

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 June 2004 (10.06.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/047941 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B01D 3/16**, 3/22, 3/32, B01J 8/02, 8/18, C07C 7/05, 9/14

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/029108

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(22) International Filing Date:
16 September 2003 (16.09.2003)

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/300,505 20 November 2002 (20.11.2002) US

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

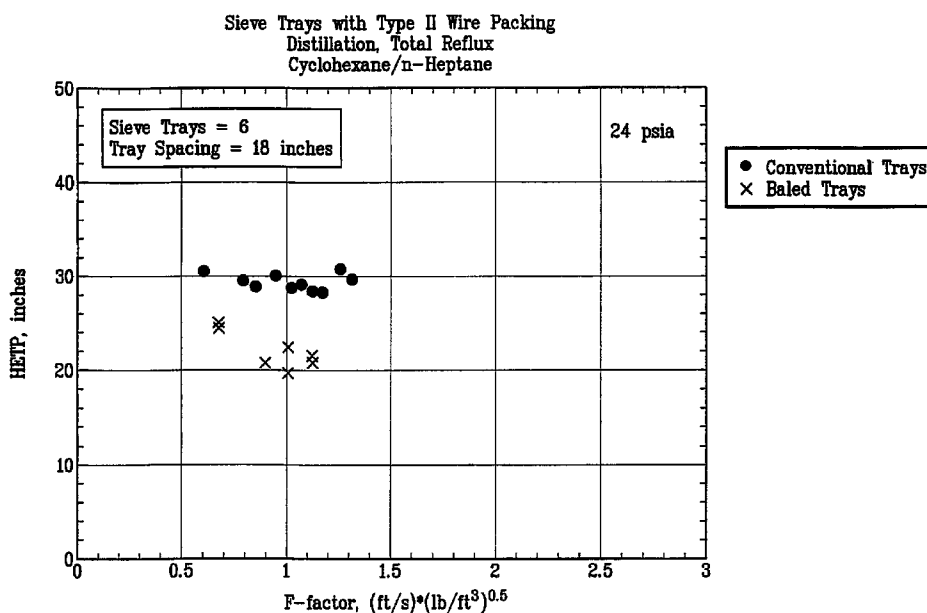
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Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DISTILLATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Improved HETP is obtained in the operation of a distillation column (10) containing trays (12) with a packing (16) of a porous container (20) containing a particulate material intimately associated with a resilient component having at least 50 % open space, preferably at least 70 volume % positioned on the trays compared to the trays without the packing. The packing may contain a catalytic particulate material and the distillation may involve reaction and distillation of the reaction products. The particulate material may also be inert and the distillation of the conventional type to separate components in the distillation mixture without reaction.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

5 August 2004