

CLAIMS:

1. An ostomy appliance comprising:
 - at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids,
 - 5 the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and
 - a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and comprising:
 - at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel
 - 10 inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and
 - at least one separation element extending at least partially along the
 - 15 at least one filter channel for maintaining the at least one filter channel in an open configuration along at least part of the at least one filter channel for allowing stomal gas to pass therethrough.
2. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one separation
- 20 element comprises at least one mesh.
3. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 2 wherein the mesh comprises a regular array of wefts and warps.
- 25 4. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the at least one separation element comprises at least one separation element channel therealong for stomal gas to pass through the at least one separation element to the filter channel outlet.
- 30 5. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 4 when dependent upon claim 2 or claim 3 wherein the at least one separation channel is formed between adjacent warps or adjacent wefts of the at least one mesh.
- 35 6. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the at least one separation element extends around at least one bend of the at least one filter channel.

7. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein filter arrangement comprises first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming the at least one filter channel and wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend for restricting the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the at least one filter channel.
8. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the filter arrangement comprises filter walls overlying one another to form the at least one filter channel, channel sections being formed between the filter walls, wherein the channel sections are fluidly connected by at least one aperture through the filter walls.
9. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the at least one separation element comprises a hollow housing and at least one mesh located in and extending along at least part of the housing, wherein the hollow housing extends from at least one housing inlet to at least one housing outlet, the at least one housing outlet being aligned with filter channel outlet.
10. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the at least one filter channel extends tortuously between a filter wall and the at least one appliance wall and comprises a plurality of filter channel sections partially separated from each other by attachment lines between the filter wall and the at least one appliance wall.
11. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the at least one appliance wall comprises inner and outer walls and further comprising a shield wall extending partially between the inner and outer walls and arranged to overlap the stomal inlet.
12. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further comprising a selectively openable drain for allowing the stomal output to be selectively drained from the cavity or wherein the cavity is sealed within the ostomy appliance other than via the gas vent and the stomal inlet.
13. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further comprising a wafer non-releasably attached to the at least one appliance wall around the stomal inlet or a releasable coupling attached to the at least one

appliance wall around the stomal inlet and a wafer attached to the releasable coupling.

14. A method of manufacturing an ostomy appliance comprising:

5 forming at least one appliance wall from flexible sheet material comprising a stomal inlet and a gas vent;

 forming a filter arrangement comprising at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet and at least one separation element extending at least partially along the at least one filter channel
10 for maintaining the at least one filter channel in an open configuration along at least part of the at least one filter channel for allowing stomal gas to pass therethrough; and

 mounting the filter arrangement and at least one appliance wall to one another such that:

15 the at least one appliance wall forms a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the stomal inlet being arranged to receiving the stomal output and the gas vent being arranged to allow the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and

 the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity and is
20 arranged to receive the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent to allow stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the at least one appliance wall comprises
25 inner and outer walls, the inner wall comprising the stomal inlet and the outer wall comprising the gas vent.

16. An ostomy appliance comprising:

 inner and outer walls of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for containing
30 a stomal output, the inner wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal output; and

 a shield wall of flexible sheet material extending between the inner and outer walls across the stomal inlet and comprising a spacer arrangement for at least partially separating the shield wall from the inner and/or outer wall for forming a fluid
35 path therebetween, the spacer arrangement comprising at least one undulation of the flexible sheet material of the shield wall.

17. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 16 wherein the shield wall comprises flexible sheet material extending across a shield wall area and the shield wall overlaps the inner and/or outer wall across an overlap area of the inner and/or outer wall, wherein the shield wall area is greater than the overlap area such that the at least one undulation is formed by a region of excess flexible sheet material of the shield wall relative to the overlapping region of the inner and/or outer wall.
18. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 16 or claim 17 wherein the thickness of the flexible sheet material of the shield wall is constant across the at least one undulation.
19. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 18 wherein the shield wall extends from a top of the ostomy appliance between edges of the ostomy appliance.
20. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 19 wherein the shield wall extends to a lower edge separated from a cavity lower end such that stomal output can pass between the lower edge and cavity lower end.
21. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 20 wherein the shield wall comprises a substantially impermeable region opposite and entirely overlapping the stomal inlet.
22. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 21 wherein the shield wall comprises at least one shield wall aperture therethrough, the at least one shield wall aperture being located adjacent to and not overlapping the stomal inlet.
23. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 22 wherein the outer wall comprises a gas vent for allowing stomal gas of the stomal output to migrate out of the cavity and wherein the fluid path allows stomal gas to reach the gas vent.
24. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 23 further comprising a filter arrangement mounted over the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate from the cavity, through the filter arrangement and out of the ostomy appliance via the gas vent.
25. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 24 wherein the shield wall is attached and located between the filter arrangement and the inner wall.

26. A method of manufacturing an ostomy appliance comprising:
attaching inner and outer walls of flexible sheet material together to form a
cavity for containing a stomal output, the inner wall comprising a stomal inlet for
5 receiving the stomal output;
attaching a shield wall of flexible sheet material to the inner and/or outer wall
such that the shield wall extends across the stomal inlet; and
forming at least one undulation in the flexible sheet material of the shield
wall to form a spacer arrangement for at least partially separating the shield wall
10 from the inner and/or outer wall for forming a fluid path therebetween.
27. A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the flexible sheet material of the shield
wall extends across a substantially flat plane prior to forming the at least one
undulation and forming the at least one undulation comprises bringing at least part
15 of the flexible sheet material of the shield wall out of the flat plane.
28. A method as claimed in claim 26 or claim 27 comprising forming the at least one
undulation during the attaching of the shield wall to the inner and/or outer wall.
- 20 29. A method as claimed in any one of claims 26 to 28 comprising locating the shield
wall over the inner or outer wall, moving at least part of the shield wall relative to the
inner or outer wall to form the at least one undulation and attaching the shield wall
to the inner and/or outer wall to maintain the at least one undulation in the shield
wall.
- 25 30. A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein after locating the shield wall over the inner
or outer wall the shield wall is partially attached to the inner or outer wall.
- 30 31. An ostomy appliance comprising:
at least one appliance wall of flexible sheet material forming a cavity for
containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids,
the at least one appliance wall comprising a stomal inlet for receiving the stomal
output and a gas vent for allowing the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity; and
a filter arrangement mounted to the at least one appliance wall and
35 comprising first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming at least one
filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet,
wherein the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity for receiving the

stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent for allowing stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent,

5 wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend for restricting the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the at least one filter channel.

10 32. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 31 wherein the at least one filter channel extends along at least one channel section extending to and/or from the at least one bend, wherein in the at least one channel section the first and second walls are substantially parallel to the at least one appliance wall.

15 33. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 31 or claim 32 wherein the at least one filter channel is turned back upon itself about the at least one bend.

34. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 33 wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around first and second bends such that the at least one filter channel is Z-shaped.

20 35. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 34 wherein, in use, the first bend is located above the second bend.

25 36. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 35 wherein the at least one bend comprises a first bend and the at least one filter channel comprises a first channel section extending to the first bend and a second channel section extending from the first bend, wherein the first channel section extends from the at least one filter channel inlet to the first bend.

30 37. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 36 wherein the at least one bend comprises a second bend and the at least one filter channel extends along the second channel section from the first bend to the second bend and comprises a third channel section extending from the second bend, wherein the third channel section extends from the second bend to the filter channel outlet.

35 38. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 36 or claim 37 wherein the first and second channel sections extend between channel section ends and between channel section edges, the at least one filter channel inlet being at a channel

section end of the first channel section, further wherein the at least one bend is between channel section ends of the first and second channel sections or the at least one bend is between channel section edges of the first and second channel sections.

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39. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 38 further comprising at least one gas filter element located in the at least one filter channel adjacent to the filter channel outlet and adjacent to the gas vent.

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40. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 39 wherein the filter arrangement further comprises at least one separation element extending at least partially along the at least one filter channel for separating the first and second filter walls from one another along at least part of the at least one filter channel.

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41. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 40 wherein the separation element extends around at least one bend.

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42. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 41 wherein the at least one appliance wall comprises inner and outer walls and further comprising a shield wall extending partially between the inner and outer walls and arranged to overlap the stomal inlet.

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43. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 42 wherein the shield wall is attached to the inner and/or outer wall such that a gas path is formed between the shield wall and the at least one filter channel inlet.

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44. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 43 wherein the filter channel inlet is located, in use, above the centre of the stomal inlet.

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45. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 44 comprising first and second filter channels extending from first and second filter channel inlets respectively to the filter channel outlet, wherein each of the first and second filter channels extend between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend for restricting the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the first and second filter channels.

46. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 45 wherein the first and second filter channels extend substantially perpendicular to one another from the gas vent.
47. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 46 further comprising a selectively openable drain for allowing the stomal output to be selectively drained from the cavity or wherein the cavity is sealed within the ostomy appliance other than via the gas vent and the stomal inlet.
48. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 47 further comprising a wafer non-releasably attached to the at least one appliance wall around the stomal inlet or a releasable coupling attached to the at least one appliance wall around the stomal inlet and a wafer attached to the releasable coupling.
49. A method of manufacturing an ostomy appliance comprising:
- forming at least one appliance wall from flexible sheet material comprising a stomal inlet and a gas vent;
 - forming a filter arrangement comprising first and second filter walls of flexible sheet material forming at least one filter channel extending from at least one filter channel inlet to a filter channel outlet, wherein the at least one filter channel extends between the first and second filter walls around at least one bend; and
 - mounting the filter arrangement and at least one appliance wall to one another such that:
 - the at least one appliance wall forms a cavity for containing a stomal output comprising stomal gas and stomal liquid and/or solids, the stomal inlet being arranged to receiving the stomal output and the gas vent being arranged to allow the stomal gas to migrate out of the cavity;
 - the at least one filter channel inlet is located in the cavity and is arranged to receive the stomal output from the cavity and the filter channel outlet is mounted in communication with the gas vent to allow stomal gas to migrate out of the at least one filter channel to the gas vent; and
 - the at least one bend is arranged to restrict the passage of stomal liquid and/or solids along the at least one filter channel.

50. A method as claimed in claim 49 wherein forming the filter arrangement comprises folding the at least one filter channel back upon itself at least once to form the at least one bend.
- 5 51. A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the at least one filter channel comprises first and second channel sections extending along a single axis in series prior to folding and wherein the at least one filter channel is folded back upon itself at least once to form the at least one bend between channel section ends of the first and second channel sections.
- 10 52. A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the at least one filter channel comprises first and second channel sections extending parallel to one another prior to folding and wherein the at least one filter channel is folded back upon itself at least once to form the at least one bend between channel section edges of the first and second channel sections.
- 15 53. A method as claimed in any one of claims 49 to 52 wherein the at least one appliance wall comprises inner and outer walls, the inner wall comprising the stomal inlet and the outer wall comprising the gas vent.
- 20 54. A method as claimed in claim 53 further comprising forming a shield wall and attaching a shield wall between the inner and outer walls such that the shield wall is arranged to overlap the stomal inlet.
- 25 55. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 54 comprising attaching the shield wall between the filter arrangement and the inner wall.