COMBINED INCANDESCENT/FLUORESCENT LANTERN

The invention relates to combined incandescent/fluorescent lantern.

Lanterns have been previously proposed which include both an incandescent bulb which cooperates with a reflector to provide a beam of light which can be directed and also a fluorescent tube which can be energized to give more general diffused illumination. Particularly prior proposals have comprised a generally rectangular elongate housing with the incandescent bulb and reflector provided to direct an axial beam from one end and a side face of the housing having the fluorescent tube therein.

According to the invention there is provided a combined incandescent/fluorescent lantern comprising a front end portion with a relatively large end area and having an incandescent bulb and reflector therein, and an elongate base portion and an elongate handle portion extending generally in parallel rearwardly from the front end portion and being coupled together at their rear ends by a rotatable joint with a pivot axis transverse to the longitudinal extent of the elongate base portion and the elongate handle portion, the elongate base portion including a fluorescent tube therein, being pivotable about the rotatable joint to separate the front end of the elongate base portion from the front end portion and being movable to any position with respect to the elongate handle portion within an arc of substantially 180° to position the fluorescent tube at a desired position for optimum illumination for a particular use.

Thus the reflector diameter which is desirably large for a wide directed beam can be accommodated in the wide front end portion which then provides a stable base for the lantern when used with the fluorescent tube illuminated. With the front end portion standing on a horizontal work surface the fluorescent tube can provide forwardly directed illumination if the base portion is rotated through 180° and in that position is spaced upwardly by the length of the handle portion from the work surface or if rotated through less than 180° can provide a partially or fully downwardly directed light, which could be optimum for example for reading a document placed on the work surface.

Preferably the lantern has a battery compartment provided in the handle portion. Advantageously it also includes a jack for receiving a power lead, for example for connection to the cigar lighter of a motor vehicle.

The invention is diagrammatically illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a side view of a combined incandescent/fluorescent lantern according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a front end view of the lantern of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a rear end view of the lantern of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a plan view of the lantern of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is an underneath plan view of the lantern of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a view generally corresponding to Figure 1 but with the lantern standing on its front end and showing alternative positions for a base portion thereof; and

Figure 7 is a view taken in the direction of arrow VII of Figure 6 with the base portion in a fully raised position.

Referring to the drawings, a lantern 1 has a front end portion 2 a handle portion 3 and a base portion 4. As shown in Figure 2 the front end portion 2 has an incandescent bulb 2a and a reflector 2b behind a transparent glass whereby it can direct a forward generally parallel beam of light.

The handle portion 3 and the base portion 4 are coupled at a rotatable joint 5 with a transverse axis.

An upper side of the base portion 4 has a fluorescent tube 6 therein covered by a semi-cylindrical transparent cover 7 and the left hand end, as viewed in Figure 1 of the base portion 4 is not connected to the front end portion 2 such that the base portion 4 is rotatable by means of the rotatable joint 5 to any one of positions 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e indicated in Figure 6. Which of the positions 4a to 4e is selected depends upon the particular use, that is to say particular kind of illumination required from the fluorescent tube 6. The position 4e will give a generally horizontally directed

light from a height above a work surface on which the front end portion 2 is placed corresponding to the length of the handle 3 whereas the position 4c for example will give a vertically downwardly directed illumination towards the work surface.

A battery compartment is provided behind a closure flap 8 shown in Figure 3, a control switch 9 is provided on the upper face of the handle 3 when the lantern is in the position shown in Figure 1 and a socket 10 for a jack for recharging the battery or illuminating either the incandescent bulb 2, 3 or the fluorescent tube 6 from an external power source, such as a motor vehicle battery, is provided in the side of the handle portion 3.



CLAIMS

1. A combined incandescent/fluorescent lantern comprising a front end portion with a relatively large end area and having an incandescent bulb and reflector therein, and an elongate base portion and an elongate handle portion extending generally in parallel rearwardly from the front end portion and being coupled together at their rear ends by a rotatable joint with a pivot axis transverse to the longitudinal extent of the elongate base portion and the elongate handle portion, the elongate base portion including a fluorescent tube therein, being pivotable about the rotatable joint to separate the front end of the elongate base portion from the front end portion and being movable to any position with respect to the elongate handle portion within an arc of substantially 180° to position the fluorescent tube at a desired position for optimum illumination for a particular use.

2. A combined incandescent fluorescent lantern according to claim 1, in which a battery compartment is provided in the elongate handle portion.

3. A combined incandescent fluorescent lantern according to claim 1 or claim 2, including a jack for receiving a power lead for connection to the cigar lighter of a motor vehicle.

4. A combined incandescent fluorescent lantern substantially as hereinbefore described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.