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(54) **Title:** STRAND EVAPORATOR USED FOR DEVOLATILIZING POLYMERS

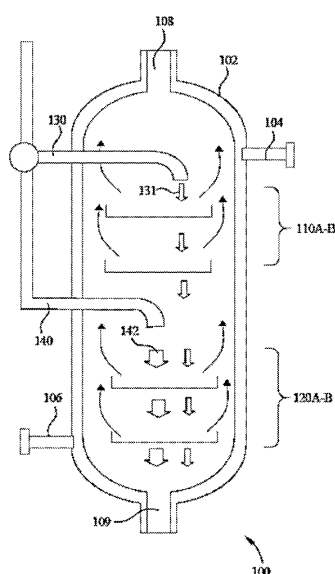


FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a devolatilization vessel (100) including a chamber (102). The chamber is formed generally in the shape of a cylinder. The chamber (102) houses a first set of one or more devolatilization plates 110A-B and a second set of one or more devolatilization plates 120A-B. The number and the distance between each of the devolatilization plates 110A-B 20A-B may vary. The devolatilization vessel (100) includes a first distributor (130) and a second distributor (140). The first distributor (130) directs a first polymer solution (131) through the first set of one or more devolatilization plates (110A-B) and through the second set of one or more devolatilization plates (120A-B). The second distributor (140) directs a second polymer solution 142 through the second set of one or more devolatilization plates (120A-B), bypassing the first set of one or more devolatilization plates (110A-B). The first polymer solution (131) flowing through the first distributor (130) has a lower viscosity than the second polymer solution (142) provided by the second distributor (140). The first polymer solution (131) and the second polymer solution (142) are introduced into the devolatilization vessel (100) at separate times. Volatiles from the first polymer solution (131) are removed via the first set of one or more devolatilization plates (110A-B) and to a lesser extent the second set of one or more devolatilization plates (120A-B).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

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