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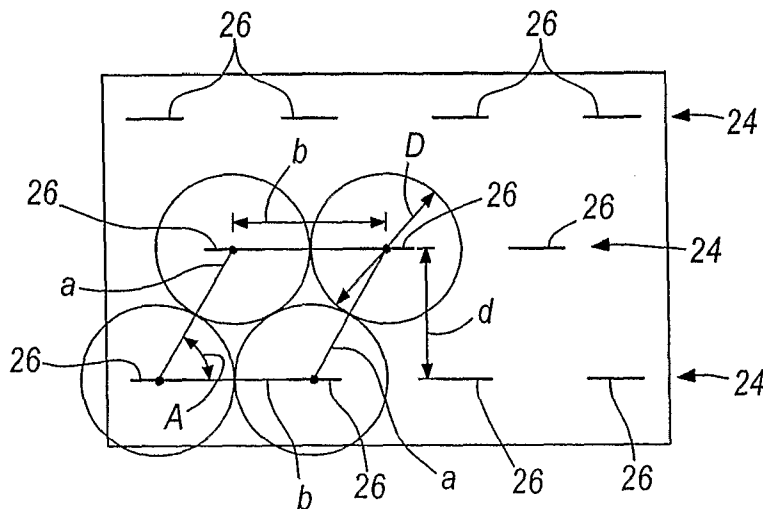
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(54) Title: AERATION DIFFUSER MEMBRANE SLITTING PATTERN



(57) Abstract: A diffuser assembly (14) diffuses a fluid into a medium to aerate the medium. The diffuser assembly (14) includes a diffuser body (16) in fluid communication with a fluid source and a membrane (18) connected to the diffuser body (16). The membrane (18) is circular and includes a slitting pattern divided into a series of similar angular segments (22). The segments (22) are positioned adjacent each other in a circular arrangement to substantially cover the membrane (18). Each segment (22) includes a plurality of rows (24) each having a plurality of slits (26). The slits (26) within the segment (22) are arranged in a parallelogram pattern. A first line (b) extending between adjacent slits (26) in a common row (24) is substantially the same length as a second line (a)

extending between adjacent slits (26) in adjacent rows (24).

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