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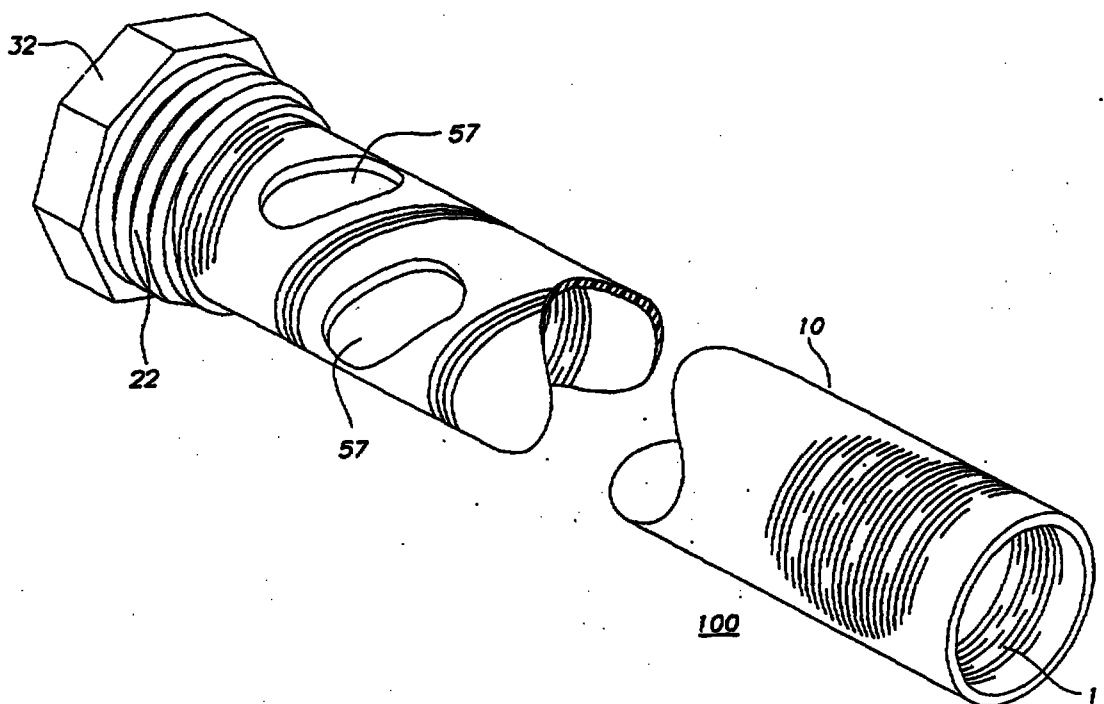
SG 9702527-4



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H05B 3/40, 3/82, 3/78, 1/02		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/21336
			(43) International Publication Date: 11 July 1996 (11.07.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US95/16928		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 28 December 1995 (28.12.95)			
(30) Priority Data: 08/365,920 29 December 1994 (29.12.94) US			
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(54) Title: POLYMERIC RESISTANCE HEATING ELEMENT



(57) Abstract

Polymeric heating elements (10) and water heaters containing these elements utilize heating elements (10) which include an electrically conductive resistance material (14) capable of heating fluid when energized. The elements (14) are helically wound and insulated and protected by a polymer layer (30) integrally disposed over the resistance material (14). The elements (10) are lightweight, inexpensive, and minimize galvanic corrosion and lime deposition without sacrificing heating capacity.