

HIGH EFFICIENCY LAMP APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING A BEAM OF
POLARIZED LIGHTSPECIFICATION

The present invention relates to a high power lamp apparatus with high efficiency that
5 produces a beam of polarized light using a lamp bulb containing a fill under pressure that is
energized with externally placed electrodes for vaporizing the fill. More particularly, the
present invention relates to a high power electrodeless lamp in which light energy is redirected
back into the lamp with a reflector to provide increased system efficiency, where the redirected
light is of the wrong polarization and/or the wrong parts of the color spectrum for use in the
10 system in which the lamp is implemented. In one embodiment, the present invention relates to
a projection system that uses the improved high power lamp of the present invention.

High power lamps are used for illumination applications beyond typical incandescent
and florescent lamps. One type of lamp known as a high intensity discharge (HID) lamp
15 consists of a glass envelope which contains electrodes and a fill which vaporizes and becomes a
plasma when the lamp is operated.

Recently, a patent issued for a high power lamp that utilizes a lamp fill containing
sulfur or selenium or compounds of these substances. U.S. Patent 5,404,076, issued to Dolan
et al. and entitled "Lamp Including Sulfur" discloses an electrodeless lamp utilizing a fill at a
20 pressure at least as high as one atmosphere. The fill is excited at a power density in excess of
50 watts per square centimeter. An arc lamp utilizing the fill at a pressure at least as high as
one atmosphere is excited at a power density of at least 60 watts per square centimeter. The
Dolan et al. patent 5,404,076 is incorporated herein by reference.

Projecting systems are used to display images on large surfaces, such as movie or
25 television screens. For example, in a front projection system, an image beam is projected
from an image source onto the front side of a reflection-type angle transforming screen, which

then reflects the light toward a viewer positioned in front of the screen. In a rear projection system, the image beam is projected onto the rear side of a transmission-type angle transforming screen and transmitted toward a viewer located in front of the screen.

In prior co-pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/581,108, filed December 29, 1995, there is disclosed a method of displaying an optical image by projecting the image along an optical path and at an optical device interposed across the optical path, at one time reflecting the image from the optical device and at a different time permitting the image to pass through the optical device to be displayed. U.S. application serial no. 08/581,108, filed December 29, 1995 is incorporated herein by reference.

The image source for a projection system employs a light that must be of high intensity and preferably very efficient. However, in each step of transmission of the light from the lamp to the screen there is some loss of light, resulting in inefficiency. It is desirable that at least some of these inefficiencies be addressed to allow an improvement of system efficiency.

The present invention provides a high efficiency lamp apparatus that uses light reabsorption for improved efficiency. The present invention also provides a projection system with a projection source or engine that uses a lamp that can reabsorb light energy for increased efficiency. Some of the light energy is redirected back to the light source providing increased system efficiency.

Preferably, an optical device using the lamp can only utilize light of desired polarization and/or desired color for use in the projection system, so the redirected light is of the unneeded polarization and/or the unneeded part of the color spectrum. The lamp efficiency is increased because of an "optical pumping" effect.

With the improved high intensity lamp of the present invention, several variations in reflector placements, both for the polarizing and spectral reflectors, are provided for various projection systems.

The method of the present invention thus provides for intensifying a polarized light beam emitted from an electrodeless lamp. The method includes the powering of an electrodeless lamp with radio frequency energy (or other suitable frequency) that generates a light source within the lamp which produces a light beam.

A reflector is positioned next to the lamp. Some of the unused light emitted by the light source is redirected back to the lamp so that the lamp reabsorbs that light energy. This redirected light can also include ultraviolet and infrared radiation as well as visible radiation. The redirected light is used to increase the efficiency of the light source through an optical pumping effect. Some of the redirected light is of an unusable polarization, so that only light of a usable polarization is passed by the assembly.

The electrodeless lamp can include a bulb with a high or low pressure fill. The bulb fill is extended to a plasma state by radio frequency energy produced by electrodes positioned externally of the bulb. In the preferred embodiment, the fill is sulfur, selenium, or non-mercury metal halides.

The apparatus of the present invention provides a high efficiency lamp apparatus for producing a beam of light that is polarized and/or of a desired color (or colors). The apparatus includes an electrodeless lamp body or bulb that defines a chamber. A fill is contained within the chamber. Electrodes are positioned externally of the lamp chamber for producing radio frequency energy to excite the fill, thereby forming a plasma light source of intense heat. The electrodes, however, are not subjected to the intense heat generated by the plasma. Alternatively, internal electrodes could be used with some types of non-mercury metal halide fills.

A reflector is positioned next to the lamp body both to direct light from the lamp in a desired direction and for redirecting some of the light emitted by the light source back to the lamp. The lamp reabsorbs this redirected light energy to intensify the light source.

The reflector preferably includes a housing surrounding most of the bulb and a polarizing and/or interference filter (e.g., dichroic reflector) positioned to receive the light beam. The polarizing reflector passes light of one polarity and reflects light of the other. The interference filter passes light of a desired part of the color spectrum.

The bulb is preferably a high temperature tolerant enclosure such as a quartz enclosure having a hollow interior that contains sulfur, selenium, non-mercury metal halide, or like fill that can be excited to form a plasma.

For a further understanding of the nature and objects of the present invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the

5 accompanying drawings, in which like parts are given like reference numerals, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a sectional view of the preferred embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 1A is a fragmentary view of the preferred embodiment of Figure 1;

10 Figure 2 is a sectional elevational view of a second embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 3 is a sectional elevational view of a third embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a sectional elevational view of a fourth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention; and

15 Figure 5 is a sectional elevational view of a fifth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 6 is a sectional view of the sixth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention;

20 Figure 7 is a sectional view of the seventh embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 8 is a sectional view of the eighth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention; and

25 Figures 9 and 10 are side views of the preferred embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention showing a rear projection video system.

European Patent Application Serial No. EP 0 783 133 A1, entitled "Projecting Images," published on July 9, 1997 by Applicant Compaq Computer Corporation and Inventors Richard M. Knox and John R. Masters, is hereby incorporated by reference.

30 Figure 1 shows generally the preferred embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention designated generally by the numeral 10A. A high efficiency lamp apparatus 10A

includes a bulb 11 having a hollow interior 12 that contains a fill such as sulfur or selenium.

The fill can be excited to a plasma state to produce a high intensity light source. In this manner, electrodes E (see Figure 1A), which provide radio or other suitable frequency energy to excite the fill (preferably 150 MHz to 100 GHz, or other frequency suitable for exciting the fill), are not subjected to the intense heat of the plasma inside bulb 11. Preferably, bulb 11 is based on the teachings and concepts of Dolan, incorporated by reference above. Alternately, bulb 11 can be another type of bulb that reabsorbs and reemits light, such as a non-mercury containing metal halide type lamp (with or without electrodes), or other lamp that can reabsorb and reemit light. The fill may be high or low pressure.

A shaped annular reflector housing 14 can be parabolic, compound parabolic, elliptical, polyellipsoidal, or other conical shapes known in the art and is positioned about and spaced from bulb 11 as shown in Figure 1. The housing 14 is hollow, defined by a wall 15 and an open end portion 16. The wall 15 has a reflecting surface 17.

A first transversely positioned screen 18 is interposed across the path of a light beam that is travelling from the bulb 11 through the open end partition 16 in the direction of arrows 20. A second screen 21 is interposed across the path 19 and on the opposite side of screen 18 from bulb 11 as shown in Figure 1.

The first screen 18 is preferably an interference filter (for example, dichroic filter or dichroic mirror) that reflects certain colors of light while allowing others to pass through. The screen 18 is preferably selected to pass desired colors (e.g., RGB or CMK), reflecting unneeded colors back to the bulb 11 and the reflecting surface 17. By reflecting light other than desired colors back to the bulb 11, the apparatus 10 of the present invention becomes more efficient because it allows conversion of redirected light back to useful wavelengths. The redirected light is reemitted with a slight red shift, but this can be compensated for through appropriate filter selection, gamma correction or other known techniques. Therefore, the screen 18 reflects back and "recycles" unused light wavelengths. In Figure 1, the lamp 10A has the screen 18 mounted inside the reflector housing 14 and the screen 21 mounted at opening 16. The screen 18 and the screen 21 each extends at its periphery to the wall 15.

The screen 21 is a reflecting polarizer that only allows a certain polarity of light to pass through as indicated by the arrows 20. The reflecting polarizer 21 reflects light of unneeded

polarity back to the bulb 11. Therefore, in the lamp 10A, emitted light indicated as 20 has been filtered to be of a desired portion(s) of the color spectrum and of a desired polarity.

The screen 21 could be placed towards the bulb 11 adjacent to the screen 18, but as is discussed below in conjunction with Figure 4, an additional filter may be needed to "clean up" the light emitted from the apparatus from 10A. This is because if the polarized light passed by the screen 21 is allowed to then strike and be reflected by the wall 15, some of that light will then be shifted to the incorrect polarity. Therefore, it is generally preferred to place the screen 21 at a point where the light will not be again reflected within the lamp 10A, though under certain conditions the additional filter could be used.

10 In Figure 2, a second embodiment is shown, designated generally as 10B. The light apparatus 10B has a bulb 11 with an interior space 12 for containing a fill such as sulfur or selenium or the like. A reflector housing 22 has an open end 23 and an interior surface 24 that can be any of the shapes mentioned above. The surface 24 reflects light emitted by the bulb 11 toward the opening 23 and in the direction of the arrows 25. In the embodiment of Figure 2, a pair of screens 26, 27 are positioned either externally or covering the opening 23 of the reflector housing 22. In Figure 2, the screen 26 is an interference filter (e.g., dichroic filter or dichroic mirror) that only passes light of a desired light of a desired part of the color spectrum (e.g., red, green, blue). The screen 27 is a reflecting polarizer that only passes light of one desired polarity. The screen 26 is preferably positioned to receive the light beam 25 first because interference filters can affect polarity. By positioning the screen 26 to receive light first, there is not as much need later to "clean up" the light path by refiltering for polarity. Therefore, the second screen 27 is preferably the polarizing reflector that only passes one polarity.

25 In Figure 3, a third embodiment of the light apparatus of the present invention is shown, designated as 10C. In Figure 3, as with the embodiments of Figures 1 and 2, the bulb 11 has the interior 12 for containing a fill that can be excited, such as selenium, sulfur, or the like. A hollow reflector housing 28 has an open end 29 and an interior reflecting wall surface 30 that can be parabolic in shape.

30 Three optical elements 31, 32, 33 are positioned as shown in Figure 3 externally of housing 28 and either away from or covering the open end 29 portion thereof. The element 31 is a reflecting polarizer that only passes light of one polarity. The element 32 is an

interference filter (e.g., dichroic filter or dichroic mirror) that reflects certain wavelengths of the color spectrum while allowing others to pass through.

As with the embodiments of Figures 1 and 2, the preferred wavelengths of the color spectrum that will pass through the element 32 are red, green, and blue. The element 33 is a
5 clean-up absorbing filter that corrects polarity so that the emitted light designated by arrows 34 is of a single polarity. This may be used because the element 32 will affect the polarity of the light passed by the element 31.

A fourth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention is shown in Figure 4, designated as 10F. Light apparatus 10F has the bulb 11 with the interior 12 for containing a
10 fill such as sulfur or selenium that can be excited to form a plasma. A reflector housing 100 has an open end 102, an inner reflector surface 106 is formed within a reflective reflector housing 104. A pair of elements 108 and 110 can be the same screen elements as 26 and 27 in Figure 2. The element 108 is an interference filter (e.g., dichroic filter or dichroic mirror) for only passing certain colors of the light. Element 110 is a reflecting polarizer that only
15 passes one selected polarity of light. Arrows 112 indicate a light emitted by the apparatus 10F as being light of a desired color (such as red, green, and blue) and light that is polarized with a single polarity.

In addition to the elements 108 and 110, however, the apparatus of Figure 10F may include an additional polarizing filter 114, similar to the element 33 of Figure 3. When the
20 light passes from the lamp 11 through the interference filter 108 and then the reflecting polarizer 110, it will be of a single polarity. When it reflects off of the reflecting surface 106, the polarity of some of that light will be altered. Therefore, a "clean up" polarizing filter 114 may be provided to ensure that all of the light is of a single polarity. This configuration might be desirable in certain circumstances.

25 A fifth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention is shown in Figure 5, designated as 10G. The light apparatus 10G has the bulb 11 with the interior 12 for containing a fill such as sulfur or selenium that can be excited to form a plasma. A reflector housing 116 forms an inner reflecting surface 118 with an open end 120. A pair of elements 122 and 124 can be the same screen elements as 26 and 27 of Figure 2. The element 122 is an interference
30 filter for only passing certain colors of light. The element 124 is a reflecting polarizer that only passes one selected polarity of light. Arrows 126 indicate a light emitted by the apparatus

10G as being light of a desired color (such as red, green, and blue) and that is polarized with a single polarity. The light apparatus 10G of Figure 5, however, provides the lamp 11 situated within an opening 128 of the reflective housing 116. Preferably, the lamp 11 includes its own directional aspects, emitting light only in the direction specified by the arrows 130. This could
5 done, for example, by providing a reflective surface on the body of the lamp 11 itself. It will be appreciated the reflective housing 116 and lamp 11 of Figure 5 could be used in any of the implementations of Figures 1-4. In fact, a variety of housing configurations can be used without detracting from the spirit of the invention.

A sixth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention is shown in Figure 6;
10 designated as 10D. The light apparatus 10D has the bulb 11 with the interior 12 for containing a fill such as sulfur or selenium that can be excited to form a plasma. A reflector housing 35 has an open end 36. An inner reflecting surface 37 has a double parabolic shape in cross section that includes two concavities 38, 39. A pair of elements 40, 41 can be the same screen elements as 26 and 27 in Figure 2. The element 40 is an interference filter for only passing
15 certain colors of light. The element 41 is a reflecting polarizer that only passes one selected polarity of light. Arrows 42 in Figure 4 indicate light emitted by the apparatus 10D as being light of a desired color (such as red, green, and blue) and light that is polarized with a single polarity.

In Figure 7, a seventh embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention is shown
20 designated as 10E. In Figure 5, the light apparatus 10E has the bulb 11 with the interior 12 for containing a fill that can be excited such as sulfur, selenium, or the like. A hollow annular reflector housing 43 has an opening 44 that is closed with an element 45. A reflecting wall surface 49 of the housing 43 has a pair of concavities 47, 48 in cross section, as shown in Figure 5. The element 45 forms a closure to the opening 44. An element 46 is spaced
25 therefrom. As with the embodiments of Figures 2 and 4, the element 45 can be an interference filter, dichroic filter or dichroic mirror that reflects certain colors of light while allowing others to pass through. The element 46 is preferably a reflecting polarizer that only passes light of one polarity.

An eighth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention is shown in Figure 8,
30 designated as 10H. In Figure 8, the light apparatus 10H again has the bulb 11 with the interior 12 for containing a fill that can be excited such as sulfur, selenium, or the like. Alternately,

bulb 11 can be another type of bulb that reabsorbs and reemits light such as a non-mercury metal halide type lamp. A hollow annular reflective housing 132 has an opening 134 closed with an element 136. An element 138 is provided within the reflector housing 132 closer to the lamp 11, and the reflector housing 132 includes a reflecting inner surface 140, as well as to
5 parabolic concavities 142 and 144. As with the embodiment of Figure 2, the element 138 can be an interference filter that reflects certain colors of light while allowing others to pass through, and the element 136 is preferably a reflecting polarizer that only passes light of one polarity. This configuration corresponds to the single parabolic reflecting configuration of the embodiment of Figure 1, and it will be appreciated that the same types of reflector positions as
10 discussed in conjunction with Figures 1-5 can similarly be implemented within the dual parabolic reflector of Figure 8.

Further, it will be appreciated that although the various filtering elements of Figures 2, 3, 6, and 7 shown spaced from the reflector housings of those Figures, they could also be layered or sandwiched together in contact with those housings.

15 Therefore, the lamps 10A-10H are more efficient than prior art designs. Substantially all light with unwanted properties, such as spectral or polarization for example, are reflected back into the bulb 11, which reabsorbs the light and reemits it. Ultimately, the only light leaving the lamps 10A-10H is of the desired properties. Thus, by reabsorbing and reemitting the unwanted light, the efficiency of the lamps 10A-10H, as measured by the provided power
20 to the desired light, is increased. For all these embodiments, it will again be appreciated that the disclosed techniques can be used with any lamp which can reabsorb and retransmit energy without destroying itself.

Referring to Figures 9 and 10, another embodiment of the present invention shows a rear projection video system 60 that includes a linear reflecting polarizer 62 and an achromatic
25 retarder 64 that allow light in a projected image 66 to reflect from a display screen 68 at one instance and to pass through the screen 68 at another instance. The linear reflecting polarizer 62 is a linear polarizer that functions like a conventional absorption polarizer, except that it reflects (instead of absorbs) substantially all light that does not pass through it. In other words, the reflecting polarizer 62 may transmit substantially all vertically polarized light waves and
30 reflect substantially all horizontally polarized light waves. The polarizer 62 may be made from any suitable reflecting polarizing material, such as double brightness enhancing film, or

"DBEF," material obtained from Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Company. The linear reflecting polarizer 62 is located immediately behind the screen 68 and may be bonded to the screen 68 by, e.g., an index matching adhesive layer 70. The achromatic retarder 64 is preferably a $\frac{1}{4}$ -wavelength retarder.

5 An image source 76 in the projection system 60 receives electronic signals through an input cable 78 and converts the signals into an optical image 66. The types of electronic signals used to create the image 66 may include television signals, such as those received by an antenna or over cable lines and processed by a video receiver (not shown), and computer video signals generated by a computer system (not shown). The image source 76 is preferably an
10 image projection engine, such as a liquid crystal display (LCD) projector. With the projection system 60 of the present invention, however, the image source 76 employs one of the high intensity, high efficiency lamps 10 of Figures 1-8.

 The image source 76 projects the image 66 along a first optical subpath D1' toward a first mirror 82, which in turn reflects the image along a second optical subpath D2' toward the
15 screen 68. Because the light in the image 66 must be horizontally polarized before it reaches the screen 68, the image source 66 must produce polarized light (as in the case of lamps 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10E, 10F, 10G, or 10H). Alternatively, a substantially conventional projection engine can be used. If so, a conventional linear polarizing filter 80 must be placed
20 across one of the optical subpaths D1', D2' between the image source 76 and the screen 68. If the polarizing filter 80 is placed in the optical path before the first mirror 82, a second polarizing filter (not shown) may be placed near the first mirror 82 along subpath D2' to filter stray light distortions caused by the reflection at the first mirror 82.

 As the horizontally polarized light in the image approaches the screen 68, it encounters the linear reflecting polarizer 62. Because the light is horizontally polarized, the reflecting
25 polarizer 62 reflects substantially all of the light in the image 66 away from the screen 68 and toward the second mirror 72 along optical subpath D3'.

 As the light approaches the second mirror 72, it passes through the $\frac{1}{4}$ -wavelength achromatic retarder 64. The light then reflects from the second mirror 72 and travels along optical path D4' back toward the screen 68. Before reaching the screen 68, the light again
30 passes through the $\frac{1}{4}$ achromatic retarder 64, which rotates the polarization angle of the light again, so that the light is now vertically polarized.

When the light, now vertically polarized, encounters the linear reflecting polarizer 62 for a second time, the polarizer 62 transmits the light onto a rear surface 69 of the imaging screen 68. In effect, for every image the screen 68, including the reflecting polarizer 62, acts at one time as a mirror and at another time as a rear projection imaging screen. This allows
5 the projection system 60, which has a relatively long optical path ($D1' + D2' + D3' + D4'$). A linear absorption polarizer (not shown) may be placed between the reflecting polarizer 62 and the screen 68 to filter any stray light distortions that may result from reflections in the system.

..... The lamps 10A-10H are preferably used in the projection system 60 to increase the
10 efficiency of the projection system 60 due to the increased efficiency of the lamps 10A-10H.

Because many varying and different embodiments may be made within the scope of the inventive concept herein taught, and because many modifications may be made in the embodiments herein detailed in accordance with the descriptive requirement of the law, it is to be understood that the details herein are to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting
15 sense.



THIS SHEET HAS BEEN
REPLACED

-12-

CLAIMS

What is claimed as invention is:

- 1 1. A method of increasing the efficiency of a light source comprising the steps of:
 - 2 a) providing a lamp that generates a light source within the lamp to produce a light
 - 3 beam emitted away from the lamp, the light beam containing usable and unusable portions;
 - 4 b) redirecting some of the unusable portions of the light beam emitted by the light
 - 5 source back to the lamp so that the light source reabsorbs light energy; and
 - 6 c) using the redirected light to increase the efficiency of the light source.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein step "a" includes the step of selecting the lamp to include
- 2 a bulb with a fill, and wherein step "a" includes the step of powering the bulb by electrodes
- 3 positioned externally of the bulb.
- 1 3. The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein the fill is selected from one or more of: sulfur,
- 2 selenium, or metal halide.
- 1 4. The method of claims 1 to 3, wherein the lamp includes a sealed bulb filled with a fill and
- 2 step "a" comprises exciting the fill to form a plasma.
- 1 5. The method of claims 1 to 4, wherein step "a" includes filtering the emitted light to form a
- 2 light beam of polarized light.
- 1 6. The method of claims 1 to 5, further comprising the step of filtering the beam of light with
- 2 a reflecting filter.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the reflecting filter is an interference filter.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced





THIS SHEET HAS BEEN
REPLACED

-13-

- 1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the reflecting filter is a dichroic filter.
- 1 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the reflecting filter reflects all but red, blue, or green
2 light.
- 1 10. The method of claims 1 to 9, wherein in step "b" a polarizing reflector is positioned to
2 receive a beam of light from the light source, and wherein the polarizing reflector passes light of
3 one polarity and reflects other light back to the light source.
- 1 11. The method of claims 1 to 10, further comprising the steps of:
2 d) using portions of the light beam as the source of light to form an image, which
3 image is projected along an optical path and at a display surface,
4 wherein step (b) is performed before the light beam is used as the source of light to
5 form an image in step (d).
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:
2 e) interposing an optical device across the optical path;
3 f) at one time reflecting the image from the optical device; and
4 g) at a different time permitting the image to pass through the optical device.
- 1 13. The method of claims 11 or 12, wherein the optical device is essentially parallel to the
2 display surface.
- 1 14. The method of claims 11 to 13, wherein the optical device is near the display surface.
- 1 15. The method of claims 11 to 14, wherein the optical device is attached to the display
2 surface.
- 1 16. The method of claims 11 to 15, wherein the display surface is on a video viewing screen.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced





-14-

1 17. The method of claims 11 to 16, further comprising the step of reflecting the image at least
2 once more.

1 18. The method of claims 11 to 16, further comprising the step of reflecting the image twice
2 more.

1 19. The method of claims 11 to 18, wherein reflecting from the optical device is done before
2 permitting the image to pass through the optical device.

1 20. The method of claims 11 to 19, further comprising delivering the image to the optical
2 device polarized in one direction at the one time and polarized in a different direction at the
3 different time.

1 21. The method of claims 11 to 19, further comprising, prior to the time when the image is
2 passed through the optical device, rotating the polarization of the image at least once.

1 22. The method of claims 11 to 19, further comprising, prior to the time when the image is
2 passed through the optical device, twice rotating the polarization of the image.

1 23. The method of claims 11 to 22, further comprising passing the image through at least one
2 linear absorption polarizer.

1 24. A high efficiency lamp apparatus for producing a light beam, comprising:

2 e) a lamp that defines a chamber, wherein the lamp is for emitting a beam having both
3 usable and unusable portions of light; and

4 f) a reflector positioned for redirecting some of the unusable light back to the lamp so
5 that the lamp reabsorbs light energy to increase efficiency.

1 25. The lamp apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

This Sheet Has Been Replaced





THIS SHEET HAS BEEN
REPLACED

-15-

- 2 g) electrodes positioned externally of the lamp chamber for producing radio frequency
3 energy that excites a fill, forming a plasma light source of intense heat that emits a light beam;
4 and
5 wherein the electrodes are not subjected to the intense heat generated at the plasma.

1 26. The lamp apparatus of claims 24 or 25, wherein the reflector includes a polarizing filter
2 that is positioned to receive and polarize the light beam.

1 27. The lamp apparatus of claim 26, wherein the polarizing filter passes light of one polarity,
2 and reflects light of another polarity.

1 28. The lamp apparatus of claims 24 to 27, further comprising an absorbing filter for
2 correcting polarity of light emitted from the polarizing filter.

1 29. The lamp apparatus of claims 24 to 28, wherein the lamp includes a fill selected from one
2 or more of: selenium, metal halide, or sulfur.

1 30. The lamp apparatus of claims 24 to 29, wherein the lamp includes a bulb.

1 31. The lamp apparatus of claims 24 to 30, further comprising a filter positioned to reflect light
2 in the beam that is not of selected colors.

1 32. The lamp apparatus of claims 24 to 30, further comprising an interference filter that
2 reflects light other than red, green, and blue light.

1 33. The lamp apparatus of claims 24 to 32, wherein the reflector is a shaped reflector that
2 extends about the majority of the outer surface of the lamp body.

1 34. The lamp apparatus of claims 24 to 33, wherein the reflector has a wall that is positioned
2 about the lamp body and including an opening at one end of the reflector wall through which a
3 light beam can travel.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced



THIS SHEET HAS BEEN
REPLACED



-16-

1 35. The lamp apparatus of claim 34, wherein the polarizing filter is positioned across the
2 opening.

1 36. The lamp apparatus of claims 34 or 35, further comprising an interference filter positioned
2 across the opening.

1 37. The lamp apparatus of claims 34 or 35, further comprising a dichroic filter positioned
2 across the opening.

1 38. The lamp apparatus of claims 24 to 37, further comprising:

2 h) a display surface; and

3 i) an image source generating an image from the usable portions of the light in the
4 beam that travels an image path which reaches the display surface,

5 wherein the reflector is positioned for redirecting some of the unusable light in the

6 beam back to the lamp before the beam is used by the image source for generating an image..

This Sheet Has Been Replaced



**HIGH EFFICIENCY LAMP APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING A BEAM OF
POLARIZED LIGHT**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An electrodeless lamp apparatus of high efficiency employs a reflection system that allows the lamp to reabsorb light energy. The energy is redirected back to the light to provide increased system efficiency. The redirected light is of the wrong polarization and/or wrong parts of the color spectrum. The lamp efficiency is increased because of the optical pumping as well as the reuse (after some downshifting) of the returned light. In one embodiment, a projection system provides an image source or projection engine that includes the improved high efficiency lamp of the present invention.

(Fig. 1)

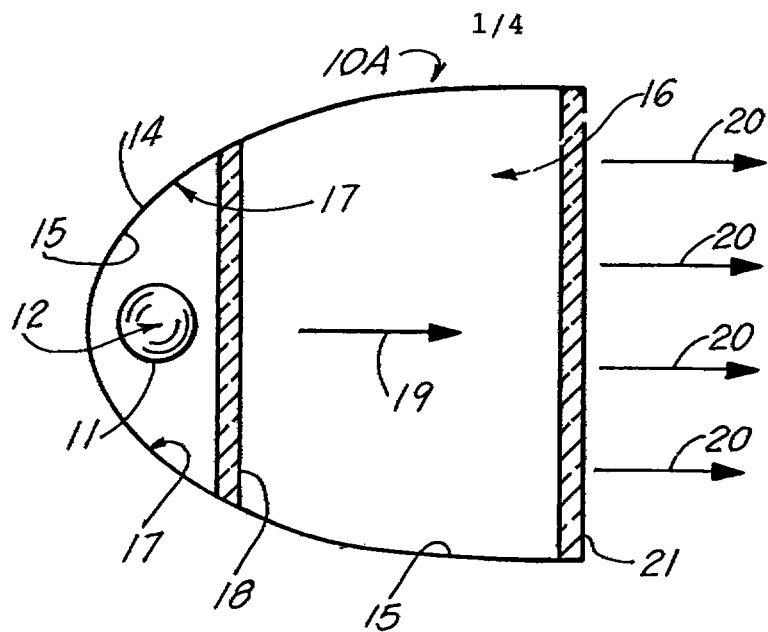


FIG. 1

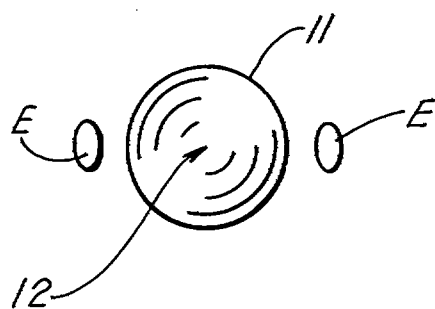


FIG. 1A

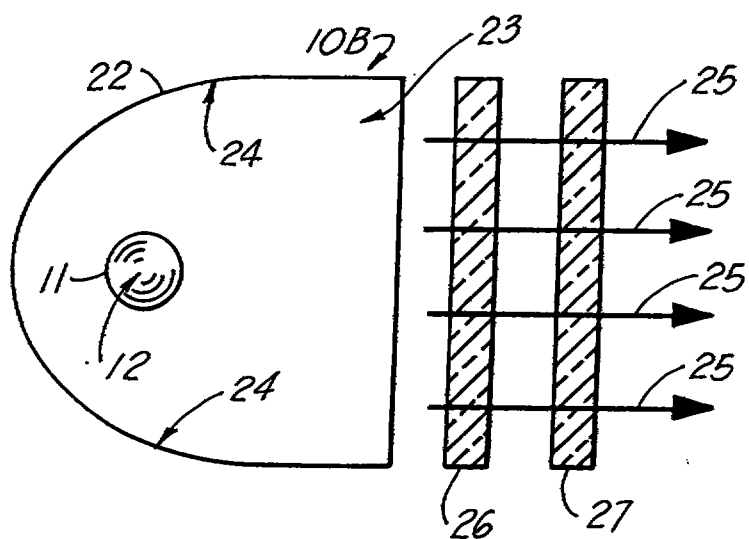


FIG. 2

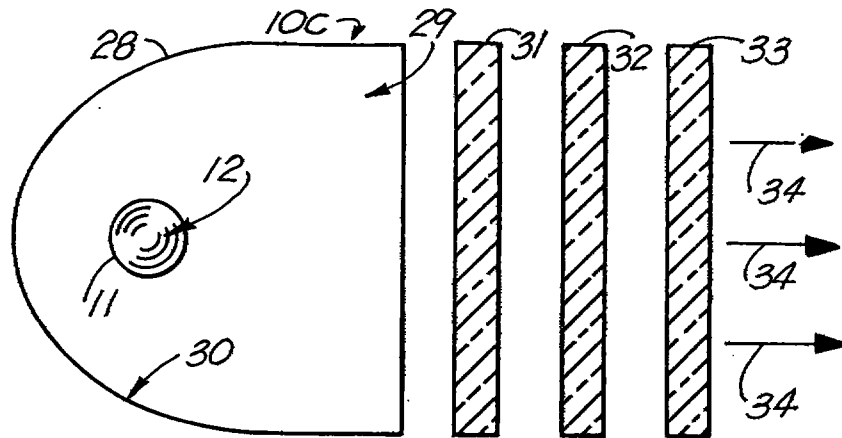


FIG. 3

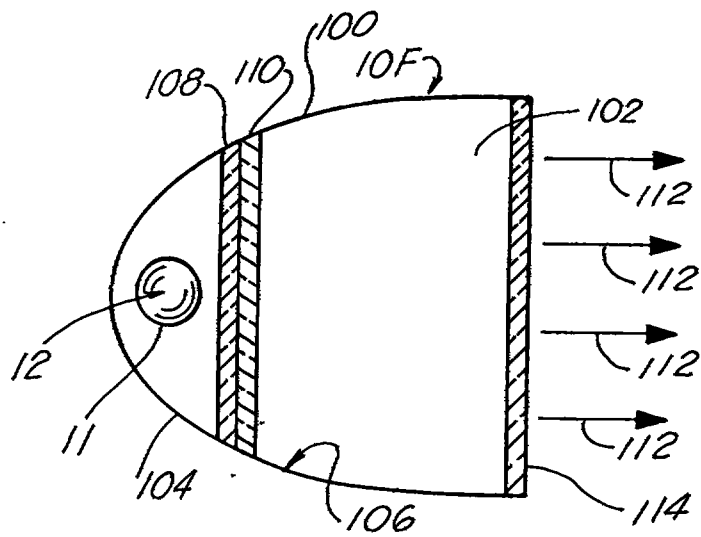


FIG. 4

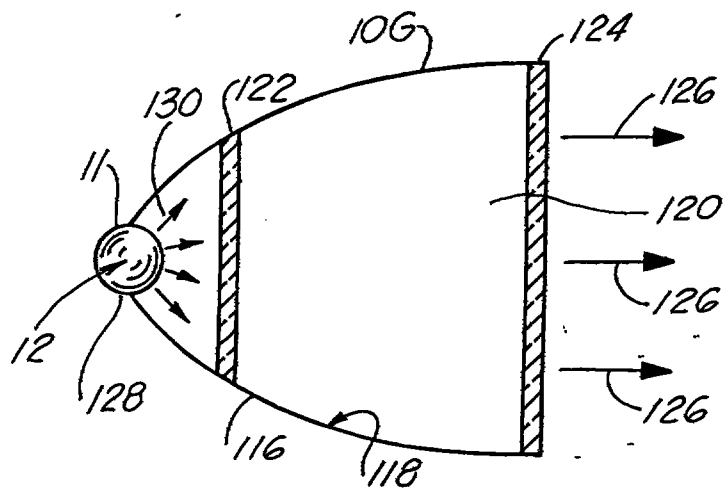


FIG. 5

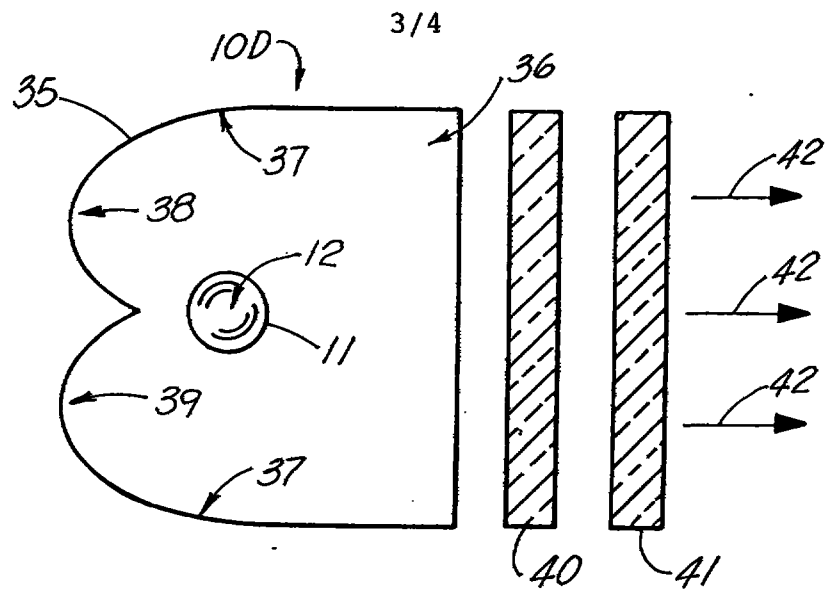


FIG. 6

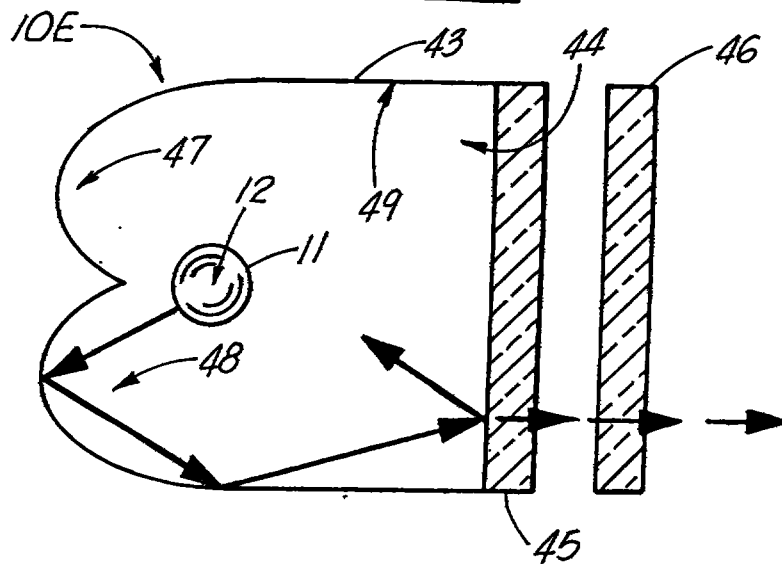


FIG. 7

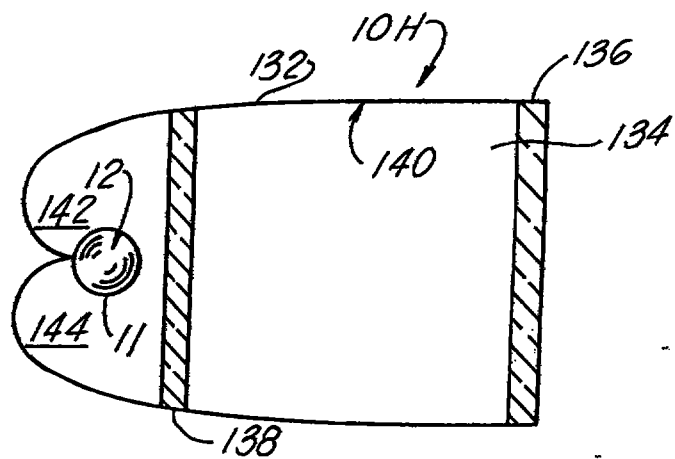
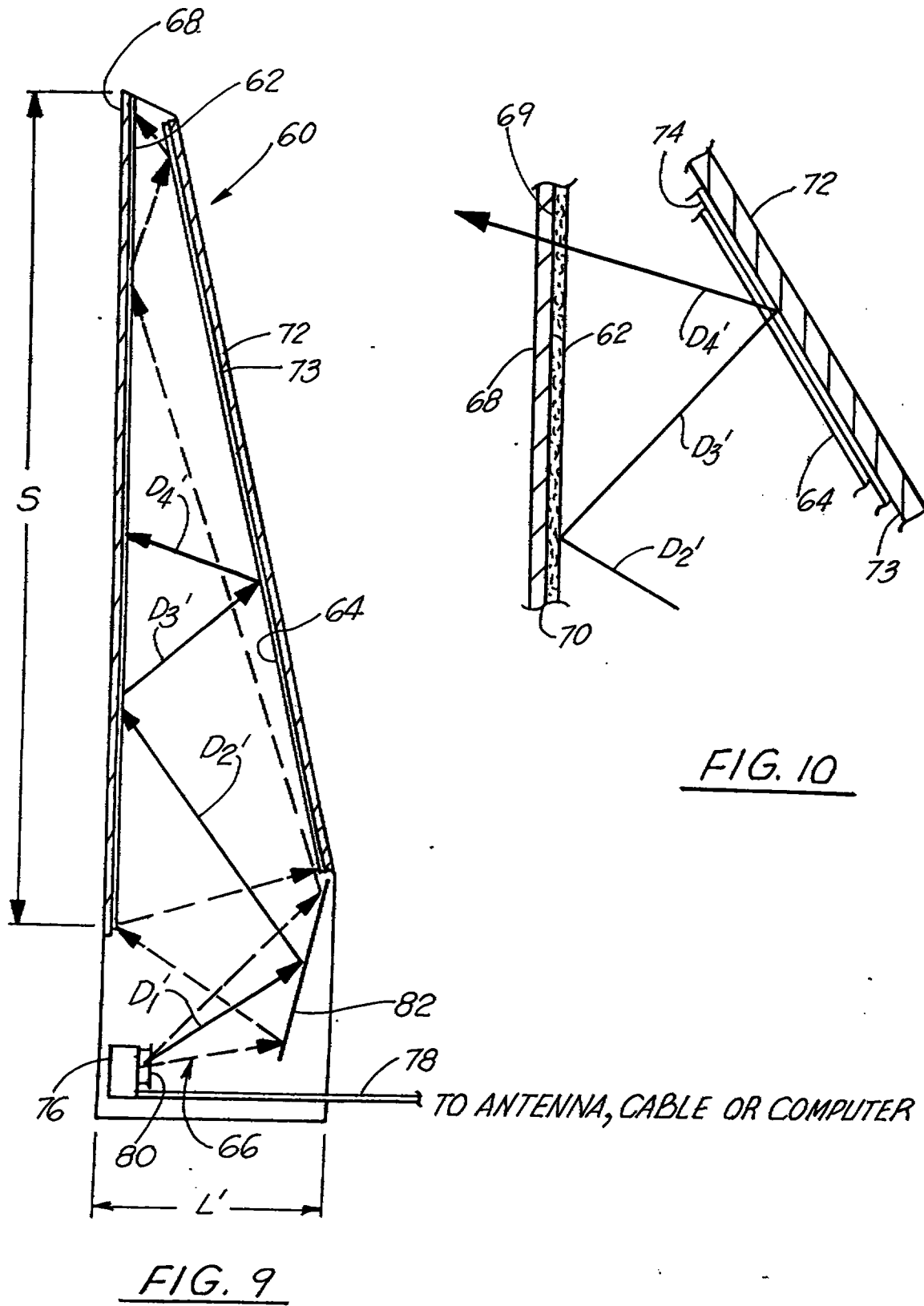
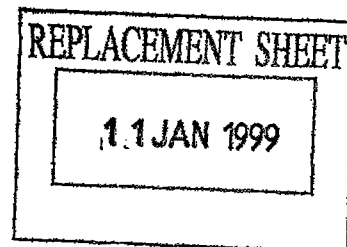


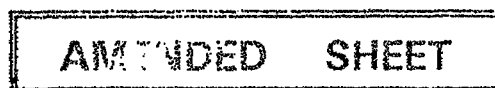
FIG. 8





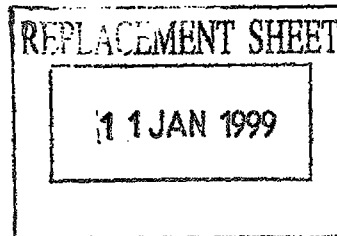
CLAIMS

1. A method of increasing the efficiency of a light source comprising the steps of:
 - a) generating a light source within a lamp to emit a light beam ;
 - b) directing the light beam emitted by the light source to a reflecting filter that passes light of desired colors and reflects other colors;
 - c) transmitting light that has passed through the reflecting filter to a reflecting polarizer that passes light of a desired polarity and reflects other light; and
 - d) directing light that has been reflected by the reflecting filter and light that has been reflected by the reflecting polarizer back to the lamp to be reabsorbed by the light source within the lamp to increase the efficiency of the light source.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the light that has passed through the reflecting filter is transmitted directly to the reflecting polarizer.
3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the lamp includes a bulb containing a fill selected from one or more of: sulfur, selenium, and metal halide.
4. The method of any of claim 1 to 3, wherein the lamp includes a sealed bulb containing a fill that is excited to form a plasma light source.
5. The method of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the reflecting filter is an interference filter.





13



6. The method of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the reflecting filter is a dichroic filter.

7. The method of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the reflecting filter reflects all but red, blue, and green light.

8. The method of any of claims 1 to 7, further comprising the steps of:

e) using portions of the light that has passed through the reflecting polarizer as the source of light to form an image, which image is projected along an optical path and at a display surface

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

f) interposing a reflecting polarizer across the optical path;

g) at one time reflecting the image from the reflecting polarizer;

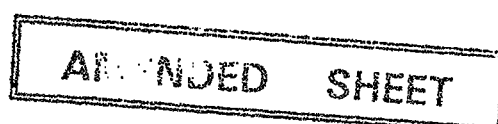
and

g) at a different time permitting the image to pass through the reflecting polarizer.

10. The method of claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the reflecting polarizer is essentially parallel to the display surface.

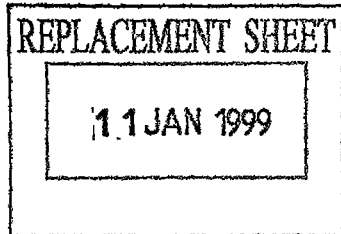
11. The method of any of claims 8 to 10, wherein the reflecting polarizer is near the display surface.

12. The method of any of claims 8 to 11, wherein the reflecting polarizer is attached to the display surface.





14



13. The method of claims 8 to 12, wherein the display surface is on a video viewing screen.

14. The method of any of claims 8 to 13, further comprising the step of reflecting the image at least once more.

15. The method of any of claims 8 to 14,, further comprising the step of reflecting the image twice more.

16. The method of any of claims 8 to 15, wherein reflecting from the optical device is done before permitting the image to pass through the optical device.

17. The method of any of claims 8 to 16, further comprising, prior to the time when the image is passed through the reflecting polarizer , rotating the polarization of the image at least once.

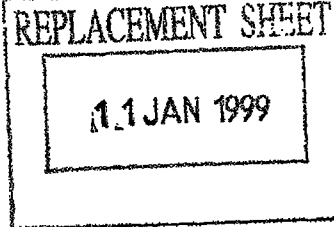
18. The method of any of claims 8 to 16, further comprising, prior to the time when the image is passed through the reflecting polarizer , twice rotating the polarization of the image.

19. The method of claims 8 to 18, further comprising passing the image through at least one linear absorption polarizer located between the reflecting polarizer and the display surface.

20. A high efficiency lamp apparatus for producing a light beam, comprising:

a lamp that defines a chamber containing a light source operable to emit a light beam;

AMENDED SHEET



a reflecting filter positioned to receive the light beam from the lamp chamber and operable to pass light of desired colors and to reflect light of other colors;

a reflecting polarizer positioned to receive light that has passed through the reflecting filter and operable to pass light of a desired polarization and to reflect light of other polarization; and

a reflecting surface or surfaces positioned to receive light reflected by the reflecting filter and light reflected by the reflecting polarizer and to redirect said received light back to the lamp chamber for reabsorption by the light source to increase the operating efficiency of the light source.

21. The lamp apparatus of claim 20, wherein the reflecting polarizer is positioned directly to receive light that has passed through the reflecting filter.

22. The lamp apparatus of claim 20 or claim 21, further comprising:

electrodes positioned externally of the lamp chamber for producing radio frequency energy that excites a fill, forming a plasma light source of intense heat that emits a light beam; and

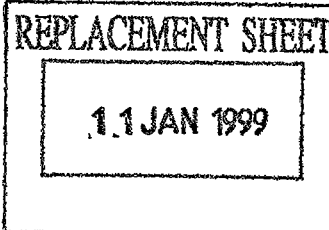
wherein the electrodes are not subjected to the intense heat generated at the plasma.

23. The lamp apparatus of any one of claims 20 to 22, further comprising an absorbing filter for correcting polarity of light emitted from the reflecting polarizer.

AMENDED SHEET

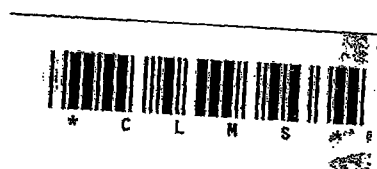


16

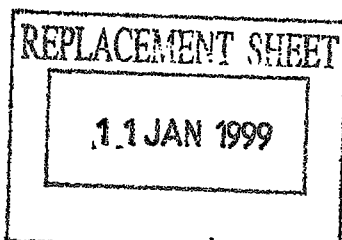


24. The lamp apparatus of any of claims 20 to 23, wherein the lamp includes a fill selected from one or more of: selenium, metal halide, and sulfur.
25. The lamp apparatus of any of claims 20 to 24, wherein the lamp includes a bulb.
26. The lamp apparatus of any of claims 20 to 25 wherein said reflecting filter reflects light other than red, green, and blue light.
27. The lamp apparatus of any of claims 20 to 26, wherein the reflector surface comprises a shaped reflector that extends about the majority of the outer surface of the lamp body.
28. The lamp apparatus of any of claims 20 to 27, wherein the reflector surface has a wall that is positioned about the lamp body and including an opening at one end of the reflector wall through which a light beam can travel.
29. The lamp apparatus of claim 28, wherein the reflecting polarizer is positioned across the opening.
30. The lamp apparatus of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the reflecting filter comprises an interference filter positioned across the opening.
31. The lamp apparatus of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the reflecting filter comprises a dichroic filter positioned across the opening.

AMENDED SHEET



17



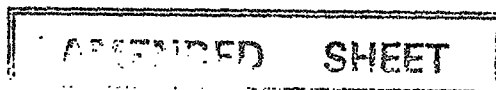
32. Display apparatus comprising a lamp apparatus according to any of claims 20 to 31, a display surface and means defining an optical path for directing a light beam that has passed through the reflecting polarizer of said lamp apparatus to said display surface; wherein the means defining said optical path includes a reflecting polarizer surface positioned between said display surface and a further reflector surface such that said light beam is initially reflected away from said display surface by said reflecting polarizer and to said further reflector surface for reflection back to said reflecting polarizer with a changed polarization to permit passage through the reflecting polarizer on to said display surface.

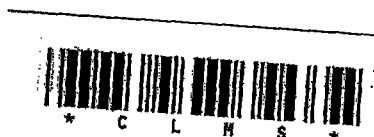
33. The display apparatus of claim 32, wherein the planes of said display surface and of said further reflector surface are in opposed, inclined relation to each other, such that at one said surfaces are separated by a wider distance, and the lamp apparatus is disposed at said one end.

34. The display apparatus of claim 32 or claim 33, including another reflector surface for directing the light beam received from said lamp apparatus to said reflecting polarizer surface.

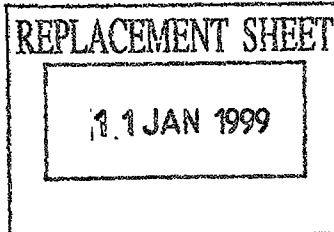
35. The display apparatus of any of claims 32 to 34, including an quarter wavelength retarder positioned between said reflecting polarizer and said further reflector surface.

36. The display apparatus of any of claims 32 to 35, wherein the reflecting polarizer of said lamp apparatus and said reflecting polarization surface both pass light of the same polarization.





18



37. The display apparatus of any of claims 32 to 36, including an absorption polarizer located between said reflecting polarization surface and said display surface to filter stray light reflections.

AMENDED SHEET