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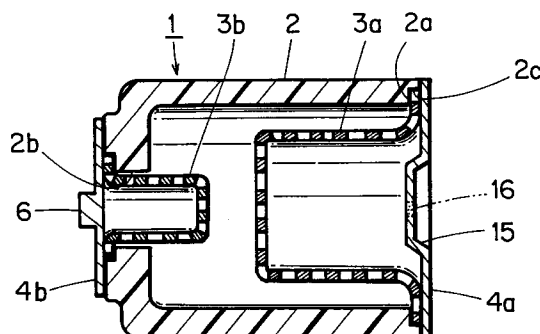
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(54) **A gas-filled discharge tube.**

(57) The object of the present invention is to provide a gas-filled discharge tube which is capable of making the discharge tube itself smaller to minimize a plug cap that incorporates the discharge tube therein, thereby to realize a minimization of the size of the whole ignition system having a series gap.

In order to achieve the above object, the gas-filled discharge tube according to the present invention is constructed such that it comprises a tubular body formed of an electrically insulating material and having a notch portion at least one of the opposite open ends thereof, and a notch or projecting portion at the other open end thereof; a pair of electrode bases, at least one of which is formed of an electrically conducting thin metal sheet, airtightly adhered to the respective open ends; and a pair of discharge electrodes having flange portions to be engageably fixed with the notch and/or projecting portions and sandwiched between the tubular body and the respective electrode bases, and with this construction, the electrode base is first formed with a gas filling bore by a laser beam for filling an inert

gas, which bore being welded also by the laser beam after the inert gas is filled in the tubular body so as to enclose the gas therein.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 92105798.0
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	EP - A - 0 229 303 (CERBEROS AG) * Page 6, line 6 - page 7, line 24; fig. 1 * --	1	H 01 T 13/46 H 01 T 1/22 H 01 T 17/02 //H 01 J 9/395 H 01 J 9/40
A	EP - A - 0 407 975 (YAZAKI CORPORATION) * Abstract; fig. 1,2 * --	1	
A	EP - A - 0 408 954 (YAZAKI CORPORATION) * Abstract; fig. 1 * ----	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) H 01 T H 01 J F 02 P 15/00
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 07-09-1992	Examiner KUTZELNIGG
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			