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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MONITORING WEIGHT OF MATERIAL IN RESERVOIR

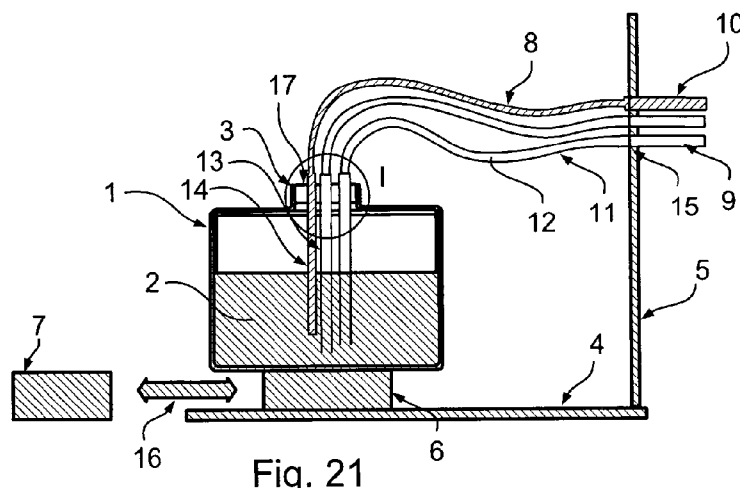


Fig. 21

(57) Abstract: So as to accurately measure the consumption of material from a reservoir to a high degree of precision during dispensing, and when calibration of the measurement device cannot be reliably performed, the invention proposes an apparatus and a method for measuring a quantity of material to be dispensed. The dispensing apparatus has a dispensing unit for dispensing at least part of the material; a reservoir containing the material to be dispensed; connectors between the reservoir and the dispensing unit; a scale under the reservoir, the scale being for connection to a processor for processing electronic signals from the scale and for converting the signals into a weight measurement; and tubes inserted into the reservoir, the tubes carrying material into and from the reservoir, the tubes being inserted into the reservoir by means of one of the following : i. through a flexible membrane surrounding the connectors, ii. with flexible tube sections between the connectors and the dispensing unit, and iii. through a reservoir cap, the cap sliding relative to the reservoir.

