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(54) Title: VACUUM PUMP WITH REDUCED SEAL REQUIREMENTS

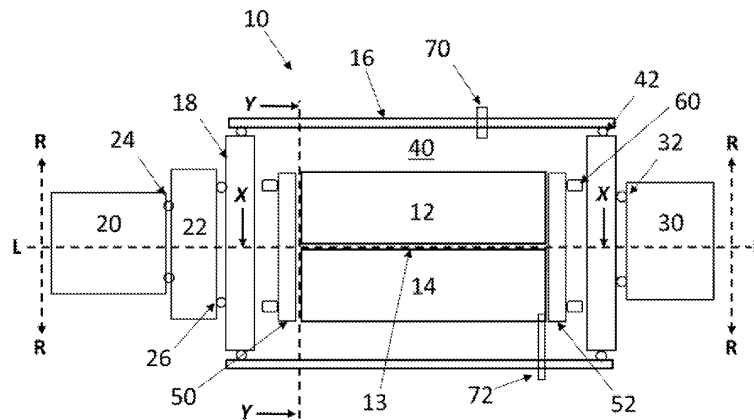


FIG. 1a

(57) Abstract: Vacuum pump (10) comprising a substantially hermetically sealed enclosure (40), a core pump assembly located within the enclosure (40), and an inert purge gas inlet (70) fluidly connected to the enclosure (40) for supplying inert purge gas to an interior of the enclosure (40) surrounding the core pump assembly, so as to apply an inert positive pressure to the core pump assembly that reduces leakage of process gas from the core pump assembly such that seals therein, in particular expensive process sensitive elastomer seals, can be removed or reduced.

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