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(54) **Discharge tube.**

(57) A discharge tube having a pair of opposite electrode assemblies disposed in a discharge space (6) defined by a peripheral wall and charged with gas, and an a.c. source (11) connected at one end to one of the pair of electrode assemblies and at the other end to the other of the electrode assemblies, each of said opposite electrode assemblies comprising a sintered metallic electrode (2) for emitting electrons and a filament electrode (3) disposed closely adjacent to the sintered metallic electrode (2), for emitting thermoelectrons, and the sintered metallic electrode and the filament electrode being electrically connected in parallel by means of the associated lead wires (8).

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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 30 0190

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
Y	US-A-2 314 134 (H. EKNAYAN et al.) * Page 2, left-hand column, line 58 - page 3, left-hand column, line 42; figure 1 * - - -	1,5,7	H 01 J 61/92 H 01 J 61/067
A		8,12	
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 6, no. 123 (E-177), 8th July 1982, page 1001; & JP-A-57 50 760 (MATSUSHITA) 25-03-1982 - - -	1,5,7	
A	US-A-2 046 941 (G. GAIDIES) * Page 1, right-hand column, line 49 - page 2, left-hand column, line 35; figure 2 * - - -	1,2,4,6,9	
A	CH-A-3 197 69 (F. MÜLLER) * Page 2, lines 56-67; figures 1,3,7 * - - -	1,3,6,10	
A	WO-A-8 704 562 (SIDEFACT LTD) * Page 4, lines 8-35; figure 1 * - - - - -	8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H 01 J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 06 March 91	Examiner JANDL F.
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention</div> <div>E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons ----- &amp;: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div>			