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(54) Title: **SPLASHGUARD AND CASSETTE ASSEMBLY FOR STERILITY TESTING**

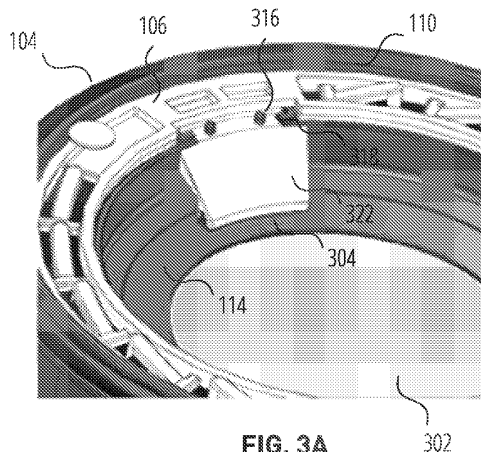


FIG. 3A

(57) Abstract: Membrane filtration is a technique for performing sterility testing on products, in which a sample is introduced to a sterile environment (such as a cassette) through an inlet port and then passed through one or more filters. The samples may be pumped into the cassette at a relatively high pressure, which can cause the sample to spray, mist, or foam. When the sample sprays in this manner, it can cause inconsistent results and can obscure the view through the lid of the cassette, which makes it difficult to analyze the incubated media. Exemplary embodiments provide a unique splash guard sized and shaped to transition the incoming sample fluids from a high-pressure state to a lower pressure flow. Consequently, the fluid flows more smoothly into the cassette which yields more consistent and accurate results.

[Continued on next page]

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