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(54) **Title**: SAMPLE HOLDER AND METHOD OF USING THE SAME

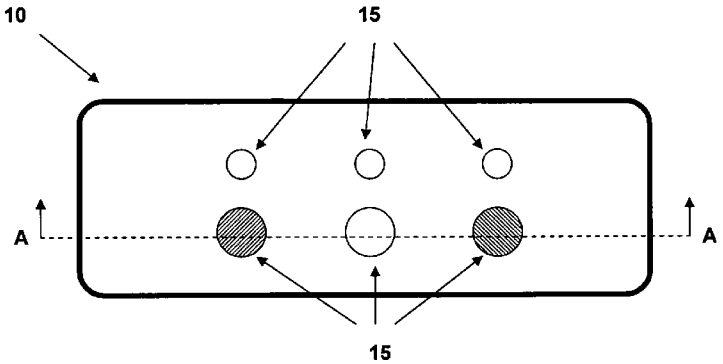


Fig. 1a

(57) **Abstract**: A sample holder, such as a microscope slide, is provided in the form of a card-shaped substrate or plate, preferably for use in an analytical reader. The sample holder comprises at least one hole, preferably a plurality of holes, for receiving a sample to be analyzed. The at least one hole extends completely through the substrate and is sized such that the sample is held within the at least one hole by means of the surface tension of the sample against the force of gravity. Optionally the substrate comprises a first upper substrate and a second lower substrate that together embed a porous membrane. As a further option the sample holder comprises a first cover attached to the top side of the first upper substrate and/or a second cover attached to the bottom side of the second lower substrate. Moreover a method for using such a sample holder in an analytical reader is provided, comprising the steps of: filling the at least one hole of the sample holder with a sample and reagent mixture; inserting the sample holder in the analytical reader; and analyzing the sample and reagent mixture in the at least one hole of the sample holder with the analytical reader.

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