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(54) **Automated cassette module for an apparatus for conducting immunoassays and use thereof**

(57) An immunoassay cassette 10, apparatus, and method for detecting an analyte in a liquid body-fluid sample are disclosed. The cassette 10 has a body 12 and a support mounted on the body 12, for movement toward and away from a sample transfer position. A sample supplied to a sample well 18 in the cassette body 12 is taken up by a reagent reservoir 24 containing a first reagent composition effective to react with one or more sample components to form a modified sample. The support 12 provides a reagent strip 30 having a transfer zone 32 that is brought into contact with the reservoir 24, when the support 14 is moved to its transfer position, a detection zone 34 located downstream of the transfer zone 32, and a second reagent composition effective to react with the modified sample to form a detectable analyte-dependent product. By controlling the movement of the support 14 toward and away from its transfer position, the volume and rate of sample flow from the reservoir 24 to the strip 30 can be controlled to optimize and/or standardize sample-transfer conditions in the assay.

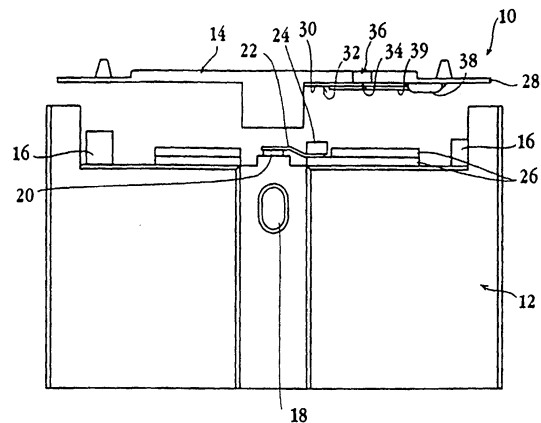


Fig. 1A



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 02 2910

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B01L G01N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 12 November 2003	Examiner Stolz, B
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 02 02 2910

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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专利名称(译)	用于进行免疫测定的装置的自动化cassete模块及其用途		
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优先权	60/387287 2002-06-07 US		
其他公开文献	EP1369473B1 EP1369473A2		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

公开了一种用于检测液体样品中的分析物的免疫测定盒10，装置和方法。盒10具有主体12和安装在主体12上的支撑件，用于朝向和远离样品转移位置移动。提供给盒体12中的样品孔18的样品被含有第一试剂组合物的试剂贮存器24吸收，所述第一试剂组合物有效地与一种或多种样品组分反应以形成改性样品。支撑件12提供具有转移区32的试剂条30，当支撑件14移动到其转移位置时，转移区32与贮存器24接触，位于转移区32下游的检测区34和第二试剂有效地与改性样品反应形成可检测的分析物依赖性产物的组合物。通过控制支撑件14朝向和远离其转移位置的移动，可以控制样品从贮存器24流向条带30的体积和速率，以优化和/或标准化测定中的样品转移条件。

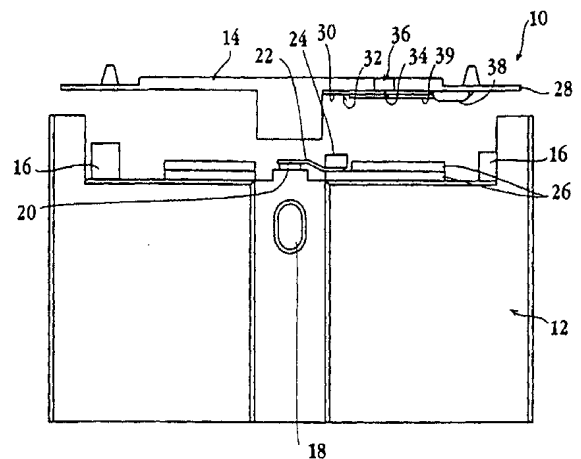


Fig. 1A