

B82B

NANO-STRUCTURES FORMED BY MANIPULATION OF INDIVIDUAL ATOMS, MOLECULES, OR LIMITED COLLECTIONS OF ATOMS OR MOLECULES AS DISCRETE UNITS; MANUFACTURE OR TREATMENT THEREOF

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Precise arrangements of matter on molecular or atomic level having particularly shaped configurations (i.e. nano-structural assemblages) formed during manufacture which are distinct from both naturally occurring and chemically produced chemical or biological arrangements composed of similar matter, wherein each assemblage includes at least one essential integral element:

- Consisting solely of an atom, a molecule, or an atomically precise limited collection of either atoms or molecules (e.g. the collection in its entirety would be undetectable by any optical microscope with diffraction limited resolution) and
- Formed by having its atom, molecule, or limited collection of atoms or molecules individually manipulated as a discrete unit during the manufacture of its arrangement.

The essential integral elements of nano-structural assemblages when they include structural features limiting their use to these assemblages.

The manufacture or treatment of the above type of nano-structural assemblages when the manufacturing or treating creates an essential structural feature of an assemblage and utilizes either:

- Processes having one or more steps with specialized features directly related to individually manipulating atoms or molecules as discrete units when forming final products, or
- Apparatus specially adapted for performing at least one step in such processes.

Relationship between large subject matter areas

General relationship of [B82B](#) with section C:

The terminology "particularly shaped configurations distinct from both naturally occurring and chemically produced chemical or biological arrangements composed of similar matter" in the definition statement is intended to preclude classification of chemical or biological structures per se in this subclass that are similar in size. As a practical matter, what is intended by "distinct" in this phrase is that the only nano-sized structures appropriate

for this subclass are those that accomplish a function that is not inherent in the chemical or biological composition from which they are formed (e.g. a nano-sized structure shaped so that an atom or molecule component is movable between locations to act as a switch in an electrical operation would be classified in [B82B](#) even if it were formed using a method that included a chemical or biological step).

The subclasses under section C, "Chemistry; Metallurgy", specifically provide for the majority of these excluded chemical or biological structures per se, or specially adapted processes or apparatus for the manufacture or treatment thereof (e.g. in classes [C08C 12/00](#)).

References relevant to classification in this subclass

This subclass/group does not cover:

Examples of places where the subject matter of this subclass is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system

Nanocapsules for medicinal preparations	A61K 9/51
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Investigating or analyzing surface structures in atomic ranges using scanning-probe techniques	G01Q 10/00 - G01Q 90/00
Details of apparatus using scanning-probe techniques	G01Q 10/00 - G01Q 90/00
Thin magnetic film formed from spin-exchange coupled multi-layers	H01F 10/32
Apparatus or processes specially adapted for manufacturing or assembling devices by applying magnetic films to substrates that are formed from nanostructures	H01F 41/30

Special rules of classification within this subclass

Special rules for additional classification in other subclasses:

Except when the operation or practical utility of the nano-structure is inherently completely limited to a microscopic environment, the nano-structures that are covered by this subclass should also be obligatorily classified in subclasses that otherwise appropriately provide for their novel and unobvious structural or functional features.

Glossary of terms

In this subclass/group, the following terms (or expressions) are used with the meaning indicated:

Manufacture	Chemical, electrical, or mechanical process or apparatus for accomplishing one or more of the following operations on a nano structural assemblage or an essential integral element thereof: assembling, associating, bonding, constructing, creating, cutting, distorting, electric photographing, etching, fabricating, fastening, finishing, joining, juxtaposing, positioning, shaping, or working.
Nano-size or nano-scale	Controlled geometrical size below 100 nanometres (nm) in one or more dimensions
Nano-structure	Entity having at least one nano-sized functional component that makes physical, chemical or biological properties or effects available, which are uniquely attributable to the nano-scale

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Nano-structures formed by manipulation of individual atoms or molecules, or limited collections of atoms or molecules as discrete units

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Nano-structures formed by a bottom-up process by manipulation of individual atoms or molecules, or a limited collection thereof as discrete units.

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

chemical or biological processes per se	section C
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Manufacture or treatment of nano-structures by manipulation of individual atoms or molecules, or limited collections of atoms or molecules as discrete units

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Bottom-up manufacturing processes for manipulating individual atoms or molecules, or a limited collection thereof as discrete units.

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

chemical or biological processes per se	section C
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