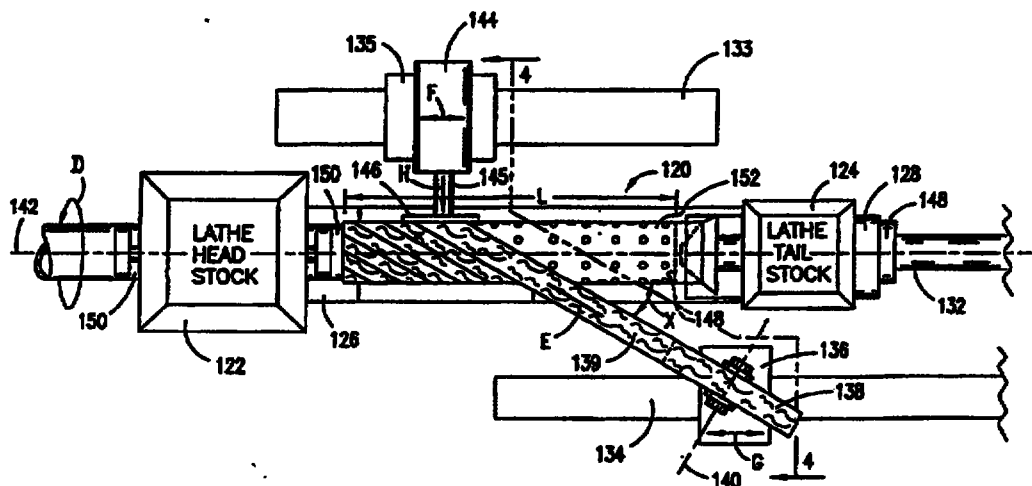


INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B01D 27/06	A1	(11) International Publication Number: ☒ WO 97/32648 (43) International Publication Date: 12 September 1997 (12.09.97)
(21) International Application Number: ☒ PCT/US97/03050 (22) International Filing Date: ☒ 4 March 1997 (04.03.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/610,459 ☒ 4 March 1996 (04.03.96) ☒ US (71) Applicant: AMERICAN METAL FIBERS, INC. [US/US]; 2889 N. Nagel Court, Lake Bluff, IL 60004 (US). (72) Inventor: CARLSON, Robert, A.; 935 Goldenrod Lane, Lake Forest, IL 60045 (US). (74) Agent: ORUM, Keith, H.; Dvorak and Traub, 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, <u>SG</u>, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
		Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

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(54) Title: RADIAL-FLOW FILTER AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE



(57) Abstract

A method of manufacture of a long radial-flow filter particularly suitable for use as an input filter in a subterranean fluid (oil, gas, water) well starts with a length of multi-perforate pipe, which may be an integral part of the well's production tubing. The pipe is mounted in an engine lathe (120) with the perforated length between the headstock (122) and the tailstock (124) of the lathe. With the pipe rotating, a strip of metal (steel) wool (139) is wrapped around the pipe in repeated, overlapping helical layers each aligned at an acute angle X to the pipe axis (142), with adjacent layers angularly displaced by 2X. The completed filter has a tubular wire mesh around the pipe, between the pipe and the innermost layer of steel wool, and a multi-perforate sheath over the outermost layer of wool.