MULTI-COMPONENT FILTER PROVIDING MULTIPLE FLAVOUR ENHANCEMENT

The present invention relates to a multi-component filter for a smoking article and to a smoking article comprising such a multi-component filter.

Filter cigarettes typically comprise a rod of tobacco cut filler surrounded by a paper wrapper and a cylindrical filter aligned in end-to end relationship with the wrapped tobacco rod and attached thereto by tipping paper. Ventilation in the form of circumferential perforations is commonly provided at a location along the filter, to mix the mainstream smoke produced during combustion of the wrapped tobacco rod with ambient air.

In conventional filter cigarettes, the filter usually consists of a plug of cellulose acetate tow wrapped in porous plug wrap. However, filter cigarettes with multi-component filters that comprise two or more segments of filtration material for the removal of particulate and gaseous components of the mainstream smoke are also known. To enhance the flavour of the mainstream smoke produced during combustion of the wrapped tobacco rod, it is also known to provide filter cigarettes with filters that include flavourants.

It would be desirable to provide a multi-component filter for a smoking article such as a cigarette that, in use, provides improved flavour enhancement to mainstream smoke as it is drawn from a rod of smokable material through the filter by a consumer.

According to the present invention there is provided a multi-component filter for a smoking article comprising segments, the segments consisting of: a mouth end segment; a first flavour release segment comprising plant leaf upstream of the mouth end segment; and a second flavour release segment comprising filtration material and a flavourant upstream of the first flavour release segment, wherein the resistance to draw of the second flavour release segment is greater than the resistance to draw of the first flavour release segment and the resistance to draw of the second flavour release segment is greater than the resistance to draw of the mouth end segment.

Throughout the specification, "upstream" and "downstream" are used to describe the relative positions of segments of the multi-component filter of the invention in relation to the direction of mainstream smoke drawn from a rod of smokable material through the multi-component filter during use.

In use, as mainstream smoke is drawn from a rod of smokable material through the multi-component filter, flavour is released into the mainstream smoke by the flavourant in the second flavour release segment. As the mainstream smoke passes