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**CATHODE-RAY TUBE HAVING ANTISTATIC
SILICATE GLARE-REDUCING COATING**

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5 This invention relates to a novel cathode-ray tube comprising a glass viewing window having, on its viewing surface, a glare-reducing image-transmitting silicate coating that is also antistatic; that is, it does not accumulate electronic charge on its surface.

10 Glare-reducing silicate coatings for the glass viewing windows of cathode-ray tubes have been disclosed previously. See, for example, U. S. Pat. Nos. 3,114,668, issued 17 December 1963 to G.A. Guiles; 3,326,715, issued 20 June 1967 to R.G. Twells; 3,635,751, issued 18 January 1972 to G.E. Long, III et al.; and 3,898,509, issued 5 August 1975 to M.G. Brown, Jr. et al. Such coatings do not depend on destructive interference of the ambient light. Instead, the surfaces of these coatings have controlled roughnesses so that the ambient light is scattered in such manner that the brightness and resolution of reflections are reduced. The coatings may contain small amounts of fine carbon particles to reduce in a controlled manner the brightness of a transmitted light image.

25 When cathode-ray tubes with the above-mentioned coatings are operated, they accumulate static charge on the viewing surfaces of the coatings. Static charge on the viewing surface of a cathode-ray tube is objectionable from many standpoints. Static charge attracts dust to the viewing surface. Also, it can produce a mild electric shock when it is touched. Mild electric shock may occur where the tube is used for entertainment or for the display of data.

35 A cathode-ray tube in accordance with the present invention comprises a glass viewing window having, on its viewing surface, an antistatic, glare-reducing, image-transmitting coating which has a rough surface for imparting the glare-reducing characteristic, and is composed essentially of a silicate material and ^{an inorganic} metallic compound for imparting the desired antistatic characteristic to the coating. The metallic compound may be a compound of

1 at least one element selected from the group consisting of
platinum, palladium, tin and gold. When the tube is operated,
the coating is grounded either directly or through the metal
implosion system on the tube.

5 Some additive materials, such as carbon, are known
to produce an antistatic characteristic to a silicate coat-
ing. However, such previous additive materials must be
added in such large proportions to achieve the antistatic
characteristic that they degrade the image-transmitting
10 characteristic to an unacceptable degree. The metallic
compounds used for the cathode-ray tube of the invention
here are present in small concentrations that impart the
desired antistatic characteristic but do not degrade the
optical characteristics of the coating to any substantial
15 degree. The preferred palladium compound in the preferred
lithium silicate coating is present in concentrations in the
range of 0.005 to 0.02 weight percent of the coating.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a partially-broken away longitudinal view
20 of a cathode-ray tube including a novel viewing window in
accordance with the invention.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged sectional view through a
fragment of the window of the tube illustrated in FIG. 1,
along section line 2-2.

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The cathode-ray tube illustrated in FIG. 1 includes
an evacuated envelope, designated generally by the numeral
21, which includes a neck 23 integral with a funnel 25 and
a faceplate or panel comprising a glass viewing window 27 and
30 a peripheral sidewall or flange 28. The flange 28 is joined
to the funnel 25 by a seal 29, preferably of a devitrified
glass. A luminescent coating 31 of a phosphor material is
applied to the interior surface of the window 27. A
light-reflecting metal coating 33, as of aluminum, is
35 applied to the luminescent coating 31 as shown in detail in
FIG. 2. The luminescent coating 31, when being suitably
scanned by an electron beam from a gun 35, is capable of
producing a luminescent image which may be viewed through
the window 27. A tensioned metal band 37 is located around

1 the flange 28 for protecting against implosion of the envelope.
A glare-reducing coating 39, having a rough external surface
41 and consisting preferably of a lithium silicate material
and a palladium compound, is applied to the external surface
5 of the window 27 and overlaps the metal band 37. Alternatively,
the coating 39 may extend under the band 37 such that
the band 37 overlaps the coating 39. In still other embodi-
ments, there may be other arrangements for contacting the
coating 39 for connecting the coating with an electrically-
10 conducting path to ground potential. Inasmuch as the inven-
tion is concerned primarily with the window 27 and the
external coating thereon, a description of the electron-emit-
ting components and other parts normally associated with the
neck 23 and funnel 25 is omitted or shown schematically.

15 The glare-reducing coating 39 may be produced by
the method disclosed in U. S. Pat. No. 3,940,511, issued 24
February 1976 to S.B. Deal et al. The window 27 may be part
of a tube which has already been evacuated and sealed off at
the time the glare-reducing coating is produced. One advantage
20 of the inventive coating is that it may be produced after
the tube has been otherwise completely fabricated. Alterna-
tively, the coating may be produced on a glass implosion protection
plate which is to be adhered by a suitable adhesive to the external
surface of the tube faceplate, as part of the window 27, during tube
25 fabrication.

In a preferred process, a clean glass support,
such as the window 27 of an evacuated and sealed tube,
is warmed to about 30°C to 100°C as in an oven. The external
surfaces of the warm window 27 and the tensioned metal
30 band 37 around the window 27 are coated with a dilute
aqueous solution of a lithium-stabilized silica sol and a
water-soluble inorganic metallic compound, such as palladium sulfate,
tin sulfate, tin chloride or gold chloride. The coating
may be applied in one or several layers by any conventional
35 process, such as by spraying. The temperature of the
window, the specific technique for applying the coating,
and the number of layers applied are chosen empirically to
produce a coating with the desired thickness. The tempera-
ture of the window is preferably about 35° to 55°C.

1 Temperatures that are too low (e.g., 20°C) cause the coating
to bead, while temperatures that are high produce coat-
ings which give a dry appearance. It has been found that,
when applying the coating by spraying, the dry coating
5 thickness should be such as to permit the operator to resolve
the three bulbs of the reflection of a three-bulb fluores-
cent light fixture located about 6 feet (about 1.8 meters)
above the glass support. A thicker initial coating results in
a thicker final coating. Generally, the thicker the coating,
10 the greater the reduction in glare and the greater the loss
in resolution of the luminescent image. Conversely, the
thinner the coating, the less the reduction in glare and the
less the loss in resolution of the luminescent image.

Also, when applied by spraying, the coating takes
15 on an appearance of dryness. Greater dryness is achieved
(1) by using higher window temperatures while applying the
coating, (2) by using more air in the spray when spraying
with compressed air, (3) by using a greater spraying dis-
tance when spraying on the coating, and (4) by increasing
20 the mol ratio of SiO_2 to Li_2O . But, when this is overdone,
the coating crazes. The greater the appearance of dryness,
the greater the glare reduction and the greater the loss in
resolution of the luminescent image. Conversely, the less
the appearance of dryness, the less the glare reduction
25 and the less the loss in resolution of the luminescent
image.

A preferred composition is an aqueous lithium-sta-
bilized silica sol containing about 1 to 10 weight percent
solids and 0.005 to 0.02 weight percent metallic element of
30 the metallic compound, with respect to the weight of the
total solids in the sol. The metallic element may be one or
more of platinum, palladium, tin and gold, and is introduced
into the sol as a water-soluble salt, preferably. Generally,
any of the metallic elements that are used to sensitize
35 surfaces for electroless plating may be used as one or more
of the metallic elements in the composition. Where the
concentration of the metallic element is below about 0.005
weight percent, the antistatic characteristic may be insuf-
ficient or may be erratic. Where the concentration of the

1 metallic element is above about 0.02 weight percent, the
coating may be mottled, iridescent or otherwise adversely
affected in transmission. In the sol, the ratio of
SiO₂ to Li₂O is from about 4:1 to about 25:1. The silica
5 sol is substantially free of alkali metal ions other than
lithium and is substantially free of anions other than
hydroxyl. The lithium-stabilized silica sol differs sub-
stantially from a lithium silicate solution, which is a
compound dissolved in a solvent and not a sol. Upon subse-
10 quent baking, a lithium-sol coating dries to form a lithi-
um-silicate coating. For the inventive tube, a solution of a
silicate of one or more of lithium, sodium and potassium
may substitute for the lithium-stabilized sol. Also, an
organic silicate such as tetraethyl orthosilicate may substi-
15 tute for the preferred lithium-stabilized silica sol. The
formulation may also contain pigment particles and/or dyes
to reduce the brightness up to about 50 percent of its
initial value and/or to modify the spectral distribution of
the transmitted image.

20 After coating the warm glass support, the coating
is dried in air with care to avoid the deposition of lint or
other foreign particles on the coating. Finally, the dry
coating is heated at between 150°C and 300°C for 10 to 60
minutes. Baking at temperatures between about 150°C and
25 300°C permits the coating to be applied directly to the tube
window after the tube has been exhausted and sealed. Baking
at temperatures above 300°C may disturb fabricated structures
in the tube. Generally, the higher the heating temperature,
the lower will be the glare reduction in the product and
30 the higher will be the abrasion resistance. The coating may
be recycled through the heating step. Rebaking at a parti-
cular temperature has the effect of reaching a stable point.

The product of the novel method is a cathode-ray
tube having a novel antistatic glare-reducing coating on its
35 viewing surface. The coating has the quality of glare
reduction i.e., scattering of reflected light, and at
the same time transmission of the luminescent image on the
phosphor coating with a resolution of at least 500 lines
per inch (about 200 lines per centimeter). The glare-reducing
coating is chemically stable

- 1 to manufacturing processes and to subsequent exposure to humid atmospheres. The coating resists abrasion and exhibits a substantially flat spectral response to both reflected and transmitted light.
- 5 In addition, unlike prior silicate glare-reducing coatings, the coating on the inventive tube is antistatic. With prior operating tubes, when an operator's hand is wiped across the viewing surface of the window, a crackling sound is heard, and the hair on the operator's arm will stand out.
- 10 If a plastic ruler is held against the viewing surface with one of the operator's hands and the other hand is held on the grounded metal frame of the equipment, the operator will experience a shock due to the static charge stored on the viewing surface. With the inventive tube, none of these pheno-
- 15 mena is experienced by the operator when the antistatic glare-reducing coating is grounded either directly or through the metal implosion-prevention structure on the tube.

- Some quarter-wave glare-reducing coatings (which depend on destructive interference of the ambient light)
- 20 on the viewing windows of cathode-ray tubes are disclosed in the prior art to have an antistatic characteristic. Such prior coatings are structurally different from the glare-reducing coatings disclosed herein. Such prior coatings are also more costly and more difficult to make, are less
- 25 resistant to abrasion, and are less resistant to ordinary factory heat treatments than the coatings disclosed herein.

EXAMPLE

- The viewing window surface of a 25-inch (about 64-centimeter) rectangular color-television-picture tube that
- 30 is exhausted, sealed and based is cleaned to remove dirt, oil, scum, etc. by any of the known scouring and washing procedures. Then, the surface is wiped with a 5-weight-percent ammonium bifluoride solution and rinsed with deionized water. The window has a neutral optical density with about 69 percent
- 35 light transmission. The assembly is heated at about 40° to 45°C for about 30 minutes. A liquid coating composition is sprayed onto the warm glass surface. The coating composition is prepared by mixing:

45 ml. Lithium Silicate 48 (a lithium-stabilized

silica sol containing 22.1% solids, 1.17 sp. gr.) marketed by E. I. DuPont Company, Wilmington, DE,

1.75 ml. Palladium D.N.S. solution (4.0 grams of palladium/100 ml. of solution) marketed by Johnson Matthey Inc., Malvern, PA, and

455 ml. deionized or distilled water.

The silica sol has a mol ratio of SiO_2 to Li_2O of about 4.8. Using a DeVilbiss No. 501 spray gun, the composition is sprayed at about 25 psi (about 1.8 kg/cm^2) air pressure as a wide fan spray having a high air-to-liquid ratio. Ten to 50 passes of the spray are required to build up the coating to the required thickness. The spray application is stopped about when the greatest thickness at which the reflection from the three bulbs of an ordinary three-bulb fluorescent light fixture spaced about 6 feet (1.8 meters) above the panel can still be resolved or distinguished by the operator on the coating. The final coating is less than about 0.0001 inch (about 0.0025 millimeter) thick. Because of the temperature of the window, the thickness of the coating and the high air content of the spray, each coating pass dries quickly after deposition. The assembly is then baked for about 10 minutes at about 120°C , entailing about a 30-minute period to rise to this temperature and about a 30-minute period to cool back to room temperature. The baking develops the final electrical, optical and physical properties of the glare-reducing coating. For coatings made in this manner, neither the optical properties of the coating nor the abrasion resistance was degraded when the panel was exposed for 18 hours in a 100°F (about 38°C), 95-percent relative humidity atmosphere. The final coating, when grounded, does not store electrostatic charge when the tube is operated in a normal manner. A similar tube with no palladium compound present in the coating, when grounded, stores considerable electrostatic charge when operated in a normal manner.



CLAIMS

1. A cathode-ray tube comprising a glass viewing window having, on its viewing surface, an antistatic, glare-reducing, image-transmitting coating, said coating having a rough surface for imparting said glare-reducing characteristic and being composed basically of a silicate material and an inorganic metallic compound for imparting said antistatic characteristic to said coating.

2. The cathode-ray tube defined in claim 1, wherein said metallic compound is composed of at least one element selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, tin and gold.

3. The cathode-ray tube defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein said metallic compound is present in said coating in sufficient concentration to impart said antistatic characteristic to said coating and insufficient concentration to degrade substantially said image-transmitting characteristic of said coating.

4. The cathode-ray tube defined in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said silicate material consists basically of a silicate of at least one alkali metal selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium and lithium.

5. The cathode-ray tube defined in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said silicate material consists basically of lithium silicate.

6. The cathode-ray tube defined in claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said silicate material is derived from a lithium-stabilized silica sol.



7. The cathode-ray tube defined in claim 5 or 6, wherein said metallic compound is a compound of palladium.

8. The cathode-ray tube defined in claim 7, wherein said palladium of said palladium compound is present in said coating in concentrations in the range of 0.005 to 0.020 weight percent.

9. The cathode-ray tube defined in any preceding claim, including contacting means to said coating for connecting said coating with an electrically-conducting path to ground potential.

10. The cathode-ray tube defined in claim 9, wherein said contacting means includes a metal implosion-prevention structure on said tube in physical contact with said coating.

11. The cathode-ray tube defined in claim 10, wherein said contacting means includes a tensioned metal band around said tube, and said coating overlaps said band.

12. The cathode-ray tube defined in claim 10, wherein said contacting means includes a tensioned metal band around said tube, and said band overlaps said coating.

13. A cathode-ray tube with antistatic, glare-reducing, ambient-light-scattering silicate coating substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
