US 20050207274A1

(19) United States

(12) Patent Application Publication

(10) Pub. No.: US 2005/0207274 A1

(43) Pub. Date: Sep. 22, 2005

Johnson et al.

(54) MICROFLUIDIC FLOW MANIPULATION DEVICE

(76) Inventors: **Timothy J. Johnson**, Charlestown, MA (US); **David J. Ross**, Silver Spring, MD (US); **Laurie E. Locascio**, North Potomac, MD (US)

Correspondence Address:
The Law Offices of William W. Cochran, LLC
Suite 230
3555 Stanford Road
Fort Collins, CO 80525 (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **11/131,145**

(22) Filed: **May 16, 2005**

Related U.S. Application Data

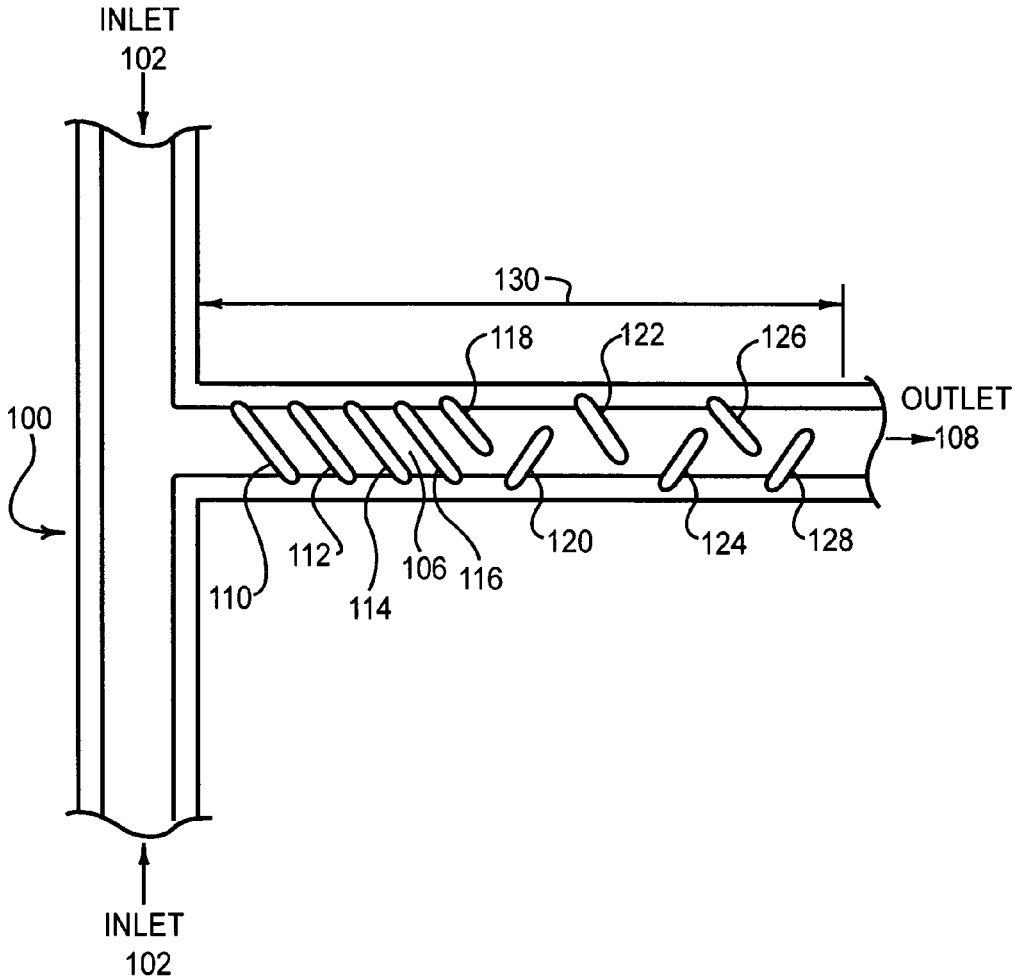
(62) Division of application No. 10/188,664, filed on Jul. 1, 2002, now Pat. No. 6,907,895.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/323,509, filed on Sep. 19, 2001.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **B01F 13/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **366/341**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is an apparatus and method for the mixing of two microfluidic channels wherein several wells are oriented diagonally across the width of a mixing channel. The device effectively mixes the confluent streams with electrokinetic flow, and to a lesser degree, with pressure driven flow. The device and method may be further adapted to split a pair of confluent streams into two or more streams of equal or non-equal concentrations of reactants. Further, under electrokinetic flow, the surfaces of said wells may be specially coated so that the differing electroosmotic mobility between the surfaces of the wells and the surfaces of the channel may increase the mixing efficiency. The device and method are applicable to the steady state mixing as well as the dynamic application of mixing a plug of reagent with a confluent stream.