Claims

1. A filter apparatus for a light fixture including a lens and a lighting element controlled by a controller, comprising:

a light filter movable into an optical path between the lighting element and the lens, in use, under control of the controller during execution of a light program; and

the filter apparatus configured to automatically move said light filter from a position outside the optical path to a position within the optical path upon power down of the light fixture.

2. The filter apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured, in response to receiving a signal to power down the light fixture, to move the light filter into the optical path before powering down the light fixture.

3. The filter apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a motor operated by the controller to move the light filter into the optical path after the controller receives a signal to power down the light fixture and before the light fixture is powered down.

4. The filter apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the filter apparatus further includes a retraction device configured to retract said light filter from said optical path when said retraction device is activated;

said light filter is normally-biased into an optical path between the lighting element and the lens; and

said controller is configured to activate said retraction device upon power being provided to the light fixture in the absence of a request by the light program for said light filter.

5. The filter apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light filter is a Frost filter.

6. The filter apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a bias mechanism providing the normal-bias to the light filter.

7. The filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said bias mechanism includes a spring.

8. The filter apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said bias mechanism includes a spring-biased roller located on one side of the lighting element, at least a portion of said filter being attached to said spring-biased roller.

9. The filter apparatus according to according to claim 8, wherein said retraction device includes a motor and a roller driven by said motor, said roller located on another side of the lighting element opposite the spring-biased roller, a second portion of said filter being attached to said motor-driven roller, wherein operation of said motor rolls a portion of said filter around said motor-driven roller and applies a torsional force to said spring.

10. The filter apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said retraction device includes a relay.

11. The filter apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said retraction device includes an electromagnet.

12. The filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the light fixture includes a moving head, and said filter, said bias mechanism and said retraction device are all located in said moving head.

13. A moving head light fixture, comprising:

a moving head including a lens and a lighting element;

a controller configured to control said moving head and said lighting element;

at least one light filter disposed in said moving head, said at least one light filter movable between a first position disposed in an optical path between said lighting element and said lens, and a second position outside the optical path between said lighting element and said lens;

said controller configured to move said at least one light filter between said first position and said second position in response to control signals as part of a lighting program;

said at least one light filter being automatically moved into said first position from said second position when the light fixture is powered down.

14. The moving head light fixture of claim 13, wherein said controller is configured, in response to receiving a signal to power down the light fixture, to move the light filter into the optical path before powering down the light fixture.

15. The moving head light fixture of claim 14, further comprising a motor operated by the controller to move the light filter into the optical path after the controller receives a signal to power down the light fixture and before the light fixture is powered down.

16. The moving head light fixture of claim 13, wherein:

said at least one light filter is normally-biased into said first position; and

a retraction device is provided in said moving head and configured to move said at least one light filter from its first position to its second position outside said optical path when said retraction device is activated.

17. The moving head light fixture according to claim 16, wherein said controller is additionally configured to activate said retraction device upon power being provided to the moving head light fixture.

18. The moving head light fixture according to claim 16, wherein said at least one light filter is spring-biased into said first position in an unpowered state.

19. The moving head light fixture according to claim 16, wherein said retraction device includes a motor.

20. The moving head light fixture according to claim 19, wherein said at least one light filter is connected at one end to a spring-biased roller and at another, opposite end to a motor-driven roller, wherein activation so said motor rolls a portion of said filter around said motor-driven roller, moving said at least one light filter to its second position, and wherein de-activation of said motor releases tension on said motor-driven roller and said spring-biased roller pulls said at least one filter into said first position.

21. A method of using a light fixture including a lens and a lighting element controlled by a controller, the method comprising:

providing at least one light filter movable between a first position disposed in an optical path between said lighting element and said lens, and a second position outside the optical path between said lighting element and said lens; and

automatically moving the at least one filter from the second position to the first position in response to a power down condition of the light fixture.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said controller is configured to move the at least one light filter from the first position to the second position when power is initially provided to the light fixture.