

This invention relates to rotary sieve apparatus for the separation of solids from a liquid in which the solids are suspended. The invention is applicable to separation of solids from liquids in the treatment of sanitary sewage, abattoirs wastes, meat packaging residues and many others.

It is already well known to separate solids from liquids in rotary sieves comprising an open-ended, screening sleeve disposed and rotatable about a horizontal axis.

10 The fluent matter to be treated is introduced at one end of the sleeve, the liquid falls through the screen interstices, and the solids are expelled from the sleeve at its opposite end.

20 It is also known to use, as the screening cylindrical wall of the sleeve, a multiplicity of closely-spaced, parallel "wedge-wires" which extend longitudinally of the sleeve, and a plurality of circular binder hoops which encircle the array of wedge-wires, and to which all of the wires are joined. The screening sleeve may take many different forms; for example, the binder "hoops" may be formed as a single spring-like helix. Again, in some reverse flow sieve apparatus of the kind under discussion (see United States patent 3,876,548 - Donald P. Welles - for example) the medium to be separated is applied to the outside of the sleeve so that the solid matter departs externally of the sleeve and the liquid penetrates the screen by passing from the outside to the interior of the

sleeve. In this example the "wedge-wires" may run longitudinally or circumferentially of the sleeve, if desired they may be in the form of a closely wound helix. In each of these known forms however, the wedge-wire principle is employed.

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The term "wedge-wire" is something of a misnomer since the wires are better described as being of trapezoidal cross-sectional shape. Be that as it may, the principle is a known one having been customarily used for the bars of man-hole and drainage gratings and in other ways where it is required for a liquid to run through an apertured plate or screen, and solids suspended in the arriving liquid (being over an acceptable minimum size) are to be prevented from going through the screen. This is done so that if a particle of acceptable small size can negotiate the entrance end of a screen-hole then it is assured of ample mechanical clearance during the remainder of its passage through that increasingly widening hole; thus to ensure, as far as possible, against blinding of the screen-hole by the particle.

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The present invention is concerned only with wedge-wire screen-sleeves of the kind in which the fluent matter to be separated is fed to the interior of the screen-sleeve, the solids leave the screen axially of the sleeve and the liquids depart radially outwardly. Because of this, the remainder of this discussion will be confined to the use of screen-sleeves of that type.

It will be appreciated that in any screen-sleeve it is desirable for the total screen-hole area to be as great as possible, compared with the un-holed area, so as to provide maximum get-away passage for the liquid. The wedge-wire principle of screen-sleeve construction is particularly effective in this respect, since the holes are virtually continuous throughout the length of the sleeve; that continuity being curtailed to only a slight extent due to the presence of the support hoops.

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Experience has shown that internally-fed wedge-wire screens of the kind discussed above are about the most efficient kind of rotary sleeve sieve now in use in the art, however, my work has shown that this efficiency is not generally being fully realised, and this, I have found, is due to insufficiently widespread deposit of matters to be treated on the screening surface.

The object of this invention is to ameliorate the mentioned shortcoming.

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The invention provides a sieve of the kind comprising:

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an open-ended wedge-wire sleeve having a receiving end and a solids departure end, and having its longitudinal axis disposed substantially horizontally, means to rotate said sleeve about ^{the} ~~the~~ axis, and means for infeed of material to be sieved into the sleeve by way of said receiving end; characterised in that said infeed means comprise:

a trunk disposed co-axially with the sleeve,
having one end outside the sleeve through which material
to be sieved is delivered into said trunk and an
opposite end portion which projects into and through the
5 receiving end of the sleeve to extend within the sleeve
over a distance equal to from one quarter to one half
the axial length of the sleeve, and a material departure
aperture in the top of the said end portion bordered
by a horizontal weir extending across the free end of the trunk and axially of said end
10 portion for a distance at least half the axial length of
that portion measured from the innermost end of said
portion, said end portion being internally furnished
with at least one upstream anti-surge baffle plate which
extends laterally of said end portion and from the top
15 of that portion towards the centre thereof, and at
least one downstream anti-surge baffle plate which
extends laterally of said end portion and from the
bottom of that portion towards the centre thereof.

An example of the invention is illustrated in
20 the drawings herewith.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a wedge-wire
sieve with some parts broken away.

Figure 2 is a partly sectioned side elevation of
an infeed trunk.

25 Figure 3 is a sectional end elevation taken on
line 3-3 in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a partial plan taken on line 4-4 in
Figure 2.

The illustrated sieve comprises an open-ended wedge-wire sleeve 5 having a receiving end 6 and a solids departure end 7. The sleeve may be cylindrical, or it may be acutely frust⁷o-conical as indicated by dotted lines in Figure 2. Its longitudinal axis may be absolutely horizontal, or it may be virtually horizontal by reason of its axis

tilting, slightly downwardly towards the departure end of the sleeve.

In this case, the sleeve consists of closely-spaced longitudinally extending wedge-wires 8 circumferentially bound by hoop-wires 9 secured about the wedge-wires by welding.

Means to rotate the sleeve comprise grooved runner-rings 10 which rest on rollers 11 and a motor (not shown) drive connected to the sleeve, or to one or more of the rollers 11, in conventional manner.

Liquids and sieve permitted fine solids leave the sleeve radially to fall into catchment sump 12 furnished with drain 13 and having splash-guards 14. Sieve-discriminated solids leave the sleeve by way of end-ring 15 which discharges onto stationarily mounted spout 16.

The infeed means whereby matters to be sieved are deposited in the sleeve consist of a trunk 17 mounted on supports 18 so that it is substantially in axial coincidence with the sleeve. This trunk has one end 19, outside the sleeve, equipped for delivery, to the trunk, of matter to be sieved, in conventional manner.

Trunk 17, at its opposite end, has an end portion 20 whereof the length is about equal to that of the trunk fragment illustrated in Fig. 4. End portion 20 extends inwardly of the sleeve by an amount equal to from one quarter to one half the axial length of the sleeve. The top of portion 20 has a material departure aperture 21 bordered and defined by a horizontal weir constituted by

the upper edges 22 of end portion side walls 23 and the upper edge 24 of end portion inner end wall 25. Aperture 21 preferably extends axially of end portion 20 for as much of the full length of that portion as is compatible with matters welling out of the aperture not escaping through the receiving end 6 of sleeve 5. At its minimum length, aperture 21 is at least equal in length to one half the axial length of end portion 20 measured from end wall 25.

End portion 20 ~~preferably~~ includes at least one "upstream" anti-surge baffle plate 26 which extends laterally of portion 20 and from the top of that portion towards the centre thereof, and at least one "downstream" anti-surge baffle plate 27 which extends laterally of portion 20 and from the bottom of that portion towards the centre thereof. Portion 20 also preferably includes a plurality of part-helical flow guide ribs 28 which are near vertical but incline slightly so that their upper ends are closer to the weir end edge 24. With regard to ribs 28 I have found that their presence tends to stabilise evenness of flow over the weir edges 22 and 24. Ribs 28 are secured to the end portion side walls, by welding or otherwise, so that their upper ends are substantially flush with weir edges 22.



CLIAMs:

1. A sieve of the kind comprising:

an open-ended wedge-wire sleeve having a receiving end and a solids departure end, and having its

5 longitudinal axis disposed substantially horizontally, means to rotate said sleeve about the axis, and means for infeed of material to be sieved into the sleeve by way of said receiving end; characterised in that said infeed means comprise:

10 a trunk disposed co-axially with the sleeve, having one end outside the sleeve through which material to be sieved is delivered into said trunk and an opposite end portion which projects into and through the receiving end of the sleeve to extend within the sleeve over a
15 distance equal to from one quarter to one half the axial length of the sleeve, and a material departure aperture in the top of said end portion bordered by a horizontal weir extending across the free end of the trunk and axially of said end portion for a distance at
20 least half the axial length of that portion measured from the innermost end of said portion, said end portion being internally furnished with at least one upstream anti-surge baffle plate which extends laterally of said end portion and from the top of that portion
25 towards the centre thereof, and at least one downstream anti-surge baffle plate which extends laterally of said end portion and from the bottom of that portion towards the centre thereof.



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2. A sieve according to claim 1 wherein said end
portion is internally furnished with a plurality of
part-helical flow guide ribs mounted on the side-walls
of said end portion so that their upper ends are closer
5 to the weir across the free end of the trunk and
substantially flush with the weir sides defined by
said side-walls.

3. A sieve according to any preceding claim as herein
described with reference to the drawings.

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typescript. It may contain a few amendments which are difficult to read. The original
typescript containing these amendments may be inspected on the premises of the Patent Office