CLAIM(S):

1. A method for recovering filtered fluid retained in a filter system including a filter device comprising a housing having an inlet and an outlet defining a filtration flow path between the inlet and the outlet, and a porous filter medium across the filtration flow path, the porous medium having an upstream side and a downstream side; the system also including a filtered fluid receiving container arranged downstream of the outlet; a first fluid flow path between the outlet and the filtered fluid receiving container; a second fluid flow path between the first fluid flow path and a flexible container for containing sterile air and/or sterile gas, the second fluid flow path including an associated flow control device; wherein the second fluid flow path is connected to the first fluid flow path; the method comprising:

(a) before filtering fluid, passing air and/or gas through the porous filter medium or through a sterilizing grade porous medium arranged upstream of the filter device to produce sterile air and/or sterile gas, and passing the sterile air and/or the sterile gas through the outlet of the filter device and from the first fluid flow path through the second fluid flow path into the flexible container;

(b) passing fluid to be filtered along the filtration flow path through the filter device and passing filtered fluid along the first fluid flow path into the filtered fluid receiving container, wherein a volume of filtered fluid is retained in the housing between the downstream side of the porous filter medium and the outlet;

and,

(c) allowing the sterile air and/or sterile gas to pass from the flexible container along the second fluid flow path into the first flow path and through the outlet into the housing of the filter device, and displacing retained filtered fluid along the first fluid flow path into the filtered fluid receiving container.

2. The method of claim 1, including passing air and/or gas through a sterilizing grade porous filter medium arranged upstream of the filter device in (a) to produce the sterile air and/or the sterile gas, before passing the sterile air and/or the sterile gas along the filtration fluid flow path.