any combination of the shapes shown in FIGS. 7 and 8. As shown in FIG. 9, opening **821** has the shape of the opening **621** (from FIG. 7). On the first shallow side **818**, the angle from the face surface **840** to the innermost point of the groove **855** may be shallow and sharp such as less than about 90 degrees. On the sharp side **813**, the angle from the face surface **840** to the innermost point of the groove **855** may be about 90 degrees. Opening **822** has the shape of opening **721** (from FIG. 8). On the second shallow side **812**, the angle from the face surface **840** to the innermost point of the groove **855** may be shallow and sharp such as less than about 90 degrees. On the sharp side **813**, the angle from the face surface **840** to the innermost point of the groove **855** may be about 90 degrees. In other embodiments, grooves using at least one of the configurations from FIGS. 7 or 8 may be used for at least one of the teeth.

[0043] FIG. 10 shows face surface **940** of a tooth **900** having a top surface **920**, a channel base surface **930**, and grooves **910**. The grooves **910** are positioned at an angle θ of between about 5 degrees and about 60 degrees. In other example embodiments, angle θ may be between about 10 degrees and about 60 degrees, or possibly about 30 degrees and about 60 degrees relative to the vertical axis of the face surface **940** of the tooth **900**. In some example embodiments, the angle θ may vary between at least one groove on the same tooth. In some example embodiments, the angle θ may vary among at least one groove on a different tooth on the disperser. The angle θ may allow edges of the grooves to engage fiber stock at different angles thereby increasing the number of edges that contact the fiber stock and altering the direction of the fiber stock in a manner that may improve dispersion. By contrast, the angle θ for conventional grooves in conventional disperser plate teeth is about zero degrees. Grooves **910** are shown as having differing lengths **965** and the same widths **950**. In some example embodiments, grooves **910** may also have the same depths (not shown). The grooves **910** may have differing widths **950** and the same lengths **965** and the same depths. In other example embodiments, the grooves **910** may have the same widths and differing heights. In another exemplary embodiment, the length of at least of the grooves may extend through the side face surface of at least one tooth. In some embodiments, the widths **950** of grooves **910** could taper from narrow to wide as grooves **910** move across the face surface **940**. In some embodiments, the depth may taper from shallow to deep as grooves **610** move across the face surface **940**. Combinations of the above embodiments are also possible.

[0044] While preferred embodiments have been shown and described, various modifications and substitutions may be made thereto without departing from the

scope of the invention as defined by the claims. Accordingly, it is to be understood that the present invention has been described by way of illustration and not limitation.

5

Claims

1. A disperser plate segment for removing contaminants from fiber stock, the segment comprising:
10
radially inner and outer edges;
multiple radially concentric rows of teeth;
each row of teeth having multiple teeth defining multiple channels disposed intermediate the teeth;
each of the channels having a lower channel base surface and each of the teeth comprising:
20
a top surface,
at least one face surface extending from the channel base surface to the top surface; and
25
wherein at least one of the face surfaces comprises at least two grooves.
25
2. A disperser plate segment as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the grooves extends from the top surface of the respective tooth to or substantially to the lower channel base surface of a channel adjacent the tooth.
30
3. The disperser plate of claim 2, wherein the teeth in at least one of the radially concentric rows each have their grooves extend from one of the channels to the top surface of the respective tooth.
35
35
4. The disperser plate in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one of the grooves extends partially along a height of the respective tooth.
40
40
5. A disperser plate segment as in claim 4, wherein at least one of the grooves has an upper most end which is below the top surface of the respective tooth.
45
45
6. A disperser plate segment as in claim 4 or 5, wherein at least one of the grooves has a lower most end which is intermediate the top surface of the respective tooth and the lower channel base surface of a channel adjacent the tooth.
50
50
7. A disperser plate segment as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one tooth has at least two grooves which are parallel with each other.
55
55
8. A disperser plate segment as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least two grooves in at least one of the face surfaces are defined at an angle θ relative to the vertical axis of the face surface,

wherein the angle θ is preferably between about 5 degrees and about 60 degrees.

9. A disperser plate segment as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a length of at least one of the grooves on the face surface of at least one tooth differs from length of at least one other groove on the said face surface.

10. A disperser plate segment as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a width of at least one of the grooves on the face surface of at least one tooth differs from the width of at least one other groove on the said face surface. 10

11. A disperser plate segment as claimed in claim 10, wherein a width of at least one of the grooves on each tooth differs from a width of another one of the grooves on the tooth. 15

12. A disperser plate segment as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a width of at least one of the grooves varies along a length of the groove. 20

13. A disperser plate segment as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a depth of at least one of the grooves varies along a length of the groove 25

14. A disperser plate for removing contaminants from fiber stock, the plate comprising: 30

radially inner and outer edges;
multiple radially concentric rows of teeth;
each row of teeth having multiple teeth defining multiple channels disposed intermediate the teeth; 35
each of the channels having a lower channel base surface and each of the teeth comprising:

a top surface, 40
at least one face surface extending from the channel base surface to the top surface; and

wherein at least one of the face surfaces comprises at least two grooves. 45

15. A disperser plate as claimed in claim 14, wherein each of the multiple radially concentric rows of teeth is configured to mesh between rows of teeth on an opposing plate; 50
the channels each are configured so as to be aligned with a respective row of teeth on the opposing plate, and
each of the teeth in at least one of the concentric rows has multiple grooves on a face surface thereof. 55

16. The disperser plate in claim 14 or 15, wherein the grooves are oblique to a plane of rotation of the plate.

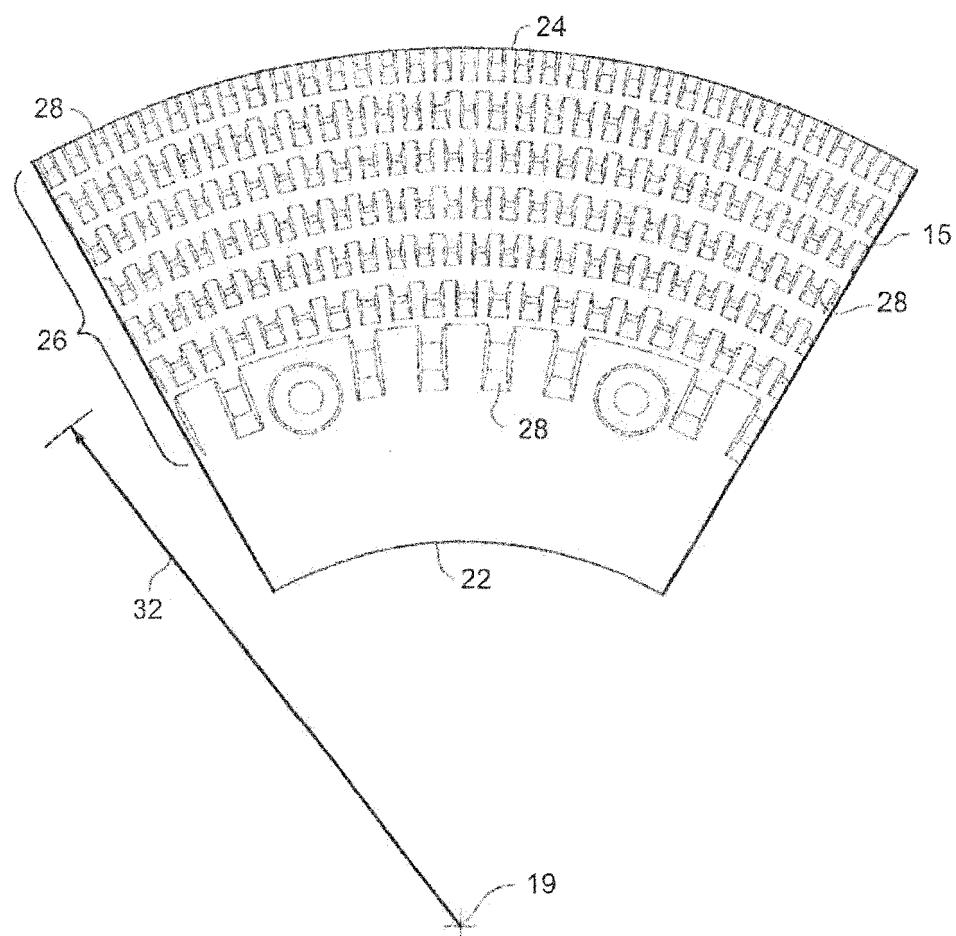


Fig. 1A
(PRIOR ART)

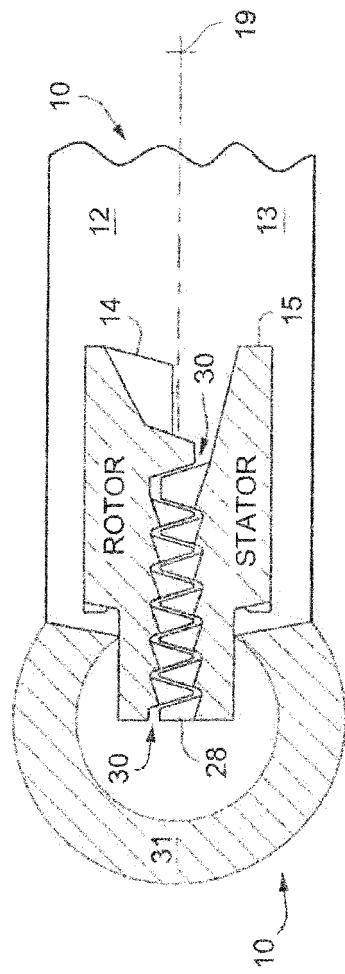


Fig. 1C
(PRIOR ART)

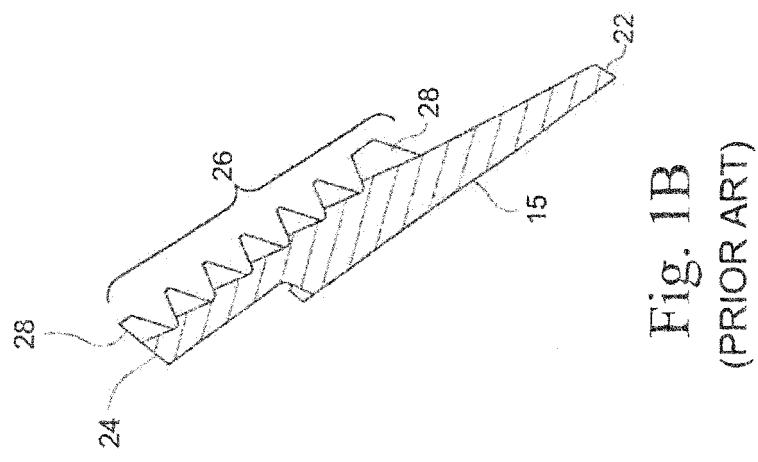


Fig. 1B
(PRIOR ART)

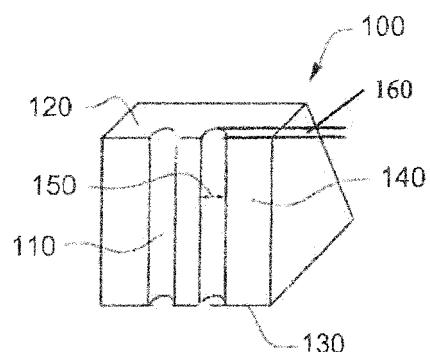


Fig. 2

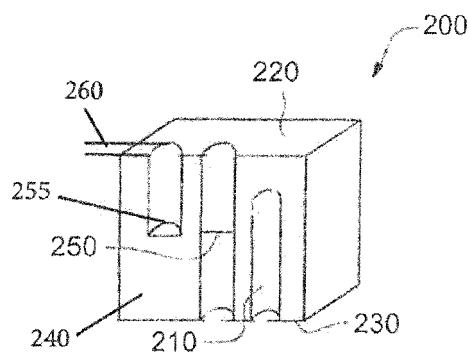


Fig. 3

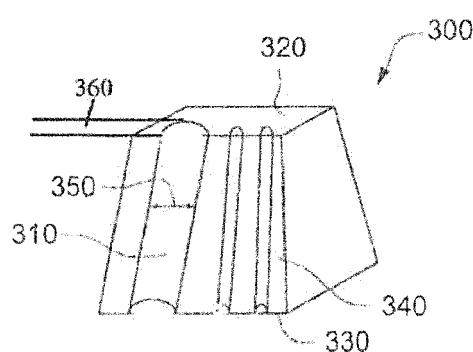


Fig. 4

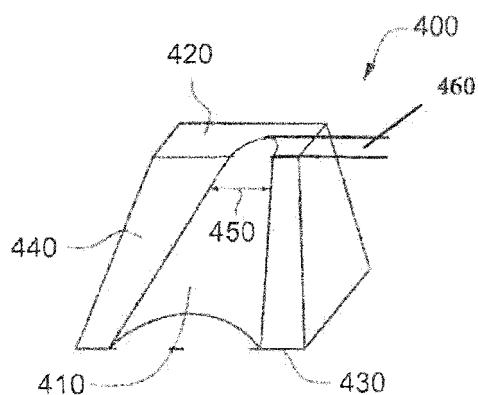


Fig. 5

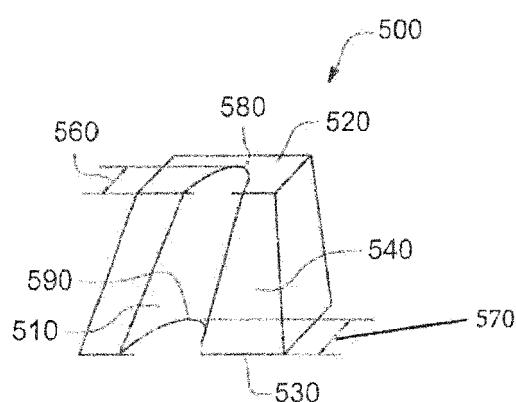


Fig. 6

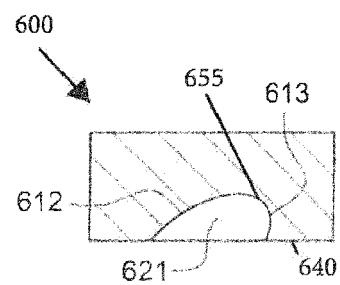


Fig. 7

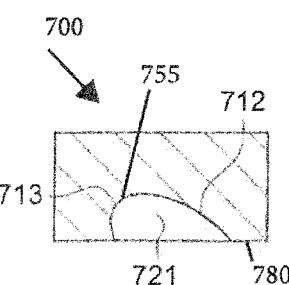


Fig. 8

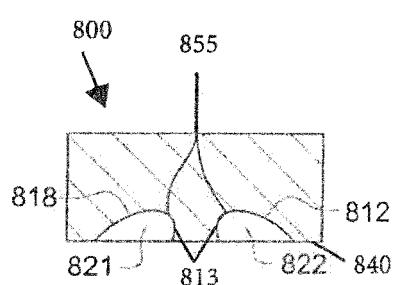


Fig. 9

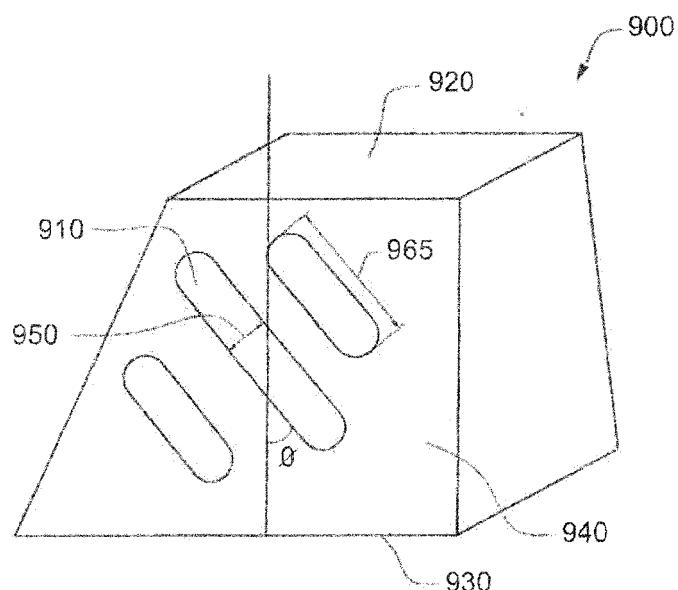


Fig. 10



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 13 19 9333

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)						
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
10	X DE 10 2009 047631 A1 (VOITH PATENT GMBH [DE]) 9 June 2011 (2011-06-09) * paragraphs [0001] - [0022], [0040] - [0048]; figures *	1-9, 13-18	INV. D21D1/00 B02C7/12						
15	X DE 10 2009 047653 A1 (VOITH PATENT GMBH [DE]) 9 June 2011 (2011-06-09) * paragraphs [0001], [0005], [0006], [0014] - [0022], [0056] - [0063]; figures 1,2,5,6 *	1,4-8, 12-18							
20	X EP 2 243 879 A2 (ANDRITZ INC [US]) 27 October 2010 (2010-10-27) * paragraph [0037]; figure 5 *	1-3,7,8, 14-18							
25	X DE 10 2008 007888 A1 (VOITH PATENT GMBH [DE]) 13 August 2009 (2009-08-13) * paragraphs [0005] - [0008], [0015] - [0019]; figures 4-6 *	1-3,8, 14-18							
30			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)						
35			D21D B02C						
40									
45									
50	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims								
55	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Place of search</td> <td>Date of completion of the search</td> <td>Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Munich</td> <td>7 February 2014</td> <td>Maisonnier, Claire</td> </tr> </table>			Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	Munich	7 February 2014	Maisonnier, Claire
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner							
Munich	7 February 2014	Maisonnier, Claire							
	<p>1 CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>								
	<p>EPO FORM 1503.03.82 (P04C01)</p>								

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 13 19 9333

5

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

07-02-2014

10

	Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
	DE 102009047631 A1	09-06-2011	NONE		
15	DE 102009047653 A1	09-06-2011	AT 12915 U1	15-02-2013	
			CN 203080352 U	24-07-2013	
			DE 102009047653 A1	09-06-2011	
			WO 2011069703 A2	16-06-2011	
20	EP 2243879 A2	27-10-2010	AU 2010201349 A1	11-11-2010	
			BR PI1001319 A2	28-01-2014	
			CA 2699801 A1	23-10-2010	
			CN 101871175 A	27-10-2010	
			EP 2243879 A2	27-10-2010	
25			JP 2010255172 A	11-11-2010	
			NZ 584565 A	28-10-2011	
			RU 2010116047 A	27-10-2011	
			US 2010269991 A1	28-10-2010	
30	DE 102008007888 A1	13-08-2009	DE 102008007888 A1	13-08-2009	
			WO 2009097963 A2	13-08-2009	
35					
40					
45					
50					
55	EPO FORM P0459				

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

55

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- US 7172148 B [0004]