

Abstract

5 A system for processing large quantities of a reaction medium
while maintaining the reaction medium in sheets. The system includes a
reactor having a plurality of vertically-spaced downwardly-sloped trays
over which the reaction medium flows while it is subjected to reaction
conditions. The slope of the trays increases downwardly to accommodate
for the increased viscosity of the reaction medium while the reaction
10 medium flows downwardly through the reactor. An upper portion of the
trays have a uni-directional configuration, while a lower portion of the
trays have a bi-directional configuration. Further, the orientation of flow
across the uni-directional trays is rotated by 90 degrees in at least one
location as the reaction medium flows down the uni-directional trays.

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