Solution to Problem

[0013]

According to an aspect of the present invention, a thermally responsive switch includes an airtight container configured by airtightly securing a lid plate to an open end of a metal housing formed into a long-dome shape, two conductive terminal pins each inserted into each of two through holes provided in the lid plate, the conductive terminal pins being airtightly fixed by an electrically insulating filler, a fixed contact fixed to one of the two conductive terminal pins inside the airtight container, a heater having one end connected to the other of the two conductive terminal pins and the other end connected to the lid plate inside the airtight container, a thermally responsive plate having one end connected to an inner surface of the housing, a curving direction of the thermally responsive plate being reversed at a predetermined temperature and a movable contact provided on the other end of the thermally responsive plate and constituting a pair of switching contacts with the fixed contact. A heating element of the heater has a meandering portion formed of a strip-shaped metal plate. The meandering portion is bent twice, namely with respect to a first reference axis and a second reference axis both extending in a longitudinal direction of a housing to thereby form an outer vertical portion located in an outer side of the first reference axis and being perpendicular to an inner surface of a lid plate, an inner vertical portion located in an inner side of the

second reference axis and being perpendicular to the inner surface of the lid plate, and an middle vertical portion located between the first reference axis and the second reference axis so as to be disposed between the outer vertical portion and the inner vertical portion and being perpendicular to the inner surface of the lid plate. The middle vertical portion has a narrow portion narrower than a width of said middle vertical portion. The narrow portion is provided on an end portion located in one side of the middle vertical portion where no other heating element exists among two widthwise end portions of the middle vertical portion.

Advantageous Effect of Invention

[0014]

According to the thermally responsive switch of the present invention, the narrow portion serving as a fusing