CLAIMS

1. A thread tensioning mechanism for controlling tension of coiled threads of a thread-type filtering cylinder,

said tensioning mechanism comprises an array of a plurality of thread supports, axially extending and being radially displaceable between a tensioned filtering mode and a loose rinsing mode, respectively,

wherein the plurality of thread supports are equi-radially and equi-angularly disposed about a longitudinal central axis of the thread-type filtering cylinder,

wherein the plurality of thread supports affects a plurality of tension locations on the coiled threads;

whereby said tensioning mechanism is configured to control the tension of the coiled threads via the plurality of tension locations.

2. A thread tensioning mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the thread supports are longitudinal segments

which at the loose rinsing mode are radially retracted such that longitudinal edges of neighbouring longitudinal segments adjoin one another,

and at the tensioned filtering mode longitudinal edges of neighbouring longitudinal segments are spaced.

3. A thread tensioning mechanism according to claim 1,

wherein at least some of the thread supports are configured with thread positioning members,

said members transecting a longitudinal axis of the filtering cylinder.

4. A thread tensioning mechanism according to claim 1,

wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured with a mechanism for converting axial motion in a longitudinal axis into radial motion in plane normal to said longitudinal axis.

5. A thread tensioning mechanism according to claim 4,

wherein a displeasing end plate is provided at respective ends of the tensioning mechanism,

said end plates being coaxial with and axially displaceable about a longitudinal axis of the filtering cylinder and bearing against end edges of the longitudinal segments,

wherein one or both of the end plates and the end edges are configured with a tapering surface, whereby axial displacement of the end plates entails radial displacement of the longitudinal segments.

6. A thread tensioning mechanism according to claim 1,

wherein the thread supports comprise an array of spaced apart fixed longitudinal support members and an array of rotatably disposed support beams interposed between the support members,

said support beams radially projecting between said support beams substantially to the same extent as of said support members,

wherein at the tensioned mode said support beams extend substantially equally distanced between two neighbouring support members and at the loose mode said support beams extend adjacent one of two neighbouring support members.

7. A thread tensioning mechanism according to claim 4,

wherein the thread supports comprises an array of longitudinal support members having an external thread engaging surface extending parallel to the longitudinal axis and in inside surface inclined with respect to the longitudinal axis and being slidingly disposed over an equally inclined carrier member, whereby axial displacement of one or both of the support members and the carrier member towards one another entails radial expansion of the support members, and axial displacement of one or both of the support members and the carrier member away from one another entails radial retraction of the support members.

8. A thread tensioning mechanism according to claim 7,

wherein the support members are longitudinal bars slidingly retained within tapering grooves axially configured over cylindrical carrier member.