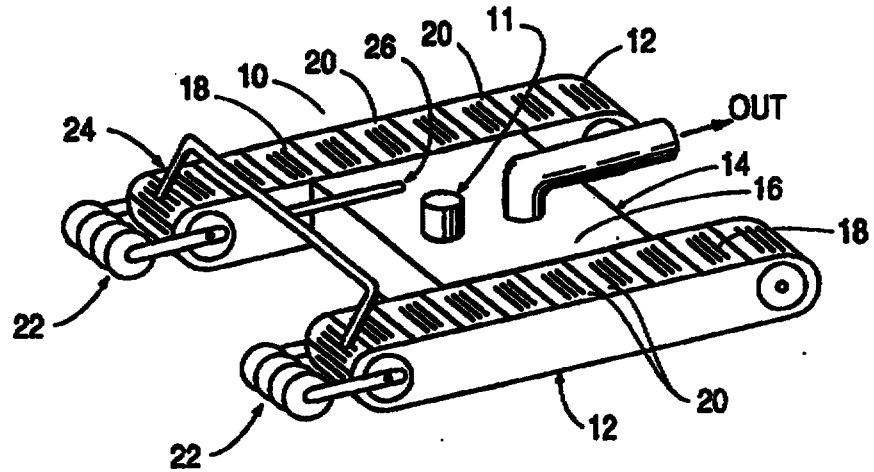




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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification⁶: C10G 31/00	AI	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/17416 (43) International Publication Date: 15 May 1997 (15.05.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/17361 (22) International Filing Date: 29 October 1996 (29.10.96) (30) Priority Data: 08/553,900 6 November 1995 (06.11.95) US (60) Parent Application or Grant (63) Related by Continuation US Filed on 08/553,900 (CON) 6 November 1995 (06.11.95) (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: MIYASAKI, Mace, T. [US/US]; 6203 Blackburn Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212 (US) (74) Agents: SAXE, Bernhard, D. et al.; Foley & Lardner, Suite 500, 3000 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007-5109 (US).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, 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, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, 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). Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	
(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RECOVERING THE FUEL VALUE OF CRUDE OIL SLUDGE  (57) Abstract A method and apparatus for converting crude oil tank bottoms to a liquid fuel, which uses a powered cutting tool to break up crude oil sludge contained in an oil storage tank bottom, with injection of cutter stock to facilitate break up of the sludge, an extraction pump to extract the sludge mixture comminution chamber and optional added cutter stock to reduce the particle size of solids to a uniform size range, to form a blend stock, which can be used to dilute a liquid fuel in an amount that will not adversely affect its product specification, whereby substantially all of the fuel value of the sludge is recovered.		