CLAIMS

1. A method for recovering filtered fluid retained in a filter system including a filter device comprising a housing having an inlet and an outlet defining a filtration flow path between the inlet and the outlet, and a porous filter medium across the filtration flow path, the porous filter medium having an upstream side and a downstream side; the system also including a filtered fluid receiving container arranged downstream of the outlet, and a fluid flow path between the outlet and the filtered fluid receiving container, the method comprising:

(a) passing sterile air and/or sterile gas through the outlet of the filter device and along the fluid flow path into the filtered fluid receiving container, including arranging the filtered fluid receiving container at an angle of in the range of about 10° to about 30° above a horizontal plane such that the sterile air and/or sterile gas is present at a high point of the filtered fluid receiving container;

(b) passing fluid to be filtered along the filtration flow path through the filter device and passing filtered fluid along the fluid flow path into the filtered fluid receiving container, wherein a volume of filtered fluid is retained in the housing between the downstream side of the porous filter medium and the outlet;

and,

(c) allowing the sterile air and/or the sterile gas to pass from the filtered fluid receiving container along the fluid flow path and through the outlet into the housing of the filter device, and displacing retained filtered fluid into the filtered fluid receiving container, including arranging the filtered fluid receiving container at an angle of in the range of about 10° to about 30° below the horizontal plane such that the sterile air and/or sterile gas is allowed to pass from the filtered fluid receiving container along the fluid flow path and through the outlet into the housing of the filter device.

2. A method for recovering filtered fluid retained in a filter system including a filter device comprising a housing having an inlet and an outlet defining a filtration flow path between the inlet and the outlet, and a porous filter medium across the filtration flow path, the porous filter medium having an upstream side and a downstream side; the system also including a filtered fluid receiving container arranged downstream of the outlet, and a fluid flow path between the outlet and the filtered fluid receiving container, the method comprising:

(a) filtering fluid by passing the fluid along the filtration flow path through the filter device and along the fluid flow path into the filtered fluid receiving container, including arranging the filtered fluid receiving container at an angle of in the range of about 10° to about 30° above a horizontal plane such that the sterile air and/or sterile gas is present at a high point of the filtered fluid receiving container, and displacing, by the filtered fluid, sterile air and/or sterile gas into the filtered fluid receiving container, wherein a volume of filtered fluid is retained in the housing between the downstream side of the porous filter medium and the outlet;

and,

(b) allowing the sterile air and/or the sterile gas to pass from the filtered fluid receiving container along the fluid flow path and through the outlet into the housing of the filter device, and displacing retained filtered fluid into the filtered fluid receiving container, including arranging the filtered fluid receiving container at an angle of in the range of about 10° to about 30° below the horizontal plane such that the sterile air and/or sterile gas is allowed to pass from the filtered fluid receiving container along the fluid flow path and through the outlet into the housing of the filter device.

3. The method of claim 1, including passing air and/or gas through a sterilizing grade porous filter medium to produce the sterile air and/or the sterile gas, before passing the sterile air and/or the sterile gas along the filtration flow path.