CLAIMS

1. A drag pump for pumping fluid from an inlet to an outlet said drag pump, comprising:

a stator and a rotor;

one of said stator or rotor comprising a disc comprising a plurality of channels, each of said channels extending from an inlet portion of said disc at or close to an inlet edge towards an outlet portion at or close to an outlet edge, said plurality of channels each comprising walls for guiding fluid flow from said inlet edge to said outlet edge of said disc in response to relative motion between said stator and said rotor;

said disc further comprising a plurality of protrusions extending from said channels towards said other of said rotor or said stator, each of said protrusions being arranged to divide a channel at said inlet end of said channel, into sub-channels that extend for a portion of a length of said channel and do not extend for a whole length of said channel, wherein said protrusions do not extend along a mid portion of said channel.

2. A drag pump according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions have a length that is less than 60% of a length of one of said walls which said protrusion is adjacent to,

3. A drag pump according to any preceding claim, further comprising a plurality of protrusions arranged in each channel at an outlet end of said channels.

4. A drag pump according to any preceding claim, wherein said plurality of protrusions arranged at said inlet end of said channels extend from an inlet edge of said channel to a point beyond a line extending perpendicularly from a trailing wall of said channel.

5. A drag pump according to claim 4, wherein 50% or less of said protrusion extends beyond a line perpendicular to said trailing wall of said channel.

6. A drag pump according to any preceding claim, wherein said plurality of protrusions are arranged such that said sub-channels have substantially the same cross section.

7. A drag pump according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said plurality of protrusions are arranged such that said sub-channels each have a different cross sectional area.

8. A drag pump according to any preceding claim, said drag pump comprising a plurality of protrusions arranged between each of said channel walls such that said plurality of protrusions divides said channel into a plurality of three or more sub-channels.

9. A drag pump according to any preceding claim, wherein said protrusions have a thickness that varies along a length of said protrusions.

10. A drag pump according to claim 9, wherein said protrusions are configured to be thicker at an end adjacent to an edge of said disc and thinner towards a middle of said disc.

11. A drag pump according to any preceding claim, said inlet portion of said disc comprising an outer circumference of said disc.

12. A drag pump according to any preceding claim, wherein said drag pump comprises a Siegbahn drag pump, said channels being formed on a surface of a disc shaped stator.