(19)





(11) **EP 2 070 164 B9**

H01R 33/02 (2006.01)

H01R 13/44 (2006.01)

(12)

CORRECTED EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(51) Int Cl.:

H01R 13/627 (2006.01)

H01R 13/523^(2006.01)

PCT/US2007/020661

(86) International application number:

(87) International publication number:

WO 2008/039448 (03.04.2008 Gazette 2008/14)

C02F 1/32^(2006.01)

- (15) Correction information: Corrected version no 1 (W1 B1) Corrections, see Claims DE 1-3, 5-6
- (48) Corrigendum issued on: 11.04.2012 Bulletin 2012/15
- (45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:09.11.2011 Bulletin 2011/45
- (21) Application number: 07838794.1
- (22) Date of filing: 25.09.2007

(54) SNAP-LOCK CONNECTOR

SCHNAPPSCHLOSSVERBINDER

CONNECTEUR À VERROUILLAGE PAR ENCLIQUETAGE

(84) Designated Contracting States: · ZAYAS, Betty, Jean AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR Bridgeport, CT 06610 (US) HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR (74) Representative: Vogel, Andreas et al Bals & Vogel (30) Priority: 25.09.2006 US 846980 P Universitätsstrasse 142 44799 Bochum (DE) (43) Date of publication of application: 17.06.2009 Bulletin 2009/25 (56) References cited: US-A-2680839 GB-A- 2 030 382 (73) Proprietor: Light Sources, Inc. US-A- 3 476 928 US-A- 5 752 842 Orange, CT 06477 (US) US-A1- 2006 133 082 US-A1- 2006 186 782 US-B2-6340310 (72) Inventors: • CIANCANELLI, Gino J. Southbury Drive, CT 06488 (US)

2 070 164 B9 Ч

Note: Within nine months of the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent in the European Patent Bulletin, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to that patent, in accordance with the Implementing Regulations. Notice of opposition shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention generally relates to improvements in lamps, especially ultraviolet lamps used in air and water purifiers.

Background

[0002] Ultraviolet air or liquid purifiers are known for disinfecting contaminated air or water or other liquid for domestic or commercial use. Such purifiers include at least one lamp for emitting ultraviolet radiation into a chamber filled with contaminated air liquid to kill microorganisms therein. In a conventional manner, the lamp includes two electrodes spaced apart and located within an elongated arc tube containing a gas, particularly mercury vapor with or without additives. A pair of end caps is mounted at the ends of the tube. Each electrode contains two lead wires from the lamp seal each of which, or in some instances only one, are electrically connected to respective contact(s) or terminal pin(s). The lamp is typically inserted endwise into a sleeve installed in the water, other liquid or air purifier with or without the sleeve. To simplify insertion and electrical connection, the pins are conveniently mounted on one of the end caps. When the electrodes are energized by voltage from an electrical power supply, an electrical discharge is initiated in the gas between the electrodes. This discharge reacts with a layer of a radiation-emitting material coated on an interior surface of the arc tube and causes ultraviolet radiation to be emitted from the lamp in a manner well known in the art.

[0003] There are many different types of lamps that have a base or end cap that can be connected with a socket to provide electrical connections to the lamps. The end cap and socket must be constructed to permit replacement of the lamp while securely holding the lamp. This may be particularly important in certain applications where vibration or movement of the lamp or lamp fixture could result in unintentional separation between the lamp's end cap and the socket. Additionally, the electrical connections must remain secure.

[0004] In some applications where a multiplicity of contact pins and/or pin orientations is utilized, it is often difficult to align the contact pins to make the electrical connection necessary to operate the lamp. Often, the contact pins may become misaligned or bent due to their extension or projection from the base of the lamp, preventing their insertion into a socket. It may also be possible to insert the end cap into a socket such that the contacts are not connected with the proper terminals in the socket, resulting in improper operation of the lamp. Also, on a typical "slide into place" male/female pin connector there is no locking or twist locking and thus the pins may slide

out and become disconnected easily by vibration for example.

[0005] An example of an ultraviolet lamp of the-type described above is disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,166,527

- 5 ('527), which uses a stepped base with a multi-pin connector, and shows well known water and air purification arrangements using a lamp. The '527 patent discloses a lamp or bulb, used as an ultraviolet lamp for use in an air or water purifier, comprising an elongated, hollow arc
- 10 tube extending along a longitudinal axis between opposite end regions. The tube contains a gas, preferably mercury vapor with or without additives. A pair of electrodes is spaced apart along the longitudinal axis. The electrodes are respectively mounted within the arc tube at

15 the end regions thereof. A pair of end caps is respectively mounted at the end regions of the arc tube. A first electrical contact or pair of electrical contacts or terminal pins extends in mutual parallelism along the longitudinal axis and is electrically connected to one or both of the elec-

20 trode lead wires. A second electrical contact or pair of electrical contacts or terminal pins extends in mutual parallelism along the longitudinal axis and is electrically connected to one or both of the other of the electrode lead wires. Both pairs of pins are mounted on, and extend

25 outwardly along the longitudinal axis of, one of the end caps. A wire conductor is, or two wire conductors are, located exteriorly of the tube and electrically connected to one pin or one pair of pins at one end region of the tube, as well as to the electrode at the other end region 30

of the tube. This design is mainly designed to prevent electrical arcing and does not lock in place.

[0006] As noted in WO/2006/136026 to Elku et al. which is a variation of the slide-on pin connector above, a potential problem with this approach is that in many applications, the radiation lamp is immersed in or near a

flow of air or water and turbulence created within that water treatment system invariably imparts a vibratory motion to the lamps which frequently results in lamps being vibrated or shaken loose of its electrical connection base

40 or socket thereby causing the lamps to be rendered completely or intermittently inoperative. When such an event occurs, the water being treated may not be fully disinfected. The prior art has attempted to address this problem by using a relatively complicated mechanical con-

45 nection (e.g., a so-called "push-and-twist" connection) to secure the lamp to the connection base. See, for example, United States patent 5,422,487 to Sauska et al. and United States patent 6,884,103 to Kovacs. The potential problem with these approaches is the complexity of the mechanical connection between the lamp and the base unit requiring the use of springs, specialized connection lugs and the like. Further, a connection system which is predicated on a dual motion system such that pushing

and twisting if used incorrectly for example may give rise 55 to higher incidents of lamp breakage, electrical shock, and other damage to the lamp by field personal. Therefore, eliminating a forceful "push" necessary to deflect a heavy locking spring in a "push and twist" lock would be

35

10

beneficial because the typically glass lamp would be subject to reduced force and stress.

[0007] Also US 2006/0186782 A1 discloses an ultraviolet gas discharge lamp with a locking system according to the preamble of claim 1. The locking system comprises at least one latch of a base cap which engages with an opening of a socket base.

[0008] Also, it is important for safety that lamps of proper wattage be used for safety, heat, and fire concerns, thus a unique keying system which only allows lamps of proper wattage to be inserted into the base will also help safety.

[0009] Accordingly, there remains the need in the art for a safety lamp device, particularly a radiation lamp, which will provide a reliable, locking, and secure from movement electric connection, yet be relatively inexpensive, uncomplicated, durable, rugged, and simple to implement with smooth operation and with reduced force and stress on the lamp for safety purposes. Also, a lamp that reduces the chance of electrical shock is needed for safety purposes.

[0010] Thus, there continues to be a need for improved lamp base designs, particularly ultraviolet lamps.

[0011] The object of the invention is solved by a safety lamp connector assembly for use with at least one of more lamps comprising an end cap for the lamp and having end cap clips an intermediate snap action socket body for receiving the end cap; a socket base comprising resilient clip arms with clip section on their ends which snap clips to the end cap clips with the intermediate snap action socket body located between the end cap and the socket base.

[0012] The safety lamp connector assembly of the present invention can comprise an end cap for the lamp, the end cap comprising a hollow tubular section for receiving the lamp; at least one outer end cap pin; and at least one inner end cap terminal electrically connected to the at least one outer end cap pin; resilient end cap clips; and a socket body for receiving the end cap, the socket body comprising: a plurality of socket channels cut into the interior socket body; a plurality of interior socket contacts located in the socket channels; clip slats; and a socket base comprising: resilient clip arms with clip section on their ends; wherein the resilient end cap clips of the end cap are structured to be inserted into the socket body in the clip slots, and the resilient clip arms with clip section on their ends of the socket base are also structured to be inserted into the socket body in the clip slots such that the three parts are snapped together and electrically connected.

[0013] The safety lamp connector assembly may further comprise a means for deterring a substitution of unauthorized parts that may be unsafe. The means for deterring a substitution of unauthorized parts can comprise a plurality of end cap pins disposed on an outer surface of the end cap and/or the socket body, the plurality of pins having a predetermined configuration: a plurality of socket channels cut into the socket body, the plurality of socket channels having a predetermined configuration complementary to the configuration of the plurality of end cap pins; wherein the end cap cannot be inserted into the socket body if the configuration of the plurality end cap pins does not match configuration of the plurality

socket channels.

[0014] The end cap can be structured to accept one or more Ultra-Violet (UV) wavelength lamps.

[0015] The socket base may be not a separate part but is integrated into the socket body in one piece.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] Embodiments will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings which are meant to be exemplary, not limiting, and wherein like elements are numbered alike in several Figures, in which:

[0017] Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a disassembled ²⁰ end cap, socket body, and socket base in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0018] Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a disassembled end cap, socket body, and socket base in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

²⁵ **[0019]** Fig. 3 is a side view of a socket body with broken lines showing interior structure, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0020] Fig. 4 is a top view of a socket body, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

30 [0021] Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a socket body, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.
 [0022] Fig. 6 is a side view of a socket body, with broken lines showing interior structure, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

³⁵ [0023] Fig. 7 is a top view of a socket body, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.
[0024] Fig. 8 is a view from the pin end of an end cap,

in accordance with one embodiment af the invention.

[0025] Fig. 9 is a side view of an end cap, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0026] Fig. 10 is a view looking down into an end cap in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.[0027] Fig. 11 is a perspective view of an end cap and an assembled socket assembly in accordance with one

embodiment of the invention.[0028] Fig. 12 is a side view of an end cap inserted and locked into an assembled socket assembly in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0029] Fig. 13 is a perspective view of an end cap inserted and locked into an assembled socket assembly in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.
[0030] Fig. 14 is a view from the socket base plate end of an assembled socket assembly in accordance with

one embodiment of the invention.
55 [0031] Fig. 15 is a side view of an assembled socket assembly showing a profile view of the clip arm pressure area, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0032] Fig. 16 is a perspective view of a disassembled end cap and socket housing in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0033] Fig. 17 is a perspective view of a disassembled end cap and socket housing in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0034] Fig. 18 is a view from the base end of a socket housing in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0035] Fig. 19 is a side view of a socket housing in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0036] Fig. 20 is a view from the insertion end of a socket housing in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0037] Fig. 21 is a perspective view of a disassembled end cap and socket housing in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0038] Fig. 22 is a view from the base end of a socket housing in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0039] Fig. 23 is a side view of an assembled end cap and socket housing, shown with lamps, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0040] Fig. 24 is a side view of an assembled end cap and socket housing, shown with lamps, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0041] Fig. 25 is a view from the lamp end of an assembled end cap an socket housing with lamps, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0042] Fig. 26 is a perspective view of an end cap with lamps, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0043] Fig. 27 is a side view of an end cap with lamps, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0044] Fig. 28 is a side view of an end cap with lamps, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0045] Fig. 29 is a view from the end cap pin end of an end cap, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

[0046] Fig. 30 is a perspective view of a socket housing, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.[0047] Fig. 31 is a perspective view of a socket housing, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0048] As used herein, the word "terminal" can mean, but is not limited to, an active terminal or a passive "dummy" terminal. Additionally, the term "lamp" can refer to compact fluorescent lamps, or Ultra Violet(UV) lamps, among other lamps suitable for the claimed apparatus.
[0049] The apparatus described herein is useful in air and water purification systems, along other applications.
[0050] Figure 1 shows one possible embodiment of the claimed apparatus disassembled into its constituent parts. In this embodiment, the snap lock connector can include an end cap 100, a socket body 200, and a socket base 300.

[0051] As seen in Figures 1-2, end cap 100 in this embodiment can have a hollow tubular body into which a lamp can be inserted. As seen in Figure 10, end cap 100 can have a number of interior contacts 122. These con-

tacts are electrically connected to end cap pins 120, shown in Figures 1 and 2. End cap pins 120 extend from closed end 102 of end cap 100 in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of end cap 100. End cap 100 can also have end cap hole 130 for receiving a socket pin
 230, as described below.

[0052] Additionally, end cap 100 can have at least one end cap clip 110. In the particular embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, end cap 100 has two end cap clips 110 disposed opposite of each other on the outer circum-

ference of closed end 102. However, one can easily conceive how either more or less than two clips can be used.
 Furthermore, the clips do not have to be located opposite each other or symmetrically disposed; one can easily conceive of alternatives in which the clips are asymmet rically disposed on closed end 102 of end cap 100.

[0053] End cap clips 110 comprise three main parts, the clip leg 116, a slanted pushing face 112, and a flat locking face 114. Clip legs 116 extend from the closed end 102 in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of

25 the end cap 100. Flat locking face 114 extends perpendicular from clip leg 116. Slanted pushing face 112 extends from the end of flat locking face 114 to the terminal end of clip leg 116.

[0054] As seen in Figures 1 and 2, in this particular
 ³⁰ embodiment, socket body 200 is a generally cylindrical body. Socket body 200 has two ends, an insertion end 202 and a base end 204. Socket body 200 also has a number of socket channels 210 running through the entire length of a socket body 200. Socket channels 210
 ³⁵ are lined with electrically conductive material or other-

wise configured so that a pin or wire contacting one end of socket channel 210 will automatically be in electrical contact with the other end of socket channels 210.

[0055] End cap pins 120 can be inserted into socket
channels 210 at the insertion end 202 of socket body
200. Because socket channels 210 are electrically conductive as described above, inserting end cap pins 120 into socket channels 210 will make end cap pins 120 electrically connected to the end of socket channels 210
45 opening on the base end 204 of socket body 200

opening on the base end 204 of socket body 200. [0056] Socket body 200 may also include a socket pin 230. Socket pin 230 can insert into end cap hole 130 at the same time that end cap pins 120 are inserted into socket channels 210. Socket pin 230 can be used as a

⁵⁰ guide for proper insertion of end cap pins 120 into socket chanced 210, or as a means of deterring the use of counterfeit, copied, or generic parts which may be unsafe. For example, authorized parts may be of the wrong or excessive wattage rating and/or manufactured poorly.

⁵⁵ [0057] Socket body 200 can also include at least one clip slot 220. Clip slot 220 is a groove cut into the side of socket body 200 and extends from insertion end 202 to base end 204. Generally, the number of clip slots 220

will correspond to the number of end cap clips 110. Clips slots 220 are aligned with end cap clips 110.

[0058] As seen particularly in Figure 1, socket body 200 can also include a screw hole 214. Screw hole 214 receives a screw that attaches socket base 300 to socket body 200, as described below.

[0059] As seen in Figures 1 and 2, in this particular embodiment, socket base 300 comprises two main parts, a socket base plate 302 and clip arms 320. Socket base 300 can be attached to base end 204 of socket body 200. **[0060]** Socket base plate 302 can be round in shape and having a certain thickness dimension. A screw 304 can extend through socket base plate 302 for attaching the socket base 300 to the socket body 200. Socket base plate 302 also has a number of socket base holes 306 that align with socket channels 210 of socket body 200. As shown in Fig. 1, "wires" or other power source connections can be inserted through socket base holes 306, and then can be electrically connected to socket channels 210. Therefore, "wires" can be electrically connected to end cap pins 120 through socket channels 210.

[0061] Clip arms 320 are disposed along the outer circumference socket base plate 302 and extend generally perpendicular to socket base plate 302. Clip arms 320 are aligned with clips slots 220 when socket base 300 is attached to socket body 200. Clip arms 320 can include a pressure area 322 and a clip section 310. Clip arms 320 are flexible and resilient and flex inward toward a longitudinal axis of socket base 300 when pressure is applied to pressure areas 322.

[0062] Clip section 310 is similar in structure to end cap clips 110. Clip section 310 includes a clip leg 316, flat locking face 314, and slanted pushing face 312. Flat locking face extends perpendicular to clip legs 316. Slanted pushing face 312 extends from the end of flat locking face 314 to the terminal end of clip leg 316.

[0063] As noted above, socket base 300 can be attached to socket body 200, creating socket assembly 400 and attached with a screw, as seen in Figure 11. When assembled as indicated in Figure 11, socket clip sections 310 are hidden inside of clip slots 220. Pressure areas 322 remain outside the circumference of the socket body 200.

[0064] Now the insertion and locking of end cap 100 into socket assembly 400 will be described as shown in Figure 11. As described above, end cap pins 120 can be inserted Into socket channels 210. As the end cap pins 120 are being inserted, slanted pushing face 112 of end cap clip 110 enters the clips slot 220 and comes into contact with slanted pushing face 312 of clip section 310. As the end cap 100 and end cap pins 120 are pushed further into socket assembly 400, the slanted pushing face 112 pushes against slanted pushing face 312, causing the clip arm 320 to displace inward towards a longitudinal axis of socket assembly 400.

[0065] As the clips are pushed farther in, slanted pushing face 112 will clear slanted pushing face 312. At this point, the elasticity of clip arm 320 will snap the clip sec-

tion 310 back to its original position. At this point, flat locking face 114 and flat locking face 314 will be in contact with each other. The contact between flat locking face 114 and flat locking face 314 will prevent end cap 100 from being removed from socket assembly 400. Figures

12-15 illustrate one embodiment of the end cap 100 inserted into socket assembly 400.

[0066] To release end cap 100 from socket assembly 400. one would press on pressure areas 322. This would

¹⁰ displace clip section 310 such that flat locking face 314 would no longer be in contact with flat locking face 114. With nothing to press against flat locking face 114, end cap 100 can be removed from socket assembly 400 very easily. After removing end cap 100, pressure on pressure

¹⁵ areas 322 can be released, and clip section 310 will return to its original position.

[0067] Thus, this present snap locking operation apparatus overcomes the problems of the prior art discussed in the background at least because the lamp may 20 be easily secured with minimal force, i.e., a "snap action" in contrast to a much more "difficult depress with more force and turn" two step motion of US 6,334,902, or harder torque force required of 6,884,103, and will lock into place and remain secure even under vibration, such as 25 vibration from water or air flowing through a disinfection apparatus to be disinfected even when hung vertically. It is also much smoother to operate than WO 2006/136026 for example and does not require to be inserted at an odd an awkward angle like WO 30 2006/136026. Thus, the present invention is also not merely a common sense improvement of the prior art at least because it requires many subtle features to be recognized and used in harmony, as described herein, which the prior art has not recognized to date, and has also not

³⁵ obviously been led to perform by common sense.
[0068] The present invention also is very safe because the electrical contacts 210 in the socket are difficult to reach with a finger, i.e., they are tucked away in a safe position from the user. Also, another safety problem with the prior art approaches is the complexity of the mechanical connection between the lamp and the base unit requiring the use of complex shaped springs, specialized connection lugs and the like. Further, a connection system that is predicated on a dual motion system such that

45 if hard force pushing and twisting if used incorrectly for example may give rise to higher incidents of lamp breakage, electrical shock, and other damage to the lamp by field personal. Therefore, eliminating a forceful "push" necessary to deflect a heavy locking spring in a "push 50 and twist" lock would be beneficial because the typically fragile glass lamp would then be subject to reduced force and stress. Thus, the present invention with its "snap action" is much safer and easier to use than the prior art. [0069] Figures 16-31 show an alternative possible em-55 bodiment of a amp-lock connector for use with bulbs wherein the socket base 620 and the socket housing 600 or socket body may integrated into one overall piece. In this particular embodiment, a socket housing 600 has a

25

40

45

50

55

receiving section 602 defined by receiving wall 604. This is a variation of the above embodiment and also shows an example of one way of how multiple lamps 650 or bulbs can also be implemented.

[0070] End cap 500 can be inserted into the receiving section 602, such that end cap 500 is at least partially surrounded by receiving wall 604 and so that clip notch 502 is engaged by clip 606 in a "snap-lock" manner. Other parts include:

[0071]	300 end cap.	10
[0072]	302 clip notch	
[0073]	510 end cap pin	
[0074]	520 stepped portion	
[0075]	600 socket housing	
[0076]	602 receiving area	15
[0077]	604 receiving wall	
[0078]	606 clip	
[0079]	608 clip channel	
[0080]	616 exterior wiring holes	
[0081]	620 socket base	20
[0082]	650 lamp	
[0083]	655 channel	

Claims

1. A safety lamp connector assembly for use with at least one or more lamps comprising:

an end cap (100) for the lamp and having end ³⁰ cap clips (110);

an intermediate snap action socket body (200) for receiving the end cap (100);

characterized in that

the safety lamp connector assembly comprises ³⁵ a socket base (300) which comprises:

resilient clip arms (320) with clip section (310) on their ends which snap clips to the end cap clips (110) with the intermediate map action socket body (200) located between the end cap (100) and the socket base (300).

2. A safety lamp connector assembly according to claim 1

characterized in that

the end cap (100) comprises

a hollow tubular section for receiving the lamp; at least one outer end cap pin (120); end at least one inner end cap terminal (122) electrically connected to the at least one outer end cap pin (120); wherein the socket body (200) comprises a plurality of socket channels (210) cut into the interior socket body;

a plurality of interior socket contacts locates in the socket channels; clip slots (220); and

wherein the resilient end cap clips (110) of the end

cap (100) are structured to be inserted into the socket body (200) in the clip slots (220), and the resilient clip arms (320) with clip section (310) on their ends of the socket base (300) are also structured to be inserted into the socket body (200) in the clip slots (220) such that the three parts are snapped together and electrically connected.

3. The lamp connector assembly of claim 1 further comprising means for deterring a substitution of unauthorized part that may be unsafe, wherein said means comprises:

a plurality of end cap pins (120) disposed on an outer surface of the end cap (100) and/or the socket body (200), the plurality of pins (120) having a predetermined configuration;

a plurality of socket channels (210) cut into the socket body (200), the plurality of socket channels (210) having a predetermined configuration complementary to the configuration of the plurality of end cap pins (120);

wherein the end cap (100) cannot be inserted into the socket body (200) if the configuration of the plurality end cap pins (120) does not match configuration of the plurality socket channels (210).

- **4.** The safety lamp connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the end cap (100) is structured to accept one or more Ultra-Violet (UV) wavelength lamps.
- 5. The safety lamp connector assembly of claim 1. wherein the socket base (300) is not a separate part but is integrated into the socket body (200) in one piece.
- **6.** The safety lamp connector assembly of claim 2, wherein the socket base (300) is not a separate part but is integrated into the socket body (200) in one piece.

Patentansprüche

 Sicherheitslampenverbinderaufbau f
ür den Einsatz mit wenigstens einer oder mehrerer Lampen, umfassend:

eine Endkappe (100) für die Lampe und aufweisend Endkappenklammerrasten (110); einen einrastenden Zwischenfassungskörper (200) zur Aufnahme der Endkappe (100):

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass

der Sicherheitslampenverbinderaufbau einen Fassungsgrundkörper (300) umfasst, welcher umfasst:

10

15

20

25

35

40

45

2. Sicherheitslampenverbinderaufbau nach Anspruch 1,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass

die Endkappe (100) umfasst:

einen hohlen rohrförmigen Abschnitt zur Aufnahme der Lampe;

wenigstens einen äußeren Endkappenstift (120); und

wenigstens eine innere Endkappenklemme (122), welche elektrisch mit dem wenigstens einen äußeren Endkappenstift (120) verbunden ist;

wobei der Fassungskörper (200) umfasst:

eine Mehrzahl von Fassungskanälen (210), welche in den inneren Fassungskörper geschnitten sind;

eine Mehrzahl von inneren Fassungskontakten, welche in den Fassungskanälen angeordnet sind;

Klammerschlitze (220); und

wobei die elastischen Endkappenklammern (110) der Endkappe (100) so strukturiert sind, um in den Fassungskörper (200) in die Klammerschiltze (220) eingeschoben zu werden, und die elastischen Klammerarme (320) mit den Rastenabschnitten (310) an ihren Enden, die zum Fassungsgrundkörper (300) gehören, ebenfalls so strukturiert sind, um in den Fassungskörper (200) in die Klammerschlitze (220) so eingeschoben zu werden, dass die drei Teile ineinander eingerastet und elektrisch verbunden sind.

3. Lampenverbinderaufbau nach Anspruch 1, des Weiteren umfassend ein Mittel zum Verhindern eines Austausches mit einem nicht genehmigten Teil, welcher nicht sicher sein kann, wobei das Mittel umfasst:

> eine Mehrzahl von Endkappenstiften (120), welche auf einer äußeren Fläche der Endkappe (100) und/oder des Fassungskörpers (200) angeordnet sind, wobei die Mehrzahl der Stifte (120) eine vorbestimmte Konfiguration aufweist; eine Mehrzahl von Fassungskanälen (210), welche in den Fassungskörper (200) eingeschnit

ten sind, wobei die Mehrzahl der Fassungskanäle (210) eine vorbestimmte Konfiguration aufweist, welche komplementär zur Konfiguration der Mehrzahl von Endkappenstiften (120) ist; wobei die Endkappe (100) nicht in den Fassungskörper (200) eingeschoben werden kann, wenn die Konfiguration der Mehrzahl von Endkappenstiften (120) nicht mit der Konfiguration der Mehrzahl von Fassungskanälen (210) zusammenpasst.

- 4. Sicherheitslampenverbinderaufbau nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Endkappe (100) strukturiert ist, um eine oder mehrere Ultraviolettlampen (UV-Lampen) aufzunehmen.
- Sicherheitslampenverbinderaufbau nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Fassungsgrundkörper (300) kein eigener Teil ist, sondern im Fassungskörper (200) in einem Stück integriert ist.
- Sicherheitslampenverbinderaufbau nach Anspruch 2, wobei der Fassungsgrundkörper (300) kein eigener Teil ist, sondern im Fassungskörper (200) in einem Stück integriert ist.

Revendications

 30 1. Ensemble de connecteur de lampe de sécurité destiné à une utilisation avec au moins une des plusieurs lampes comprenant :

> un capuchon (100) destiné à la lampe et comportant des attaches de capuchon (110) ; un corps de douille à encliqueter intermédiaire (200) destiné à recevoir le capuchon (100) ; caractérisé en ce que

l'ensemble de connecteur de lampe de sécurité comprend une base de douille (300) qui comprend :

> des bras d'attache élastique (320) comportant une partie d'attache (310) sur leurs extrémités qui encliquette les attaches aux attaches de capuchon (110) avec le corps de douille à encliqueter intermédiaire (200) situé entre le capuchon (100) et la base de douille (300).

50

2. Ensemble de connecteur de lampe de sécurité selon la revendication 1,

caractérisé en ce que

le capuchon (100) comprend

une partie tubulaire évidée destinée à recevoir la lampe ;

au mois une broche de capuchon extérieure (120) ; et

au moins une borne de capuchon intérieure (122) connectée électriquement à la au moins une broche de capuchon extérieure (120) ;

dans lequel le corps de douille (200) comprend une pluralité de canaux de douille (210) découpés dans le corps de douille intérieur; une pluralité de contacts de douille intérieurs situés dans les canaux de douille;

des fentes pour attaches (220) ; et

dans lequel les attaches de capuchon élastiques ¹⁰ (110) du capuchon (100) sont structurées pour être insérées dans le corps de douille (200) dans les fentes pour attaches (220), et les bras d'attache élastiques (320) ayant une partie d'attache (310) sur leurs extrémités de la base de douille (300) sont également structurés pour être insérés dans le corps de douille (200) dans les fentes pour attaches (220) de telle sorte que les trois parties sont encliquetées ensemble et connectées électriquement.

 Ensemble de connecteur de lampe selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un moyen destiné à empêcher un remplacement d'une partie non autorisée qui peut ne pas être sûre, dans lequel ledit moyen comprend :

> une pluralité de broches de capuchon (120) disposées sur une surface extérieure du capuchon (100) et/ou du corps de douille (200), la pluralité de broches (120) présentant une configuration prédéterminée ;

une pluralité de canaux de douille (210) découpés dans le corps de douille (200), la pluralité de canaux de douille (210) présentant une configuration prédéterminée et

complémentaire de la configuration de la pluralité de broches de capuchon (120) ;

dans lequel le capuchon (100) ne peut pas être inséré dans le corps de douille (200) si la configuration de la pluralité de broches de capuchon 40 (120) ne correspond pas à la configuration de la pluralité de canaux de douille (210).

- Ensemble de connecteur de lampe de sécurité selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le capuchon (100) 45 est structuré pour accepter une ou plusieurs lampas à longueur d'onde ultraviolette (UV).
- Ensemble de connecteur de lampe de sécurité selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la base de douille ⁵⁰ (300) n'est pas une partie séparée mais est intégrée dans le corps de douille (200) en une seule pièce.
- Ensemble de connecteur de lampe de sécurité selon la revendication 2, dans lequel la base de douille 55 (300) n'est pas une partie séparée mais est intégrée dons le corps de douille (200) en une seule pièce.

20

25

30





FIG. 4

FIG. 3























FIG. 15

FIG. 14















.

FIG. 19



FIG. 20















REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- US 5166527 A [0005]
- WO 2006136026 A, Elku [0006] [0067]
- US 5422487 A, Sauska [0006]

- US 6884103 B, Kovacs [0006] [0067]
- US 20060186782 A1 [0007]
- US 6334902 B [0067]