



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-27, 32-33



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-27,32-33

Methods for normalizing a sample employing a dilution step.

2. claims: 28-31

Methods for automated sample dilution.



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)
X	HEID C A ET AL: "REAL TIME QUANTITATIVE PCR" GENOME RESEARCH, COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY PRESS, US, vol. 6, no. 10, October 1996 (1996-10), pages 986-994, XP000642795 ISSN: 1088-9051 * pages 987-992; figure 1 *	1-27,32, 33	G01N33/48
X	GIBSON U E M ET AL: "A NOVEL METHOD FOR REAL TIME QUANTITATIVE RT-PCR" GENOME RESEARCH, COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY PRESS, US, vol. 6, no. 10, October 1996 (1996-10), pages 995-1001, XP000642796 ISSN: 1088-9051 * pages 996-999; figures 1-3 *	1-27,32, 33	
X	WO 99/54510 A (GENENTECH INC) 28 October 1999 (1999-10-28) * page 21, line 5 - page 22, line 28; claims 1-22 *	1-27,32, 33	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
X	WO 01/09386 A (KINZLER KENNETH W ; VOGELSTEIN BERT (US); UNIV JOHNS HOPKINS (US)) 8 February 2001 (2001-02-08) * examples 1,2 *	1-27,32, 33	C12Q
X	SCHUCHHARDT J ET AL: "NORMALIZATION STRATEGIES FOR CDNA MICROARRAYS" NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, SURREY, GB, vol. 28, no. 10, 15 May 2000 (2000-05-15), pages E471-E47V, XP000982625 ISSN: 0305-1048 * the whole document *	1-27,32, 33	
----- -/-- The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 12 January 2005	Examiner Stachowiak, O
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			



European Patent
Office

SUPPLEMENTARY
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 78 9816

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)
A	EP 1 138 784 A (ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS GMBH) 4 October 2001 (2001-10-04) * claims 1-14 * -----	1-27, 32, 33	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 12 January 2005	Examiner Stachowiak; 0
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>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</div> <div>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</div>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C04)

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

EP 02 78 9816

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

12-01-2005

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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			CA 2325343 A1	28-10-1999
			EP 1071824 A2	31-01-2001
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			WO 0175153 A2	11-10-2001

专利名称(译)	自动化样品制备方法和装置		
公开(公告)号	EP1456648A4	公开(公告)日	2005-06-29
申请号	EP2002789816	申请日	2002-11-20
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	精密科学公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	EXACT科学公司		
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IPC分类号	G01N33/53 C12M1/00 C12N15/09 C12Q1/68 C12Q1/70 G01N1/36 G01N1/38 G01N33/566 G01N33/569 G01N35/00 G01N35/10 G01N37/00 G01N33/48		
CPC分类号	G01N1/38 G01N2035/00158 G01N2035/1032		
优先权	60/331654 2001-11-20 US		
其他公开文献	EP1456648A2 EP1456648B1 EP1456648B8		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

本发明提供了用于自动化样品处理的方法和设备。本发明包括在基于样品中靶分析物浓度选择的步骤将样品引入多步稀释程序。