CLAIM(S):

1. A method for recovering filtered fluid retained in a filter system including a filter device comprising a housing having an inlet and an outlet defining a filtration flow path between the inlet and the outlet, and a porous filter medium across the filtration flow path, the porous filter medium having an upstream side and a downstream side; the system also including a filtered fluid receiving container arranged downstream of the outlet; a first fluid flow path between the outlet and the filtered fluid receiving container; a second fluid flow path between the first fluid flow path and the filtered fluid receiving container; wherein the second fluid flow path is connected to the first fluid flow path; the method comprising:

(a) passing sterile air and/or sterile gas through the outlet of the filter device and along the first fluid flow path into the filtered fluid receiving container;

(b) passing fluid to be filtered along the filtration flow path through the filter device and passing filtered fluid along the first fluid flow path into the filtered fluid receiving container, wherein a volume of filtered fluid is retained in the housing between the downstream side of the porous filter medium and the outlet;

and,

(c) allowing the sterile air and/or sterile gas to pass from the filtered fluid receiving container along the second fluid flow path into the first fluid flow path and through the outlet into the housing of the filter device, and displacing retained filtered fluid along the first fluid flow path into the filtered fluid receiving container.

2. A method for recovering filtered fluid retained in a filter system including a filter device comprising a housing having an inlet and an outlet defining a filtration flow path between the inlet and the outlet, and a porous filter medium across the filtration flow path, the porous filter medium having an upstream side and a downstream side; the system also including a filtered fluid receiving container arranged downstream of the outlet; a first fluid flow path between the outlet and the filtered fluid receiving container; a second fluid flow path between the first fluid flow path and the filtered fluid receiving container; wherein the second fluid flow path is connected to the first fluid flow path; the method comprising:

(a) filtering fluid by passing the fluid along the filtration flow path through the filter device and along the first fluid flow path into the filtered fluid receiving container, including displacing, by the filtered fluid, sterile air and/or sterile gas into the filtered fluid receiving container, wherein a volume of filtered fluid is retained in the housing between the downstream side of the porous filter medium and the outlet;

and,

(b) allowing the sterile air and/or the sterile gas to pass from the filtered fluid receiving container along the second fluid flow path into the first fluid flow path and through the outlet into the housing of the filter device, and displacing retained filtered fluid into the filtered fluid receiving container.

3. The method of claim 1, including passing air and/or gas through a sterilizing grade porous filter medium to produce the sterile air and/or the sterile gas, before passing the sterile air and/or the sterile gas along the filtration fluid flow path.

~~4. A filter system comprising:~~

~~(a) a filter device comprising a housing having an inlet and an outlet defining a filtration flow path between the inlet and the outlet, and a porous filter medium across the filtration flow path, the porous medium having an upstream side and a downstream side;~~

~~(b) a filtered fluid receiving container arranged downstream of the outlet;~~

~~(c) a first fluid flow path between the outlet and the filtered fluid receiving container; and,~~

~~(d) a second fluid flow path between the first fluid flow path and the filtered fluid receiving container; wherein the second fluid flow path is connected to the first fluid flow path.~~

~~5. The system of claim 4, further comprising a sterilizing grade filter device arranged upstream of the filter device in (a).~~