

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
DIVIDED WALL EXCHANGE COLUMN

A divided wall exchange column includes a dividing wall strengthened by
5 stiffening members and/or a double wall design to better withstand pressure differentials
and minimize temperature differentials. When a double wall is used, cost of manufacture
and installation is minimized by reducing the manufacturing tolerances required while
providing a design robust in construction, installation, and operation. When structured
10 packing is used, the stiffening members, combined with positioning the layers of packing
at preferred angles relative to the dividing wall, result in minimal interference with the
heat and/or mass transfer process while minimizing the complexity of manufacture and
construction of the packing. Further, by positioning the top layer of structured packing at
other preferred angles relative to the dividing wall, a simplified liquid distributor design
15 may be used in the divided wall exchange column while the layers below may still be
orientated as described above with all the associated benefits.

Fig. 1