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(54) **Electrical device with connector protection**

(57) A device (100) is normally plugged into a common household wall socket via electrical contact blades (508) which protrude from rear surface (504) of housing (202). In a preferred embodiment of device (100), a recess or cavity (510) is formed in rear surface (504) of housing (202) surrounding electrical contact blades (508). A protector (512) is disposed in cavity (510) and extends the length of blades (508). Protector (512) is collapsible such that it collapses into cavity (510) as blades (508) are inserted into the wall socket. When blades (508) are removed from the wall socket, protector (512) extends from cavity (510) to prevent contact with blades (508) until device (100) is completely removed from the wall socket.

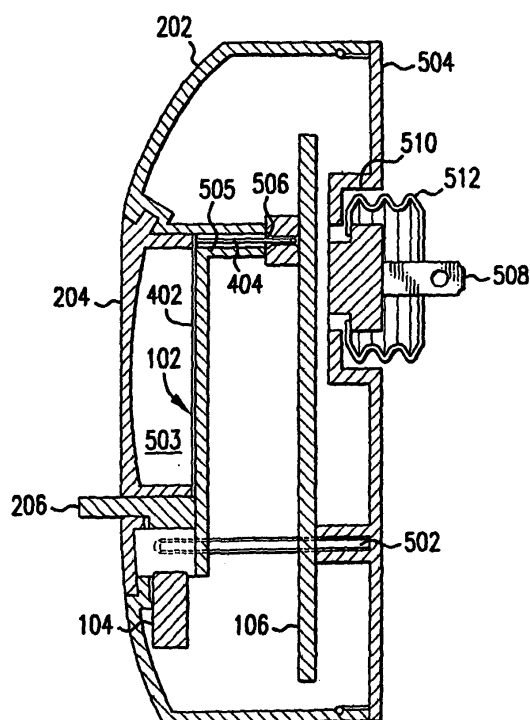


FIG.5

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 4 810 199 A (KAR ET AL) 7 March 1989 (1989-03-07) * column 3, line 47 - line 66 *	1-4	H05B33/08
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 03, 31 March 1997 (1997-03-31) -& JP 08 287994 A (MIHASHI YASUYOSHI), 1 November 1996 (1996-11-01) * abstract *	1-4	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 04, 30 April 1997 (1997-04-30) -& JP 08 330016 A (TOYOTOMI CO LTD), 13 December 1996 (1996-12-13) * abstract *	1-4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			H05B
1 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 25 August 2005	Examiner Villafuerte Abrego
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

see annex



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-4

A device with a housing and with electrical connection
blades with a retracting protector.

2. claims: 5-6

A lighting device with a housing containing an EL element
connected to a control system aligned and guided
electrically and mechanically by a guide-way.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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25-08-2005

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4810199	A	07-03-1989	NONE	
JP 08287994	A	01-11-1996	NONE	
JP 08330016	A	13-12-1996	NONE	

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82