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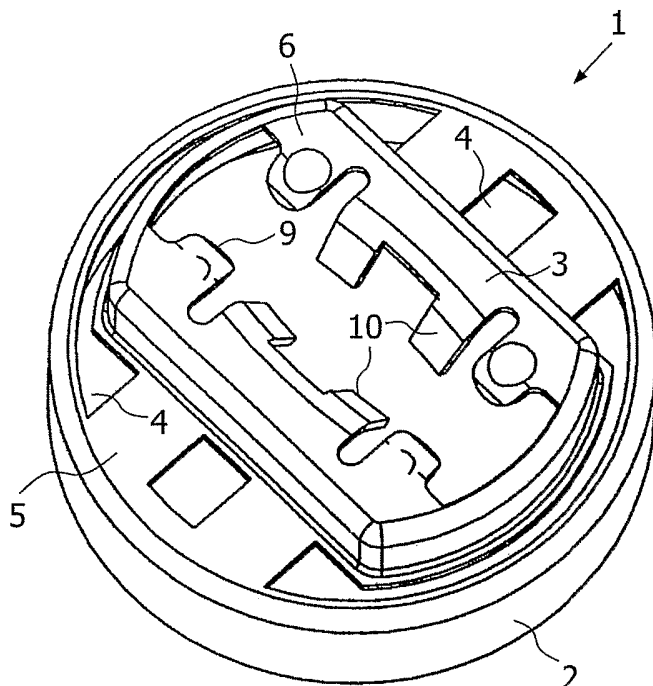
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(54) Title: LAMP HAVING IMPROVED VIBRATION DAMPING



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a lamp (8), in particular a vehicle lamp, having a base (17), a burner (7) having a light-generating element (11, 12), and an adapter plate (1) having a connecting region (2) and a receiving portion (3), the connecting region (2) being connected to the base (17) and the receiving portion (3) to the burner (7). The adapter plate (1) has cutouts (4) between the connecting region (2) and the receiving portion (3) such that the connection region (2) is no longer rigid but has a certain flexibility.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Lamp having improved vibration damping

The invention relates to a lamp, in particular a vehicle lamp, having

- a base,

5 - a burner having a light-generating element,

- and an adapter plate having a connecting region and a receiving portion, the connecting region being connected to the base and the receiving portion being connected to the burner.

Known lamps of the kind specified in the opening paragraph have a burner in
10 which the light-generating element proper, such as, for example, one or more incandescent filaments, is formed in a glass envelope. In lamps of this kind, the connection of the burner to a lamp base is made for example by using an adapter plate made of metal, which is connected on the one hand to the lamp base and on the other hand to the burner. To allow the burner to be connected to the lamp base electrically, the latter has conductor guides through which the
15 supply wires projecting from the burner are run to corresponding terminals arranged in the terminal region of the lamp base that are used to make contact with the lamp.

Known from DE 196 01 396 is a cementless capped halogen incandescent
20 lamp of the kind specified in the opening paragraph in which the burner is fixed by clamping in an opening in a holder part, the holder part itself being fastened to a sleeve forming part of a base of the lamp.

All lamps of the kind specified in the opening paragraph have the disadvantage that, when used in a vehicle, because of their rigid construction they transmit
25 the vibrations that occur during the operation of the vehicle undamped to the burner, and in particular to the filaments arranged therein, as a result of which their working life is considerably shortened due to the fractures that regularly occur in the filaments. Low resonances in particular have an especially adverse effect on the life of the lamps in this case.

It is an object of the invention to provide a lamp of simple and strong construction that has a high capacity for withstanding vibrations and oscillations.

The invention achieves this object with a lamp as claimed in claim 1 and a headlight as claimed in claim 8. Advantageous embodiments of the invention are specified in the dependent claims.

A characterizing feature of the lamp according to the invention is the design of the adapter plate, which has cutouts between the connecting region and the receiving portion. The cutouts, which create an open space between the receiving portion and the connecting region, are in this case of a form such that the connection between the receiving portion and the connecting region is no longer rigid but has a certain flexibility. Oscillations and vibrations that, where the lamp according to the invention is used in a vehicle, inevitably occur during the operation of the vehicle, are thus damped in such a way that the vibrations that are transmitted to the burner and that may damage the incandescent filaments are considerably reduced.

Consequently, the life of the lamps according to the invention is increased as compared with lamps of the same kind in which the vibrations are transmitted undamped to the internal structure of the lamp. The occurrence of filament fractures is, in particular, considerably reduced by the construction according to the invention of the lamp.

In principle, the form taken by the cutouts, and hence the form taken by the connection between the receiving portion and the connecting region, may be as desired, the position, size and shape of the cutouts having a considerable effect on the damping properties of the lamp. However, in an advantageous embodiment of the invention, the cutouts are of a design such that the connecting region and the receiving portion are connected together by bridges, and preferably by four bridges extending substantially perpendicularly to the axis of the burner.

The bridges may likewise be of any desired dimensions in this case and may be aligned as desired. The bridges are preferably arranged on the connecting region in opposing pairs. As an alternative however, what is also possible is an arrangement for the bridges where they are uniformly distributed around the circumference of the connecting region, the preferred arrangement of the bridges in opposing pairs on the one hand ensuring that the lamp has a particularly high damping action, while on the other hand, and at the same time, the connection between the connecting region and the receiving portion is of adequate strength, thus ensuring that the burner will be reliably positioned in a reflector of a headlight.

This is an essential prerequisite for a consistently aligned beam from the headlight, something that is laid down as mandatory for vehicles.

A further advantage of this embodiment of the invention is that there is no need for a totally new design for the known adapter plate. Hence it is possible for an adapter
5 plate according to the invention to be produced by a simple reworking and/or post-processing of conventional solid adapter plates. Alternatively, it is possible for the making of the cutouts, by punching for example, to be incorporated in the production process at some suitable point.

In an advantageous embodiment of the invention, a top face of the receiving
10 portion is arranged to be offset from a plane that extends parallel to the top face and through a portion of the connecting region that adjoins the cutouts. In this embodiment of the invention, the receiving portion is displaced relative to the connecting region, the receiving portion preferably being arranged above the connecting region. Terms such as "above" and "below" that are used to describe the arrangement of the components relative to one another
15 refer in this case to an upright position of the lamp in which the burner is arranged at the top. This statement of a reference orientation is intended solely to assist understanding and should not be construed as a limitation.

This embodiment of the invention, in which the region between the receiving portion and the connecting region may for example even be inclined to a perpendicular to the
20 axis of the burner, makes it possible, in the case of a preferred arrangement of the receiving portion above the connecting region, for the angle of the emitted light to be increased in comparison with lamps in which the receiving portion and the connecting region are arranged in a plane.

What is more, this embodiment of the invention allows the damping properties
25 to be fixed in such a way that the lamp has different damping properties to suit the orientation of the oscillations and vibrations.

In a particularly advantageous embodiment of the invention, the top face of the receiving portion is arranged to be parallel with but offset from a plane formed by the bridges. Hence the receiving portion and the bridges are connected together by a step that
30 extends substantially at right angles to the top face and the bridges.

Because of the bridges that extend parallel to the receiving portion, this embodiment of the invention ensures especially good damping of all vibrations that act on the burner axially, which vibrations have a particularly adverse effect on the life of the filaments arranged in the burner. This embodiment of the invention also has the advantage that the

angle of the emitted light can be increased towards the lamp base in a special way in comparison with an arrangement where the connecting region and the receiving portion are in a plane.

Basically, the way in which the burner is arranged on the receiving portion can
5 be freely selected. It may for example be bonded into the receiving portion. However, in an advantageous embodiment of the invention the receiving portion has an opening in which the burner is fixed by clamping, thus enabling any additional physically united connection of the burner to the adapter plate to be dispensed with.

To ensure that the burner is fixed in the receiving portion particularly well
10 and, at the same time, to prevent the burner from tilting when being inserted in the receiving portion at the time of assembly, in a further special embodiment of the invention the burner has two wide sides and two narrow sides in the region where contact is made with the receiving portion and the opening has supporting tabs directed towards the narrow sides. As well as ensuring that the burner is reliably positioned, this embodiment of the invention also
15 increases the damping properties of the lamp, because the supporting tabs produce an additional damping effect.

These and other aspects of the invention are apparent from and will be elucidated with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter.

20

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side view of a lamp having a two-stepped adapter plate.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the adapter plate of the lamp of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the adapter plate of Fig. 2, and

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Fig. 4 is a section through the adapter plate of Fig. 2.

The embodiment of lamp 8 according to the invention that is shown in Fig. 1 is a lamp 8 for use in a motor vehicle headlight, which is not shown in the present case.

30

The lamp 8 has a burner 7 that is formed by a glass envelope in the interior of which are situated two incandescent filaments 11, 12. The incandescent filaments 11, 12 are supplied with current via fused-in supply wires 14 that are fastened to corresponding terminal members (not shown here) in the interior of the lamp base 17. One of the incandescent filaments 11 is provided with a dipped-beam base 13.

A locating flange 15 and a terminal region 16 together form the lamp base 17. The adapter plate 1 is welded to the locating flange 15, which is used to line up the lamp 8 in a headlight.

5 By its end adjacent to the lamp base 17, the burner 7 is fixed by clamping in an opening 9 in the receiving portion 3 of the adapter plate 1, in which case supporting tabs 10 that press against the wide side of the burner 7 fix the burner to the adapter plate in such a way that it is firmly connected to the adapter plate 1 (see Fig. 2 and Fig. 4).

As can be seen from Figs. 2 and 3, a region between the connecting region 2, which latter is connected to a ring that is circular in cross-section and of a cylindrical form, 10 and the receiving portion 3, has cutouts 4, which means that the connecting region 3 and the receiving portion 2 are connected together by a total of four bridges 5.

The plane defined by the bridges 5 extends in this case parallel to a top face 6 of the receiving portion 3, which ensures that, when a motor vehicle is operating, vibrations, and particularly vibrations directed along the axis of the burner, are transmitted towards the 15 internal structure of the burner 7 only in a damped form, which means that overall the lamp 8 has high resistance to vibrations.

CLAIMS

1. A lamp, and in particular a vehicle lamp, having
 - a base (17),
 - a burner (7) having a light-generating element (11, 12),
 - and an adapter plate (1) having a connecting region (2) and a receiving

5 portion (3), the connecting region (2) being connected to the base (17) and the receiving portion (3) being connected to the burner (7),

characterized in that the adapter plate (1) has cutouts (4) between the connecting region (2) and the receiving portion (3).
- 10 2. A lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the cutouts (4) are of a form such that the connecting region (2) and the receiving portion (3) are connected together by bridges (5), and preferably four bridges (5) extending substantially perpendicularly to the axis of the burner.
- 15 3. A lamp as claimed in either of the foregoing claims, characterized in that a top face (6) of the receiving portion (3) is arranged to be offset from a plane that extends parallel to the top face (6) and through the portion of the connecting region (2) that is adjacent to the cutouts (4).
- 20 4. A lamp as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the top face (6) of the receiving portion (3) is arranged to be offset from but parallel to a plane defined by the bridges (5).
5. A lamp as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the
- 25 receiving portion (3) has an opening (9) in which the burner (7) is fixed by clamping.
6. A lamp as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that, in the region of contact with the receiving portion (3), the burner (7) has two wide sides and two narrow sides and the opening (9) has supporting tabs (10) directed towards the wide sides.

7. A lamp as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the connecting region (2) is arranged to be offset from the receiving portion (3) in such a way that the lamp (8) has an angle of the emitted light that is enlarged in comparison with an arrangement where the connecting region (2) and the receiving portion (3) are in a plane.

8. A motor vehicle headlight having

- a reflector
- a lamp as claimed in claim 1 mounted on the reflector
- the burner being arranged inside the reflector housing
- and a terminal region of the lamp being arranged predominantly outside the reflector region.

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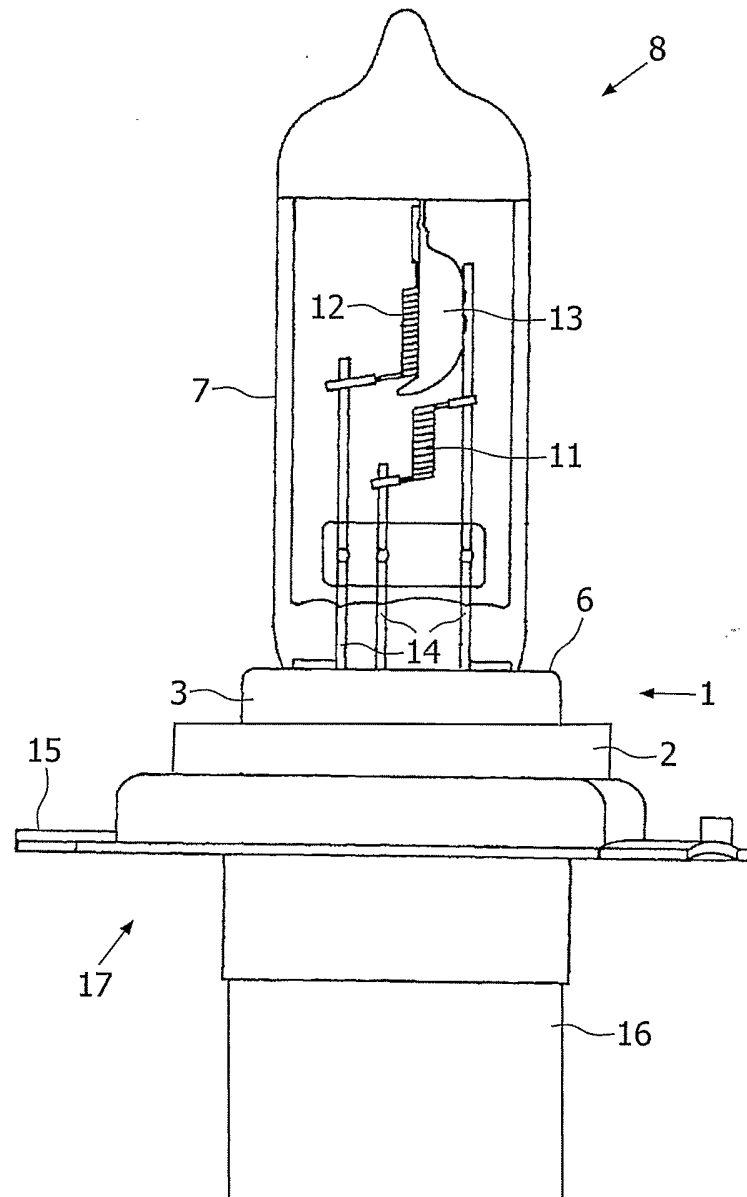


FIG.1

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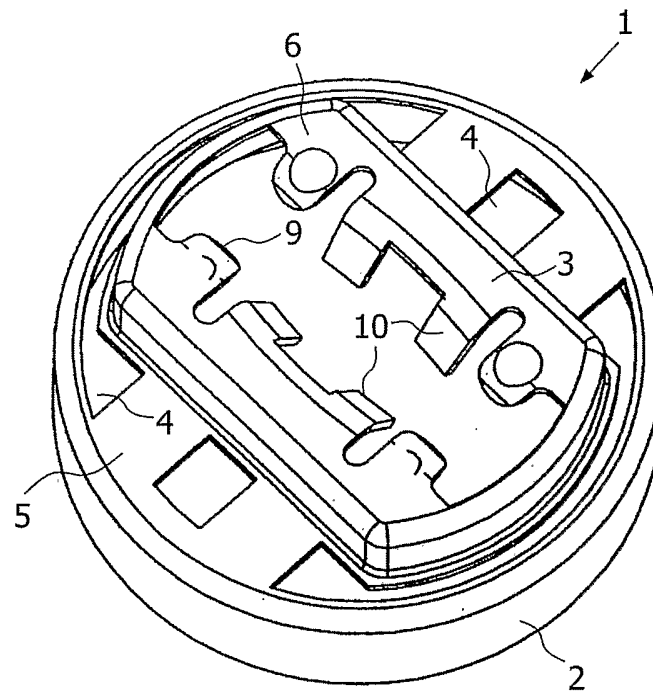


FIG.2

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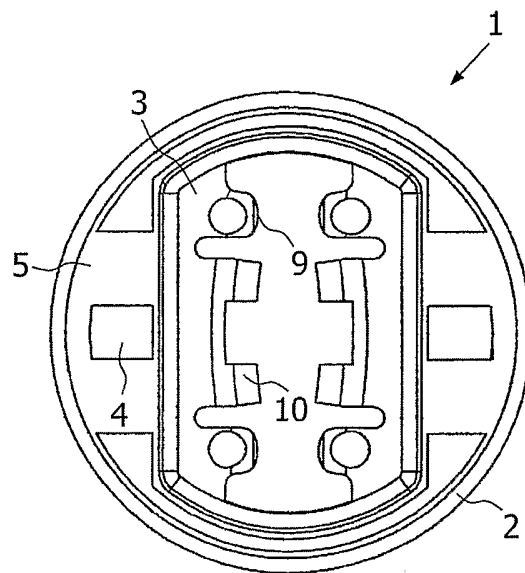


FIG.3

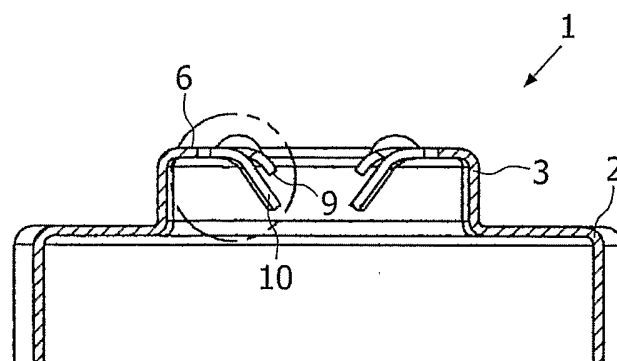


FIG.4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

F21V15/04 H01K1/46 H01J5/60 H01R33/975

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)

F21V H01K H01J H01R B60Q

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

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Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	FR 609 223 A (EDMONDS, HARRY-MORETON) 11 August 1926 (1926-08-11) page 1, line 1-49; page 2, line 25-35; figures 1,2 ----- -/-	1-8



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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