

(19)



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(11)

EP 0 269 360 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
23.10.1996 Bulletin 1996/43

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **H01J 61/52, H01J 61/02,
H01J 61/18, H01J 61/36**

(21) Application number: **87310167.9**

(22) Date of filing: **18.11.1987**

(54) Improvements in or relating to metal vapour discharge lamps

Metalldampf-Entladungslampe

Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE

(30) Priority: **21.11.1986 GB 8627934**

(43) Date of publication of application:
01.06.1988 Bulletin 1988/22

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- **CENTRAL PATENT INDEX, JAPANESE PATENT
ABSTRACTS UNEXAMINED, Derwent, LONDON
DW 7805, JP-A-52149883**

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Description

This invention is related to the provision of cool spots in metal vapour discharge lamps and particularly in fluorescent low pressure mercury vapour discharge lamps.

The light output of a fluorescent lamp depends to a great extent on the lamp loading, that is, the amount of power dissipated per unit area of the tube. If the current in a given lamp is increased, the voltage is lowered due to the negative voltage/current characteristic of the discharge and the power and lumen output are increased. However, the efficacy falls, partly because of increased cathode losses and partly because the mercury vapour pressure is increased due to higher bulb temperature which results in increased self-absorption of the resonance radiation.

It is desirable to design a fluorescent lamp so that its highest light output occurs at the normal (stable) working temperature.

A fluorescent lamp has a maximum light output and in a typical lamp this occurs when the temperature of the coolest part of the lamp is about 40°C. For many standard linear fluorescent lamps, this condition is closely approached in normal usage with ambient temperatures of the order of 25°C. At these temperatures the mercury vapour pressure is at an optimum for the generation of ultra-violet radiation at 253.7nm, but as the temperature increases the vapour pressure also increases, with detrimental results as described above.

In some applications, lamps are required to run at temperatures higher than those required for maximum light output, especially when they are enclosed in luminaires.

In such cases, several methods have been used to reduce the mercury vapour pressure in the lamp, such as having a bubble blown in the lamp bulb which acts as a cool spot where mercury can condense. The temperature of the cool spot controls the vapour pressure in the lamp.

Provision may be made on the arc tube for a cool spot or the exhaust tube may be used for this purpose. In EP-A-0173962, a cooling tube is used.

It is an object of the invention to provide a lamp which is arranged to alleviate the problems as described hereinbefore.

According to the invention there is provided a metal vapour discharge lamp including an envelope and an exhaust, wherein a heat sink material different from the material of the exhaust is in thermal contact with the exhaust and adapted, in use, to conduct heat away from the exhaust and thus from the envelope, thereby to control the vapour pressure in the lamp.

Such an arrangement allows the temperature of the exhaust, which acts as a cool spot, to be controlled.

It is preferable for the heat sink material to be flexible.

The exhaust may be a substantially straight tube.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method of constructing a metal vapour discharge lamp having an envelope and an exhaust, the method including the step of placing a heat sink material different from the material of the exhaust in thermal contact with the exhaust in such a way that, in use, the heat sink material conducts heat away from the exhaust.

In order that the invention may be clearly understood and readily carried into effect, it will be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 shows an end of a lamp having an exhaust tube with a heat sink material in contact with it, Figure 2 shows an enlarged detail of Figure 1, Figure 3 shows another version of a lamp having a heat sink, Figure 4 shows an enlarged detail of Figure 3, and Figure 5 is a part cross-sectional view of a lamp embodying the invention.

In Figure 1, a metal eyelet 1 (made of, for example, brass, copper or aluminium) is assembled in the base 2 of an end cap 3, typically of a plastics material, covering, in this instance, both ends of a generally U-shaped lamp, having an envelope shown in part at 6. The eyelet is a thermally conductive member. A heat sink material 4, such as a zinc oxide in silicompound, for transferring heat away from the envelope, bridges the exhaust tube 5 and the eyelet 1. One suitable zinc oxide in silicone compound has thermal conductivity 0.712 Wm⁻¹ K⁻¹ and resistivity 2 x 10¹³Ωm at 20°C. The heat sink compound transfers heat to the eyelet which is located between pins 8 and 9, which are electrical connectors, mounted in the end cap.

Another heat sink material which may be used is metal filled epoxy resin.

Figure 2 shows an enlarged detail of Figure 1. In Figure 2 it can be seen that the heat sink material is exposed to the air via aperture 7 of the eyelet.

The heat sink material is preferably flexible. If this is so, greater tolerances on the assembly are allowable. Otherwise, movement of the glass exhaust tubing with respect to the cap may have to be taken into account and relative expansion of the various components as they heat up would have to be allowed for.

When a flexible material is used, it is possible to position it by injection through aperture 7 using a syringe or similar device.

In Figure 3, heat sink compound 4 is contained within a metal cap 10 which is set into the base 2 and contacts the eyelet 1 (as can be seen more clearly in Figure 4).

Figure 5 shows a lamp embodying the invention, having an envelope 6 and an exhaust tube 5 at one end of the envelope in thermal contact with a heat sink compound 4. An exhaust 11 at the other end of the envelope is shown sealed off.

For one particular lamp having an exhaust tube and heat sink, the light output was found to peak at an ambient temperature of 32°C compared with 27°C for a lamp having a conventional straight tip. The invention therefore allows highly loaded lamps to be used which run hotter than average and it may also be used where light fittings tend to run hot.

It will be apparent that the exhaust tube does not have to be straight, although it is in the example shown.

Although a generally U-shaped lamp has been illustrated, the invention is applicable to other lamps including lamps having straight envelopes. Also, it will be obvious to a skilled person that materials other than those specifically mentioned are suitable.

In the illustrated embodiments, the metal vapour discharge lamp is a low pressure mercury vapour discharge lamp which may be a fluorescent lamp, but the invention also applies to other metal vapour discharge lamps.

A further advantage of the invention is that it does not require a special form of bend or join in the lamp envelope.

Claims

1. A metal vapour discharge lamp including an envelope (6) and an exhaust (5), characterized by a heat sink material (4) different from the material of the exhaust (5), in thermal contact with the exhaust (5) and adapted, in use, to conduct heat away from the exhaust (5) and thus from the envelope (6), thereby to control the vapour pressure in the lamp.
2. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to claim 1 in which the exhaust (5) is a substantially straight tube.
3. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the heat sink material (4) is a physical heat sink compound.
4. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to claim 3 in which the physical compound is zinc oxide in silicone.
5. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to any one of the preceding claims in which the heat sink material (4) is flexible.
6. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to any one of the preceding claims including an end cap (3), of which the exhaust (5) is not a part, mounting a thermally conductive member (1), the heat sink material (4) bridging said envelope (6) and said member (1).
7. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to claim

6 in which the thermally conductive member (1) comprises a metal eyelet, the heat sink material (4) being in contact with air via an aperture (7) in the eyelet.

8. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to any one of claims 1 to 5 in which the heat sink material (4) is contained in a metal cap.
9. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to claim 8 including an end cap (3) mounting a thermally conductive member (1), said metal cap (10) being in thermal contact with the conductive member (1).
10. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to claim 9 in which the conductive member (1) is a metal eyelet.
11. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to any one of claims 6 to 10 in which the end cap (3) mounts at least two electrical connectors (8,9) and said thermally conductive member (1) is located between said electrical connectors (8,9).
12. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to any one of the preceding claims which is a low pressure mercury vapour discharge lamp.
13. A metal vapour discharge lamp according to claim 12 which is a fluorescent lamp.
14. A method of constructing a metal vapour discharge lamp having an envelope (6) and an exhaust (5), characterized in that the method includes the step of placing a heat sink material (4) different from the material of the exhaust (5) in thermal contact with the exhaust (5) in such a way that, in use, the heat sink material (4) conducts heat away from the exhaust (5).
15. A method according to claim 14 including fitting an end cap (3), of which the exhaust (5) is not a part, to an end of the envelope (6) and positioning the heat sink material (4) by injecting it through an aperture (7) in the end cap (3).

Patentansprüche

1. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe mit einem Mantel (6) und einem Auslaß (5), gekennzeichnet durch ein Wärmesenkenmaterial (4), das sich von dem Material des Auslasses (5) unterscheidet, in thermischem Kontakt mit dem Auslaß (5) und in der Lage ist, bei Benutzung Wärme von dem Auslaß (5) und somit von dem Mantel (6) wegzuleiten, um dadurch den Dampfdruck in der Lampe zu steuern.

2. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Auslaß (5) ein im wesentlichen gerades Rohr ist.
3. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2, wobei das Wärmesenkenmaterial (4) eine physikalische Wärmesenkenverbindung ist. 5
4. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach Anspruch 3, wobei die physikalische Verbindung Zinkoxid in Silikon ist. 10
5. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, wobei das Wärmesenkenmaterial (4) flexibel ist. 15
6. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, wobei eine Endkappe (3) vorgesehen ist, von der der Auslaß (5) nicht ein Teil ist und die ein thermisch leitendes Teil (1) befestigt, wobei das Wärmesenkenmaterial (4) den Mantel (6) und das Teil (1) überbrückt. 20
7. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach Anspruch 6, wobei das thermisch leitende Teil (1) eine Metallöse aufweist, wobei das Wärmesenkenmaterial (4) über eine Öffnung (7) in der Öse mit Luft in Kontakt ist. 25
8. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, wobei das Wärmesenkenmaterial (4) in einer Metallkappe enthalten ist. 30
9. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach Anspruch 8, wobei eine Endkappe (3) vorgesehen ist, die ein thermisch leitendes Teil (1) befestigt und mit dem leitenden Teil (1) in thermischem Kontakt ist. 35
10. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach Anspruch 9, wobei das leitende Teil (1) eine Metallöse ist. 40
11. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach einem der Ansprüche 6 bis 10, wobei die Endkappe (3) wenigstens zwei elektrische Verbinder (8, 9) befestigt und das thermisch leitende Teil (1) zwischen den elektrischen Verbindern (8, 9) angeordnet ist. 45
12. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Lampe eine Niederdruck-Quecksilberdampf-Entladungslampe ist. 50
13. Metaldampf-Entladungslampe nach Anspruch 12, wobei die Lampe eine Leuchtstofflampe ist.
14. Verfahren zum Fertigen einer Metaldampf-Entladungslampe mit einem Mantel (6) und einem Auslaß (5), dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren den Schritt enthält, daß ein Wärmesenkenma-

terial (4), das sich von dem Material des Auslasses (5) unterscheidet, in thermischem Kontakt mit dem Auslaß (5) derart angeordnet wird, daß bei Benutzung das Wärmesenkenmaterial (4) Wärme von dem Auslaß (5) weggleitet.

15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 14, wobei eine Endkappe (3), von der der Auslaß (5) nicht ein Teil ist, an ein Ende des Mantels (6) angepaßt und das Wärmesenkenmaterial (4) angeordnet wird, indem es durch eine Öffnung (7) in der Endkappe (3) injiziert wird.

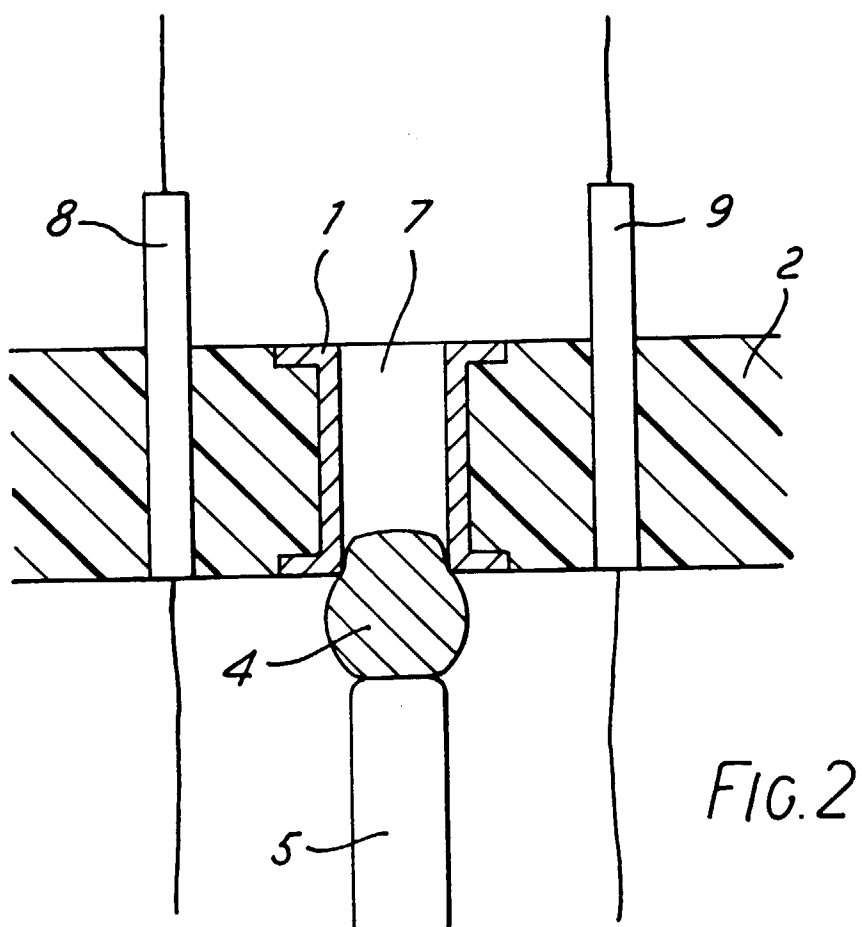
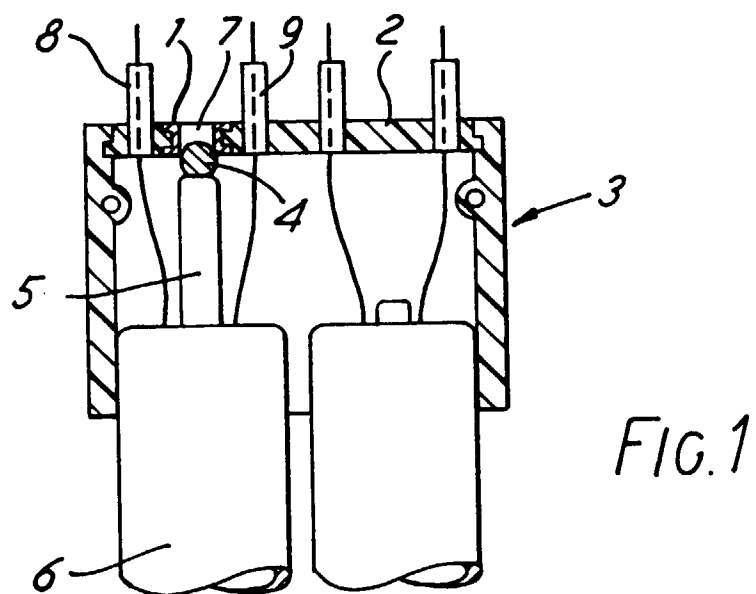
Revendications

1. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique comprenant une enveloppe (6) et un tube d'échappement (5), caractérisée par un matériau (4) de dissipation de chaleur, différent du matériau constitutif du tube d'échappement (5), en contact thermique avec le tube d'échappement (5) et adapté pour que, pendant l'utilisation, il évacue par conduction la chaleur depuis le tube d'échappement (5) et, de ce fait, depuis l'enveloppe (6), en réglant ainsi la pression de la vapeur dans la lampe.
2. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le tube d'échappement (5) est un tube sensiblement droit.
3. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, dans laquelle le matériau (4) de dissipation de chaleur est un composé de dissipation physique de la chaleur.
4. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon la revendication 3, dans laquelle le composé physique est de l'oxyde de zinc dans du silicone.
5. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans laquelle le matériau (4) de dissipation de chaleur est souple.
6. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes comprenant un chapeau d'extrémité (3), dont ne fait pas partie le tube d'échappement (5), supportant un élément thermoconducteur (1), le matériau (4) de dissipation de chaleur reliant ensemble ladite enveloppe (6) et ledit élément (1).
7. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon la revendication 6, dans laquelle l'élément thermoconducteur (1) comprend un oeillet métallique, le matériau (4) de dissipation de chaleur étant en contact avec l'air par l'intermédiaire d'une ouverture (7) de

l'oeillet.

8. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon les revendication 1 à 5, dans laquelle le matériau (4) de dissipation de chaleur est contenu dans un chapeau métallique. 5
9. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon la revendication 8, comprenant un chapeau d'extrémité (3) supportant un élément thermoconducteur (1), ledit chapeau métallique (10) étant en contact thermique avec l'élément conducteur (1). 10
10. Lampe à décharge selon la revendication 9, dans laquelle l'élément conducteur (1) est un oeillet métallique. 15
11. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 6 à 10, dans laquelle le chapeau d'extrémité (3) supporte au moins deux connecteurs électriques (8, 9) et ledit élément thermoconducteur (1) se trouve entre lesdits connecteurs électriques (8, 9). 20
12. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, laquelle lampe est une lampe à décharge à vapeur de mercure. 25
13. Lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique selon la revendication 12, laquelle lampe est une lampe fluorescente. 30
14. Procédé de fabrication d'une lampe à décharge à vapeur métallique comportant une enveloppe (6) et un tube d'échappement (5), caractérisé en ce qu'il comprend l'étape de mise en place d'un matériau (4) de dissipation de chaleur, différent du matériau du tube d'échappement (5), en contact thermique avec ce tube d'échappement (5) de façon telle que, pendant l'utilisation, le matériau (4) de dissipation de chaleur évacue par conduction la chaleur depuis le tube d'échappement (5). 35 40
15. Procédé selon la revendication 14, comprenant le montage d'un chapeau (3) d'extrémité, dont ne fait pas partie le tube d'échappement (5), sur une extrémité de l'enveloppe (6) et le positionnement du matériau (4) de dissipation de chaleur par injection de ce matériau à travers une ouverture (7) du chapeau (3) d'extrémité. 45 50

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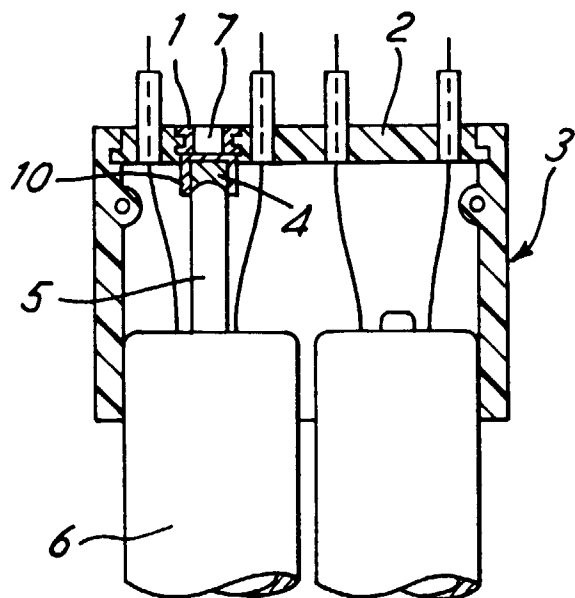


FIG. 3

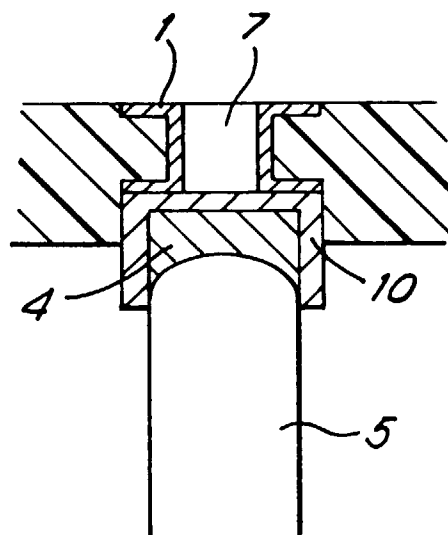


FIG. 4

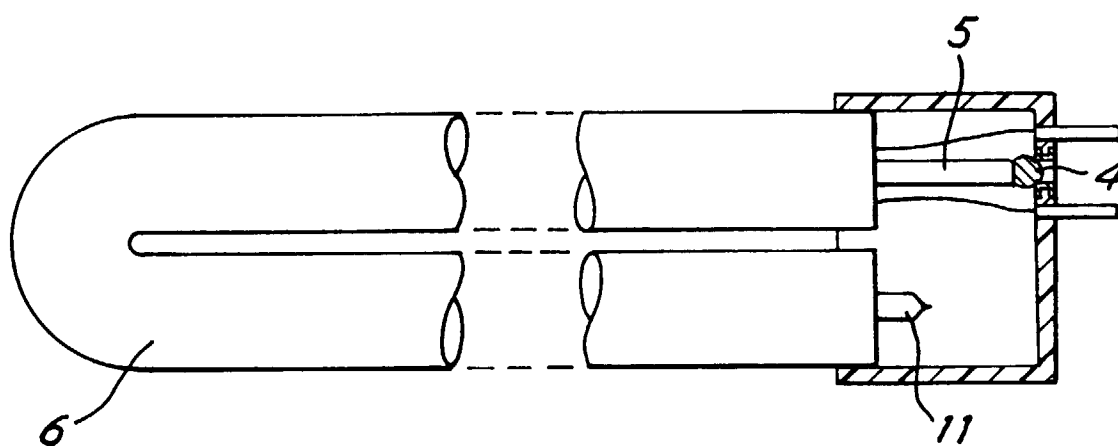


FIG. 5