

What is claimed is:

1. A chromatography device comprising a housing having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet spaced from said inlet; an internal volume in said housing; at least first and second membranes arranged in said internal volume of said housing in a region between said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet, said first and second membranes each having an active membrane area through which fluid introduced into said fluid inlet can flow, and at least one spacer arranged between said first and second membranes, said at least one spacer having an opening in fluid communication with said active membrane area.
2. The chromatography device of claim 1, wherein said at least one spacer is in the shape of an annulus.
3. The chromatography device of claim 2, wherein there is a filtration zone within said internal volume defined by said active membrane area of said at least first and second membranes, and wherein said opening of said at least one spacer is arranged within said filtration zone.
4. The chromatography device of claim 1, wherein said first membrane is arranged upstream, in the direction of fluid flow during operation of said chromatography device, of said second membrane, said chromatography device further comprising a porous frit arranged between said fluid inlet and said first membrane.

5. The chromatography device of claim 3, further comprising a porous frit arranged between said fluid outlet and said second membrane.

6. The chromatography device of claim 1, wherein said at least first and second membranes and said at least one spacer are arranged in said housing such that, in operation of said device, fluid enters said fluid inlet, passes consecutively through said first membrane, said at least one spacer and said second membrane prior to exiting said housing through said fluid outlet.