[Title of the Invention] CHROMATOGRAPHY APPARATUS

[Claims]

1. A chromatographic apparatus comprising:

a module;

a fluid inlet to the module, extending into an interior space of the module;

a fluid outlet from the module, extending into the interior space; and

a chromatographic packed bed positioned ~~within~~ in the interior space of the module between the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet,

the bed is retained ~~within the module~~ in the interior space by a first fluid porous frit located adjacent the inlet and a second fluid porous frit located adjacent the outlet, and

a portion of a wall defining the inlet and a portion of a wall defining the outlet ~~is~~ are fluid porous, and the inlet and outlet are ~~and~~ in fluid communication with their respective frits and the bed.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a first connecting means on the fluid inlet for providing a fluid connection to a second fluid inlet on a second module,

and a second connection means on said fluid outlet for providing a fluid connection to a second fluid outlet on a second module.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of the modules are joined together at their respective fluid inlets and fluid outlets.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1 having ~~two opposing~~ flat exterior walls on the opposite sides of the module, through which the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet extend.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of the modules are joined together at their respective fluid inlets and fluid outlets, and wherein each module has ~~two opposing~~ flat exterior walls on the opposite sides thereof, through which the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet extend.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising the module(s) having a vent.

7. A chromatographic apparatus comprising:

a support mechanism having a first and a second end plate and one or more bolts and nuts connecting the first end plate to the second end plate~~s~~,

one or more modules,

the one or more modules having a chromatographic packed bed positioned ~~within~~ in an interior space of each module~~s~~,

a fluid inlet to the interior space of the modules,

a fluid outlet from the interior space of the modules,

a sealing means on the inlet and the outlet of the modules for establishing a liquid tight seal with a device selected from the group consisting of the end plates and one or more additional modules.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least the first end plate has an inlet and an outlet which are capable of aligning and liquid tightly sealing with the inlet and outlet of the module.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the modules are two or more in number, and wherein each module has a first connecting means on the fluid inlet of the module adjacent the next module for providing a fluid connection to the fluid inlet on the adjacent module and a second connecting means on the fluid outlet of the module adjacent the next module for providing a fluid connection to the fluid outlet of the adjacent module.

10. A chromatographic apparatus comprising:

a support mechanism having a first and a second end plate and one or more bolts and nuts connecting the first end plate to the second end plate~~s~~,

one or more modules,

each of the one or more modules having a fluid inlet to the module and a fluid outlet from the module, which extend into an interior space of the module,

a chromatographic packed bed positioned ~~within~~ in the interior space of the module between the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet,

the bed is retained ~~within the module~~ in the interior space by a first fluid porous frit located adjacent the inlet and a second fluid porous frit located adjacent the outlet,

a portion of a wall defining the inlet and a portion of a wall defining the outlet ~~is~~ are fluid porous, and the inlet and outlet are ~~and~~ in fluid communication with their respective frits and the bed, and

a sealing means on the inlet and the outlet of the modules for establishing a liquid tight seal with a device selected from the group consisting of the end plates and one or more additional modules.

11. The apparatus of claim ~~1~~10, wherein a plurality of the modules are joined together at their respective fluid inlets and fluid outlets, and wherein each module has ~~two opposing~~ flat exterior walls on the opposite sides thereof, through which the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet extend, and the modules are run in a parallel format.

12. The apparatus of claim ~~1~~10, wherein a plurality of the modules are joined together at their respective fluid inlets and fluid outlets, and wherein each module has ~~two opposing~~ flat exterior walls on the opposite sides thereof, through which the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet extend, and the modules are run in a series format.

13. The apparatus of claim ~~1~~10, wherein a plurality of the modules are joined together at their respective fluid inlets and fluid outlets to form a pair of adjacent modules, a diverter plate interposed between a first module and a second module of each pair of modules so that, in each pair, fluid can be brought from the outlet of the first module ~~of the pair~~ to the inlet of the second module ~~of the pair~~ such that all the inlets are arranged on one end, and wherein the modules are run in a parallel format.