WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An induction device comprising:

a helical structure comprising a first aperture; and

a non-helical structure comprising a second aperture,

wherein the first and second apertures define a passageway that is configured to receive a portion of a body of an inductively coupled plasma (ICP) torch, and wherein the passageway defines a longitudinal axis.

2. The induction device of claim 1 wherein the helical structure comprises a helical plate and the non-helical structure comprises a flat plate, the helical plate comprises a primary body including the first aperture and first and second legs extending away from the primary body, and wherein the flat plate comprises a primary body including the second aperture and first and second legs extending away from the primary body.

3. The induction device of claim 2 wherein the first leg of the helical plate and the flat plate are spaced apart axially a first distance, wherein the second leg of the helical plate and the flat plate are spaced apart axially a second distance, and wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance.

4. The induction device of claim 3 wherein the first distance is the smallest gap between the helical plate and the flat plate and the second distance is the largest gap between the helical plate and the flat plate.

5. The induction device of claim 3 wherein the first distance is 2 to 3 mm and the second distance is 5 to 6 mm.

6. The induction device of claim 2 wherein the first leg of the helical plate is axially aligned with the second leg of the flat plate, and wherein the second leg of the helical plate is laterally offset from the flat plate relative to the longitudinal axis.

7. The induction device of claim 6 wherein the second leg of the helical plate and the first leg of the flat plate are each configured to be supplied with radio-frequency electric current, and wherein the first leg of the helical plate and the second leg of the flat plate are configured to be connected to ground.

8. The induction device of claim 6 further comprising a spacer between the first leg of the helical plate and the second leg of the flat plate.

9. The induction device of claim 8 wherein the spacer contacts each of the first leg of the helical plate and the second leg of the flat plate.

10. The induction device of claim 6 further comprising an electrode connected to each of the second leg of the helical plate, the first leg of the flat plate, and the second leg of the flat plate.

11. The induction device of claim 10 further comprising a conductive plate to which the helical plate and flat plate are coupled, wherein the electrodes and the conductive plate are configured as a heat sink to promote cooling of the helical plate and flat plate.

12. The induction device of claim 2 wherein the primary body of the helical plate is in the shape of a loop and makes substantially a single rotation or turn between the first leg and the second leg of the helical plate.

13. An inductively coupled plasma (ICP) torch comprising:

an injector configured to receive a flow of a sample fluid;

a plurality of tubes disposed about the injector and configured to receive and direct a flow of one or more torch gases; and

an induction device disposed about at least one of the plurality of tubes, the induction device configured to receive a radio-frequency electric current to inductively energize at least one of the one or more torch gases to produce a plasma proximate a distal end of the ICP torch,

wherein the induction device comprises:

a helical structure comprising a first aperture; and

a non-helical structure comprising a second aperture,

wherein the first and second apertures define a passageway that is configured to receive the at least one of the plurality of tubes, and wherein the passageway defines a longitudinal axis.

14. The ICP torch of claim 13 wherein the helical structure comprises a helical plate and the non-helical structure comprises a flat plate, the helical plate comprises a primary body including the first aperture and first and second legs extending away from the primary body, and wherein the flat plate comprises a primary body including the second aperture and first and second legs extending away from the primary body.

15. The ICP torch of claim 14 wherein the first leg of the helical plate and the flat plate are spaced apart axially a first distance, wherein the second leg of the helical plate and the flat plate are spaced apart axially a second distance, and wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance.

16. The ICP torch of claim 15 wherein the first distance is the smallest gap between the helical plate and the flat plate and the second distance is the largest gap between the helical plate and the flat plate.

17. The ICP torch of claim 15 wherein the first distance is 2 to 3 mm and the second distance is 5 to 6 mm.

18. The ICP torch of claim 14 wherein the first leg of the helical plate is axially aligned with the second leg of the flat plate, and wherein the second leg of the helical plate is laterally offset from the flat plate relative to the longitudinal axis.

19. The ICP torch of claim 18 wherein the second leg of the helical plate and the first leg of the flat plate are each configured to be supplied with radio-frequency electric current, and

wherein the first leg of the helical plate and the second leg of the flat plate are configured to be connected to ground.

20. The ICP torch of claim 18 further comprising a spacer between the first leg of the helical plate and the second leg of the flat plate.

21. The ICP torch of claim 20 wherein the spacer contacts each of the first leg of the helical plate and the second leg of the flat plate.

22. The ICP torch of claim 18 further comprising an electrode connected to each of the second leg of the helical plate, the first leg of the flat plate, and the second leg of the flat plate.

23. The ICP torch of claim 22 further comprising a conductive plate to which the helical plate and flat plate are coupled, wherein the electrodes and the conductive plate are configured as a heat sink to promote cooling of the helical plate and flat plate.

24. The ICP torch of claim 14 wherein the primary body of the helical plate is in the shape of a loop and makes substantially a single rotation or turn between the first leg and the second leg of the helical plate.

25. A method for generating a plasma, the method comprising:

providing an inductively coupled plasma (ICP) torch comprising:

an injector tube including an injector flow passage to receive a flow of a sample fluid;

an intermediate tube disposed about the injector tube, wherein the injector and the intermediate tube define an auxiliary gas passage configured to receive a flow of an auxiliary gas;

a plasma tube disposed about the intermediate tube, wherein the intermediate tube and the plasma tube define a plasma gas passage configured to receive a flow of a plasma gas; and

an induction device comprising a helical structure comprising a first aperture and a non-helical structure comprising a second aperture, wherein the first and second apertures define a passageway that is configured to receive the plasma tube;

flowing the auxiliary gas through the auxiliary gas passage;

flowing the plasma gas through the plasma gas passage; and

supplying a radio-frequency electric current to the induction device to inductively energize the auxiliary gas to produce a plasma proximate a distal end of the torch.