



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION**

(45) Date of publication of patent specification :
30.11.94 Bulletin 94/48

(51) Int. Cl.⁵ : **H01R 13/24, H01R 13/11**

(21) Application number : **90105810.7**

(22) Date of filing : **27.03.90**

(54) **Electrode construction of battery in electrical equipment.**

(30) Priority : **28.03.89 JP 77651/89**

(43) Date of publication of application :
03.10.90 Bulletin 90/40

(45) Publication of the grant of the patent :
30.11.94 Bulletin 94/48

(84) Designated Contracting States :
DE FR GB

(56) References cited :
DE-A- 2 823 285
DE-B- 2 706 760
US-A- 4 371 595
US-A- 4 718 742

(73) Proprietor : **MITSUBISHI DENKI KABUSHIKI**
KAISHA
2-3, Marunouchi 2-chome
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventor : **Ohbuchi, Jun**
c/o Mitsubishi Denki K.K.,
Kitaitami Seisakusho
1, Mizuhara 4-chome, Itami-shi, Hyogo (JP)
Inventor : **Kuga, Kougi, c/o Mitsubishi Denki**
K.K.
2-3, Marunouchi 2-chome
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (JP)
Inventor : **Tachikawa, Toru**
c/o Mitsubishi Denki K.K.,
Kitaitami Seisakusho
1, Mizuhara 4-chome, Itami-shi, Hyogo (JP)

(74) Representative : **Sajda, Wolf E., Dipl.-Phys. et**
al
MEISSNER, BOLTE & PARTNER
Widenmayerstrasse 48
D-80538 München (DE)

EP 0 390 070 B1

Note : Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid (Art. 99(1) European patent convention).

Description

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to an electrode construction of a battery in an electrical equipment, such as an IC card.

Description of the Prior Art

10 Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing a conventional electrode construction of a battery in an IC card.

A battery 1 has a minus pole 2 and a plus pole 3. A minus electrode 4 has two minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b to be connected with the minus pole 2 of the battery 1 respectively, and a fixing part 6 fixed in a battery chamber (not shown) of an IC card. The fixing part 6 is electrically connected with an electric circuit (not shown) of the IC card, the electric circuit having semiconductor elements to store storage data. Both of the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b are formed so as to have the same shape (in length, width, thickness and so on) with each other.

A plus electrode 7 has two plus-pole contacts 8a and 8b to be connected with the plus pole 3 of the battery 1 respectively, 80 and a fixing part 9 fixed in the battery chamber of the IC card. The fixing part 9 is electrically connected with the electric circuit of the IC card. Both of the plus-pole contacts 8a and 8b are formed so as to have the same shape with each other.

20 When the battery 1 is detachably installed in the battery chamber of the IC card, the minus pole 2 is electrically connected with the minus electrode 4 through the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b, while the plus pole 3 is electrically connected with the plus electrode 7 through the plus-pole contacts 8a and 8b. Thus, an electrical power of the battery 1 is supplied to the electric circuit of the IC card through the minus and plus electrodes 4 and 7.

25 Now, the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b of the minus electrode 4 have a characteristic frequency ω , respectively. The characteristic frequency ω is given by the following definition:

$$\omega = F(\ell, E, I, m)$$

30 where ℓ is a length of the minus-pole contact, E is a longitudinal section modulus, I is a moment of inertia, and m is a linear density.

As is apparent from the definition (1), the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b have the same characteristic frequency with each other since they have the same shape, and the plus-pole contacts 8a and 8b have the same characteristic frequency with each other by the same reason.

35 Therefore, when an oscillation having a frequency resonating with respect to the characteristic frequency of the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b is applied to the IC card, both of the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b simultaneously oscillate and move away from the minus pole 2 of the battery 1, whereby the power supply from the battery 1 to the electric circuit of the IC card is cut off eliminating the storage data stored in the semiconductor elements of the electric circuit.

40 Accordingly, a principal object of the present invention is to provide an electrode construction of a battery in an electrical equipment which can maintain a power supply from the battery through the minus and plus electrodes in a reliable manner, even if an oscillation with any frequency is applied to the electrical equipment and the respective electrodes.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

45 The present invention is directed to an electrode construction of a battery in an electrical equipment, wherein the electrical equipment comprises a battery chamber, a plus electrode and minus electrode provided in the battery chamber, respectively, and a battery having a plus pole to be connected with the plus electrode and a minus pole to be connected with the minus electrode in a state so that the battery is detachably installed in the battery chamber, wherein the plus electrode and/or the minus electrode comprise a plurality of contacts to be connected with the battery, and is characterised by at least two contacts out of the plurality of contacts having a different shape from each other.

50 According to the present invention, since at least two contacts out of a plurality of contacts in an electrode have a different shape from each other, the characteristic frequencies of these contacts are different from each other. As a result, when a contact is resonating by the frequency of an oscillation applied to the electrical equipment, the other contact keeps in contact with the battery without resonating.

55 These and other objects, features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the present invention when taken in conjunction with the ac-

companying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- 5 Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing an IC card to which an embodiment of the present invention is applied;
 Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view of a main part of the IC card;
 Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the main part of the IC card;
 Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing an embodiment of an electrode construction according to
 10 the present invention;
 Figs. 5 and 6 are perspective views showing modified examples of an electrode, respectively; and
 Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing a conventional electrode construction of a battery in an IC card.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing an IC card to which an embodiment of the present invention is applied, Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view of a main part of the IC card, Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the main part of the IC card. Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing an embodiment of an electrode construction according
 20 to the present invention.

An IC card 10 has a body 11 in which an electric circuit 12 is formed. The electric circuit 12 has semiconductor elements to store storage data. A battery chamber 13 is formed in the body 11, and the battery 1 having a minus pole 2 and a plus pole 3 is detachably installed in the battery chamber 13 through a battery holder 14. The battery holder 14 has a supporting part 15 for supporting the battery 1 and convex parts 16 for detachably engaging with recessed parts 17 formed in the battery chamber 13, respectively.
 25

A minus electrode 4 has two minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b to be connected with the minus pole 2 of the battery 1, respectively, and a fixing part 6 fixed in the battery chamber 13. The fixing part 6 is electrically connected with the electric circuit 12. Both of the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b are formed in a strip-shape. respectively, and having a different length from each other.

30 A plus electrode 7 has two plus-pole contacts 8a and 8b to be connected with the plus pole 3 of the battery 1, respectively, and a fixing part 9 is fixed in the battery chamber 13. The fixing part 9 is electrically connected with the electric circuit 12. Both of the plus-pole contacts 8a and 8b are formed so as to have the same shape with each other.

When the battery 1 is detachably installed in the battery chamber 13 of the IC card 10 through the battery
 35 holder 14, the minus pole 2 of the battery 1 is electrically connected with the minus electrode 4 through the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b, while the plus pole 3 is electrically connected with the plus electrode 7 through the plus-pole contacts 8a and 8b. Thus, an electrical power of the battery 1 is supplied to the electric circuit 12 through the minus and plus electrodes 4 and 7.

According to the electrode construction, since the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b have a different length
 40 from each other, the characteristic frequencies of the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b are different from each other. Therefore, when an oscillation having a frequency resonating with respect to the characteristic frequency of the minus-pole contact 5a is applied to the IC card 10, the minus-pole contact 5a will oscillate and move away or depart from the minus pole 2 of the battery 1. However, the minus-pole contact 5b will neither oscillate nor depart from the minus pole 2 at this very frequency which is different from its characteristic frequency, so that the electric power of the battery 1 will be applied to the electric circuit 12 through the minus pole contact 5b.
 45

On the other hand, when an oscillation having a frequency resonating with respect to the characteristic frequency of the minus-pole contact 5b is applied to the IC card 10, the minus-pole contact 5b will oscillate and move away or depart from the minus pole 2 while the minus-pole contact 5a will neither oscillate nor depart from the minus pole 2 at this very frequency which is different from its characteristic frequency, so that the electric power of the battery 1 will be applied to the electric circuit 12 through the minus-pole contact 5a. Thus, it is possible to prevent the storage data stored in the semiconductor elements of the electric circuit 12 from being eliminated.

In the above embodiment, although the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b are formed so as to have a different
 55 length from each other, the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b may also be formed so as to have a different width from each other as shown in Fig. 5 or to have a different thickness from each other as shown in Fig. 6.

In the above embodiments, although only the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b are formed so as to have a different shape from each other, it is also possible according to the invention that only the plus-pole contacts

8a and 8b are formed so as to have a different shape from each other, or that alternatively both of the minus-pole contacts 5a and 5b and the plus-pole contacts 8a and 8b are formed so as to have a different shape from each other, respectively.

5 In the above embodiment, although the minus and plus electrodes 4 and 7 have two contacts respectively, the number of the contacts may also be three or more. In a case where three or more contacts are formed at the electrode, at least two contacts out of these contacts may be formed so as to have a different shape from each other.

10 In the above embodiment, although the present invention has been described with reference to an electrode construction of a battery in an IC card, it can be broadly employed to an electrode construction of a battery in an electrical equipment.

Although the present invention has been described and illustrated in detail, it is clearly understood that the same is by way of illustration and example only and is not to be taken by way of limitation, the spirit and the scope of the present invention being limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

15

Claims

1. An electrode construction of a battery (1) in an electrical equipment comprising a battery chamber (13), a plus electrode (7) and a minus electrode (4) respectively provided in the battery chamber (13), and a battery (1) having a plus pole (3) to be connected with the plus electrode (7) and a minus pole (2) to be connected with the minus electrode (4) in a state so that the battery (1) is detachably installed in the battery chamber (13), wherein the plus electrode (7) and/or the minus electrode (4) comprises a plurality of contacts (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b) to be connected with the battery (1), characterised by at least two contacts out of the plurality of contacts (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b) having a different shape from each other.
2. The electrode construction of a battery in an electrical equipment in accordance with claim 1, wherein the contacts (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b) are formed in a strip-shape, respectively, and have a different length from each other.
3. The electrode construction of a battery in an electrical equipment in accordance with claim 1 or 2, wherein the contacts (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b) are formed in a strip-shape, respectively, and have a different width from each other.
4. The electrode construction of a battery in an electrical equipment in accordance with any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the contacts (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b) are formed in a strip-shape, respectively, and have a different thickness from each other.
5. The electrode construction of a battery in an electrical equipment in accordance with any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the electrical equipment is an IC card (10) which further comprises an electric circuit (12) having semiconductor elements to store storage data, the battery (1) supplying an electric power to the electric circuit (12) to cause the electric circuit (12) to hold the storage data.

45

Patentansprüche

1. Elektrodenanordnung für eine Batterie (1) in einer elektrischen Einrichtung, die folgendes aufweist: eine Batteriekammer (13), eine positive Elektrode (7), eine negative Elektrode (4), die jeweils in der Batteriekammer (13) vorgesehen sind, und eine Batterie (1), die einen positiven Pol (3) zum Anschluß an die positive Elektrode (7) und einen negativen Pol (2) zum Anschluß an die negative Elektrode (4) aufweist, in einer solchen Anordnung, daß die Batterie (1) lösbar in der Batteriekammer (13) eingebaut ist, wobei die positive Elektrode (7) und/oder die negative Elektrode (4) eine Vielzahl von Kontakten (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b) zum Anschließen an die Batterie (1) umfaßt, gekennzeichnet durch mindestens zwei Kontakte von der Vielzahl von Kontakten (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b), die eine voneinander verschiedene Form besitzen.
2. Elektrodenanordnung für eine Batterie in einer elektrischen Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1,

wobei die Kontakte (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b) jeweils in einer Streifenform ausgebildet sind und eine voneinander verschiedene Länge aufweisen.

- 5 3. Elektrodenanordnung für eine Batterie in einer elektrischen Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei die Kontakte (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b) jeweils in einer Streifenform ausgebildet sind und eine voneinander verschiedene Breite aufweisen.
- 10 4. Elektrodenanordnung für eine Batterie in einer elektrischen Einrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei die Kontakte (8a, 8b; 5a, 5b) jeweils in einer Streifenform ausgebildet sind und eine voneinander verschiedene Dicke aufweisen.
- 15 5. Elektrodenanordnung für eine Batterie in einer elektrischen Einrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, wobei die elektrische Einrichtung eine IC-Karte (10) ist, die weiterhin ein elektrische Schaltung (12) mit Halbleiterelementen aufweist, um Speicherdaten zu speichern, wobei die Batterie (1) die elektrische Schaltung (12) mit elektrischer Energie versorgt, um zu bewirken, daß die elektrische Schaltung (12) die Speicherdaten behält.

20 Revendications

- 25 1. Système d'électrodes d'une pile (1) dans un appareil électrique comprenant un logement de pile (13), une électrode plus (7) et une électrode moins (4) respectivement montées dans le logement de pile (13), et une pile (1) avec un pôle plus (3) à raccorder à l'électrode plus (7) et un pôle moins (2) à raccorder à l'électrode moins (4), la pile (1) étant montée de façon amovible dans le logement de pile (13), système dans lequel l'électrode plus (7) et/ou l'électrode moins (4) comprend plusieurs contacts (8a, 8b, 5a, 5b) à connecter avec la pile (1) caractérisée par au moins deux contacts parmi la pluralité de contacts (8a, 8b, 5a, 5b) conçus selon des formes différentes.
- 30 2. Système d'électrodes d'une pile dans un appareil électrique selon la revendication 1, dans lequel les contacts (8a, 8b, 5a, 5b) sont respectivement conçus sous forme de languette et sont de longueur différente.
- 35 3. Système d'électrodes d'une pile dans un appareil électrique selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel les contacts (8a, 8b, 5a, 5b) sont conçus sous forme de languette respectivement, mais sont de largeur différente.
- 40 4. Système d'électrodes d'une pile dans un appareil électrique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel les contacts (8a, 8b, 5a, 5b) sont conçus respectivement sous forme de languette et sont d'une épaisseur différente.
- 45 5. Système d'électrodes d'une pile dans un appareil électrique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel l'appareil électrique est une carte à circuits intégrés (10) qui comprend de plus un circuit électrique (12) avec des éléments à semi-conducteurs pour mémoriser des données, la pile (1) fournissant une puissance électrique au circuit électrique (12) pour faire en sorte que le circuit électrique (12) conserve les données à mémoriser.

50

55

FIG. 1

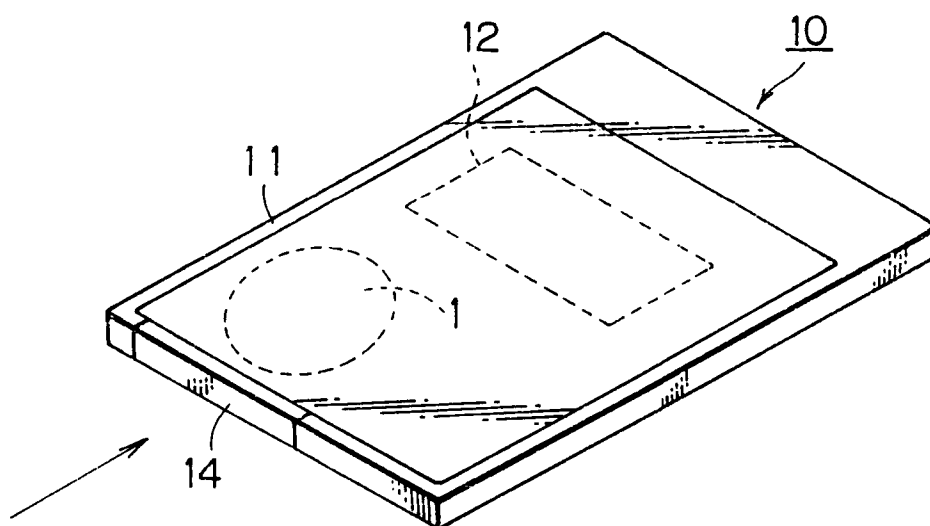


FIG. 2

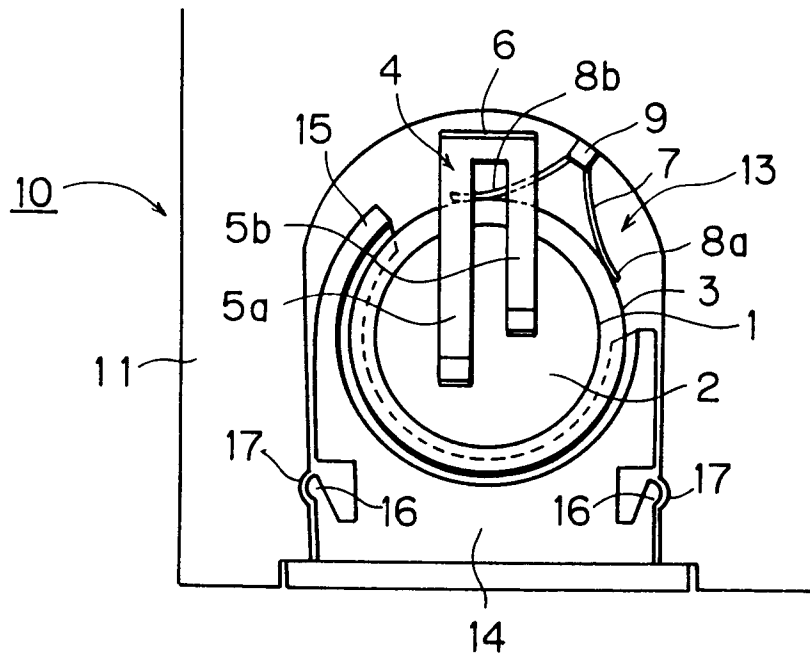


FIG. 3

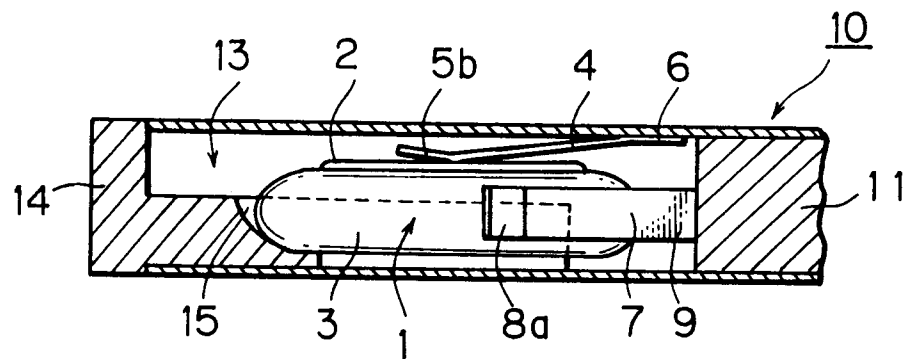


FIG. 4

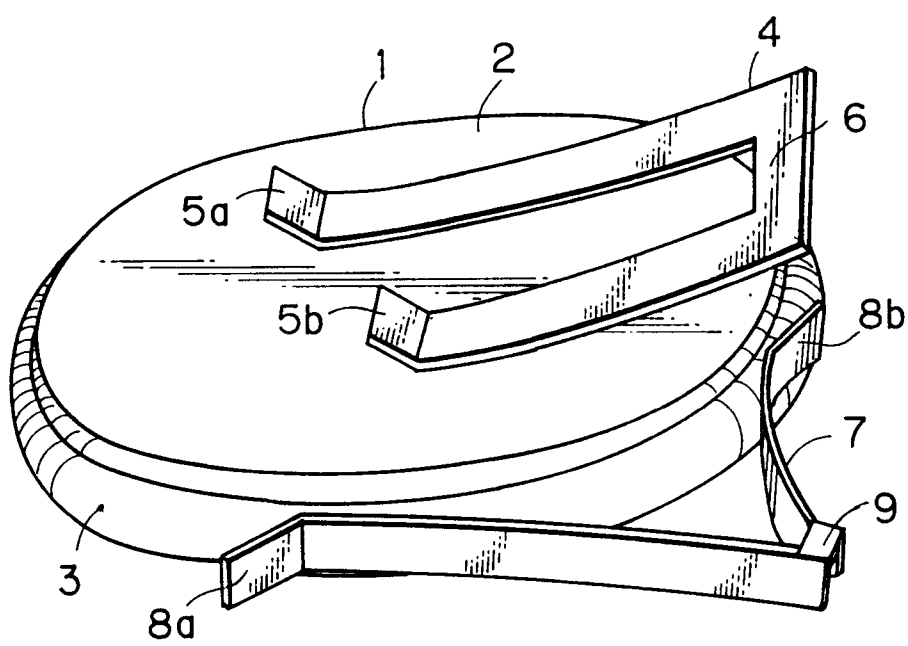


FIG. 5

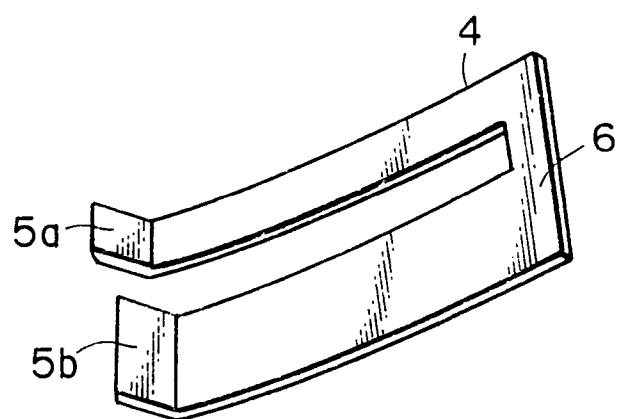


FIG. 6

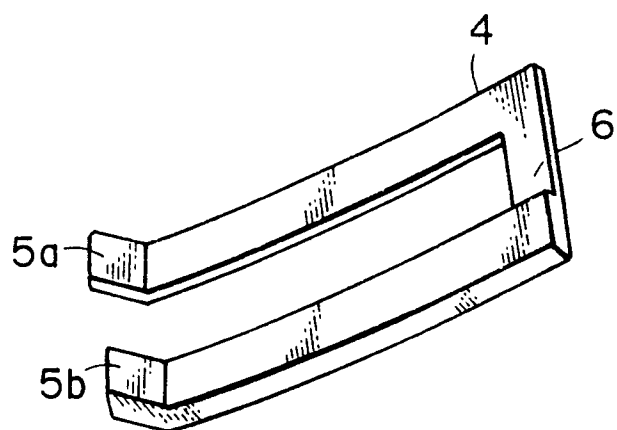


FIG. 7

