~~[CLAIMS]~~ CLAIMS

~~[Claim 1] (Amended)~~

1. A microchip comprising:

a substrate including a fluid channel structure, the fluid channel structure including a first fluid introduction channel and a second fluid introduction channel configured to meet so as to allow merging of a first fluid introduced from the first fluid channel and a second fluid introduced from the second fluid introduction channel, and a tapered portion configured to be positioned after merging the first fluid and the second fluid from the first and second fluid introduction channels,

wherein the fluid channel structure further includes a contracted portion positioned downstream of the tapered portion.

~~[Claim 2] (Amended)~~

2. The microchip according to claim 1, wherein the tapered portion is configured to linearly increase in a first direction.

~~[Claim 3] (Amended)~~

3. The microchip according to claim 2, wherein the first direction is a Y-axis direction.

~~[Claim 4] (Amended)~~

4. The microchip according to claim 1, wherein the tapered portion is configured to linearly decrease in a second direction.

~~[Claim 5] (Amended)~~

5. The microchip according to claim 4, wherein the second direction is a Z-axis direction.

~~[Claim 6] (Amended)~~

6. The microchip according to claim 1, wherein the tapered portion is configured to linearly increase in a first direction and linearly decrease in a second direction.

~~[Claim 7] (Amended)~~

7. The microchip according to claim 6, wherein the first direction is a Y-axis direction and the second direction is a Z-axis direction.

~~[Claim 8] (Added)~~

~~The microchip according to claim 1, wherein the fluid channel structure further includes a contracted portion positioned downstream of the tapered portion.~~

~~[Claim 9] (Added)~~

8. The microchip according to claim 1, wherein the first fluid introduction channel includes a communication port positioned at substantially a center position of a channel depth direction of the second fluid introduction channel.

~~[Claim 10] (Added)~~

9. The microchip according to claim 1, wherein the first fluid introduction channel includes a communication port configured to open in an area that includes the second fluid introduction channel.

~~[Claim 11] (Added)~~

10. The microchip according to claim 1, wherein a first channel depth of the first fluid introduction channel in a depth direction is smaller than a second channel depth of the second fluid introduction channel in the depth direction.

~~[Claim 12] (Added)~~

11. A particulate analyzing device comprising a microchip, the microchip including a substrate including a fluid channel structure including a first fluid introduction channel and a second fluid introduction channel configured to meet so as to allow merging of a first fluid introduced from the first fluid channel and a second fluid introduced from the second fluid introduction channel, and a tapered portion configured to be positioned after merging the first fluid and the second fluid from the first and second fluid introduction channels,

wherein the fluid channel structure further includes a contracted portion positioned downstream of the tapered portion.

~~[Claim 13] (Added)~~

12. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~12~~11, wherein the tapered portion is configured to linearly increase in a first direction.

~~[Claim 14] (Added)~~

13. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~13~~12, wherein the first direction is a Y-axis direction.

~~[Claim 15] (Added)~~

14. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~12~~11, wherein the tapered portion is configured to linearly decrease in a second direction.

~~[Claim 16] (Added)~~

15. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~15~~14, wherein the second direction is a Z-axis direction.

~~[Claim 17] (Added)~~

16. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~12~~11, wherein the tapered portion is configured to linearly increase in a first direction and linearly decrease in a second direction.

~~[Claim 18] (Added)~~

17. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~17~~16, wherein the first direction is a Y-axis direction and the second direction is a Z-axis direction.

~~[Claim 19] (Added)~~

~~The particulate analyzing device according to claim 12, wherein the fluid channel structure further includes a contracted portion positioned downstream of the tapered portion.~~

~~[Claim 20] (Added)~~

18. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~19~~11, further including a detector configured to detect particulates in fluid and positioned downstream of the contracted portion.

~~[Claim 21] (Added)~~

19. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~12~~11, wherein the first fluid introduction channel includes a communication port positioned substantially at a center position of a channel depth direction of the second fluid introduction channel.

~~[Claim 22] (Added)~~

20. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~12~~11, wherein the first fluid introduction channel includes a communication port configured to open in an area that includes the second fluid introduction channel.

~~[Claim 23] (Added)~~

21. The particulate analyzing device according to claim ~~12~~11, wherein a first channel depth of the first fluid introduction channel in a depth direction is smaller than a second channel depth of the second fluid introduction channel in the depth direction.

~~[Claim 24] (Added)~~

22. A method of manufacturing a microchip comprising forming a substrate including a fluid channel structure, the fluid channel structure including a first fluid introduction channel and a second fluid introduction channel configured to meet so as to allow merging of a first fluid introduced from the first fluid channel and a second fluid introduced from the second fluid introduction channel, and a tapered portion configured to be positioned after merging the first fluid and the second fluid from the first and second fluid introduction channels,

wherein the fluid channel structure further includes a contracted portion positioned downstream of the tapered portion.

~~[Claim 25] (Added)~~

23. The method of claim ~~24~~22, further comprising producing a particulate analyzing device that includes the microchip.

~~[Claim 26] (Added)~~

~~The method according to claim 25, wherein the fluid channel structure further includes a contracted portion positioned downstream of the tapered portion.~~

~~[Claim 27] (Added)~~

24. The method of claim ~~26~~22, wherein the particulate analyzing device further includes a detector configured to detect particulates in fluid and positioned downstream of the contracted portion.

~~[Claim 28] (Added)~~

25. A microchip comprising:

a first introduction channel;

second introduction channels arranged to sandwich the first introduction channel and merged with the first introduction channel from both sides; and

a merge channel connected to the first introduction channel and the second introduction channels, where fluids fed from the first and the second introduction channels are merged and flow, wherein

the merge channel has a tapered portion formed so that a channel width in a sandwiching direction along which the first introduction channel is sandwiched by the second introduction channels gradually increases along a fluid feeding direction.

~~[Claim 29] (Added)~~

26. The microchip according to claim ~~28~~25, wherein

the merge channel has a tapered portion formed so that a channel depth in a direction perpendicular to a plane containing the first introduction channel and the second introduction channels gradually decreases along a fluid feeding direction.

~~[Claim 30] (Added)~~

27. The microchip according to claim ~~29~~26, wherein

a channel depth of the first introduction channel is smaller than a channel depth of the second introduction channels, and

a communicating port of the first introduction channel to the merge channel is disposed at a substantially center position in a channel depth direction of the second introduction channels.

~~[Claim 31] (Added)~~

28. The microchip according to claim ~~30~~27, wherein

a communicating port of the first introduction channel to the merge channel opens in an area including respective channel walls of the second introduction channels.

~~[Claim 32] (Added)~~

29. The microchip according to any one of claims ~~28~~25, wherein

a contracted portion formed so that the channel width gradually decreases again along the fluid feeding direction is disposed on a downstream side in the feeding direction of the tapered portion formed so that the channel width gradually increases along the fluid feeding direction.

~~[Claim 33] (Added)~~

30. A particulate analyzing device comprising:

the microchip according to claim ~~32~~29, wherein

the microchip has a detecting portion that detects a particulate contained in a fluid fed from the first introduction channel on a downstream side of the contracted portion in the merge channel.

~~[Claim 34] (Added)~~

~~A microchip comprising:~~

~~a first introduction channel;~~

~~two second introduction channels arranged to sandwich the first introduction channel and merged with the first introduction channel from both sides; and~~

~~a merge channel connected to the first introduction channel and the second introduction channels, where fluids fed from the first and the second introduction channels are merged and flow, wherein~~

~~the merge channel has a tapered portion formed so that a channel depth in a direction perpendicular to a plane containing the first introduction channel and the second introduction channels gradually decreases along a fluid feeding direction.~~