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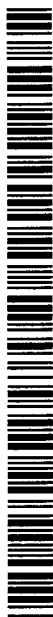


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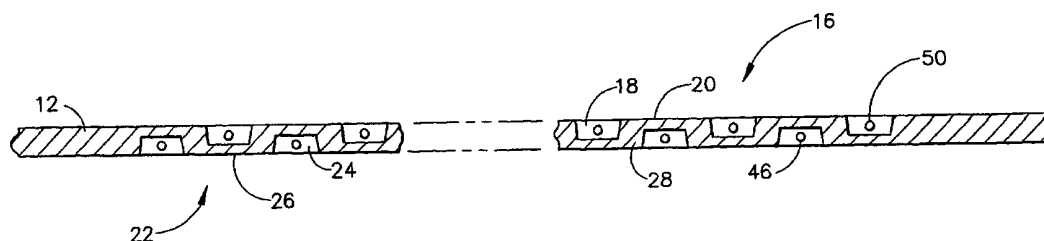
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(54) Title: FUEL CELL AND BIPOLAR PLATE FOR USE WITH SAME



(57) Abstract: A fuel cell bipolar plate (12) including a fuel side (22) having a series of fuel channels (24) defining respective fuel paths and an oxidant side (16) having a series of oxidant channels (18) defining respective oxidant paths. At least some of the fuel channels (24) are offset from adjacent oxidant channels (18) in a direction transverse to the fuel and oxidant paths.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H01M8/02				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 H01M				
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 11, 29 November 1996 (1996-11-29) -& JP 08 180883 A (FUJI ELECTRIC CO LTD), 12 July 1996 (1996-07-12) abstract	1-8		
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X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 05, 30 May 1997 (1997-05-30) -& JP 09 022708 A (FUJI ELECTRIC CO LTD), 21 January 1997 (1997-01-21) abstract; figures 1-4	1-8		
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<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex. </td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.			
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> * Special categories of cited documents : *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents : *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">D'hondt, J</p>		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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P,X	DE 199 10 487 C (FREUDENBERG CARL FA) 15 June 2000 (2000-06-15) column 1, line 5 - line 8 column 3, line 56 - line 57; figures 1,2 ---	1-5
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Information on patent family members

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