

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
DIVIDED WALL EXCHANGE COLUMN

5 A divided wall exchange column includes a dividing wall strengthened by
stiffening members and/or a double wall design to better withstand pressure differentials
and minimize temperature differentials. When a double wall is used, cost of manufacture
and installation is minimized by reducing the manufacturing tolerances required while
providing a design robust in construction, installation, and operation. When structured
packing is used, the stiffening members, combined with positioning the layers of packing
10 at preferred angles relative to the dividing wall, result in minimal interference with the
heat and/or mass transfer process while minimizing the complexity of manufacture and
construction of the packing. Further, by positioning the top layer of structured packing at
other preferred angles relative to the dividing wall, a simplified liquid distributor design
may be used in the divided wall exchange column while the layers below may still be
15 orientated as described above with all the associated benefits.

Fig. 1

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