CLAIMS:

1. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising:

at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and

at least one separation element extending at least partially along the at least one filter channel for maintaining the at least one filter channel in an open configuration along at least part of the at least one filter channel for allowing stomal gas to pass therethough wherein the at least one separation element comprises at least one mesh and the mesh comprises a regular array of wefts and warps, wherein the at least one separation element comprises at least one separation element channel therealong for stomal gas to pass through the at least one separation element to the filter channel outlet and the at least one separation channel is formed between adjacent warps or adjacent wefts of the at least one mesh.

2. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising:

at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and

at least one separation element extending at least partially along the at least one filter channel for maintaining the at least one filter channel in an open configuration along at least part of the at least one filter channel for allowing stomal gas to pass therethough, wherein the filter arrangement comprises filter walls overlying one another to form the at least one filter channel, channel sections being formed between the filter walls, wherein the channel sections are fluidly connected by at least one aperture through the filter walls, wherein the filter arrangement comprises a first channel section formed between a first filter wall and a second filter wall and extending from the at least one filter channel inlet to a first aperture in the second filter wall, and a second channel section formed between the second filter wall and a third filter wall and extending from the first aperture to a second aperture in the third filter wall.

3. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising:

at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and

at least one separation element extending at least partially along the at least one filter channel for maintaining the at least one filter channel in an open configuration along at least part of the at least one filter channel for allowing stomal gas to pass therethough, wherein the at least one separation element comprises a hollow housing and at least one mesh located in and extending along at least part of the housing, wherein the hollow housing extends from at least one housing inlet to at least one housing outlet, the at least one housing outlet being aligned with the filter channel outlet.

4. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids,

the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising:

at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and

at least one separation element extending at least partially along the at least one filter channel for maintaining the at least one filter channel in an open configuration along at least part of the at least one filter channel for allowing stomal gas to pass therethough, wherein the at least one filter channel extends tortuously between a filter wall and the at least one appliance wall and comprises a plurality of filter channel sections partially separated from each other by attachment lines between the filter wall and the at least one appliance wall.

5. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising:

at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and

at least one separation element extending at least partially along the at least one filter channel for maintaining the at least one filter channel in an open configuration along at least part of the at least one filter channel for allowing stomal gas to pass therethough, wherein the at least one appliance wall comprises inner and outer walls and the ostomy appliance further comprises a shield wall extending partially between the inner and outer walls and arranged to overlap the stomal inlet.

6. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising:

at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and

at least one separation element extending at least partially along the at least one filter channel for maintaining the at least one filter channel in an open configuration along at least part of the at least one filter channel for allowing stomal gas to pass therethough,

wherein the ostomy appliance further comprises a selectively openable drain for allowing the stomal output to be selectively drained from the cavity or wherein the cavity is sealed within the ostomy appliance other than via the gas vent and the stomal inlet.

7. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising:

at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and

at least one separation element extending at least partially along the at least one filter channel for maintaining the at least one filter channel in an open configuration along at least part of the at least one filter channel for allowing stomal gas to pass therethough,

wherein the ostomy appliance further comprises: a wafer non-releasably attached to the at least one appliance wall around the stomal inlet or a releasable coupling attached to the at least one appliance wall around the stomal inlet and a wafer attached to the releasable coupling.

8. An ostomy appliance comprising:

inner and outer walls of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output, the inner wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output; and

a shield wall of flexible sheet material extending between the inner and outer walls across the stomal inlet and comprising a spacer arrangement for at least partially separating the shield wall from the inner and/or outer wall for forming a fluid path therebetween, the spacer arrangement comprising at least one undulation of the flexible sheet material of the shield wall.

9. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent,

wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend for restricting the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the at least one filter channel, wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around first and second bends such that the at least one filter channel is Z-shaped.

10. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 9 wherein, in use, the first bend is located above the second bend.

11. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent,

wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend for restricting the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the at least one filter channel, wherein the at least one bend comprises a first bend and the at least one filter channel comprises a first channel section extending to the first bend and a second channel section extending from the first bend, wherein the first channel section extends from the at least one filter channel inlet to the first bend, wherein the at least one bend comprises a second bend and the at least one filter channel extends along the second channel section from the first bend to the second bend and comprises a third channel section extending from the second bend, wherein the third channel section extends from the second bend to the filter channel outlet.

12. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent,

wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend for restricting the passage of stomal liquid

and/or solids along the at least one filter channel, wherein the at least one bend comprises a first bend and the at least one filter channel comprises a first channel section extending to the first bend and a second channel section extending from the first bend, wherein the first channel section extends from the at least one filter channel inlet to the first bend, wherein the first and second channel sections extend between channel section ends and between channel section edges, the at least one filter channel inlet being at a channel section end of the first channel section, further wherein the at least one bend is between channel section edges of the first and second channel sections.

13. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent,

wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend for restricting the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the at least one filter channel, wherein the at least one appliance wall comprises inner and outer walls and further comprising a shield wall extending partially between the inner and outer walls and arranged to overlap the stomal inlet.

14. An ostomy appliance comprising:

at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet,

wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent,

wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend for restricting the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the at least one filter channel, the filter arrangement comprising first and second filter channels extending from first and second filter channel inlets respectively to the filter channel outlet, wherein each of the first and second filter channels extend between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend for restricting the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the first and second filter channels.

15. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 14 wherein the first and second filter channels extend substantially perpendicular to one another from the gas vent.

16. A method of manufacturing an ostomy appliance comprising:

forming at least one appliance wall from flexible sheet material comprising a stomal inlet and a gas vent;

forming a filter arrangement comprising first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend; and

mounting the filter arrangement and at least one appliance wall to one another such that:

the at least one appliance wall forms a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the stomal inlet being arranged to receiving the stomal output and the gas vent being arranged to allow the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity;

the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity and is arranged to receive the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent to allow stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and

the at least one bend is arranged to restrict the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the at least one filter channel,

wherein forming the filter arrangement comprises folding the at least one filter channel back upon itself at least once to form the at least one bend.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the at least one filter channel comprises first and second channel sections extending along a single axis in series prior to folding and wherein the at least one filter channel is folded back upon itself at least once to form the at least one bend between channel section ends of the first and second channel sections.

18. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the at least one filter channel comprises first and second channel sections extending parallel to one another prior to folding and wherein the at least one filter channel is folded back upon itself at least once to form the at least one bend between channel section edges of the first and second channel sections.

19. A method of manufacturing an ostomy appliance comprising:

forming at least one appliance wall from flexible sheet material comprising a stomal inlet and a gas vent;

forming a filter arrangement comprising first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend; and

mounting the filter arrangement and at least one appliance wall to one another such that:

the at least one appliance wall forms a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the stomal inlet being arranged to receiving the stomal output and the gas vent being arranged to allow the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity;

the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity and is arranged to receive the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent to allow stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and

the at least one bend is arranged to restrict the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the at least one filter channel,

wherein the at least one appliance wall comprises inner and outer walls, the inner wall comprising the stomal inlet and the outer wall comprising the gas vent, the method further comprising forming a shield wall and attaching a shield wall between the inner and outer walls such that the shield wall is arranged to overlap the stomal inlet.

20. A method of manufacturing an ostomy appliance comprising:

attaching inner and outer walls of flexible sheet material together to form a cavity for containing a stomal output, the inner wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output;

attaching a shield wall of flexible sheet material to the inner and/or outer wall such that the shield wall extends across the stomal inlet; and

forming at least one undulation in the flexible sheet material of the shield wall to form a spacer arrangement for at least partially separating the shield wall from the inner and/or outer wall for forming a fluid path therebetween.