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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

[Continued on next page]

- (54) Title: LIGHTING STRIP AND LIGHTING DEVICE

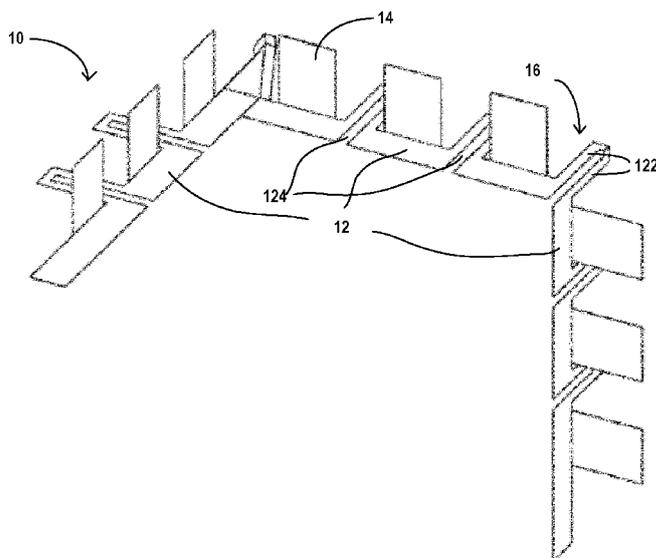


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: Embodiments of the present disclosure relate to a lighting strip, comprising a flexible printed circuit strip which comprises a plurality of wiring portions and a plurality of respective carrying portions, the wiring portions are used to supply electrical power to electric elements disposed on the carrying portions, and the carrying portions protrude from the wiring portions and are adapted to be bent around the wiring portions; a plurality of solid-state lighting elements respectively mounted on the carrying portions; wherein the wiring portion is provided with at least one pitch adjusting portion for adjusting a pitch between two adjacent carrying portions. Embodiments of the present disclosure also relate to a lighting device. According to the lighting strip and lighting device of the present disclosure, the positions of the solid-state lighting elements on the carrying portions, particularly the positions relative to the lighting elements, can be conveniently and precisely adjusted, thereby achieving a desired three-dimensional illumination shaping.



**Published:**

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

## LIGHTING STRIP AND LIGHTING DEVICE

### FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           Embodiments of the present disclosure relate to a lighting strip, and more specifically to a lighting strip adapted to be bent horizontally or vertically to implement various three-dimensional illumination.

### BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

10           Styling lighting is widely used in the industrial field, for example, used in a tail lamp, a brake lamp, combination lamp for an automobile, and a display panel for a display. Such lighting devices usually comprise a light-emitting element and a light guide, wherein light emitted from the light-emitting element transmits through the light guide and exits out of the light guide, thereby forming various light shape patterns. However, to meet requirements for pleasant appearance, or  
15 requirements for specific light shapes, the light guide usually takes various three-dimensional shapes, e.g., the light guide has a different curvature. How to position the light-emitting element properly with respect to the light guide to achieve uniform illumination is a technical problem urgently to be solved in the art.

### 20 SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

          In view of the above, one of the objectives of the embodiments of the present disclosure lies in providing a lighting strip and a lighting device, which can at least solve one or more of aforesaid technical problems existing in the prior art.

          According to a first aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a lighting strip,  
25 comprising a flexible printed circuit strip which comprises a plurality of wiring portions and a plurality of respective carrying portions, wherein the wiring portions are used to supply electrical power to electric elements disposed on the carrying portions, and the carrying portions protrude from the wiring portions and are adapted to be bent around the wiring portions; a plurality of solid-state lighting elements respectively mounted on the carrying portions; wherein the wiring portion

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is provided with at least one pitch adjusting portion for adjusting a pitch between two adjacent carrying portions.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, at least one wiring portion of the plurality of wiring portions comprises a main body portion and at least one flexible arm  
5 extending protrudingly from the main body portion, and the pitch adjusting portion is comprised of at least one flexible arm.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the flexible arm is disposed between two adjacent wiring portions, and the flexible arm is formed in a shape having an opening.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, opening direction of the  
10 opening is identical with or opposite to a direction in which the carrying portion protrudes from the wiring portion.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the flexible arm is U-shaped or V-shaped.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the flexible arm is configured  
15 such that its arm portion can be folded in a horizontal or vertical surface to change opening degree of the opening and thus to adjust the pitch between two adjacent carrying portions and/or a light transmitting direction of the solid-state lighting elements mounted on the two adjacent carrying portions.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the main body portion is  
20 provided with a welding pad for line connection and/or a contact for an individual connector.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the solid-state lighting element is a light-emitting diode.

According to a second aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a lighting device, comprising a light guide member having a light incident surface and a light exit surface;  
25 and the lighting strip according to the first aspect; wherein the carrying portion of the lighting strip is arranged substantially opposite to the light incident surface so that light from the solid-state lighting element mounted on the carrying portion transmits through the light incident surface into the light guide member, and the pitch between two adjacent carrying portions of the lighting strip can be adjusted via the pitch adjusting portion.

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According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the lighting device is used as a lamp for use in a vehicle.

According to the lighting strip and lighting device of embodiments of the present disclosure, with arranged the pitch adjusting portion, the positions of the solid-state lighting elements on the carrying portions, particularly the positions relative to the lighting elements, can be conveniently and precisely adjusted, thereby achieving a desired three-dimensional styling illumination.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS

Now, the embodiments of the present disclosure will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings only in an exemplary manner, wherein:

Fig. 1 shows a structural schematic view of a flexible printed circuit strip according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 2 shows a structural schematic view of a lighting strip according to one embodiment of the present disclosure; and

Fig. 3 shows an application instance of a lighting strip according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, the embodiments of the present disclosure will be described in detail with reference to figures. It should be noted that like reference numerals may be used for like components or functional assemblies in the figures. The figures are only intended to illustrate the embodiments of the present disclosure. Those skilled in the art may obtain an alternative embodiment from the description below without departing from the spirit and protection scope of the present disclosure.

The embodiments of the present disclosure will be described in detail with reference to figures.

Fig. 1 shows a structural schematic view of a flexible printed circuit strip according to one embodiment of the present disclosure; Fig. 2 shows a structural schematic view of a lighting strip according to one embodiment of the present disclosure. As shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, the

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lighting strip 100 according to one embodiment of the present disclosure comprises a flexible printed circuit strip 10 and a solid-state lighting element 20.

The flexible printed circuit strip 10 comprises a plurality of wiring portions 12 and a plurality of respective carrying portions 14. The wiring portions 12 are used to supply electrical power to electric elements disposed on the carrying portions 14, and the carrying portions 14 protrude from the wiring portions 12 and are adapted to be bent around the wiring portions 12. In an embodiment, the carrying portions 14 protrude from the wiring portions 12 in a tooth shape, e.g., in a rectangular tooth shape as shown in Fig. 1. It should be appreciated that according to needs, the carrying portions 14 may protrude from the wiring portions 12 in other various proper shapes so long as the carrying portions 14 can carry the electric elements or lighting elements.

The wiring portions 12 and carrying portions 14 may be made from the same material, e.g., a flexible polymer such as polyimide, polyester, ether ketone and polyether. As shown in Fig. 1, the carrying portions 14 are adapted to be bent around a boundary between the carrying portions 14 and wiring portions 12. Although Fig. 1 shows that the carrying portions 14 all are bent from the respective wiring portions 12, it should be appreciated that the carrying portions 14 may be selectively bent according to needs. As shown in Fig. 2, a plurality of solid-state lighting elements 20 are respectively mounted on the carrying portions 14. The solid-state lighting elements 20 for example may be LEDs. In some embodiments, the wiring portions 12 and carrying portions 14 may be made from different materials, for example, the wiring portions may be made from an electrically conductive material.

An important characteristic of the embodiment of the present disclosure lies in that the wiring portion 12 is provided with a pitch adjusting portion 16 for adjusting a pitch between two adjacent carrying portions 14. As the carrying portion 14 is adapted to be bent around a boundary between the carrying portion 14 and wiring portion 12, a mounting flexibility of the carrying portion 14 can be increased. In the case that the pitch adjusting portion 16 is arranged, the mounting flexibility of the carrying portion 14 can be further enhanced. Specifically, in the case that the pitch adjusting portion 16 is not arranged, relative positions of two adjacent carrying portions 14 can only be changed by bending to implement position adjustment, so adjustment amplitude is limited. For example, it is difficult to accurately position the carrying portion with respect to the light guide member for a complicated curved shaped light guide structure. With the pitch adjusting portion 16

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being arranged, the relative positions of the two adjacent carrying portions 14 may be freely adjusted by the pitch adjusting portion 16, so that the lighting element 20 can be precisely positioned and thereby an incident angle at which the solid-state lighting element 20 enters the light guide member can be precisely adjusted.

5           According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, at least one wiring portion 12 of the plurality of wiring portions 12 comprises a main body portion 120 and at least one flexible arm 122 extending protrudingly from the main body portion 120, and the pitch adjusting portion 16 is comprised of at least one flexible arm 122. In such an arrangement, the pitch adjustment between wiring portions 12 can be easily implemented through the flexible arm 122 located between two  
10 adjacent wiring portions 12.

          According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the flexible arm 122 is disposed between two adjacent wiring portions 12, and the flexible arm 122 is formed in a shape having an opening 124. In such an arrangement, the pitch adjustment between wiring portions 12 can be easily implemented through deformation of the opening 124.

15           According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the flexible arm 122 opens in a direction identical with or opposite to a direction in which the carrying portion 14 protrudes from the wiring portion 12. The opening direction of the opening 124 may realize free deployment of the carrying portion 14 at any position of the lighting strip.

          According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the flexible arm 122 is  
20 U-shaped or V-shaped. As shown in Fig. 1, the U shape or V shape opening direction of the U-shaped or V-shaped flexible arm 122 is opposite to the direction in which the carrying portion 14 protrudes from the wiring portion 12. According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the U shape or V shape opening direction is identical with the direction in which the carrying portion 14 protrudes from the wiring portion 12. The flexible printed circuit of the present embodiment is  
25 simple in structure, easy to implement and convenient to install.

          According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the flexible arm 122 is configured such that its arm portion can be bent (or folded) in a horizontal or vertical surface to change the opening degree of the opening and thus to adjust the pitch between two adjacent carrying portions 14 and a light transmitting direction of the lighting elements 20 mounted on the carrying

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portions 14. Upon installation, positions of carrying portions 14 at both ends of the flexible arm 122 may be easily adjusted through the deformation of the flexible arm 122.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the main body portion 120 is provided with a welding pad 126 for line connection and/or a contact 124 for an individual connector. In the case that the main body portion 120 and carrying portion 14 are made from the same material, power is supplied to an LED 20 by the welding pad 126 and/or contacts 124. In an embodiment, both the welding pad 126 and contacts 124 may be disposed on the main body portion 20 to increase selectivity for connecting to the circuit. In another embodiment, only one of the welding pad 126 and contact 124 may be selectively arranged.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, one of the wiring portions comprises one flexible arm. In another embodiment, one of the wiring portions comprises two flexible arms, for example, the flexible arm is disposed respectively on both sides of one of the wiring portions. The embodiment shown in Fig. 1 shows that the wiring portions 12 at both ends of the flexible circuit strip 10 each have one flexible arm 122, and wiring portions 12 in an intermediate section of the flexible circuit strip 10 each have two flexible arms. However, it should be appreciated that this example is only for exemplary purpose, and the number of flexible arms may be selectively set according to needs. In another embodiment not shown, some wiring portions may not be provided with the flexible arm. The above-mentioned variations all fall within the scope of the present disclosure.

Fig. 3 shows an application instance of a lighting strip according to one embodiment of the present disclosure. The inventive concept of the present disclosure can be made apparent through the application instance of the lighting strip 10. It should be appreciated that for the sake of clarity illustration, only carrying portions of the lighting strip 10 are shown, a light guide member 200 is also illustrative, and only an incident surface of the light guide member 200 is shown.

As shown in the figure, the lighting device comprises a light guide member 200 and a lighting strip 100. The light guide member 200 has a light incident surface and a light exit surface. The carrying portion 14 of the lighting strip is arranged substantially opposite to the light incident surface so that light from the solid-state lighting element 20 mounted on the carrying portion 14 transmits through the light incident surface into the light guide member, and the pitch between two adjacent carrying portions 14 of the lighting strip 100 can be adjusted via the pitch adjusting portion

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16. As shown in the figure, the position of the carrying portion 14 may be adjusted conveniently through flexible deployment of the pitch adjusting portion 16 (flexible arm). In this way, precise positioning of the lighting element 20 relative to the light guide member 200 can be realized.

According to one embodiment of the present disclosure, the lighting device is used as a lamp for vehicle. In another embodiment, the lighting device is used as a display panel of a display.

According to the lighting strip and lighting device of embodiments of the present disclosure, the positions of the solid-state lighting elements on the carrying portions, particularly the positions relative to the lighting elements, can be conveniently and precisely adjusted, thereby achieving a desired three-dimensional styling illumination.

Through the teachings provided in the above description and relevant figures, many modification forms and other embodiments of the present disclosure will be realized by those skilled in the art. Therefore, it should be understood that the embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to the preferred embodiments as disclosed; moreover, the modified forms and other embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of the present disclosure. Besides, although the above description and relevant figures have described the exemplary embodiments under the background of some exemplary combinations of components and/or functions, it should be aware that different combination forms of the components and/or functions may be provided by alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the present disclosure. In this case, for example, other combination forms of components and/or functions somewhat different from what have been explicitly described are also predicted to fall within the scope of the present disclosure. Although specific terms are employed here, they are only used in their general and descriptive meanings, not intended for limitation.

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CLAIMS:

1. A lighting strip (100), comprising:
  - 5 a flexible printed circuit strip (10) comprising a plurality of wiring portions (12) and a plurality of respective carrying portions (14), the wiring portions (12) being for supplying electrical power to electric elements disposed on the carrying portions (14), and the carrying portions (14) each protruding from the respective wiring portions (12) and being adapted to be bent around the wiring portions (12);
  - 10 a plurality of solid-state lighting elements (20) respectively carried on the carrying portions (14);  
wherein at least one of the wiring portions (12) is provided with at least one pitch adjusting portion (16) for adjusting a pitch between two adjacent carrying portions (14).
- 15 2. The lighting strip according to claim 1, wherein at least one wiring portion (12) of the plurality of wiring portions (12) comprises a main body portion (120) and at least one flexible arm (122) extending protrudingly from the main body portion (120), and the pitch adjusting portion (16) is comprised of at least one flexible arm (122).
- 20 3. The lighting strip according to claim 2, wherein the flexible arm (122) is disposed between two adjacent wiring portions (12), and the flexible arm (122) is formed in a shape having an opening.
4. The lighting strip according to claim 3, wherein opening direction of the opening is identical with or opposite to a direction in which the carrying portion (14) protrudes from the wiring portion  
25 (12).
5. The lighting strip according to claim 3, wherein the flexible arm (122) is U-shaped or V-shaped.

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6. The lighting strip according to claim 3, wherein the flexible arm (122) is configured such that its arm portion can be folded in a horizontal or vertical surface to change an opening degree of the opening and thus to adjust the pitch between two adjacent carrying portions (14) and/or a light transmitting direction of the solid-state lighting elements mounted on the carrying portions (14)

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7. The lighting strip according to any one of claims 2-6, wherein the main body portion (120) is provided with a welding pad (126) for line connection and/or a contact (124) for an individual connector.

10 8. The lighting strip according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the solid-state lighting element (20) is a light-emitting diode.

9. A lighting device, comprising:

a light guide member (200) having a light incident surface and a light exit surface; and

15 the lighting strip (100) according to any one of claims 1-8;

wherein the carrying portion (14) of the lighting strip is arranged substantially opposite to the light incident surface so that light from the solid-state lighting element (20) mounted on the carrying portion (14) transmits through the light incident surface into the light guide member, and a pitch between two adjacent carrying portions (14) of the lighting strip (100) can be adjusted via the pitch  
20 adjusting portion (16).

10. The lighting device according to claim 9, wherein the lighting device is used as a lamp for a vehicle.

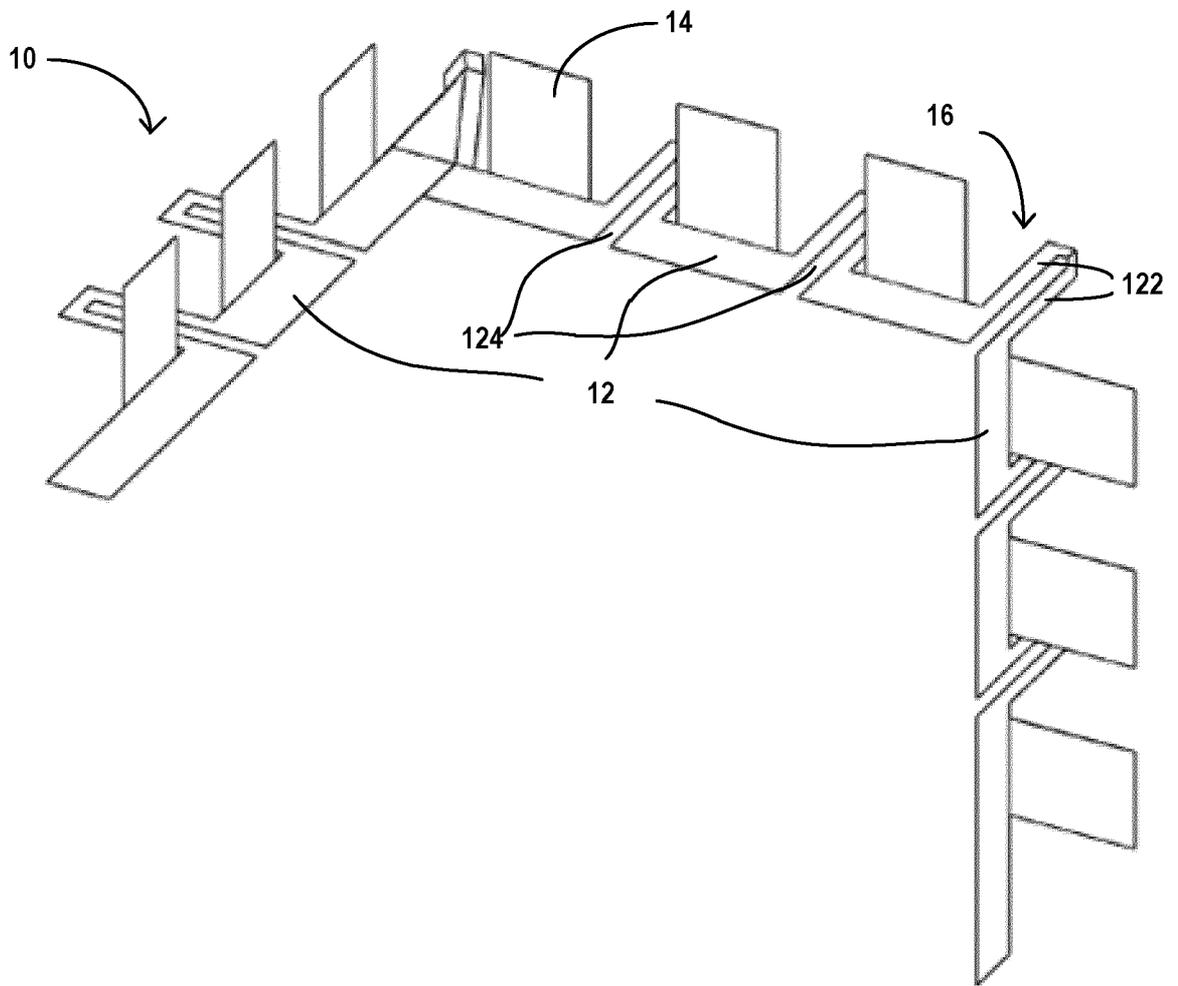


Fig. 1

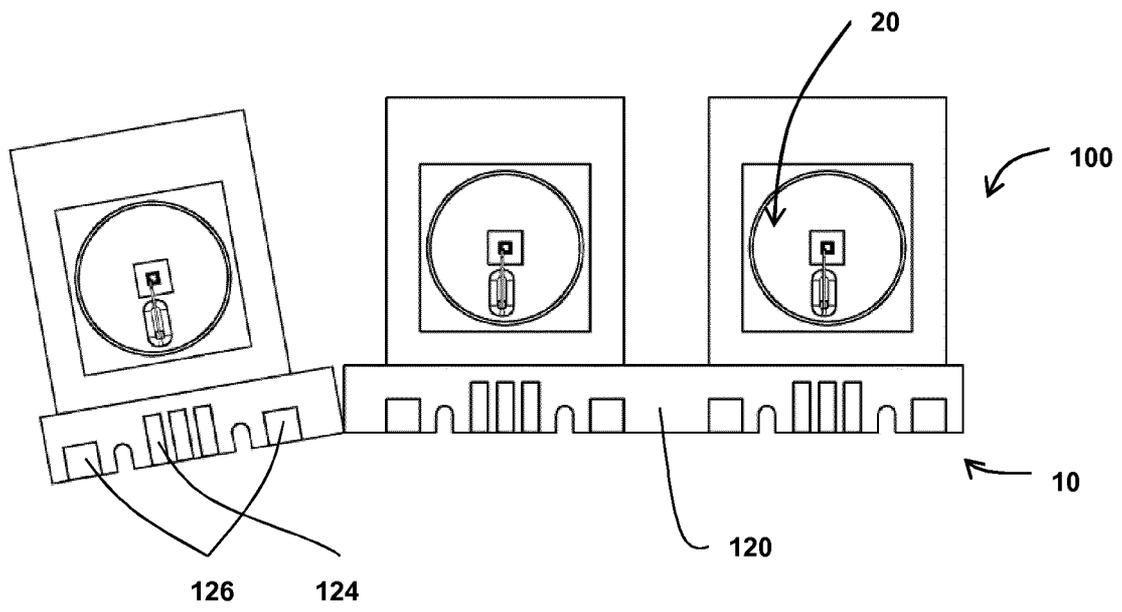


Fig. 2

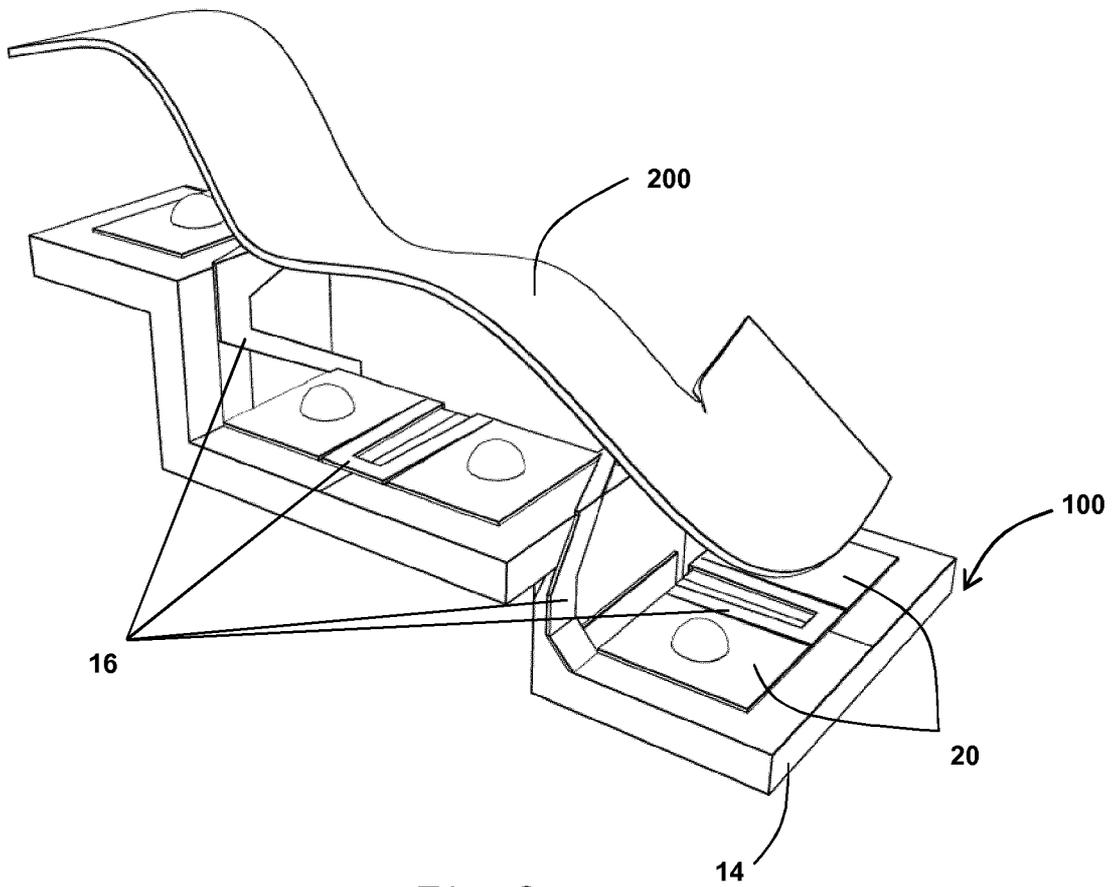


Fig. 3

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No  
PCT/EP2016/062520

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
INV. H05K1/02 H05K1/18 F21S4/24  
ADD.  
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED  
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
H05K F21Y F21S

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	CN 202 561 541 U (CHANGGUI LIU) 28 November 2012 (2012-11-28) paragraphs [0004], [0005]; figures 4-6 -----	1-6,8-10
Y	US 2014/001498 A1 (COOIJMANS HUIB [NL]) 2 January 2014 (2014-01-02) paragraphs [0002] - [0006]; figure 3 -----	1-6,8-10

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search <b>26 August 2016</b>	Date of mailing of the international search report <b>02/09/2016</b>
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer <b>Degroote, Bart</b>
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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/EP2016/062520

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.: 7  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
  
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
  
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
  
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 7

Claim 7 offends against Article 6 PCT. In the description (p. 6, lines 5-6) it is mentioned that "In the case that the main body portion 120 and carrying portion 14 are made from the same material, power is supplied to an LED 20 by the welding pad 126 and/or contacts 124". For this reason, it appears that the welding pad and/or the contacts have the purpose of supplying power to an LED. However, this is in contradiction with the feature of claim 1 that the wiring portions are provided for supplying electrical power to electric elements. Due to this ambiguity, no meaningful search can be carried out.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guidelines C-IV, 7.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2016/062520

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
CN 202561541	U	28-11-2012	NONE
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US 2014001498	A1	02-01-2014	CN 103460813 A 18-12-2013
			EP 2689642 A1 29-01-2014
			JP 5851017 B2 03-02-2016
			JP 2014512093 A 19-05-2014
			RU 2013146958 A 27-04-2015
			US 2014001498 A1 02-01-2014
			WO 2012127355 A1 27-09-2012
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