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(12) **United States Patent**
Colby

(10) **Patent No.: US 7,748,877 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jul. 6, 2010**

(54) **MULTI-MODE BULB**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 862 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/244,641**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 5, 2005**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
F21V 15/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **362/378**; 362/376; 362/441; 362/227; 362/251; 315/312; 315/185 S; 315/56; 315/59

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 362/378, 362/376, 377, 441, 443, 435, 437, 448, 227, 362/251; 315/56, 57, 58, 59, 312, 185 S
See application file for complete search history.

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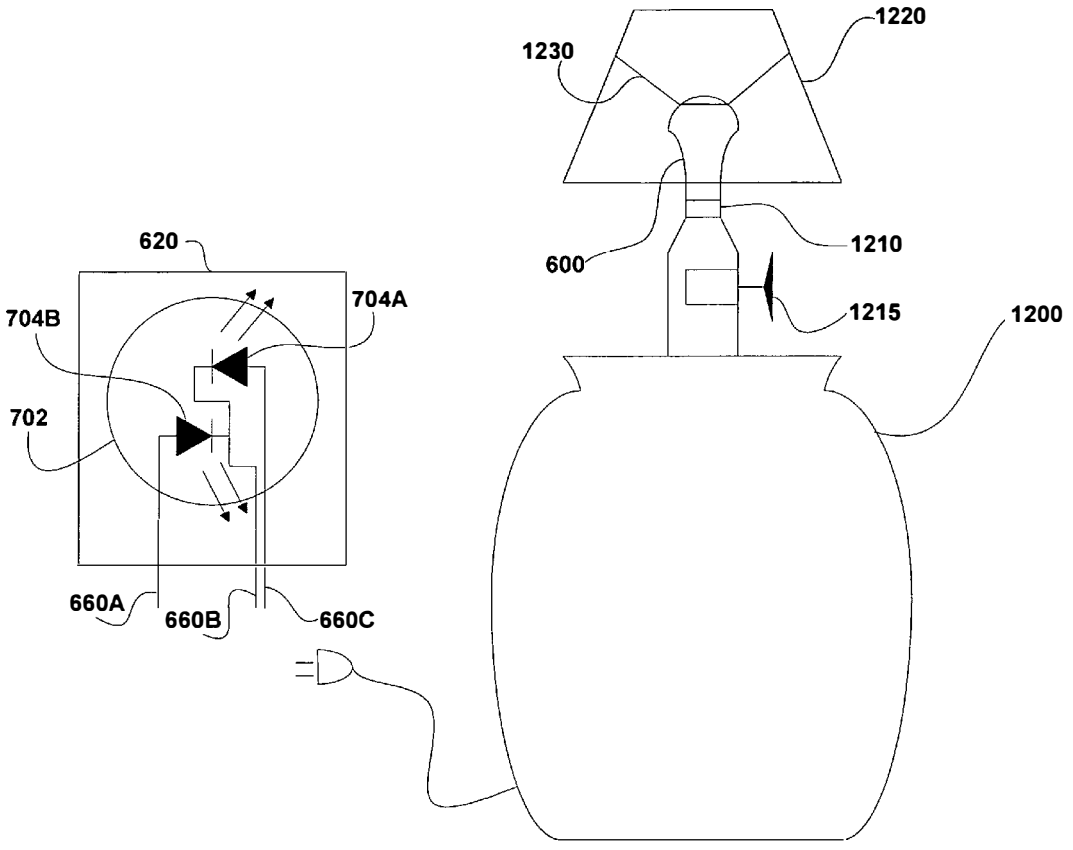
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Primary Examiner—Tuyet Vo

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A three-way bulb including light emitting diodes is used to achieve a variety of light output colors and/or intensities. In some embodiments, the inputs to a three-way bulb are configured to perform other functions, such as power a motor. In some embodiments, a bulb including light emitting diodes includes a replicable cover. This cover may be configured to project images or support a shade made of a heat sensitive material.

27 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets



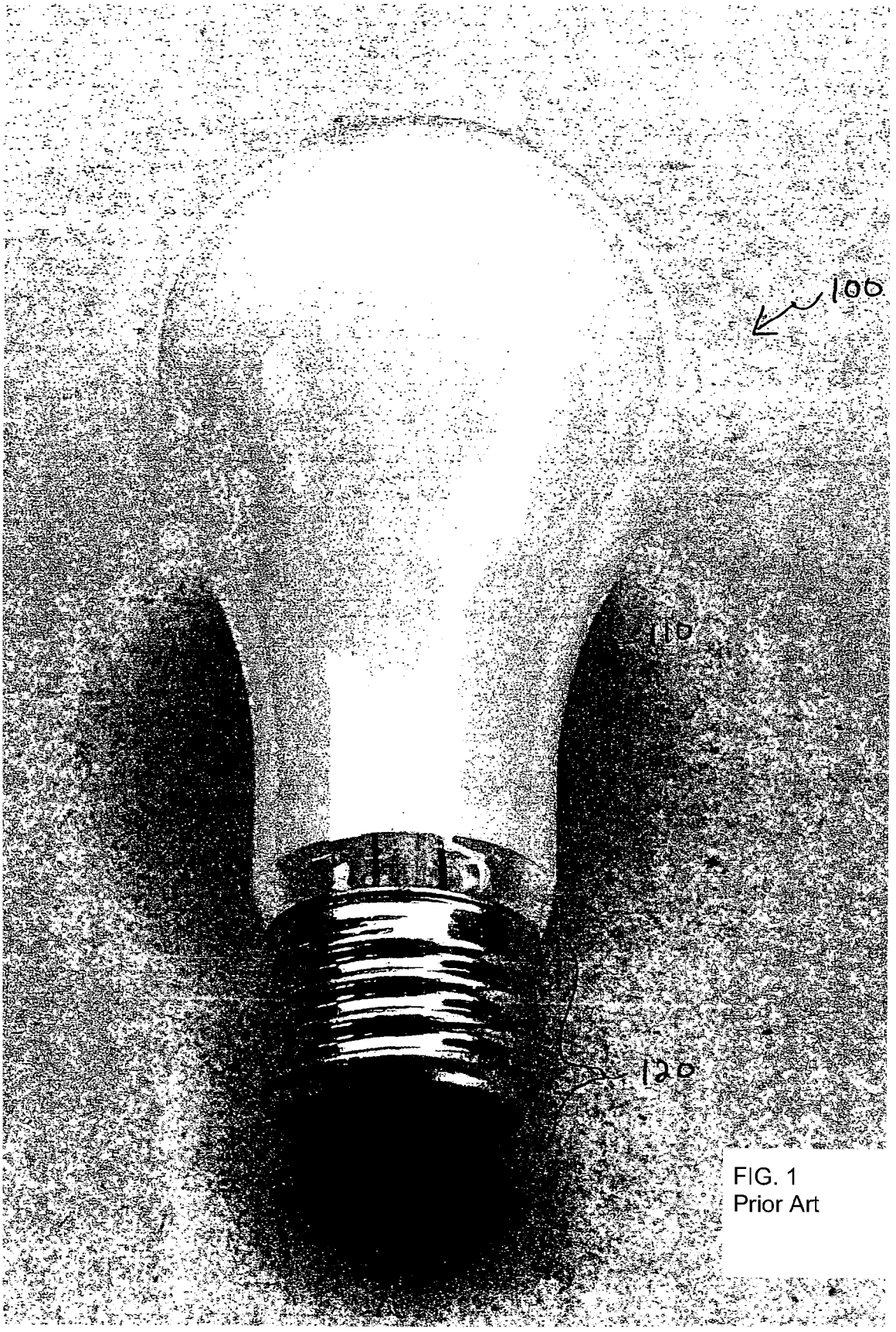


FIG. 1
Prior Art

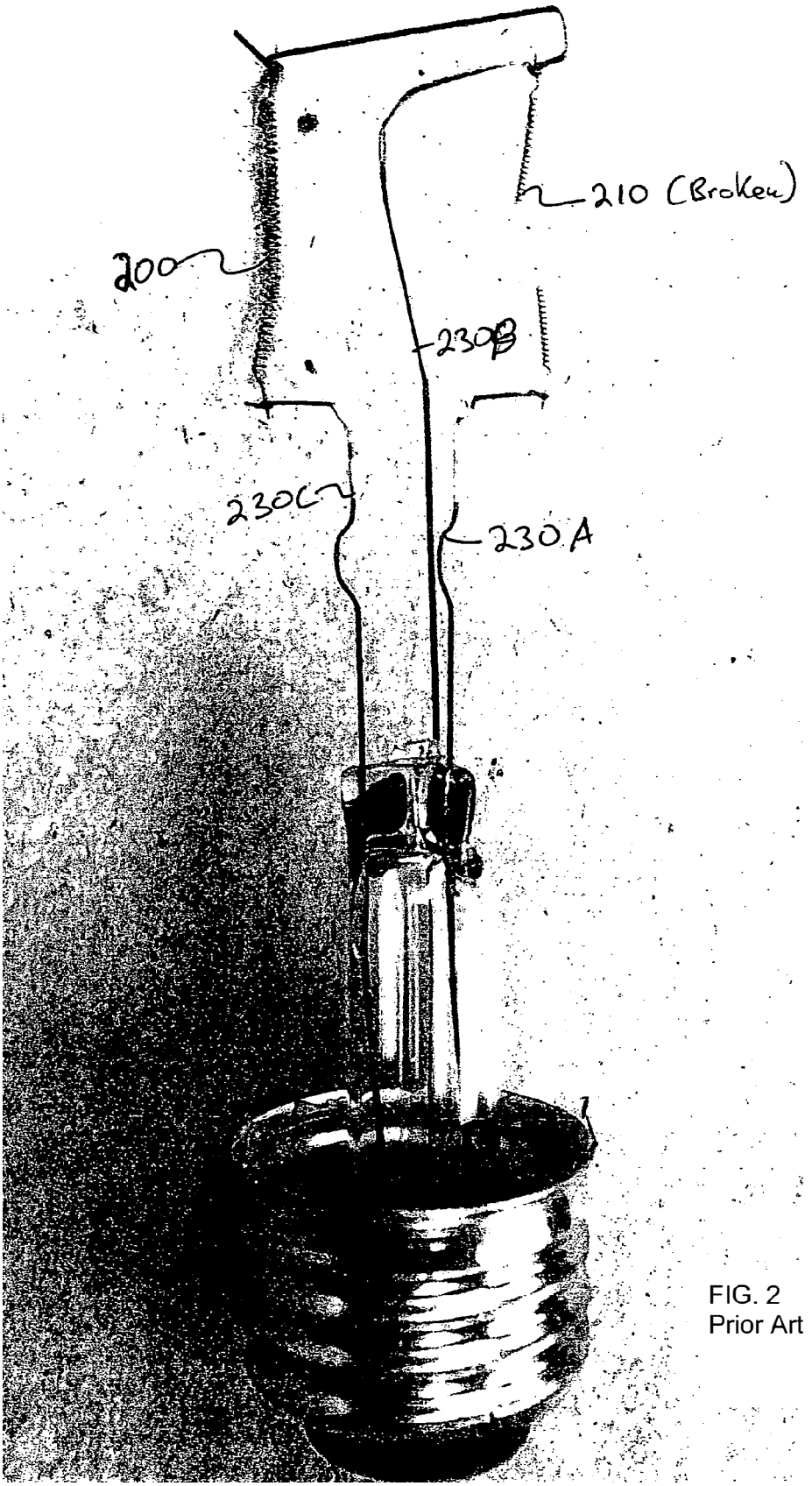


FIG. 2
Prior Art

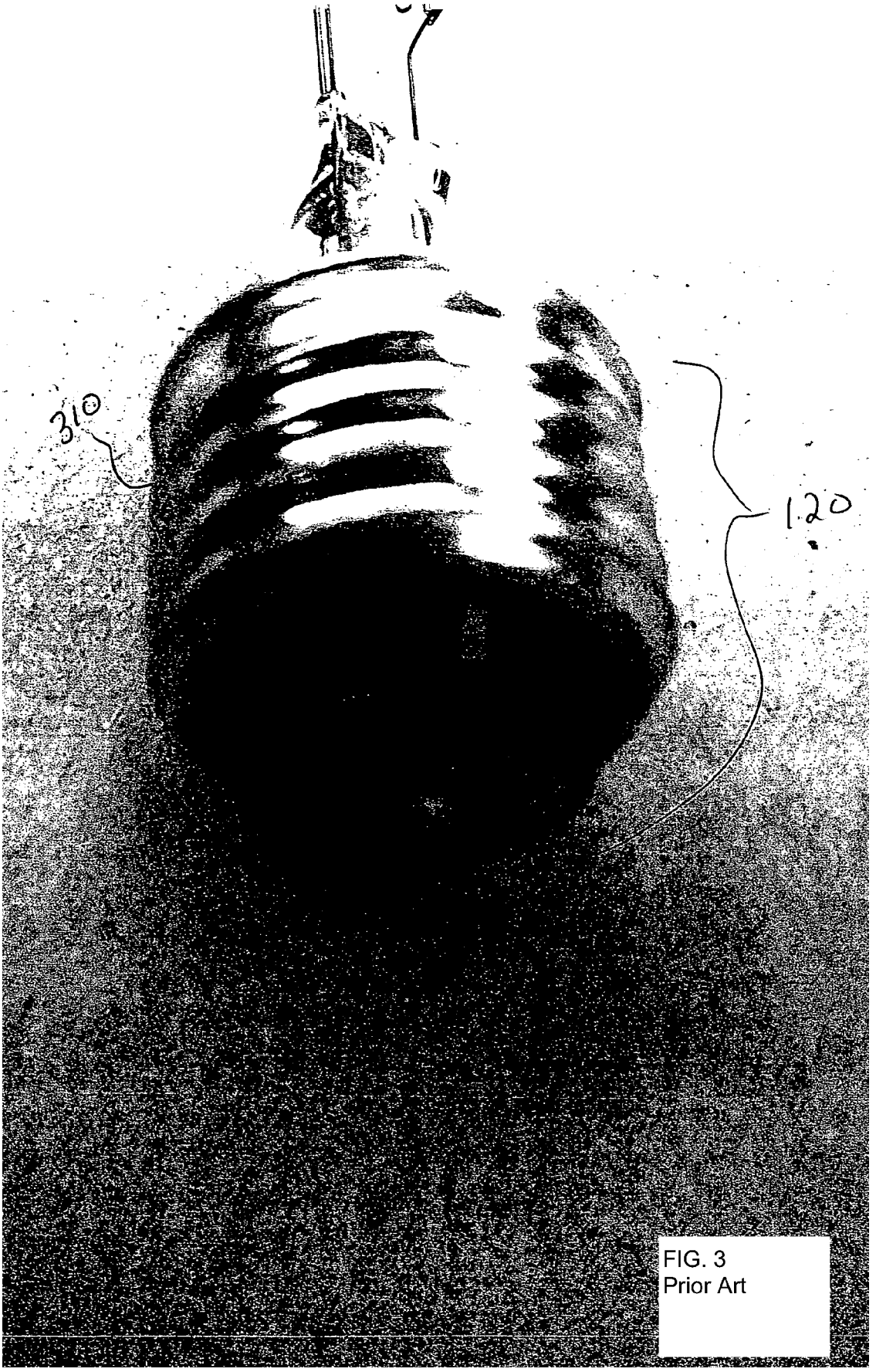


FIG. 3
Prior Art

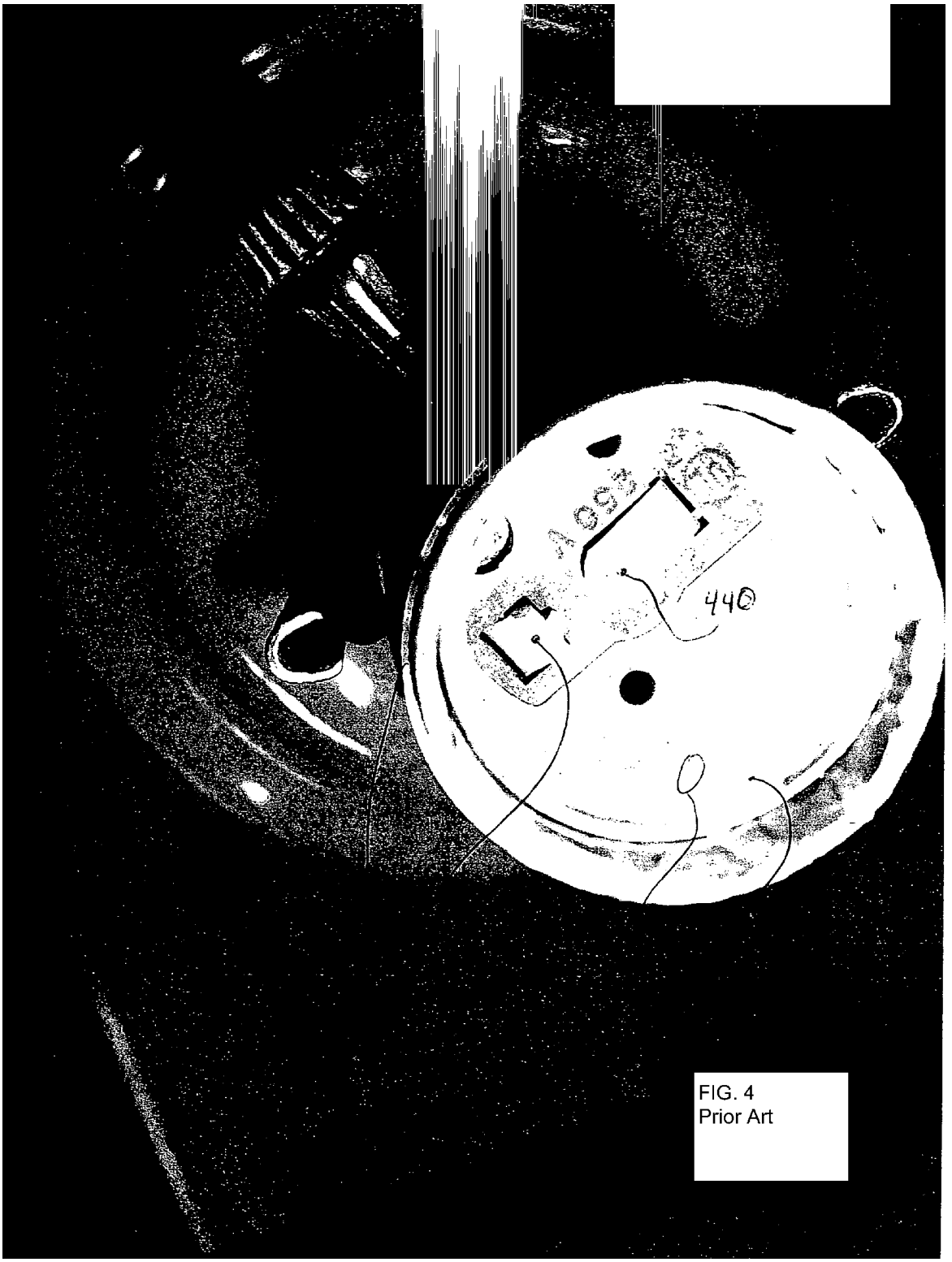


FIG. 4
Prior Art

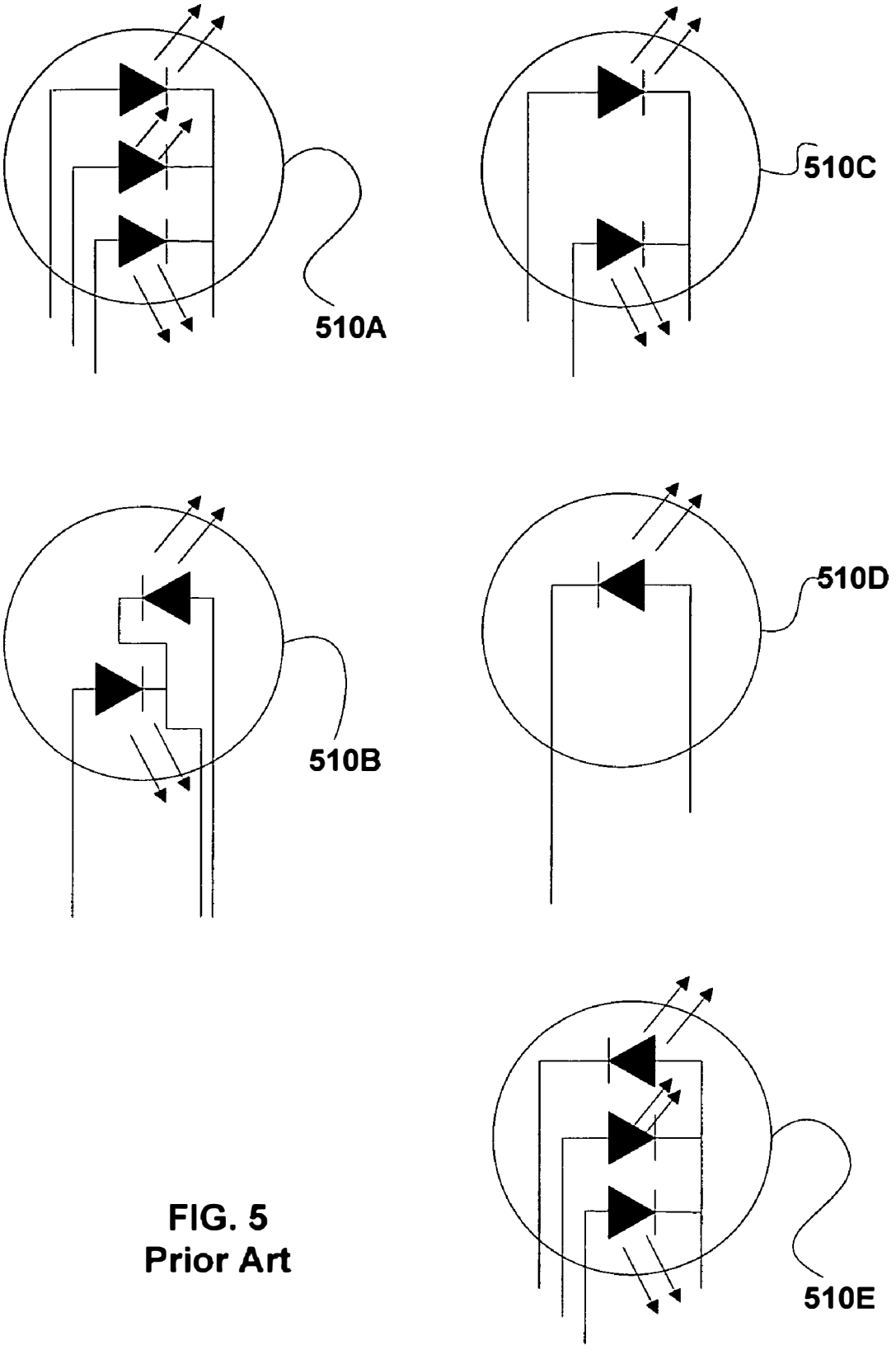


FIG. 5
Prior Art

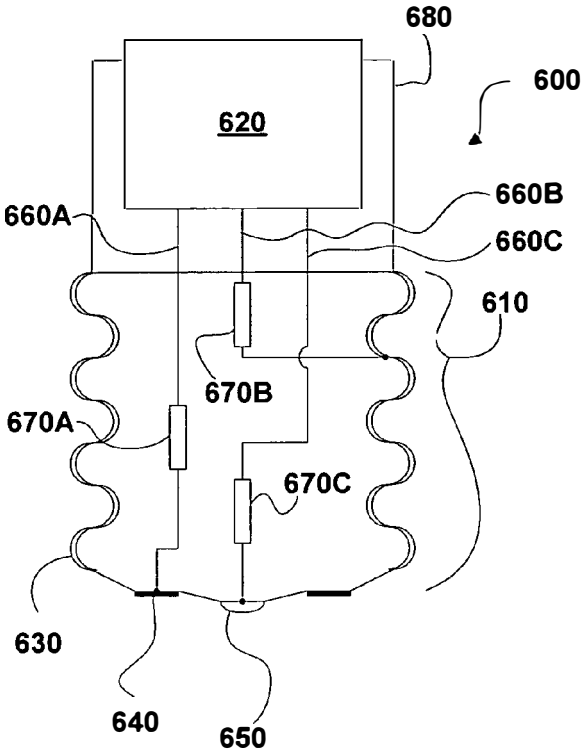

680
600
620
660A
660B
660C
610
670B
670A
670C
630
640
650

FIG. 6A

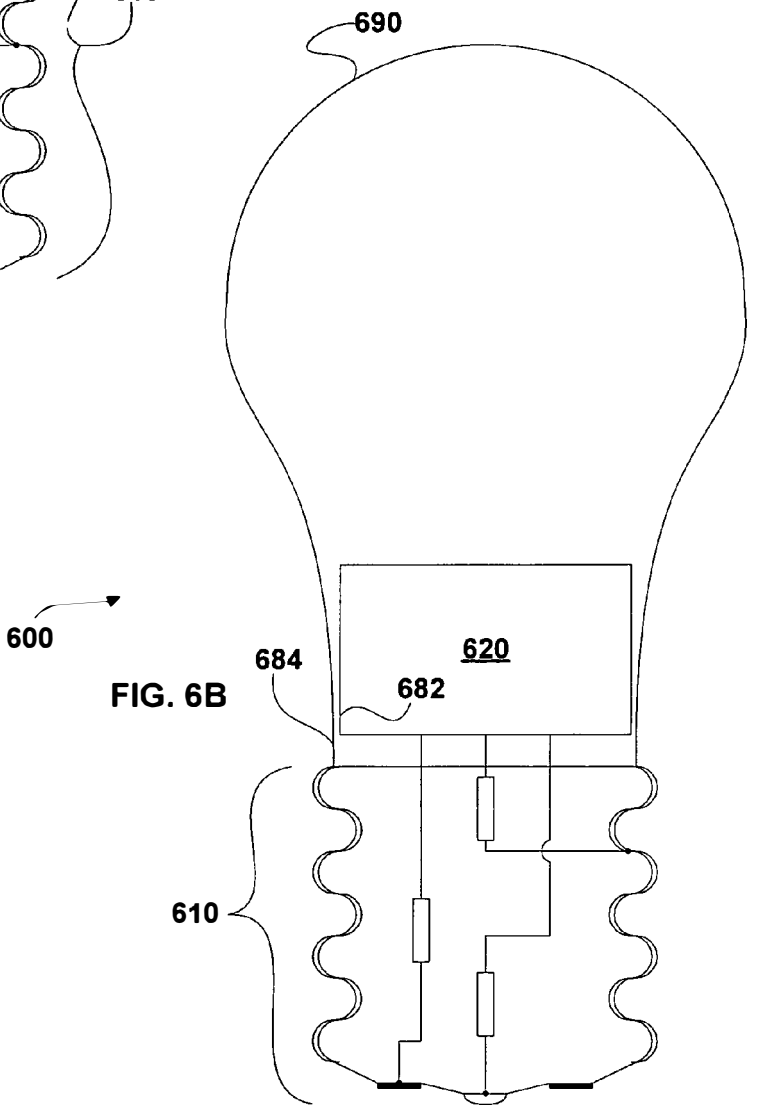

690
600
620
684
682
610

FIG. 6B

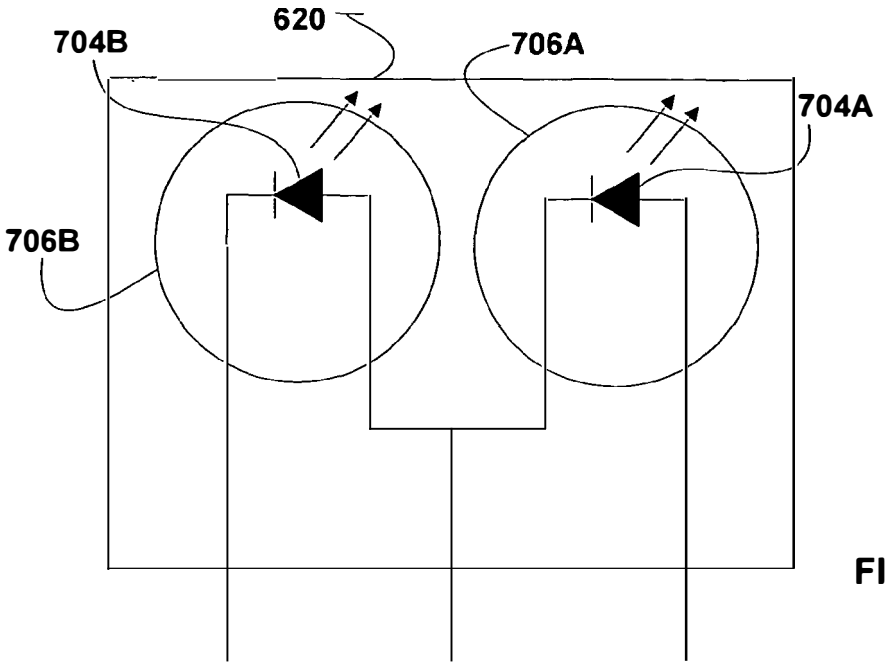


FIG. 7C

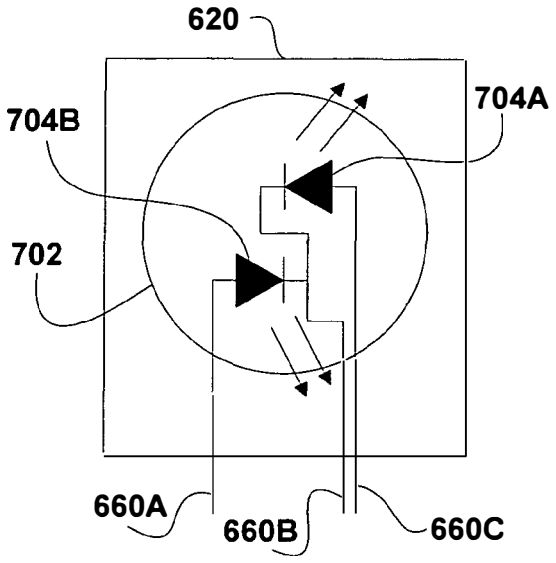


FIG. 7A

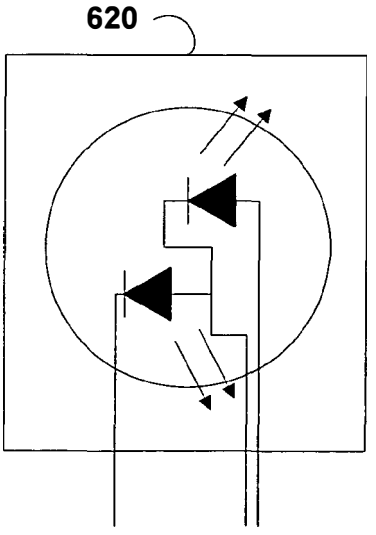


FIG. 7B

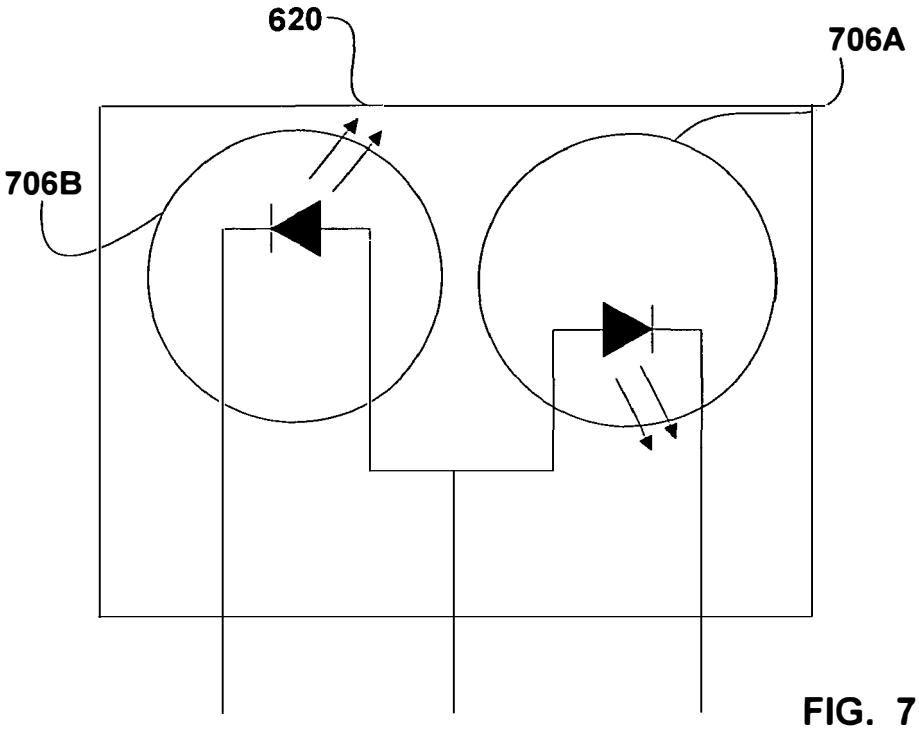


FIG. 7D

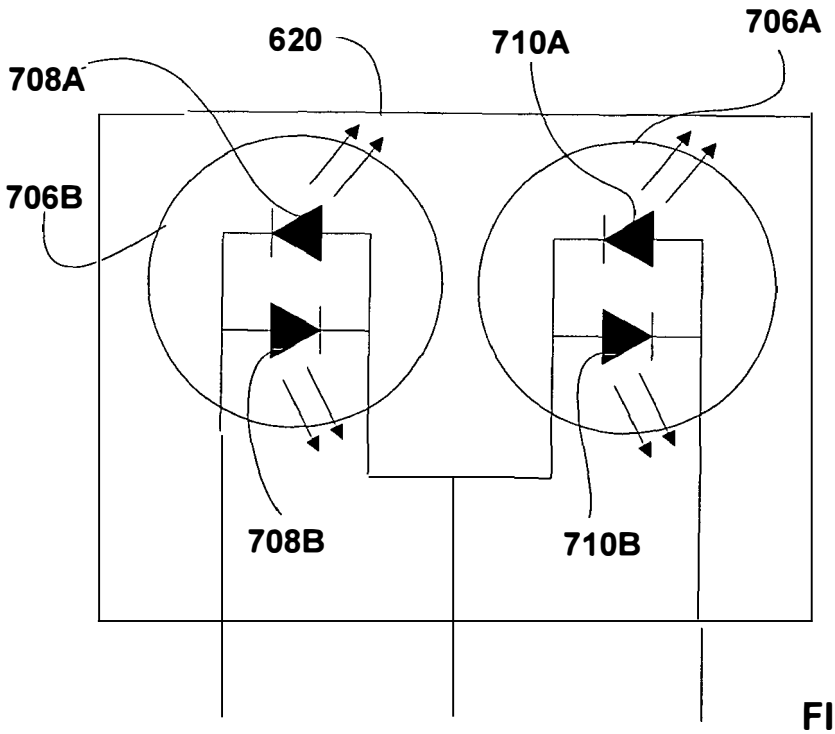


FIG. 7E

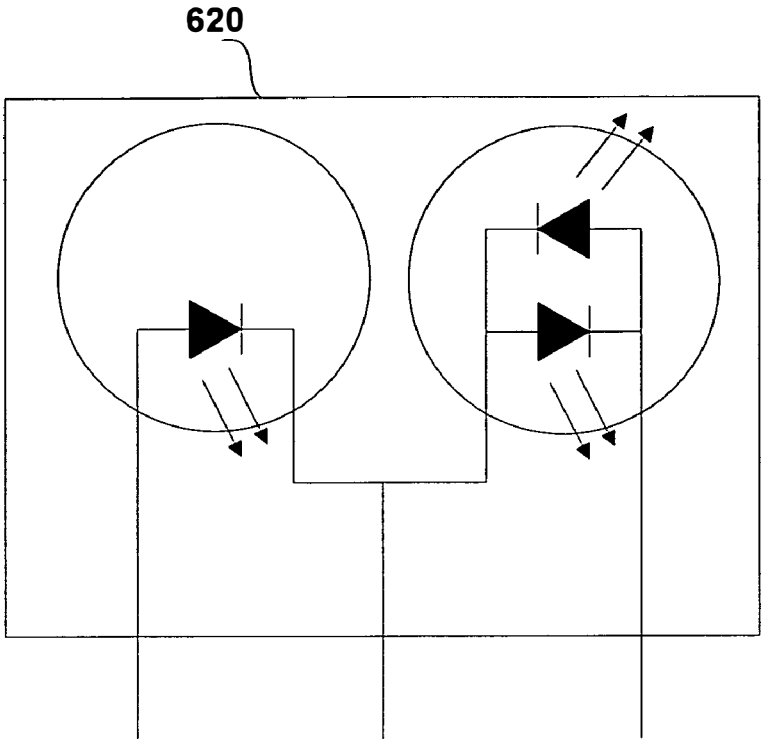


FIG. 7F

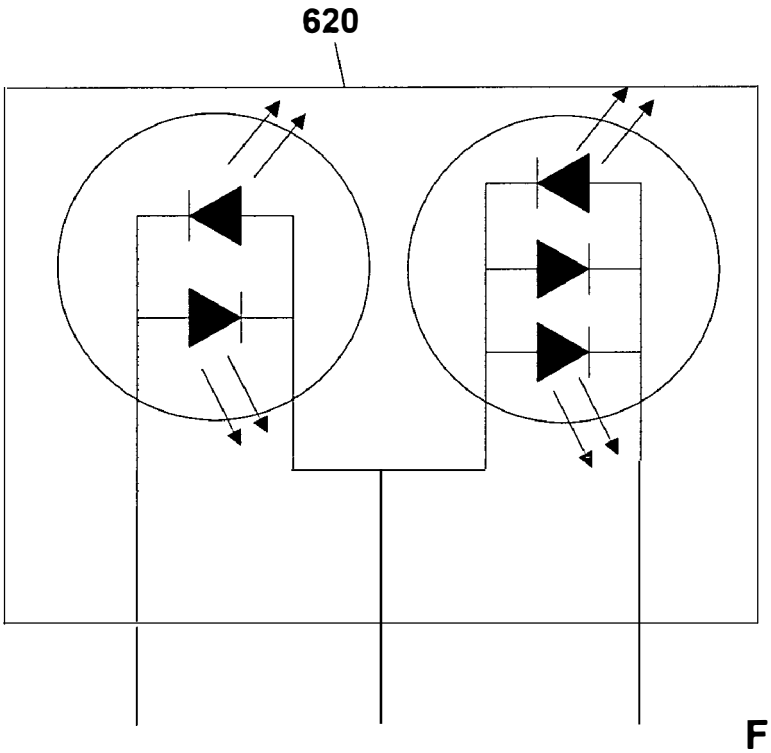


FIG. 7G

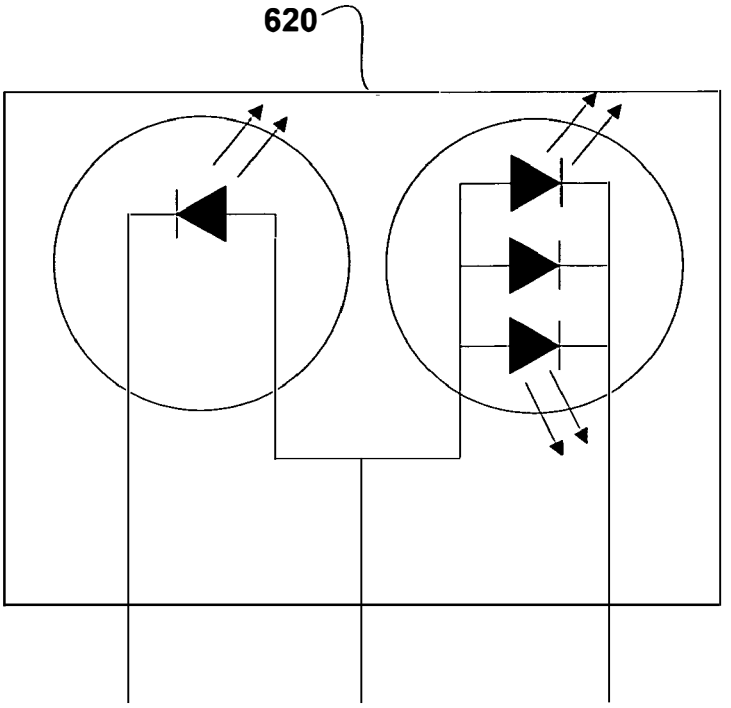


FIG. 7H

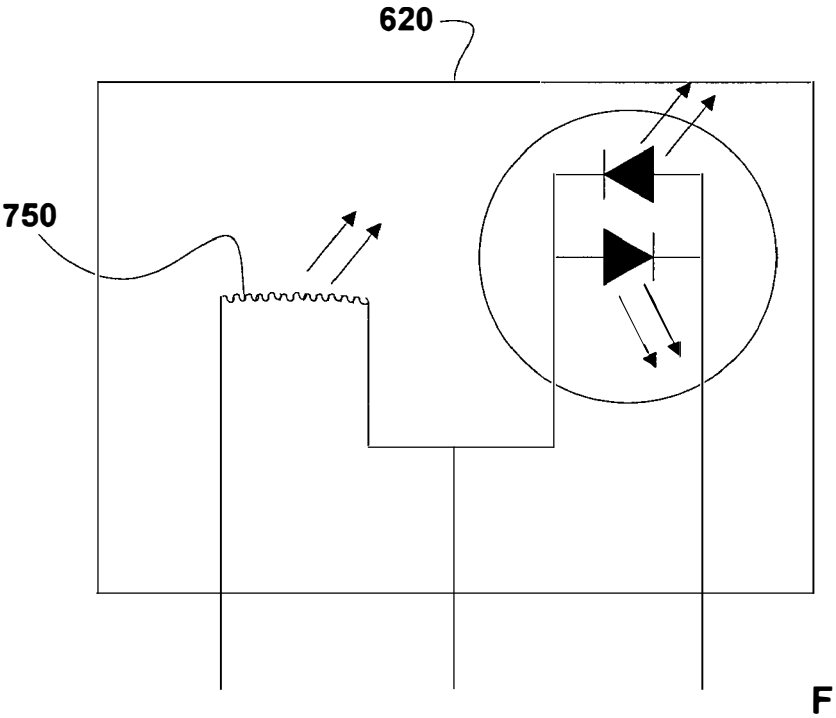


FIG. 7I

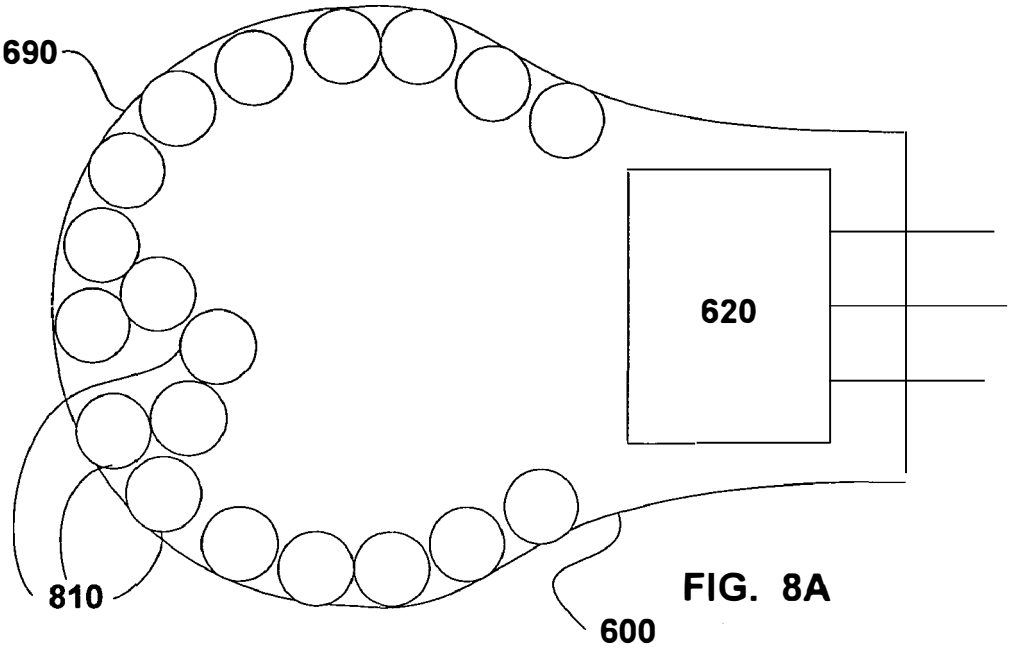


FIG. 8A

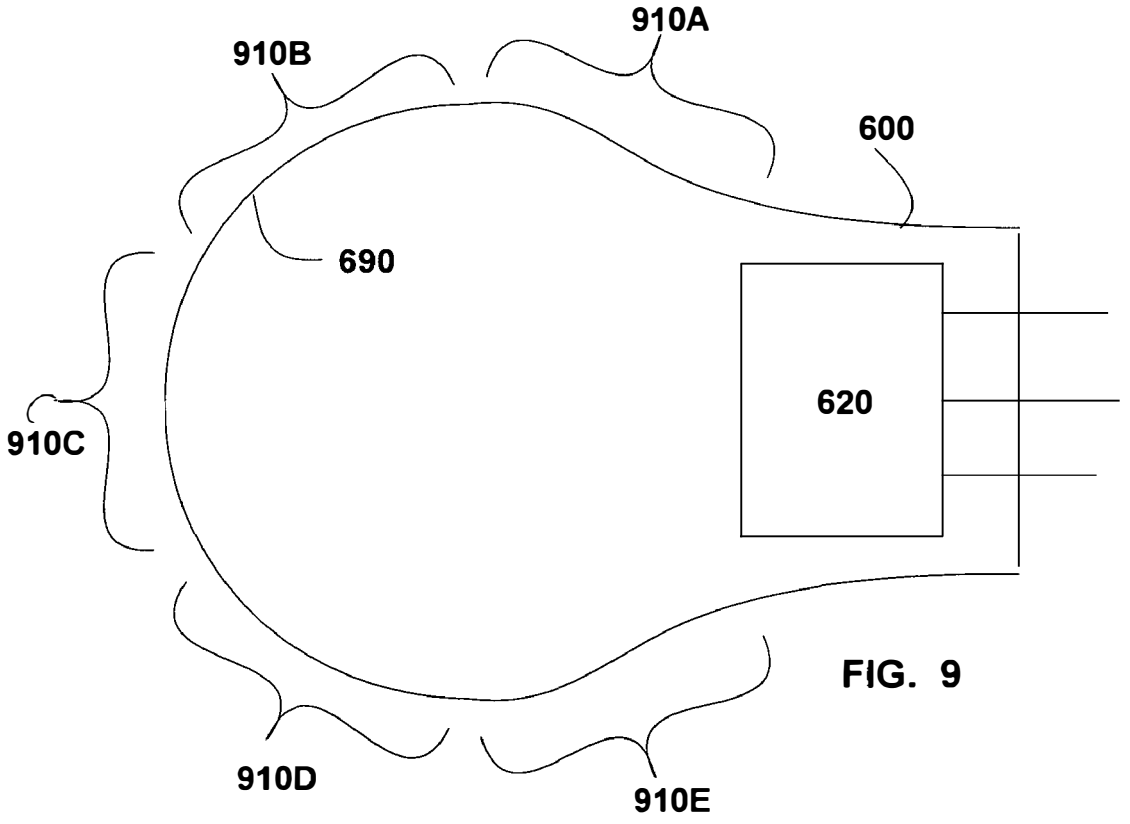


FIG. 9

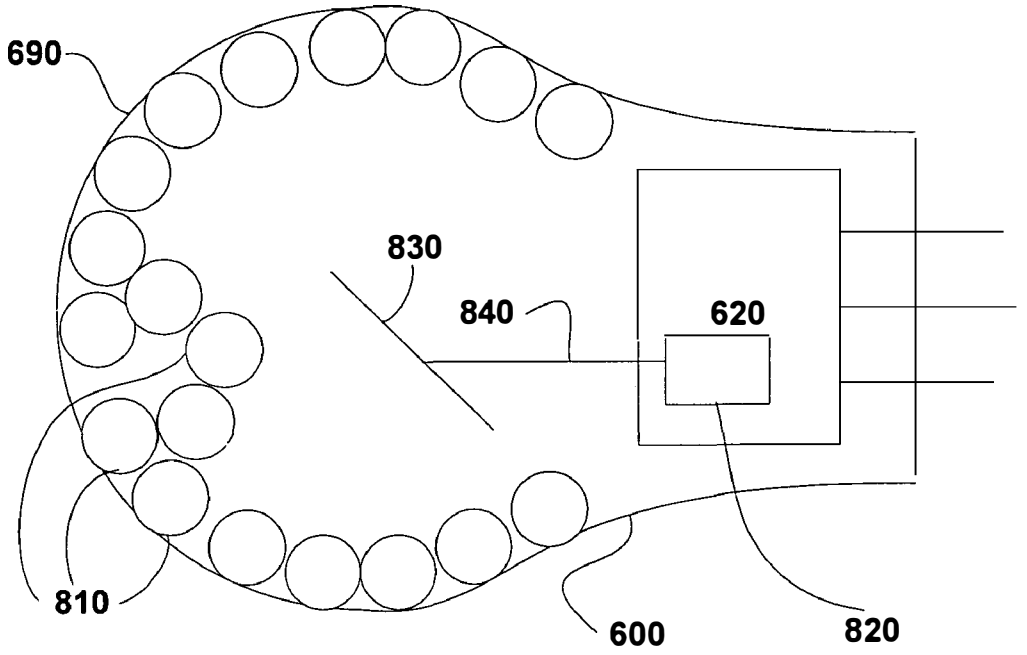


FIG. 8B

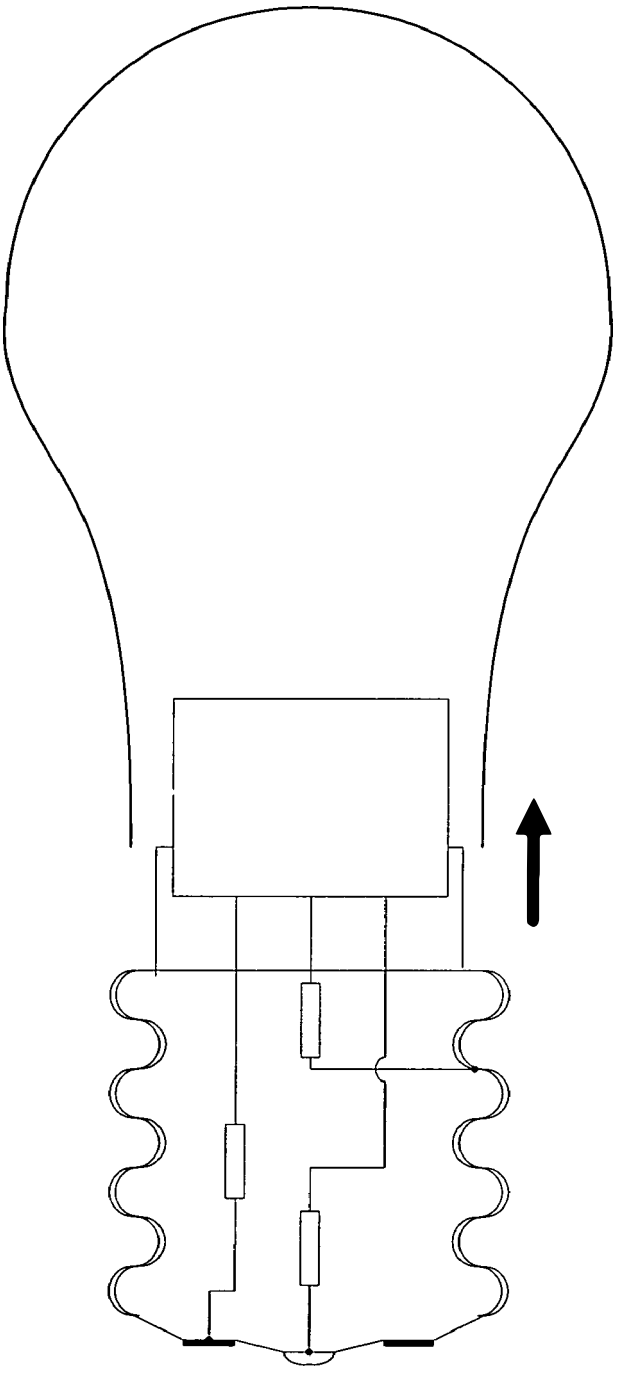


FIG. 10

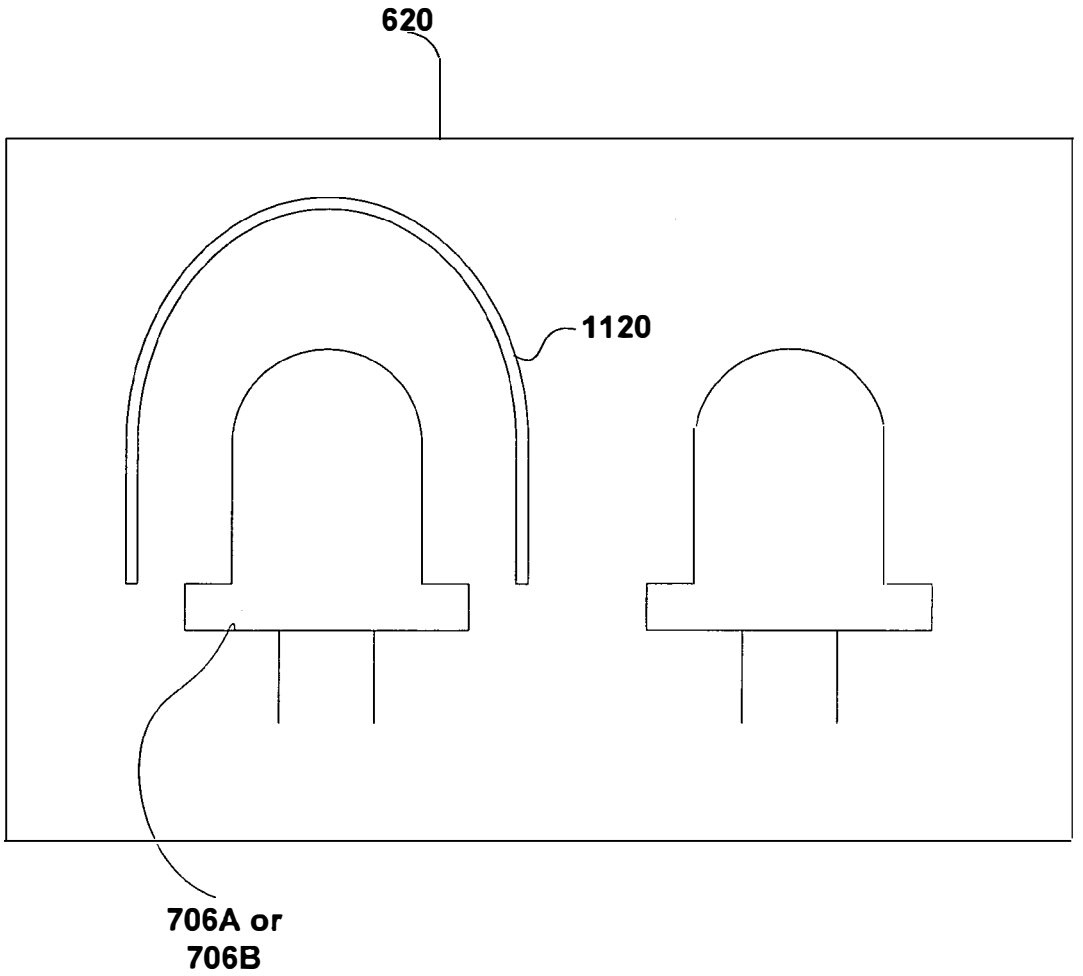


FIG. 11

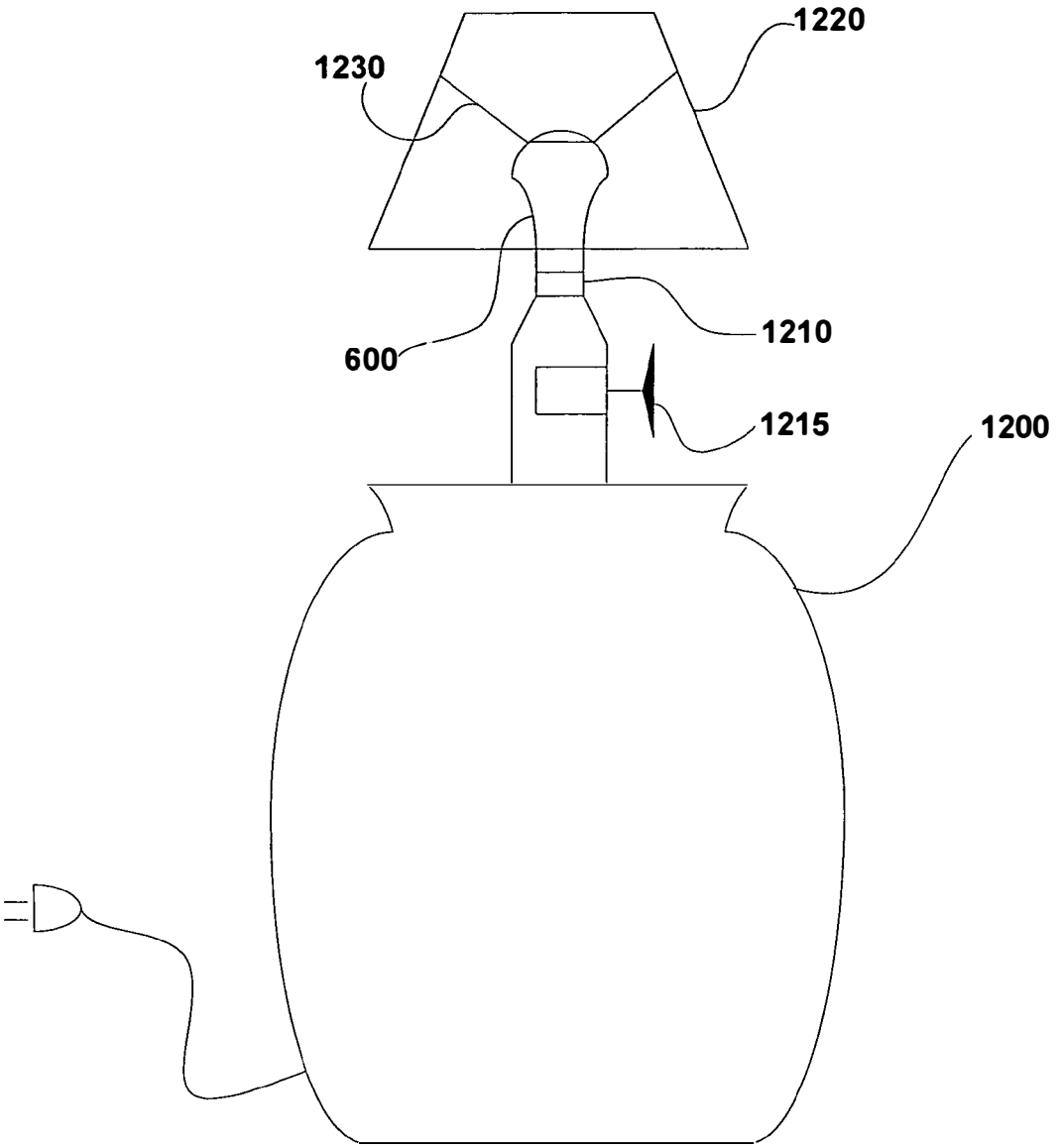


FIG. 12

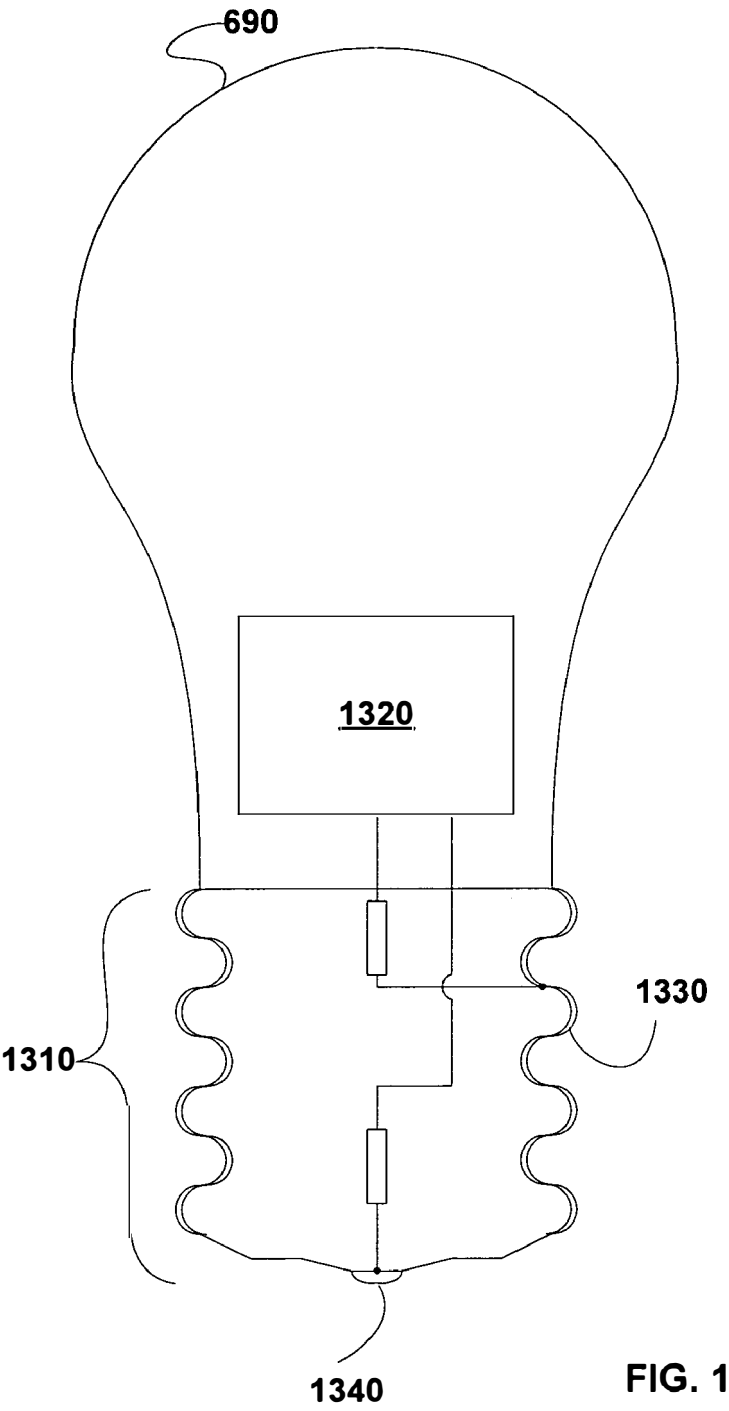


FIG. 13

MULTI-MODE BULB

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/616,361, filed Oct. 5, 2004 and entitled "Multi-mode Bulb." This provisional patent application is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention

The invention is in the field of lighting and more specifically in the fields of colored lighting and variable intensity lighting.

2. Related Art

The art includes three-way bulbs configured to operate in lighting fixtures configured to power these three-way bulbs. See for example, U.S. Pat. No. 486,334 to Hall et al. These legacy lighting fixtures include a 3-way receptacle configured to receive a base of the three-way bulb. The receptacle typically includes two hot contacts and a neutral contact configured to form circuits when a three-way bulb is placed in the 3-way receptacle. The base includes contacts configured to come in contact with the two hot contacts and a neutral contact of the base when the base is screwed into the receptacle. The legacy lighting fixture further includes a three-way power switch to alternatively power the hot contacts. In operation the three-way switch alternatively powers the hot contacts such that the bulb is lit at three different output intensities.

FIG. **1** illustrates a Three-Way Bulb **100** of the prior art. Three-Way Bulb **100** of the prior art includes a Glass Cover **110** and a Base **120** configured to fit within a three-way bulb socket of the prior art.

FIG. **2** illustrates the three-way bulb of FIG. **1** with the glass cover removed. This view shows a First Filament **200** and a Second Filament **210**. First Filament **200** and Second Filament **210** are supported by Leads **230**A-**230**C.

FIG. **3** illustrates further detail of Base **120** of Three-Way Bulb **100**. Base **120** includes three electrical contact elements. The three electrical contact elements include a neutral outer Contact Surface **310** often configured for screwing Three-Way Bulb **100** into a receptacle, a First Hot Contact **320** and a Second Hot Contact **330**. When First Hot Contact **320** is powered (e.g. a voltage is applied relative to Contact Surface **310**) First Filament **200** is lit. When Second Hot Contact **330** is powered Second Filament **210** is lit. When Both First Hot Contact **320** and Second Hot Contact **330** are powered, both First Filament **150** and Second Filament **160** are lit.

FIG. **4** illustrates a legacy Three-Way Receptacle **410** and Three-Way Switch **420** configured to accommodate Three-Way Bulb **100**. Three-Way Receptacle **410** is characterized by including at least three contacts configured to make electrical connection to Contact Surface **310**, First Hot Contact **320** and Second Hot Contact **330** of Three-Way Bulb **100**. For example, FIG. **4** shows an instance of Three-Way Receptacle **410** including an Outer Contact **420**, a Middle Contact **430**, and a Center Contact **440**. Often, Three-Way Receptacle **410** is further characterized by screw Threads **450** included in Outer Contact **420** and configured to receive Three-Way Bulb **100**.

Switch **210** is configured to alternatively power First Hot Contact **130**, Second Hot Contact **140**, or both First Hot Contact **130** and Second Hot Contact **140**. Various configurations of Switch **210** are known in the art. See for example, U.S. Pat. No. 551,357 to Beal or U.S. Pat. No. 712,149 to Paiste.

LEDs (light emitting diodes) are now available to that generate different colors of light. For example, white, red, yellow, green, and blue. These LEDs are of two general types. First, an LED that generates a fixed color (e.g., white or red or yellow). A variety of colors may be generated using more than one of these single color LEDs by powering them several at a time such that their outputs mix to produce a net light output. And Second, a multi-color LED that alone can generate more than one color responsive to voltages applied at different inputs to the multi-color LED.

FIG. **5** illustrates schematically several types of prior art LEDs **510**.

The ability to generate light of different color is an advantage of the above LEDs. However, these LEDs require special fixtures. There is a need for improved systems and methods of using these LEDs that are more convenient and practical to consumers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Various embodiments of the invention includes a multi-mode bulb having one or more LEDs. The multi-mode bulb is configured to operate in a three-way receptacle of a legacy lighting fixture, and further configured to generate different colors and/or different intensities responsive to a three-way switch of the legacy lighting fixture. In some embodiments, the bulb includes a plurality of LEDs each configured to generate a different color of light. In these embodiments, different LEDs are powered responsive to settings of the three-way switch. The multi-mode bulb may be made to produce light of various colors by powering alternative LEDs and/or combinations of LEDs. In some embodiments the multi-mode bulb includes one or more multi-color LED configured to each generate more than one color. In these embodiments the bulb may be made to generate light of different colors by applying voltage to various inputs of the multi-color LED. The three-way switch may be used to apply these voltages to the inputs. In some embodiments, the bulb includes a plurality of LEDs configured to generate light of the same color. The intensity of total light produced by the multi-mode bulb may be varied by powering various alternative members and/or combinations of this plurality of LEDs. In some embodiments, the three-way switch is used to vary both intensity and color of light generated by the multi-mode bulb.

Various embodiments of the invention include a bulb having a standard bulb shape but including a plastic or polymer cover rather than a glass cover.

Various embodiments of the invention include a bulb having a replaceable cover. The replaceable glass cover is optionally of various materials, various colors or various other optical properties.

Various embodiments of the invention include a cover for a bulb. In various embodiments the cover being of different colors, having areas of varying light transmission, or having various fillers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIOUS VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** illustrates a Three-Way Bulb **100** of the prior art;

FIG. **2** illustrates the three-way bulb of FIG. **1** with the glass cover removed;

FIG. **3** illustrates further detail of a base of a three-way bulb;

FIG. **4** illustrates a legacy three-way receptacle **410** and three-way switch;

FIG. **5** illustrates schematically several types of prior art LEDs **510**;

FIG. **6**A and FIG. **6**B illustrate two examples of a multi-mode bulb, according to various embodiments of the invention;

FIG. **7**A illustrates an embodiment of a light source including a single LED;

FIG. **7**B illustrates an alternative embodiment in which light emitting junctions do not share a common cathode or common anode;

FIGS. **7**C and **7**D illustrate embodiments of a light source including two separate LEDs;

FIG. **7**E illustrates an embodiment of a light source in which an LED includes two light emitting junctions, according to various embodiments of the invention;

FIG. **7**F illustrates an alternative embodiment of a light source;

FIGS. **7**G and **7**H illustrate embodiments of a light source wherein an LED includes three light emitting junctions;

FIG. **7**I illustrates embodiments of a light source that include both a conventional light generating filament and an LED;

FIGS. **8**A and **8**B illustrate embodiments in which a bulb cover includes fillers configured to scatter or otherwise alter light generated by a light source;

FIG. **9** illustrates embodiments of a bulb cover that includes regions with differing optical properties;

FIG. **10** illustrates embodiments of a multi-mode bulb in which a bulb cover is removable;

FIG. **11** illustrates embodiments of a light source including an LED configured to be covered by a cover;

FIG. **12** illustrates a three-way lamp, according to various embodiments of the invention; and

FIG. **13** illustrates an alternative embodiment of a three-way bulb, according to various embodiments of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Various embodiments of the invention include a multi-mode bulb configured to generate light of two or three different colors, and/or two or three different intensities, responsive to a legacy three-way switch such as that shown in FIG. **4**. The multi-mode bulb includes at least three electrical contacts and typically is configured to screw into a legacy three-way receptacle such as that illustrated in FIG. **4**.

FIG. **6**A and FIG. **6**B illustrate two examples of a Multi-Mode Bulb, generally designated **600**, according to various embodiments of the invention. Multi-Mode Bulb **600** includes at least a Base **610** and a Light Source **620**.

Base **610** includes three electrical contacts: an Outer Contact **630**, a Mid-Contact **640** and a Center Contact **650**. Outer Contact **630**, Mid-Contact **640** and Center Contact **650** are disposed to make electrical contact with a legacy three-way receptacle such that Multi-Mode Bulb **600** may be controlled by a legacy three-way switch. In some embodiments, Outer Contact **630**, Mid-Contact **640** and Center Contact **650** are configured similar to those prior art contacts shown in FIG. **3**. Outer Contact **630**, Mid-Contact **640** and Center Contact **650** are typically configured to receive AC (alternating current) power.

Light Source **620** is a source of light including at least one LED (light emitting diode). In some embodiments Light Source **620** is configured to generate two or more different colors of light responsive to power applied to Outer Contact **630**, Mid-Contact **640** and/or Center Contact **650**. In some embodiments Light Source **620** is configured to generate two or more different intensities of light responsive to power applied to Outer Contact **630**, Mid-Contact **640** and/or Center Contact **650**. In some embodiments Light Source **620** is configured to generate two or more different colors of light and two or more different intensities of light responsive to power applied to Outer Contact **630**, Mid-Contact **640** and/or Center Contact **650**.

In some embodiments, Light Source **620** includes at least three Leads **660**A-**660**C electronically coupled, optionally through one or more Electronic Elements **670**A-**670**C, to Mid-Contact **640**, Outer Contact **630** and Center Contact **650**, respectively. Electronic Elements **670**A-**670**C are described elsewhere herein.

In various alternative embodiments, Light Source **620** may include a variety of alternative LED configurations configured to produce a net light output. An illustrative subset of these alternative LED configurations is shown in FIGS. **7**A-**7**I.

FIG. **7**A illustrates an embodiment of Light Source **620** including a single LED **702**. LED **702** includes at least Leads **660**A-**660**C and two Light Emitting Junctions **704**A-**704**B. When a voltage of proper polarity is applied across either of Light Emitting Junctions **704**A-**704**B light is generated. For example, if an AC voltage is applied across Leads **660**A and **660**B, Light Emitting Junction **704**B will generate light during one phase of each AC cycle. If the AC voltage has a frequency of 60 Hz then Light Emitting Junction **704**B will generate light at 60 Hz with approximately a 50% duty cycle. Light Emitting Junction **704**A will likewise respond to an AC voltage applied across Leads **660**B and **660**C.

In some embodiments Light Emitting junction **704**A and **704**B are configured to generate light of different color (e.g., different wavelengths). In these embodiments, Light Source **620** will generate light of a first color when a voltage is applied across Leads **660**A-**660**B, a second color when voltage is applied across Leads **660**B-**660**C, and a third color when voltage is applied across both Leads **660**A-**660**B and Leads **660**B-**660**C. The third color will be a combination of the first color and the second color, following color combinations well know in the art (e.g., Red combined with Green gives Yellow). Thus, when Multi-Mode Bulb **600** is screwed into a legacy three-way light socket, a first setting of the legacy three-way switch will result in multi-Mode Bulb **600** generating light of the first color, a second setting of the legacy three-way switch will result in Multi-Mode Bulb **600** generating light of the second color, and a third setting of the legacy three-way switch will result in Multi-Mode Bulb **600** generating light of the third color. In some embodiments the first color is Red, the second color is Green and the third color is Yellow. In some embodiments the first color is Red, the second color is Blue and the third color is Purple.

In some embodiments Light Emitting junction **704**A and **704**B are configured to generate light of different intensity. In these embodiments, Light Source **620** will generate a net light output of a first intensity when a voltage is applied across Leads **660**A-**660**B, a second intensity when voltage is applied across Leads **660**B-**660**C, and a third intensity when voltage is applied across both Leads **660**A-**660**B and Leads **660**B-**660**C. The third intensity will be approximately a sum of the first intensity and the second intensity. Thus, when Multi-Mode Bulb **600** is screwed into a legacy three-way light socket, a first setting of the legacy three-way switch will result in Multi-Mode Bulb **600** generating a net light output of the first intensity, a second setting of the legacy three-way switch

will result in Multi-Mode Bulb **600** generating a net light output of the second intensity, and a third setting of the legacy three-way switch will result in Multi-Mode Bulb **600** generating a net light output of the third intensity. In some embodiments the first intensity is approximately 50% of the second intensity, and the third intensity is approximately three times the first intensity.

In some embodiments, Light Emitting Junctions **704**A and **704**B are configured to generate light of both different intensity and different color. In these embodiments settings of the legacy three-way switch will result in both three levels of intensity and three different colors.

In FIG. **7**A Light Emitting Junctions **704**A-**704**B are shown in a common cathode configuration. In an alternative embodiment (not shown) Light Emitting junctions **707**A-**707**B are in a common anode configuration.

In some embodiments, Lead **660**B is electronically coupled to Outer Contact **630** of FIGS. **6**A and **6**B, and in-phase AC potentials are applied to Leads **660**A and **660**C. In these embodiments, Light Emitting Junctions **704**A and **704**B will generate light in-phase. In an alternative embodiment Light Emitting Junctions **704**A-**704**B do not share a common cathode or common anode. This configuration is illustrated in FIG. **7**B. In this configuration, light generated by Light Emitting Junctions **704**A-**704**B will be out of phase (assuming the above input). Typically, at 60 Hz, the difference between light generated using the configurations of FIGS. **7**A and **7**B is not perceivable to the human eye.

FIGS. **7**C and **7**D illustrate embodiments of Light Source **620** including two separate LEDs **706**A-**706**B. In these embodiments Light Emitting Junctions **704**A and **704**B are disposed in separate LEDs **706**A-**706**B. However, by configuring LEDs **706**A and **706**B as shown in FIGS. **7**C and **7**D. Light Source **602** can operate in a manner similar to those embodiments discussed above with respect to FIGS. **7**A and **7**B.

FIG. **7**D illustrates an embodiment of Light Source **620** including LEDs **706**A and **706**B in a common anode configuration. In alternative embodiments (not shown) these LED may be in a common cathode configuration.

FIG. **7**E illustrates an embodiment of Light Source **620** in which LED **706**A includes two Light Emitting Junctions **708**A and **708**B and LED **706**B includes two Light Emitting Junctions **710**A and **710**B. By including two Light Emitting Junctions in an LED, the LED may be configured to generate light regardless of the polarity of input voltages. Thus, the LED may generate light on both phases of an AC signal. Otherwise the embodiments of Light Source **620** illustrated in FIG. **7**E may function similarly to those embodiments discussed above with respect to FIGS. **7**A-**7**D.

FIG. **7**F illustrates embodiments of Light Source **620** in which LED **706**A includes two light emitting junctions and LED **706**B includes one light emitting junctions. In some embodiments, this configuration may be used such that LED **706**A generates more light than LED **706**B. Otherwise, the embodiments of Light Source **620** illustrated in FIG. **7**F may function similarly to those embodiments discussed with respect to FIGS. **7**A-**7**E.

FIGS. **7**G and **7**H illustrate embodiments of Light Source **620** wherein LED **706**A includes three light emitting junctions. These three light emitting junctions may be in various combinations of polarity (e.g., common cathode, common anode, or a mixture thereof). These three light emitting junctions are optionally configured such that their net light output is white or off-white. Thus, if for example LED **706**A is configured to generate white light and LED **706**B is configured to generate red light, then Multi-Mode Bulb **600** will generate white, red and rose (white+red) net light output responsive to settings of a legacy three-way switch. In another example, if LED **706**A is configured to generate white light and LED **706**B is configured to generate yellow net light output, then Multi-Mode Bulb **600** will generate white, yellow and a yellowish-white light responsive to settings of a legacy three-way switch. Otherwise, the embodiments of Light Source **620** illustrated in FIG. **7**G may function similarly to those embodiments discussed with respect to FIGS. **7**A-**7**F.

FIG. **7**I illustrates embodiments of Light Source **620** that include both a conventional light generating Filament **750** and an LED **706**A. In these embodiments, Filament **750** produces the yellowish-white light normally associated with conventional light bulbs. LED **706**A is optionally used to add a color to the white light generated by Filament **750**, or to compensate for the yellowness of the light generated by Filament **750** in order to generate a whiter light than that produced by Filament **750** alone. Otherwise, the embodiments of Light Source **620** illustrated in FIG. **7**G may function similarly to those embodiments discussed with respect to FIGS. **7**A-**7**H. It is further anticipated that the embodiments of Light Source **620** illustrated in FIG. **7**I may be included in two-way bulbs (having just an on and an off state), as well as three-way bulbs. Thus, these embodiments may include only two of Leads **660**A-**660**C.

In some embodiments the various LEDs illustrated in FIGS. **7**C-**7**I are removable from Light Source **620**. Thus, an end user may change the lighting characteristics of an instance of Light Source **620** and Multi-Mode Bulb **600** by replacing one LED with another LED having different lighting characteristics. For example, a light color and/or light intensity of Multi-Mode Bulb **600** may be changed by replacing an LED. In these embodiments the replaceable LEDs may connect to Light Sources **620** using a plug or any of the many known methods of connecting an LED in removable fashion to a circuit.

In some embodiments Light Source **620** is removable from Multi-Mode Bulb **600**. Thus, an end user may change the lighting characteristics of Multi-Mode Bulb **600** by replacing one embodiment of Light Source **620** with another embodiment of Light Source **620**.

Referring again to FIGS. **6**A and **6**B, various embodiments of Multi-Mode Bulb **600** optionally include Electronic Elements **670**A, **670**B, and/or **670**C disposed within Base **610** and/or Light Source **620**. Electronic Elements **670**A-**670**C may include current limiting resistors, AC/DC converters, diodes, filters, digital signal processors, timers, or the like. For example, in one embodiment Electronic Element **670**B is a resistor configured to limit the total current passing through Light Source **620** while Electronic Elements **670**A and **670**C are different resistors configured to limit the current through different LEDs. In another example Electronic Elements **679**A-**670**C are embodied in a pulse generator configured to send different pulse sequences to different LEDs within Light Source **620**. In embodiments wherein Electronic Elements **670**A-**670**C are passive elements such as current limiting resistors, Multi-Mode Bulb **600** is compatible with lamps plugged into power sources including a dimmer switch. Electronic Elements **670**A-**670**C are optionally configured such that different intensities of light are generated by different light emitting junctions within the LEDs illustrated in FIGS. **7**A-**7**I.

Referring again to FIGS. **6**A and **6**B, Multi-Mode Bulb **600** optionally further includes a Support **680** and/or a Bulb Cover **690**. Support **680** is configured to hold Light Source **620** relative to Base **610**. In some embodiments Support **680** is

configured to such that Light Source **620** is removable. In some embodiments Support **680** is configured to facilitate attachment of Bulb Cover **690**. For example, in some embodiments clips or threads on an Outer Surface **682** of Support **680** are disposed to match clips or threads on an Inner Surface **684** of Bulb Cover **690**.

Bulb Cover **690** is optionally in the shape of a standard prior art light bulb, as shown in FIG. **6**B. In various embodiments, Bulb Cover **690** is made of Glass or a non-glass material such as a polymer, plastic, cloth, polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, or the like. In some embodiments, Bulb Cover **690** is made of a non-breakable material. In some embodiments connections between Bulb Cover **690** and Light Source **620**, and/or between Bulb Cover **690** and Base **610** is a non-vacuum tight connection. Thus, the interior of Bulb Cover is optionally at or near atmospheric pressure.

FIGS. **8**A and **8**B illustrate embodiments in which Bulb Cover **690** includes Fillers **810** configured to scatter or otherwise alter light generated by Light Source **620**. For example, Fillers may be colored in order to alter the color of light emitted by Multi-Mode Bulb **600**. Fillers **810** of various colors may be distributed throughout Bulb Cover **690** such that different colors are emitted from different regions of Multi-Mode Bulb **600**. In some embodiments liquid may be disposed within Bulb Cover **690**. In some embodiments Fillers **810** include nano-particles having optical properties particular to their size. In some embodiments two immiscible liquids may be disposed within Bulb Cover **690** in order to generate a Lava Lamp effect within Multi-Mode Bulb **600**. In some embodiments Light Source **620** includes a heat source and or pump configured to generate movement of these two immiscible liquids. The heat source and/or pump is optionally configured to be active one responsive to leads **706**A-**706**C such that it is responsive to a legacy three-way switch. In some embodiments Light Source **620** includes a Motor **820** configured to move one or more Filler **810** within Multi-Mode Bulb **690**. For example, this motor may be configured to move an object **830** (via mechanical connection **840**) such as a reflective surface or decorative object included as part of Filler **810**. This Motor **820** may be configured to move an object **830** within Bulb Cover **690** configured to generate a shadow on Bulb Cover **690** or external to Bulb Cover **690**. Motor **820** is optionally responsive to Leads **706**A-**706**C and thus responsive to a legacy three-way switch. In one embodiment, leads **706**A-**706**C are configure such that a first setting of the three-way switch results in generation of light from Light Source **620** or a filament, a second setting of the three-way switch results in activation of Motor **820**, and a third setting of the three-way switch results in both generation of light from Light Source **620** (or a filament) and activation of Motor **820**. In some embodiments, Object **830** is configured to look like a flame when moved by Motor **820**. In some embodiments Object **830** includes a fan.

Further examples of fillers that may be adapted to embodiments of the invention may be found in U.S. Pat. No. 4,675,575 to Smith et al.

FIG. **9** illustrates embodiments of Bulb Cover **690** that includes Regions **910**A-**910**E with differing optical properties. In various embodiments the number, size, and position of Regions **910**A-**910**E may vary. Regions **910**A-**910**E may differ in their color, light transmission, material, images, or the like. For example, Regions **910**A and **910**E may be configured to pass light with a yellow color while Regions **910** may be configured to pass white light. As a result one embodiment of Multi-Mode Bulb **600** is configured to direct strong white light up toward a lamp shade or ceiling (assuming a vertical orientation or Multi-Mode Bulb **600**) and to direct softer more yellow light down and to the side. Members of Regions **910**A-**910**E may include decorative images and/or masks configured to generate shadows. Because Bulb Cover **690** is optionally made of non-glass materials variations in light transmission, color, and other optical properties are easier to employ than with glass embodiments of Bulb Cover **690**. For example, a plastic with a color gradient or an opening in Region **910** is much easier to manufacture that the equivalent in glass.

FIG. **10** illustrates embodiments of Multi-Mode Bulb **600** in which Bulb Cover **690** is removable and optionally replaceable with alternative embodiments of Bulb Cover **690**. Bulb Cover **690** may be attached to Light Source **620**, Support **680** and/or Base **610** via a mechanism configured for an end user to detach and reattach.

FIG. **11** illustrates embodiments of Light Source **620** including an LED configured to be covered by a Cover **1120**. Cover **1120** is optionally of various colors and replacement of Cover **1120** therefore allows for end user modification of light generated by powering the LED.

FIG. **12** illustrates a Three-Way Lamp **1200** including a legacy three-way switch **1215**, a legacy three-way socket **1210**, and Multi-Mode Bulb **600**. Multi-Mode Bulb **600** is configured to support a Lamp Shade **1220**. For example, in some embodiments, Lamp Shade **1220** is supported by Supports **1230** which are optionally wire, plastic, wood, or other material sufficient to provide mechanical stability. Because the LEDs of Multi-Mode Bulb **600** do not generate significant heat, Supports **1230** may be of a material, such as wood or plastic that would not tolerate the heat of a conventional light bulb. Supports **1230** optionally come into direct compact with Cover **690** of Multi-Mode Bulb **600**. In some embodiments Cover **690** is shaped similar to a prior art filament based light bulb in order to accommodate legacy lamp shades having wire loops for Supports **1230**. In some embodiments, Supports **1230** are permanently or semi-permanently attached to Cover **690**.

While the discussion herein is primarily directed at Multi-Mode Bulb **600**, many of the features discussed herein alternatively apply to an LED Bulb **1300** illustrated in FIG. **13**. LED Bulb **1300** includes Cover **690**, a Base **1310** and a Light Source **1320**. Base **1310** includes two electrical contacts, such as an Outer Contact **1330** and a Contact **1340**. Base **1310** is configured as a screw mount, bayonet mount, or the like. In some embodiments Light Source **1320** includes an instance of Light Source **620** without one of Leads **706**A-**706**C. Those features of the invention discussed elsewhere herein that do not depend on having all three of Outer Contact **630**, Mid-Contact **640** and Center Contact **650** may be included in LED Bulb **1300**. These features include, but are not limited to, those discussed herein in reference to FIG. **7**I, FIGS. **8**A and **8**B, FIG. **9**, FIG. **10**, FIG. **11** and FIG. **12**. (For example, the filament/LED combination of FIG. **71**, the fillers of FIGS. **8**A and **8**B, the motor of FIG. **8**B, the regions of FIG. **9**, the removable cover and cover material of FIG. **10**, the LED covers of FIG. **11**, and/or the lamp shade/cover material of FIG. **12**, may be included in LED Bulb **1300**.)

Several embodiments are specifically illustrated and/or described herein. However, it will be appreciated that modifications and variations are covered by the above teachings and within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit and intended scope thereof. For example the LEDs discussed herein may include diode based lasers. Further, it is expected that embodiments of the invention will be adapted to new types of lamps, rather than merely legacy three-way and two-way lamps.

The embodiments discussed herein are illustrative of the present invention. As these embodiments of the present invention are described with reference to illustrations, various modifications or adaptations of the methods and or specific structures described may become apparent to those skilled in the art. All such modifications, adaptations, or variations that rely upon the teachings of the present invention, and through which these teachings have advanced the art, are considered to be within the spirit and scope of the present invention. Hence, these descriptions and drawings should not be considered in a limiting sense, as it is understood that the present invention is in no way limited to only the embodiments illustrated.

I claim:

1. A bulb configured for producing a net light output, the bulb comprising:

a first light emitting junction configured to generate a first light;

a second light emitting junction configured to generate a second light, the net light output being responsive to the first light and the second light; and

a three-way base electrically coupled to the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction, and configured to receive an AC input through a three-way lamp socket responsive to a three-way switch.

2. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein there-way base is further configured for powering alternatively a) the first light emitting junction or b) the second light emitting junction responsive to the three-way switch.

3. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein the there-way base is further configured for powering alternatively a) the first light emitting junction, or b) both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction at the same time, responsive to the three-way switch.

4. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein the there-way base is further configured for powering alternatively

a) the first light emitting junction,

b) the second light emitting junction, or

c) both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction at the same time, responsive to the three-way switch.

5. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein powering the first light emitting junction results in the net light output being a first color, and powering the second light emitting junction results in the net light output being a second color.

6. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein powering the first light emitting junction results in the net light output being a first intensity and powering the second light emitting junction results in the net light output being a second intensity.

7. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein powering the first light emitting junction results in the net light output being a first intensity, and powering both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction results in the net light output being a second intensity.

8. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction are disposed within the same LED.

9. The bulb of claim **1**, further comprising a bulb cover attached to the three-way base and configured to cover both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction, and including a non-glass material.

10. The bulb of claim **1**, further comprising a bulb cover attached to the three-way base and configured to cover both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction, and including a non-breakable material.

11. The bulb of claim **1**, further comprising a bulb cover attached to the three-way base via a non-vacuum tight connection and configured to cover both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction.

12. The bulb of claim **1**, further comprising a bulb cover attached to the three-way base, configured for an end user to detach and reattach and configured to cover both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction.

13. The bulb of claim **1**, further comprising a bulb cover attached to the three-way base including regions of differing optical properties, and configured to cover both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction.

14. The bulb of claim **1**, further comprising a bulb cover and fillers disposed within the bulb cover, the fillers configured to scatter or otherwise alter light.

15. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein powering the first light emitting junction results in the net light output being a first color, powering the second light emitting junction results in the net light output being second color, and powering both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction results in the net light output being a third color.

16. The bulb of claim **15**, wherein generation of the first, second and third colors are responsive to the three-way switch.

17. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein powering the first light emitting junction results in the net light output being a first intensity, powering the second light emitting junction results in the net light output being a second intensity, and powering both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction results in the net light output being a third intensity.

18. The bulb of claim **17**, wherein the first, second and third intensities are responsive to the three-way switch.

19. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction are enclosed together in a cover.

20. The bulb of claim **19**, wherein the cover is configured to support a lamp shade.

21. The bulb of claim **1**, wherein the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction are disposed within a first LED and a second LED.

22. The bulb of claim **21**, wherein the second LED is configured to generate white light.

23. A bulb comprising:

an LED configured to generate more than one color responsive to a plurality of electrical inputs; and

a three-way base configured to provide the plurality of electrical inputs to the LED and to fit into a three-way lamp socket.

24. The bulb of claim **23**, wherein a first of the plurality of electrical inputs results in light of a first color and a second of the plurality of electrical inputs results in light of a second color.

25. A method of generating light, the method comprising:

setting a three-way switch to a first setting, the first setting configured to generate a light of a first color by powering a first light emitting junction;

setting the three-way switch to a second setting, the second setting configured to generate a light of a second color by powering a second light emitting junction;

setting the three-way switch to a third setting, the third setting configured to generate a light of a third color by powering both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction.

26. The method of claim **25**, wherein the steps of setting a three-way switch are manual.

27. A method of generating light of different intensities, the method comprising:

setting a three way switch to a first setting configured to apply a first AC voltage within a three-way bulb socket, the three-way bulb socket configured to activate a first light emitting junction in a three-way bulb responsive to the first setting;

setting the three way switch to a second setting configured to apply a second AC voltage within a three-way bulb socket, the three-way bulb socket configure to activate a second light emitting junction in the three-way bulb responsive to the second setting, the second setting configured to generate light of a different intensity than the first setting; and

setting the three way switch to a third setting configured to apply both the first AC voltage and the second AC voltage within the three-way bulb socket, the three-way bulb socket configured to activate both the first light emitting junction and the second light emitting junction responsive to the third setting.

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