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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SEOUL SEMICONDUCTOR CO., LTD.** [KR/KR]; 148-29, Gasan-dong, Geumcheon-gu, Seoul 153-801 (KR).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **KIM, Young Pil** [KR/KR]; 1B-36, 727-5, Wonsi-dong, Danwon-gu, Ansan-si, Gyeonggi-do 425-851 (KR). **AN, Byeong Gil** [KR/KR]; 1B-36, 727-5, Wonsi-dong, Danwon-gu, Ansan-si, Gyeonggi-do 425-851 (KR).

(74) Agent: **AIP PATENT & LAW FIRM**; Shinwon Building 8F, 823-14, Yeoksam-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul 135-933 (KR).

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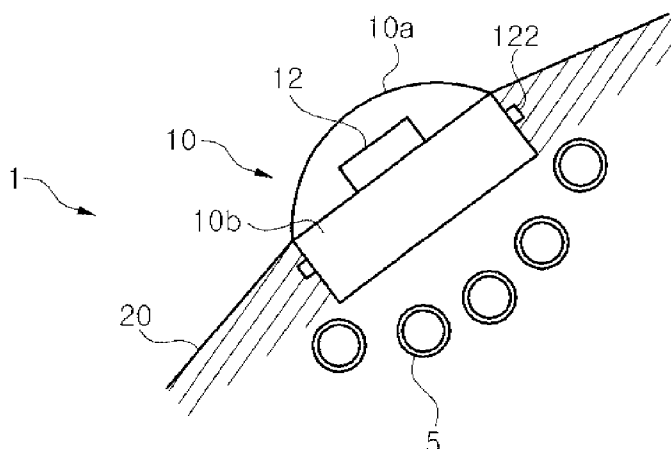
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(54) Title: LED ILLUMINATOR IN HOOD OF VEHICLE

[Fig. 3]



(57) Abstract: Herein, there is disclosed an LED illuminator installed to illuminate an inner space of a hood of a vehicle when the hood is open. The LED illuminator comprises a protection frame positioned in an inner space of the hood; and an LED module having a light emitting portion, wherein the light emitting portion is installed to be concealed into and exposed to the outside of the protection frame.



Description

LED ILLUMINATOR IN HOOD OF VEHICLE

Technical Field

- [1] The present invention relates to a light emitting device (LED) illuminator in a hood of a vehicle, and more particularly, to an LED illuminator in a hood of a vehicle which may have high safety and reliability against variable unfavorable conditions within the hood of the vehicle.

Background Art

- [2] Generally, a vehicle is equipped with a hood in order to open/close an engine room and/or a trunk positioned at a front portion and/or a rear portion of a vehicle body. Particularly, various components including an engine of a vehicle are arranged in a space under the hood in which an engine room is defined. The hood needs to be frequently opened to check and/or repair the various components including the engine. At this time, it is difficult to check various the components of the vehicle positioned within the hood with the naked eye at night or in a relatively dark place. As such, if any illuminator is installed to the hood, the engine room may be more easily checked after the hood is opened during the breakdown of the vehicle.
- [3] However, there are various limitations to install an illuminator within the hood of the vehicle, and more particularly, in the engine room or its surroundings. Since vibration and heat may be heavily generated in the engine room, it is considerably dangerous to install the conventional illuminator such as a cold cathode fluorescent lamp (CCFL) within the hood. In addition, the inner space of the hood, i.e., the engine room, is violently polluted due to oil stains, dusts and the like and has difficulty in cleaning due to its intrinsic characteristics. As such, even if an illuminator is installed in the engine room, it is difficult to constantly maintain the performance of the illuminator due to the pollution.

Disclosure of Invention

Technical Problem

- [4] Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide an LED illuminator in a hood of a vehicle which has high safety and reliability against various unfavorable conditions within the hood of the vehicle.
- [5] Another object of the present invention is to provide an LED illuminator in a hood of a vehicle capable of having high safety and reliability against various unfavorable conditions such as vibrations and/or high temperature conditions within the hood of the vehicle and further capable of constantly maintaining the performance of the LED illuminator by exposing the LED illuminator to pollutants such as oil stains, dusts, and

the like only during the open period of the hood and/or the illumination operation of the LED illuminator itself.

Technical Solution

- [6] According to an aspect of the present invention for achieving the objects, there is provided a LED illuminator installed to illuminate an inner space of a hood of a vehicle when the hood is open. The LED illuminator comprises a protection frame positioned in an inner space of the hood; and an LED module having a light emitting portion, wherein the light emitting portion is installed to be concealed into and exposed to the outside of the protection frame.
- [7] According to an embodiment, the LED module is rotatably installed to the protection frame through a hinge.
- [8] According to another embodiment, the LED module is rotated about the hinge to be concealed into and exposed to the outside of the protection frame.
- [9] According to still another embodiment, a coolant line is arranged in the inner space of the hood, and the LED module is arranged adjacent to the coolant line.

Advantageous Effects

- [10] An LED illuminator in the hood of the vehicle according to the present invention has an advantage in that the LED illuminator has high safety and reliability against various unfavorable conditions such as vibrations and/or high temperature conditions within the hood of the vehicle and may constantly maintain the performance of the LED illuminator by exposing the LED illuminator to pollutants such as oil stains, dusts, and the like only during the open period of the hood and/or the illumination operation of the LED illuminator itself.

Brief Description of Drawings

- [11] Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing an LED illuminator for a hood of a vehicle, which is installed in the hood of the vehicle, according to an embodiment of the present invention.
- [12] Fig. 2 is a schematic view showing a front space of a vehicle body, which is opened and/or closed by the hood, according to the embodiment of the present invention.
- [13] Fig. 3 is a view showing a state in which the LED illuminator according to the embodiment of the present invention operates when the hood is opened.
- [14] Fig. 4 is a view showing a state in which the LED illuminator according to the embodiment of the present invention does not operate when the hood is closed.
- [15] Fig. 5 is a view showing a preferred example of an LED illuminator according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention

- [16] Hereinafter, preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in

detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. The following embodiments are provided only for illustrative purposes so that those skilled in the art can fully understand the spirit of the present invention. Therefore, the present invention is not limited to the following embodiments but may be implemented in other forms. In the drawings, the widths, lengths, thicknesses and the like of elements may be exaggerated for convenience of illustration. Like reference numerals indicate like elements throughout the specification and drawings.

- [17] Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing an LED illuminator for a hood of a vehicle, which is installed in the hood of the vehicle, according to an embodiment of the present invention.
- [18] As shown in Fig. 1, when a hood 2 has been opened, an LED illuminator 1 is arranged to brightly illuminate an engine room and its surroundings which are positioned in the hood 2. One LED illuminator 1 is arranged at the rear side of the engine room in the hood 2, i.e., a position relatively adjacent to the driver's seat to illuminate the front side of the engine room. Another LED illuminator 1' may be arranged to more broadly illuminate other regions which would not be illuminated by the aforementioned LED illuminator 1.
- [19] Fig. 2 schematically shows the inner space of the hood 2, i.e., a front space of a vehicle body which is opened and/or closed by the hood 2.
- [20] Referring to Fig. 2, a plurality of LED illuminators 1 are arranged around an engine room E which is opened by opening the hood 2 (*see* Fig. 1). As such, the LED illuminators 1 may almost completely illuminate the engine and its surrounding components. At this time, coolant lines 5 are arranged around the LED illuminators 1, so that the coolant lines 5 absorb heat from the LED illuminators 1 to thereby prevent the LED illuminators 1 from being deteriorated in view of its performance due to the heat. At this time, the coolant lines 5 which would be installed to cool the engine or other components in the vehicle body are used as the coolant lines 5 as they are.
- [21] Fig. 3 is a view showing a state in which the LED illuminator 1 operates when the hood is opened, while Fig. 4 is a view showing a state in which the LED illuminator 1 does not operate when the hood is closed.
- [22] Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, the LED illuminator 1 according to this embodiment includes an LED module 10 and a protection frame 20 to which the LED module 10 is installed. The protection frame 20 is positioned in the hood 2 of the vehicle, and may be a portion of a vehicle body frame. The LED module 10 includes a LED device 12 therein, wherein the LED device 12 may be an LED package or chip. The LED module 10 is divided into a light emitting portion 10a and a light non-emitting portion 10b depending on whether the light from the LED device 12 is emitted therethrough. The light emitting portion 10a may have a light transmittable lens, a light transmittable

cover or a light transmittable shield, while the light non-emitting portion 10b may have a light non-transmittable cover or housing. Further, the light non-emitting portion 10b may have a heat sink, a PCB, and the like therein. In this embodiment, a hinge 102 is provided on an outside of the light non-emitting portion 10b, so that the LED module 10 may be rotated about the hinge 102. The rotation may cause the light emitting portion 10a to be exposed to the outside of the protection frame 20 or the light emitting portion 10a to face the inside of the protection frame 20, thereby protecting the light emitting portion 10a from oil stains or dusts in the engine room.

[23] Referring to Fig. 3, the light emitting portion 10a of the LED module 10 is exposed to the outside of the protection frame 20. In the position as shown in Fig. 3, the hood 2 (*see* Fig. 1) of the vehicle is opened, so that the LED module 10 provides a bright illumination toward the engine room opened by the hood 2. The LED module 10 may be rotated from the position shown in Fig. 3 to the position shown in Fig. 4. In this case, the light emitting portion 10a of the LED module 10 is accommodated in the protection frame 20 and the light non-emitting portion 10b opposite to the light emitting portion 10a is exposed to the outside of the protection frame 20. By concealing the light emitting portion 10a of the LED module 10 into the protection frame 20, as shown in Fig. 4, when the hood 2 has not been opened, so that the light emitting portion 10a of the LED module 10 can be easily protected from oil stains, and the like. Since a time period in which the hood is open is extremely small compared to a time period in which the hood is closed, only the aforementioned construction could cause the light emitting portion 10a, which serves as a primary portion of the LED illuminator, to be effectively protected from oil stains and/or dusts. The movement of the LED module 10 for the selective exposure of the light emitting portion 10 may be mechanically or manually realized. Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, when the illumination operation of the LED module 10 is realized, the coolant lines 5 is adjacent to the LED module 10, and more particularly, to the light non-emitting portion 10b.

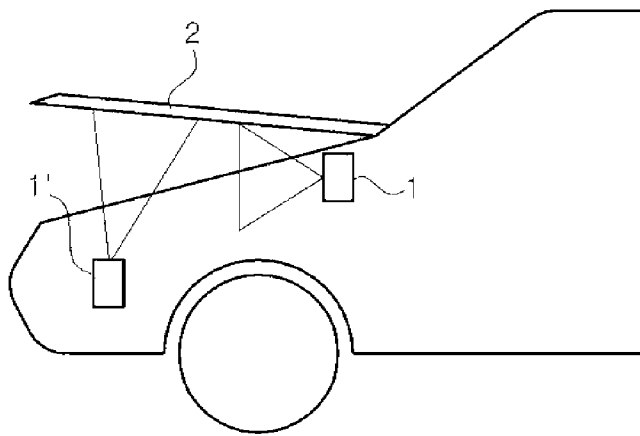
[24] Fig. 5 shows an LED illuminator according to another embodiment of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 5, the LED module 10 includes an elongate fluorescent lamp type of a housing in which the light emitting portion 10a and the light non-emitting portion 10b are defined as upper and lower portions of the housing, respectively. An elongate PCB 13 and a plurality of LED devices 12 which are longitudinally aligned on the elongate PCB 13 are arranged in the housing. Hinges 102 and 102 are installed to both right and left sides of the light non-emitting portion 10b. The hinges 102 and 102 are supported by shaft holes in the protection frame 20 to rotatably support the LED module 10. As the LED module 10 is rotated about the aforementioned hinges 102 and 102, the light emitting portion 10a of the LED module 10 can be concealed into and/or exposed to the outside of the protection frame 20. When

the light emitting portion 10a is exposed to the outside of the protection frame 20, the light emitting portion 10a brightly illuminates the inner space in the hood. When the light emitting portion 10a is concealed into the protection frame 20 and thus the light non-emitting portion 10b is exposed to the outside, the light emitting portion 10a can be protected from oil stains and/or dusts.

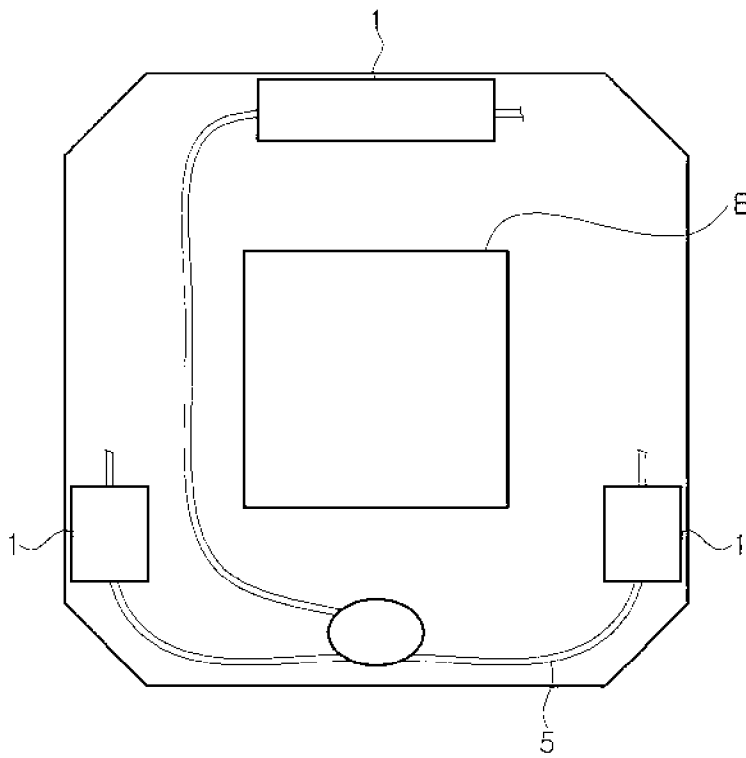
Claims

- [1] An LED illuminator installed to illuminate an inner space of a hood of a vehicle when the hood is open, the LED illuminator comprising:
a protection frame positioned in an inner space of the hood; and
an LED module having a light emitting portion,
wherein the light emitting portion is installed to be concealed into and exposed to the outside of the protection frame.
- [2] The LED illuminator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the LED module is rotatably installed to the protection frame through a hinge, and the LED module is rotated about the hinge, and the light emitting portion is concealed into the protection frame or exposed to the outside of the protection frame according to the rotation of the LED module.
- [3] The LED illuminator as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a coolant line is arranged in the inner space of the hood, and the LED module is arranged adjacent to the coolant line.

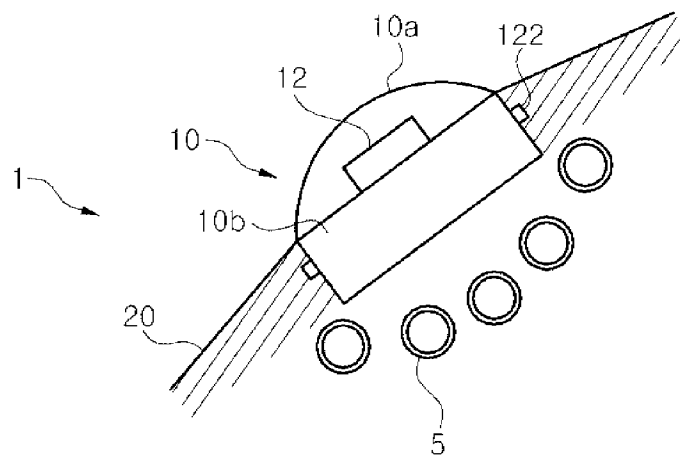
[Fig. 1]



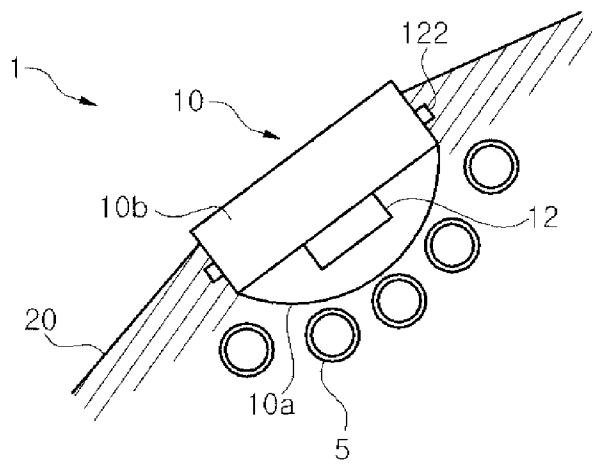
[Fig. 2]



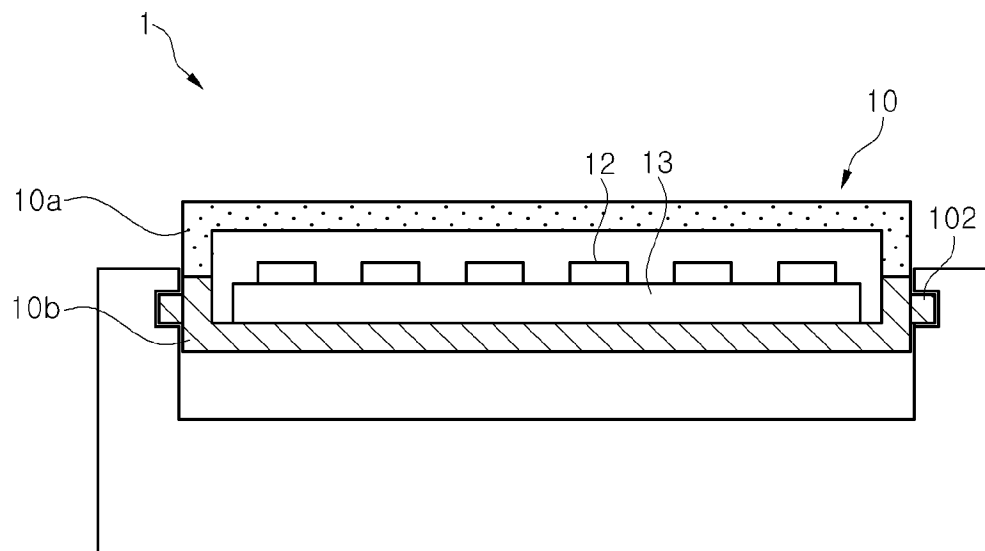
[Fig. 3]



[Fig. 4]



[Fig. 5]



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/KR2010/006724**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER*****B60Q 3/06(2006.01)i, F21S 8/10(2006.01)i, F21S 2/00(2006.01)i, F21Y 101/02(2006.01)n***

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)

B60Q 3/06

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

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords:LED, cool, engine

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	KR 20-2009-0000043 U (SUNG KYU, CHOI) 07.01.2009 see abstract, claims 1-2, fig. 2	1-3
Y	KR 10-1997-0005901 A (KIA MOTORS) 19.02.1997 see abstract, claim 1	1-3
Y	JP 2007-229261 A (FUJINON CORP) 13.09.2007 See abstract, claims 1-3	3

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR

Korean Intellectual Property Office
Government Complex-Daejeon, 189 Cheongsu-ro,
Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea

Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140

Authorized officer

HAM, Joung Hyun

Telephone No. 82-42-481-5458



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
KR 20-2009-0000043 U	07.01.2009	None	
KR 10-1997-0005901 A	19.02.1997	None	
JP 2007-229261 A	13.09.2007	None	