

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

HENGST SE,

Plaintiff,

v.

CHAMPION LABORATORIES, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 23-cv-00794

Judge Sara L. Ellis

Magistrate Judge Heather K. McShain

**PLAINTIFF’S LOCAL PATENT RULE 2.5 INITIAL RESPONSE
TO INVALIDITY CONTENTIONS**

Pursuant to Local Patent Rule (“LPR”) 2.5, Plaintiff Hengst SE (“Hengst” or “Plaintiff”), by and through its undersigned counsel, submits the following response to the Initial Invalidity Contentions of Defendant Champion Laboratories, Inc. (“Champion” or “Defendant”), dated June 5, 2023.

Hengst reserves the right to modify, amend, and/or supplement its Response to Invalidity Contentions (the “Response”) to the extent permitted by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Patent Rules of this Court. Discovery in this case is ongoing. Hengst specifically reserves the right to modify, amend, and/or supplement any of its responses due not only to discovery obtained from Defendant, but also discovery obtained from third parties, any of Defendant’s contentions, the issuance of a claim construction ruling by the Court, or any other reason permitted under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or the Local Patent Rules of this Court.

The Court has not yet construed the Asserted Claims. Hengst reserves the right to supplement, modify, or amend the Responses after the Court issues its claim construction ruling.

Hengst has not tried to infer, and takes no position regarding, any claim construction matter allegedly described in Defendant's Contentions. Any statement describing or tending to describe any claim element provided in this Response is provided solely for the purpose of understanding the contention or the relevant prior art reference and is not to be interpreted as an attempt to construe any claim limitation, or as an admission as to the proper construction of any claim limitation.

I. CHAMPION HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH THE LOCAL PATENT RULES

Local Patent Rule 2.3(b)(2) requires that Defendant's invalidity contentions contain "for each item of prior art, a detailed statement of whether it allegedly anticipates or renders obvious each asserted claim. If a combination of items of prior art allegedly makes a claim obvious, the Invalidity Contentions must identify each such combination and the reasons to combine such items." Moreover, Local Patent Rule 2.3(b)(3) states Defendant's contentions must include "a chart identifying *where specifically* in each alleged item of prior art each element of each asserted claim is found." Champion has not met these requirements in Exhibit E.

Specifically, Exhibit E states that "each of the Additional Prior Art [cited in Exhibit E] in combination with one or more of the prior art identified in Exhibits A to D, including Cline, Brisson, or Grass, renders obvious" the asserted claims. This general assertion in Exhibit E fails to identify the specific combination(s) of prior art references that allegedly renders the asserted claims obvious, as required by Local Rule 2.3(b)(2). As such, Hengst understands that Champions asserts only three grounds for invalidity under 35 U.S.C. § 103: (1) JP 2004136203 ("*Yokoyama*") in view of U.S. 2004/0232063 ("*Cline*"); (2) U.S. 2006/0219621 ("*Dworatzek*") in view of *Cline*; and (3) WO 2008134494 ("*Honermann*") in view of *Cline*.

Moreover, Champion generally asserts that prior art references in Exhibit E contain claim elements without identifying the specific structure and/or elements in the prior art references that allegedly disclose the claimed elements. For example, Exhibit E asserts that the “Beard at [0001]-[0012], Figs. 1-2 and associated description” discloses a ring filter insert, replaceably arranged in the filter housing. This general characterization, as well as the other similar general assertions in Exhibit E, does not meet the requirements of Local Patent Rule 2.3(b)(3). Because the assertions regarding the prior art references in Exhibit E are lacking the specificity required by Local Patent Rule 2.3(b)(3), Hengst is unable to understand Champion’s assertions with respect to these references.

Hengst generally disputes Defendant’s assertions regarding additional prior art not included in its charts and/or prior art failing to be asserted pursuant to the Local Patent Rules, and reserves the right to specifically dispute and seek to exclude any of such additional references if and when Champion attempt to assert it.

Finally, Local Patent Rule 2.4 states that Champion must produce “any additional documentation showing the operation of any aspects or elements of an Accused Instrumentality identified by the patent claimant in its LPR 2.2 chart.” Hengst has not received any documentation related to the claim elements in its Initial Infringement Contentions.

II. HENGST’S LPR 2.5(a) INITIAL RESPONSE TO CHAMPION’S INVALIDITY CONTENTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Hengst contends that the asserted patent is valid, and that none of the prior art cited by Defendant invalidates any of the asserted claims either by anticipation or obviousness. Hengst disputes any contention that motivation to combine any of the cited prior art exists within the references themselves, or within the knowledge of those of ordinary skill in the art. Pursuant to LPR 2.5, Hengst has prepared charts responsive to the invalidity charts served by Defendant

under LPR 2.3(b)(3) (Exhibits 1-4). Hengst reserves all rights to modify or provide additional reasons and explanations for such denials.

In addition to the reasons provided in Exhibits 1-4, Hengst asserts that the combination of references in Champion's § 103 invalidity assertions are improper due to the following: (1) the combination of references were made with impermissible hindsight reasoning; (2) one skilled in the art would not have a reasonable expectation of success with the asserted combination of references; (3) there is no motivation to combine the asserted prior art references; (4) the asserted prior art references teach away from the asserted combination of references; and (5) the asserted combination would leave references unsatisfactory for their intended purpose.

For example, Champion contends that it would be obvious to combine both *Yokoyama* in view of *Cline* and *Honermann* in view of *Cline* because the eccentric blocking element and eccentric opening of *Cline* would "allowing clogged or contaminated oil to be discharged when the filter insert is removed from the housing." See Champion Invalidity Contentions Ex. B at 10; Ex. D at 9. However, both *Yokoyama* and *Honermann* already contain a mechanism for allowing fluid to be drained when the filter insert is removed from the housing. See *Yokoyama*, plug/cap on bottom 31 shown in FIG. 2-3; *Honermann*, drainage aperture arrangement 160 shown in FIG. 10. In light of this, no person of skill in the art would be motivated to combine these references. Moreover, both *Yokoyama* and *Honermann* contain filters that are assembled such that the filters screw upward into a mounting plate and/or upper housing part. See *Yokoyama*, FIG. 2; *Honermann*, FIG. 1. In contrast, the filter apparatus 10 of *Cline* is mounted onto an engine block such that cover 20 is coupled to base 18. See *Cline*, FIG. 1. It is unclear as to how Champion asserts references with such distinct structural differences could be combined to arrive at the claims of the '203 patent. No person of skill in the art would make the asserted combinations.

Likewise, no person of skill in the art would have motivation to combine *Dworatzek* in view of *Cline*. For example, *Dworatzek* discloses what is primarily an air filter: “the filter housing 10 is closed by a housing lid. The medium to be filtered, e.g., air, flows through the unfiltered air inlet 13 into the outer unfiltered air chamber 14 of the filter housing.” See *Dworatzek*, ¶ 23. In contrast, *Cline* discloses a filter apparatus 10 for a vehicle engine. See *Cline*, ¶ 19, FIG. 1. A person of skill in the art would not be motivated to combine structure from the engine oil filter of *Cline* with the air filter of *Dworatzek*.

III. HENGST’S LPR 2.5 INITIAL RESPONSE TO CHAMPION’S INVALIDITY CONTENTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Champion asserts that the recitations in claim 1 “which excludes self locking,” “the inner circumference of the ring inset,” and “the outer circumference of the filter housing part” are invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Hengst asserts that these specific assertions identified by Defendant do not render claim 1 invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

With respect to the recitation “which excludes self locking” in claim 1, the specification provides sufficient support for this element. See, e.g. ‘203 Patent, col. 3, ln. 27-37.

Champion appears to allege invalidity under 35 U.S.C. § 112 due to an alleged improper antecedent basis for recitations “the inner circumference of the ring inset,” and “the outer circumference of the filter housing part.” Likewise, Champion asserts that the recitation “the lower front panel” in claim 24 is indefinite. These assertions related to antecedent basis do not render claims 1 or 24 invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as asserted by Champion. The Federal Circuit has held that improper antecedent basis does not constitute grounds for invalidity. See, e.g., *Energizer Holdings, Inc. v. Int’l Trade Comm’n*, 435 F.3d 1366, 1370 (Fed. Cir. 2006). As such, Hengst asserts that the above recitations do not render claims 1 or 24 invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

IV. HENGST'S RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC ASSERTIONS IN CHAMPION'S LPR 2.3 CONTENTIONS

In Exhibit B-D to Champion's Rule 2.3 Contentions, Champion states that "based on Hengst's construction of the claim terms in its infringement contentions as understood by Champion," the claim elements "first and second interacting positioning means" are subject to 35 U.S.C. § 112(6). Hengst did not assert that these claim terms are subject to § 112(6) and is uncertain as to how Champion arrived at this understanding. Under Local Patent Rule 2.2 (c), Hengst would have been required to identify any elements subject to § 112(6) in its Initial Infringement Contentions, and did not do so. Hengst does not assert that the "first and second interacting positioning means" are subject to 35 U.S.C. § 112(6).

Champion asserted that Hengst's Rule 2.2 Initial Infringement contentions did not comply with the Local Patent Rules because Hengst identified claim elements in its charts that were not made by Champion. Hengst has asserted that claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12, 15-17, 19, 23-25, and 28-30 are indirectly infringed and, thus, Hengst need not show that the Accused Product contain every element of these claims. Claims 15, 23-25, 28, and 30 are directly infringed, and the assertions in Champion's Rule 2.3 Contentions appear to apply an erroneous interpretation of the claims. Specifically, in claim 15, claim recitations related to a filter housing, second positioning means, and an eccentric opening provide merely provide an intended use and/or environment for the positively recited elements of the claim.

V. HENGST’S LPR 2.5(b) DOCTRINE OF EQUIVALENTS DISCLOSURE

Hengst hereby reasserts and incorporates by reference its Doctrine of Equivalents analysis and explanation provided in its Local Patent Rule 2.2 Infringement Contentions.

Dated this 20th day of June 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 20th day of June 2023, I electronically served the foregoing document on all counsel of record for the parties in this matter via email at the below email addresses:

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Exhibit 1

Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	Asserted Exhibit B 35 U.S.C. § 103 Basis
1[pre] A liquid filter, comprising:	To the extent it is a limitation, Hengst admits <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses a liquid filter.
1[a] a filter housing,	Hengst admits <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses a filter housing.
1[b] a ring filter insert, replaceably arranged in the filter housing, and	Hengst admits <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses a ring filter insert, replaceably arranged in the filter housing.
1[c] a removable cover arranged to close the filter housing during operation,	Hengst denies <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses a removable cover arranged to close the filter housing during operation. Case half 10 is fixed to an engine case via fixing portion FB and is thus not a removable cover. See <i>Yokoyama</i> , FIGS. 2.
1[d] the filter housing including at least one inlet for raw liquid to be filtered, which inlet leads into a raw side of the filter housing, and	Hengst admits <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the filter housing including at least one inlet for raw liquid to be filtered, which inlet leads into a raw side of the filter housing.
1[e] a return extending from a clean side of the filter housing for filtered clean liquid,	Hengst denies that holding space 7 is a clean side of the filter housing. Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses a return extending from a clean side of the filter housing for filtered clean liquid.
1[f] an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i> . Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in

	the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i> .
1[g] the ring filter insert comprising a hollow-cylindrical filter material body, surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels, the ring filter insert separating the raw side of the filter housing and the clean side of the filter housing from each another,	Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the ring filter insert comprising a hollow-cylindrical filter material body, surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels, the ring filter insert separating the raw side of the filter housing and the clean side of the filter housing from each another.
1[h] an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel,	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel.
1[i] first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing. <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Yokoyama</i>, FIGS. 1-2. Hengst denies <i>Cline</i> discloses first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the protrusions 46 of <i>Yokoyama</i>.

	Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
1[j] the first positioning means comprising an inclined plane,	Hengst admits <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses first positioning means comprising an inclined plane.
1[k] the second positioning means comprising a protruding nose which is arranged opposite the inclined plane, and	Hengst admits <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses second positioning means comprising a protruding nose which is arranged opposite the inclined plane.
1[l] the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Yokoyama</i>, FIGS. 1-2. Moreover, the filter element 40 “does not rotate” when the case halves are coupled. See <i>Yokoyama</i>, ¶ 8. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. The drain valve member 56 cannot be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the protrusions 46 of <i>Yokoyama</i>.
1[m] the inclined plane being one of embodied and arranged on one of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of a filter housing part arranged	Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the inclined plane being one of embodied and arranged on one of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer

inside the ring filter insert and the protruding nose being one of embodied and arranged on the other of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of the filter housing part,	circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert and the protruding nose being one of embodied and arranged on the other of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of the filter housing part.
1[n] the inclined plane comprising an incline which excludes a self-locking and	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the inclined plane comprising an incline which excludes a self-locking. <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses three locking protrusions 46 that effectuate mounting with upper case half 10 and thus do not automatically fall into a rotational position during assembly. See <i>Yokoyama</i> , FIGS. 1-2.
1[o] the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed.
Claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[2] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of one of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert and an outer circumference of the filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of one of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert and an outer circumference of the filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. Portions 19 do not extend across half of a circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. See <i>Yokoyama</i> , FIGS. 1-2.
Claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[3] The liquid filter according to claim 1, including a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane. The lower end of portions 19 does not include an axial guide. See <i>Yokoyama</i> , FIGS. 1-2.
Claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	

[5] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step, which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper and lower side thereof.	Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step, which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper and lower side thereof.
Claim 6 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[6] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.	Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the inclined plane is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.
Claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[8] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the nose is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.	Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the nose is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.
Claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[9] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel.
Claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[10] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. <i>Cline</i> does not disclose an elastically arranged blocking element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>.

	Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i> .
Claim 11 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[11] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter housing and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter housing and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element.
Claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[12] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the filter housing part arranged on the inside of the ring filter insert comprises a pipe nozzle which includes the return and which is one of rigidly connected to the remaining filter housing, integrally formed with the remaining filter housing and guided so as to be movable in the remaining filter housing in axial direction, and is prestressed with a spring force in the direction of the cover.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the filter housing part arranged on the inside of the ring filter insert comprises a pipe nozzle which includes the return and which is one of rigidly connected to the remaining filter housing, integrally formed with the remaining filter housing and guided so as to be movable in the remaining filter housing in axial direction, and is prestressed with a spring force in the direction of the cover. <i>Yokoyama</i> does not disclose a filter housing part that comprises a pipe nozzle. See <i>Yokoyama</i> , FIGS. 1-2.
Claim 15 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[15.pre] A hollow-cylindrical filter material body surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels and which can be replaceably arranged in a filter housing,	Hengst admits <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses a hollow-cylindrical filter material body surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels and which can be replaceably arranged in a filter housing.
[15.a] an eccentric blocking element arranged on the bottom front panel for engaging an eccentric opening in the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element arranged on the bottom front panel for engaging an eccentric opening in the filter housing Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel.

[15.b] first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing and which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening,	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing and which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening. <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Yokoyama</i>, FIGS. 1-2. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing and which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the protrusions 46 of <i>Yokoyama</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
[15.c] the first positioning means being one of an inclined plane and a protruding nose, with the second positioning means being the other of the inclined plane and the protruding nose,	Hengst admits <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses first positioning means comprising a protruding nose.
[15.d] the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an

	eccentric opening. See <i>Yokoyama</i>, FIGS. 1-2. Moreover, the filter element 40 “does not rotate” when the case halves are coupled. See <i>Yokoyama</i>, ¶ 8. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the protrusions 46 of <i>Yokoyama</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
[15.e] the first positioning means being one of embodied and arranged on an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.	Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses the first positioning means being one of embodied and arranged on an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.
Claim 16 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[16] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert. Portions 19 do not extend across half of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. See <i>Yokoyama</i> , FIGS. 1-2.
Claim 17 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[17] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, including a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane. Portions 19 do not extend across half of

	a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. See <i>Yokoyama</i> , FIGS. 1-2.
Claim 19 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[19] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper or lower side thereof.	Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper or lower side thereof.
Claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[23] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the nose is formed integrally with the bottom front panel of the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the nose is formed integrally with the bottom front panel of the ring filter insert. Protrusions 46 are disposed on upper plate 43. See <i>Yokoyama</i> , FIGS. 1-2.
Claim 24 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[24] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel.
Claim 25 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[25] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. <i>Cline</i> does not disclose an elastically arranged blocking element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would

	provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
Claim 28 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[28] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors.	Hengst denies that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors. Spring 51 accounts for dimensional tolerances. See <i>Cline</i>, ¶ 24.
Claim 29 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[29] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.	Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.
Claim 30 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[30] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.	Hengst admits that <i>Yokoyama</i> discloses wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.

Exhibit 2

Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	Asserted Exhibit C 35 U.S.C. § 103 Basis
1[pre] A liquid filter, comprising:	To the extent it is a limitation, Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses a liquid filter.
1[a] a filter housing,	Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses a filter housing.
1[b] a ring filter insert, replaceably arranged in the filter housing, and	Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses a ring filter insert, replaceably arranged in the filter housing.
1[c] a removable cover arranged to close the filter housing during operation,	Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses a removable cover arranged to close the filter housing during operation.
1[d] the filter housing including at least one inlet for raw liquid to be filtered, which inlet leads into a raw side of the filter housing, and	Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses the filter housing including at least one inlet for raw liquid to be filtered, which inlet leads into a raw side of the filter housing.
1[e] a return extending from a clean side of the filter housing for filtered clean liquid,	Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses a return extending from a clean side of the filter housing for filtered clean liquid.
1[f] an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
1[g] the ring filter insert comprising a hollow-cylindrical filter material body, surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels, the ring filter insert separating the raw side of the	Hengst admits that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses the ring filter insert comprising a hollow-cylindrical filter material body, surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels, the

filter housing and the clean side of the filter housing from each another,	ring filter insert separating the raw side of the filter housing and the clean side of the filter housing from each another.
1[h] an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel,	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel.
1[i] first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing. <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. Moreover, <i>Dworatzek</i> does not disclose positioning means on the filter ring filter insert. See <i>Dworatzek</i>, FIG. 2-5. Hengst denies <i>Cline</i> discloses first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the radially inwardly directed projections 26, 27, 28 of <i>Dworatzek</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>.

1[j] the first positioning means comprising an inclined plane,	Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses first positioning means comprising an inclined plane.
1[k] the second positioning means comprising a protruding nose which is arranged opposite the inclined plane, and	Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses second positioning means comprising a protruding nose which is arranged opposite the inclined plane.
1[l] the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Dworatzek</i>, FIG. 2-5. Moreover, <i>Dworatzek</i> fails to disclose rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. See <i>Dworatzek</i>, ¶ 30. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the radially inwardly directed projections 26, 27, 28 of <i>Dworatzek</i>.
1[m] the inclined plane being one of embodied and arranged on one of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert and the protruding nose being one of embodied and arranged on the other of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of the filter housing part,	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses the inclined plane being one of embodied and arranged on one of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert and the protruding nose being one of embodied and arranged on the other of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of the filter housing part. Radially inwardly directed projections 26, 27, 28 are not embodied and

	arranged on filter element 12. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 5.
1[n] the inclined plane comprising an incline which excludes a self-locking and	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses the inclined plane comprising an incline which excludes a self-locking. <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses radially inwardly directed projections 26, 27, 28 that do not do not automatically fall into a rotational position during assembly. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIGS. 1-2.
1[o] the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed.
Claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[2] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of one of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert and an outer circumference of the filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of one of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert and an outer circumference of the filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. Grooves 32, 33, 34 do not extend across half of a circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 4A-B.
Claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[3] The liquid filter according to claim 1, including a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane. The axial portion of groove 32 does not extend from a lower end of the incline. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 4A-B
Claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[5] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step, which forms	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step, which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an

a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper and lower side thereof.	upper and lower side thereof. Grooves 32, 33, 34 are slots and are thus not radially protruding. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 4A-B.
Claim 6 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[6] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.	Hengst admits that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses the inclined plane is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.
Claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[8] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the nose is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the nose is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert. Radially inwardly directed projections 26, 27, 28 are not embodied and arranged on filter element 12. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 5.
Claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[9] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel.
Claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[10] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. <i>Cline</i> does not disclose an elastically arranged blocking element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would

	provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
Claim 11 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[11] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter housing and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter housing and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element.
Claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[12] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the filter housing part arranged on the inside of the ring filter insert comprises a pipe nozzle which includes the return and which is one of rigidly connected to the remaining filter housing, integrally formed with the remaining filter housing and guided so as to be movable in the remaining filter housing in axial direction, and is prestressed with a spring force in the direction of the cover.	Hengst admits that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the filter housing part arranged on the inside of the ring filter insert comprises a pipe nozzle which includes the return and which is one of rigidly connected to the remaining filter housing, integrally formed with the remaining filter housing and guided so as to be movable in the remaining filter housing in axial direction, and is prestressed with a spring force in the direction of the cover.
Claim 15 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[15.pre] A hollow-cylindrical filter material body surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels and which can be replaceably arranged in a filter housing,	Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses a hollow-cylindrical filter material body surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels and which can be replaceably arranged in a filter housing.
[15.a] an eccentric blocking element arranged on the bottom front panel for engaging an eccentric opening in the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element arranged on the bottom front panel for engaging an eccentric opening in the filter housing

	Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel.
[15.b] first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing and which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening,	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing and which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening. <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Dworatzek</i>, FIG. 2-5. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing and which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the radially inwardly directed projections 26, 27, 28 of <i>Dworatzek</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
[15.c] the first positioning means being one of an inclined plane and a protruding nose, with the second positioning means being the other of the inclined plane and the protruding nose,	Hengst admits <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses first positioning means comprising a protruding nose.
[15.d] the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter

	insert relative to the filter housing. <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Dworatzek</i>, FIG. 2-5. Moreover, <i>Dworatzek</i> fails to disclose rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. See <i>Dworatzek</i>, ¶ 30. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the radially inwardly directed projections 26, 27, 28 of <i>Dworatzek</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Dworatzek</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
[15.e] the first positioning means being one of embodied and arranged on an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses the first positioning means being one of embodied and arranged on an inner circumference of the ring filter insert. Radially inwardly directed projections 26, 27, 28 are not embodied and arranged on filter element 12. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 5.
Claim 16 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[16] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert. Grooves 32, 33, 34 do not extend across half of a circumference of a filter

	housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 4A-B.
Claim 17 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[17] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, including a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane. The axial portion of groove 32 does not extend from a lower end of the incline. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 4A-B
Claim 19 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[19] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper or lower side thereof.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper or lower side thereof. Grooves 32, 33, 34 are slots and are thus not radially protruding. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 4A-B.
Claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[23] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the nose is formed integrally with the bottom front panel of the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the nose is formed integrally with the bottom front panel of the ring filter insert. Radially inwardly directed projections 26, 27, 28 are not embodied and arranged on filter element 12. See <i>Dworatzek</i> , FIG. 5.
Claim 24 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[24] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel.
Claim 25 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[25] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is an axially	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially

sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel.	sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. <i>Cline</i> does not disclose an elastically arranged blocking element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
Claim 28 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[28] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors.	Hengst denies that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors. Spring 51 accounts for dimensional tolerances. See <i>Cline</i>, ¶ 24.
Claim 29 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[29] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.	Hengst admits that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.
Claim 30 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[30] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.	Hengst admits that <i>Dworatzek</i> discloses wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.

Exhibit 3

Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	Asserted Exhibit D 35 U.S.C. § 103 Basis
1[pre] A liquid filter, comprising:	To the extent it is a limitation, Hengst admits <i>Honermann</i> discloses a liquid filter.
1[a] a filter housing,	Hengst admits <i>Honermann</i> discloses a filter housing.
1[b] a ring filter insert, replaceably arranged in the filter housing, and	Hengst admits <i>Honermann</i> discloses a ring filter insert, replaceably arranged in the filter housing.
1[c] a removable cover arranged to close the filter housing during operation,	Hengst denies <i>Honermann</i> discloses a removable cover arranged to close the filter housing during operation. The identified ring filter insert (filter system 30) is not a removable cover. Moreover, the filter assemblies 34, 35 are mounted to filter head 32, which is also not a removable cover. See <i>Honermann</i> , FIG. 1.
1[d] the filter housing including at least one inlet for raw liquid to be filtered, which inlet leads into a raw side of the filter housing, and	Hengst denies <i>Honermann</i> discloses the filter housing including at least one inlet for raw liquid to be filtered, which inlet leads into a raw side of the filter housing. Inlet 128 is not provided on filter bowl 36 (filter housing). See <i>Honermann</i> , FIG. 1.
1[e] a return extending from a clean side of the filter housing for filtered clean liquid,	Hengst admits <i>Honermann</i> discloses a return extending from a clean side of the filter housing for filtered clean liquid.
1[f] an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in

	the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i> .
1[g] the ring filter insert comprising a hollow-cylindrical filter material body, surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels, the ring filter insert separating the raw side of the filter housing and the clean side of the filter housing from each another,	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses the ring filter insert comprising a hollow-cylindrical filter material body, surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels, the ring filter insert separating the raw side of the filter housing and the clean side of the filter housing from each another.
1[h] an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel,	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel.
1[i] first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing. <i>Honermann</i> discloses discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Honermann</i>, FIGS. 23-24. Hengst denies <i>Cline</i> discloses first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the two opposing protrusions 122, 124 of <i>Honermann</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i>.

	Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i> .
1[j] the first positioning means comprising an inclined plane,	Hengst admits <i>Honermann</i> discloses first positioning means comprising an inclined plane.
1[k] the second positioning means comprising a protruding nose which is arranged opposite the inclined plane, and	Hengst admits <i>Honermann</i> discloses second positioning means comprising a protruding nose which is arranged opposite the inclined plane.
1[l] the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. <i>Honermann</i> discloses discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Honermann</i>, FIGS. 23-24. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the two opposing protrusions 122, 124 of <i>Honermann</i>.
1[m] the inclined plane being one of embodied and arranged on one of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert and the protruding nose being one of embodied and arranged on the other of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of the filter housing part,	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses the inclined plane being one of embodied and arranged on one of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert and the protruding nose being one of embodied and arranged on the other of the inner circumference of the ring

	filter insert and the outer circumference of the filter housing part.
1[n] the inclined plane comprising an incline which excludes a self-locking and	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses the inclined plane comprising an incline which excludes a self-locking. <i>Honermann</i> discloses 122, 124 engaging opposing surfaces that are mounted on filter head 32 and thus do not automatically fall into a rotational position during assembly. See <i>Honermann</i> , FIGS. 1-2.
1[o] the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed.
Claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[2] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of one of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert and an outer circumference of the filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of one of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert and an outer circumference of the filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. Slide surfaces 318 do not extend across half of a circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. See <i>Honermann</i> , FIG. 24
Claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[3] The liquid filter according to claim 1, including a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.
Claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[5] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step, which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper and lower side thereof.	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step, which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper and lower side thereof.

Claim 6 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[6] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.
Claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[8] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the nose is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the nose is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.
Claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[9] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel.
Claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[10] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. <i>Cline</i> does not disclose an elastically arranged blocking element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i>.

Claim 11 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[11] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter housing and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter housing and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element.
Claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[12] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the filter housing part arranged on the inside of the ring filter insert comprises a pipe nozzle which includes the return and which is one of rigidly connected to the remaining filter housing, integrally formed with the remaining filter housing and guided so as to be movable in the remaining filter housing in axial direction, and is prestressed with a spring force in the direction of the cover.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the filter housing part arranged on the inside of the ring filter insert comprises a pipe nozzle which includes the return and which is one of rigidly connected to the remaining filter housing, integrally formed with the remaining filter housing and guided so as to be movable in the remaining filter housing in axial direction, and is prestressed with a spring force in the direction of the cover. <i>Honermann</i> does not disclose a filter part that comprises a pipe nozzle which includes the return. See <i>Honermann</i>, FIG. 1.
Claim 15 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[15.pre] A hollow-cylindrical filter material body surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels and which can be replaceably arranged in a filter housing,	Hengst admits <i>Honermann</i> discloses a hollow-cylindrical filter material body surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels and which can be replaceably arranged in a filter housing.
[15.a] an eccentric blocking element arranged on the bottom front panel for engaging an eccentric opening in the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element arranged on the bottom front panel for engaging an eccentric opening in the filter housing Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel.
[15.b] first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing and	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert

which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening,	is inserted into the filter housing and which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening. <i>Honermann</i> discloses discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Honermann</i>, FIGS. 23-24. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing and which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the two opposing protrusions 122, 124 of <i>Honermann</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
[15.c] the first positioning means being one of an inclined plane and a protruding nose, with the second positioning means being the other of the inclined plane and the protruding nose,	Hengst admits <i>Honermann</i> discloses first positioning means comprising a protruding nose.
[15.d] the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing,	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. <i>Honermann</i> discloses no structure that is arranged to bring a blocking element into engagement with an eccentric opening. See <i>Honermann</i>, FIGS. 23-24. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in

	relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing. The drain valve member 56 is not arranged to be brought into engagement with valve chamber 58 of <i>Cline</i> via the two opposing protrusions 122, 124 of <i>Honermann</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Honermann</i> and <i>Cline</i>.
[15.e] the first positioning means being one of embodied and arranged on an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses the first positioning means being one of embodied and arranged on an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.
Claim 16 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[16] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert. Slide surfaces 318 do not extend across half of a circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert. See <i>Honermann</i> , FIG. 24
Claim 17 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[17] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, including a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.
Claim 19 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[19] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper or lower side thereof.	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step which forms

	a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper or lower side thereof.
Claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[23] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the nose is formed integrally with the bottom front panel of the ring filter insert.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the nose is formed integrally with the bottom front panel of the ring filter insert. Protrusions 121 are disposed on upper end cap 41. See <i>Honermann</i> , FIG. 30.
Claim 24 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[24] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel. Hengst admits that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel.
Claim 25 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[25] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel. <i>Cline</i> does not disclose an elastically arranged blocking element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Grass</i> would provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i>. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> discloses the recited element. Hengst denies that <i>Brisson</i> would

	provide a person having ordinary skill in the art motivation to combine <i>Yokoyama</i> and <i>Cline</i> .
Claim 28 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[28] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors.	Hengst denies that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors. Hengst denies that <i>Cline</i> discloses wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors. Spring 51 accounts for dimensional tolerances. See <i>Cline</i>, ¶ 24.
Claim 29 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[29] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.
Claim 30 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[30] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.	Hengst admits that <i>Honermann</i> discloses wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.

Exhibit 4

Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	Asserted Exhibit E 35 U.S.C. § 103 Basis
1[pre] A liquid filter, comprising:	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Hengst admits <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst admits <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst admits <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst admits <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst admits <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst admits <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst admits <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst admits <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element. <i>Hennes</i> does not appear to specifically disclose a liquid filter.
1[a] a filter housing,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[b] a ring filter insert, replaceably arranged in the filter housing, and	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[c] a removable cover arranged to close the filter housing during operation,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.

1[d] the filter housing including at least one inlet for raw liquid to be filtered, which inlet leads into a raw side of the filter housing, and	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[e] a return extending from a clean side of the filter housing for filtered clean liquid,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[f] an eccentric opening arranged in a bottom of the filter housing,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[g] the ring filter insert comprising a hollow-cylindrical filter material body, surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels, the	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure

ring filter insert separating the raw side of the filter housing and the clean side of the filter housing from each another,	and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[h] an eccentric blocking element for the eccentric opening arranged on the bottom front panel,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[i] first and second interacting positioning means each on one of the ring filter insert and the filter housing and arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[j] the first positioning means comprising an inclined plane,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst

	denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[k] the second positioning means comprising a protruding nose which is arranged opposite the inclined plane, and	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[1] the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be movable in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[m] the inclined plane being one of embodied and arranged on one of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of a filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert and the protruding nose being one of embodied and arranged on the other of the inner circumference of the ring filter insert and the outer circumference of the filter housing part,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[n] the inclined plane comprising an incline which excludes a self-locking and	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the

	claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
1[o] the eccentric opening being an outlet for emptying the filter housing when the filter insert is removed.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[2] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of one of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert and an outer circumference of the filter housing part arranged inside the ring filter insert.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[3] The liquid filter according to claim 1, including a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the

	claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[5] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step, which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper and lower side thereof.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 6 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[6] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the inclined plane is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[8] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the nose is formed integrally with one of the filter housing and the ring filter insert.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[9] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element and a radially sealing	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references

plug which is one of rigidly connected to and rigidly arranged on the bottom front panel.	allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[10] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 11 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[11] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the outlet comprises a seat which is one of incorporated on a side of the filter housing and is inserted as a separate part and which conforms to a shape of the blocking element.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.

Claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[12] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the filter housing part arranged on the inside of the ring filter insert comprises a pipe nozzle which includes the return and which is one of rigidly connected to the remaining filter housing, integrally formed with the remaining filter housing and guided so as to be movable in the remaining filter housing in axial direction, and is prestressed with a spring force in the direction of the cover.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 15 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[15.pre] A hollow-cylindrical filter material body surrounded on front sides by top and bottom front panels and which can be replaceably arranged in a filter housing,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
[15.a] an eccentric blocking element arranged on the bottom front panel for engaging an eccentric opening in the filter housing,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
[15.b] first positioning means on the ring filter insert, which interact with second positioning means on the filter housing when the ring filter insert is inserted into the filter housing and which are arranged to bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
[15.c] the first positioning means being one of an inclined plane and a protruding nose, with the second positioning means being the other of the inclined plane and the protruding nose,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
[15.d] the inclined plane and the nose arranged to be moved in relation to each other in such a way that they slide along each other and bring the blocking element into engagement with the eccentric opening, by rotating the ring filter insert relative to the filter housing,	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
[15.e] the first positioning means being one of embodied and arranged on an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 16 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[16] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the inclined plane is formed by two partial planes which run towards each other in opposite directions and which in each case extend across half of an inner circumference of the ring filter insert.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 17 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[17] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, including a guide for the nose which runs in an axial direction and is connected to a lower end of the inclined plane.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 19 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[19] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the inclined plane is formed by one of a radially protruding rib and step which forms a contact surface for the nose on one of an upper or lower side thereof.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[23] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the nose is formed integrally with the bottom front panel of the ring filter insert.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the

	claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Richmond</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Snider</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 24 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[24] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is one of a radially sealing valve element, an axially sealing valve element, and a radially sealing plug which is one of rigidly connected to the lower front panel and rigidly arranged on the lower front panel.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.

Claim 25 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[25] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is an axially sealing valve element which is elastically arranged on the bottom front panel.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 28 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[28] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the blocking element is formed from two parts, the two parts of the blocking element being engaged with each other in a manner allowing a compensation of radial dimension tolerances and angle errors.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Maxwell</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 29 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[29] The liquid filter according to claim 1, wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element.

	Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.
Claim 30 of U.S. Patent No. 9,023,203	
[30] The ring filter insert according to claim 15, wherein the protruding nose protrudes radially.	Champion has generally asserted the prior art references disclose the claimed element without identifying the specific structure and/or element(s) in the prior art references allegedly disclosing this element. Champion's general invalidity assertions with respect to the claimed element is thus unclear to Hengst. Absent more specific identification, Hengst denies the prior art references disclose the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Held</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Fremont</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Marshall</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Beard</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hersey</i> discloses the claimed element. Hengst denies <i>Hennes</i> discloses the claimed element.