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(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **SAMS, Gary W.** [US/US]; 7021 East 67th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133 (US).(74) Agents: **ROSSLER, Paul E.** et al.; Gable Gotwals, 100 West 5th Street, 10th Floor, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103 (US).

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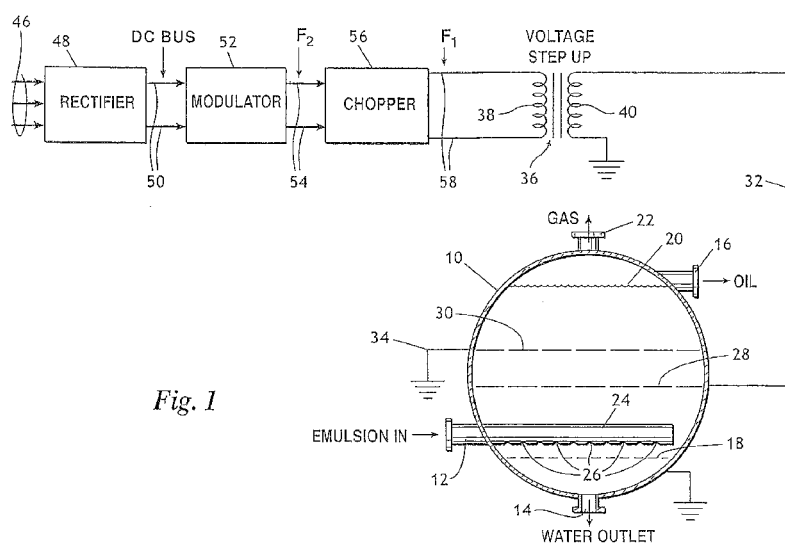


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A method of separating gaseous components, heavier liquid components and lighter liquid components of a stream including the steps of conducting the stream between spaced apart electrodes in a treatment vessel, supplying from a voltage source an AC voltage of at least one base frequency F_1 to at least one of the electrodes to establish an electric field within the vessel through which the stream passes, modulating the frequency F_1 of the AC voltage at a modulation frequency F_2 , and withdrawing separated gaseous components from an upper portion of the vessel, heavier stream components from a lower portion of the vessel, and lighter liquid components from an intermediate portion of said vessel.