CLAIMS

1. A filter separation method for filter-separating an object to be treated, in which: the object to be treated is contacted with a liquid treatment agent; a first filter and a second filter are used; and the second filter exhibits liquid repellency to the liquid treatment agent, the filter separation method comprising the steps of:

disposing the first filter and the second filter spaced apart from each other by a spacer; and

putting a mixture of the object to be treated and the treatment agent onto the first filter from a side opposite to the second filter, separating the object to be treated on the first filter, allowing the treatment agent in the mixture to pass through the first filter and to be retained between the first filter and the second filter due to the liquid repellency of the second filter, without passing through the second filter,

wherein the spacer has a ring-shaped rib formed on an upper surface around an opening in a central portion, and

wherein the first filter is a hydrophilic filter and the second filter is a hydrophobic filter.

2. The filter separation method according to claim 1, a plurality of the treatment agents of different types being provided, the filter separation method further comprising the

steps of:

forcibly discharging, through the second filter, a first treatment agent of the plurality of the treatment agents which fills between the first filter and the second filter, against

the liquid repellency of the second filter; and

putting a second treatment agent of the plurality of the treatment agents onto the first filter from the side opposite to the second filter, allowing the second treatment agent to pass through the first filter and to be retained between the first filter and the second filter due to the liquid repellency of the second filter, without passing through the second filter.

~~3. The filter separation method according to claim 1, wherein the first filter is a hydrophilic filter and the second filter is a hydrophobic filter.~~

43. A filter separation apparatus used for a filter separation method for filter-separating an object to be treated, comprising:

a first contact chamber and a second contact chamber in each of which the object to be treated is contacted with a treatment agent;

a filtrate outlet from which a filtrate made up of the object to be treated and the treatment agent is discharged outside;

a hydrophilic filter that separates the first contact chamber and the second contact chamber from each other; and

a hydrophobic filter that separates the second contact chamber and the filtrate outlet from each other.

~~5. The filter separation apparatus according to claim 4,~~

wherein the second contact chamber is formed by separating the hydrophilic filter and the hydrophobic filter from each other by a spacer,

wherein the spacer has a ring-shaped rib formed on an upper surface around an opening in a central portion.

~~6~~4. The filter separation apparatus according to claim ~~5~~3, wherein the spacer is formed by a ring member, and the second contact chamber is formed inside the ring member.