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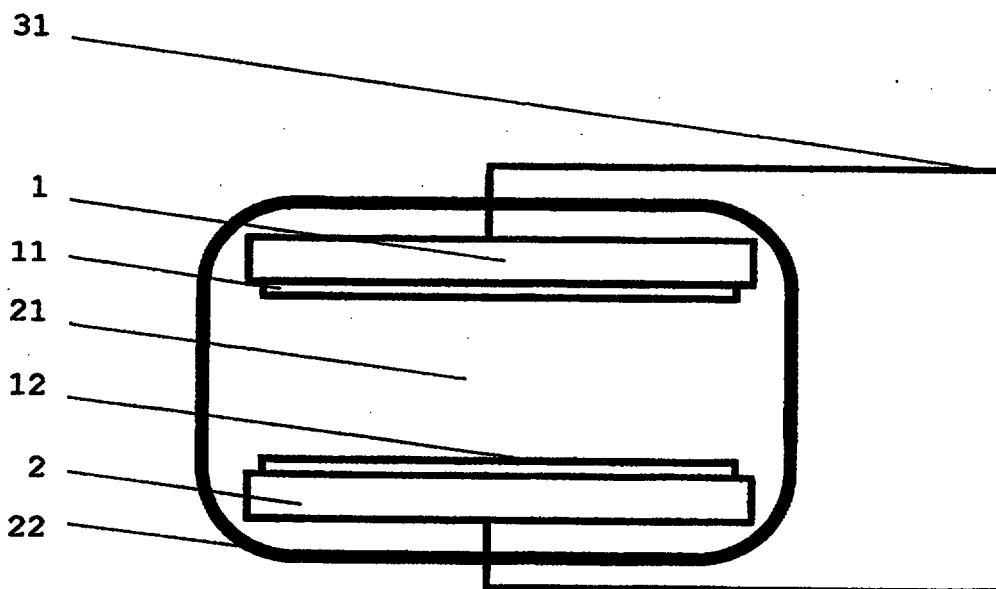
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VACUUM DIODE-BASED DEVICES WITH ELECTRIDE-COATED ELECTRODES



(57) Abstract

Vacuum diode-based devices, including vacuum diode heat pumps and vacuum thermionic generators, are described in which the electrodes are coated with an electrified (11, 12). These materials have low work functions, which means that contact potential difference between cathode (1) and anode (2) may be set against the effects of space charge, resulting in an improved device whereby anode (2) and cathode (1) may be set at a greater distance from each other than has been previously envisaged.