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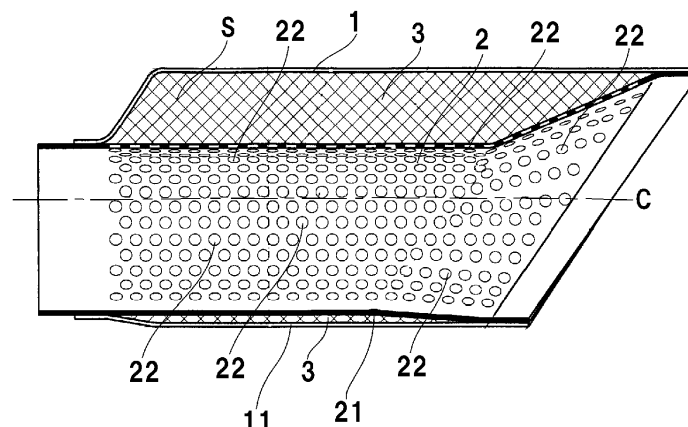
Remarks:
Amended claims in accordance with Rule 137(2) EPC.

(54) **TAIL PIPE**

(57) A tail pipe that is a double pipe including an external pipe (1) and an internal pipe (2) and in which a noise absorbing material (3) is disposed between an outer periphery of the internal pipe (2) provided with a through-hole (22) formed on a peripheral wall and an

inner periphery of the external pipe (1). The internal pipe (2) is eccentrically positioned relative to the external pipe (1) so that the noise absorbing material (3) has a larger thickness on one side in a pipe radial direction and a smaller thickness on the other side.

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a tail pipe mounted on an outlet of a vehicle exhaust pipe, and particularly relates to a noise absorbing structure of the tail pipe.

Description of the Related Art

[0002] To fulfill recent requirements on reduction of vehicle exhaust noise, a noise absorbing material has been provided to a tail pipe at an outlet of a vehicle exhaust pipe to absorb and reduce exhaust noise such as airflow noise generated at a main muffler halfway through the exhaust pipe. Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 2016-23565 discloses an example of such a tail pipe. In the tail pipe disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 2016-23565, an internal cylinder provided with a large number of through-holes on an outer periphery is concentrically disposed in an outer cylinder, and a noise absorbing material having a constant thickness is disposed through the entire circumference of a space between the internal cylinder and the outer cylinder.

[0003] However, in the conventional tail pipe structure described above, when the thickness of the noise absorbing material positioned between the internal cylinder and the outer cylinder is increased to achieve further exhaust noise reduction, the outer diameter of the entire tail pipe is increased as well.

[0004] The present invention is intended to solve the above-described problem by providing a tail pipe capable of reducing vehicle exhaust noise without increase in the entire outer diameter.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] To achieve the above-described intention, a tail pipe according to a first aspect of the present invention is a tail pipe that is a double pipe including an external pipe (1) and an internal pipe (2) and in which a noise absorbing material (3) is disposed between an outer periphery of the internal pipe (2) provided with a through-hole (22) formed on a peripheral wall and an inner periphery of the external pipe (1). The internal pipe (2) is eccentrically positioned relative to the external pipe (1) so that the noise absorbing material (3) has a larger thickness on one side in a pipe radial direction and a smaller thickness on the other side in the pipe radial direction.

[0006] According to the first aspect of the present invention, a noise absorbing material having a large thickness as compared to the conventional structure can be provided in a tail pipe having a constant outer diameter, and thus exhaust noise generated in the internal pipe can be more effectively absorbed and reduced. Accord-

ingly, vehicle exhaust noise is reduced.

[0007] In a second aspect of the present invention, no through-hole (22) is formed on the peripheral wall of the internal pipe (2) on the other side in the pipe radial direction.

[0008] According to the second aspect of the present invention, exhaust noise does not enter into a thin part of the noise absorbing material, and thus exhaust noise that is not sufficiently reduced does not leak from the tail pipe. Accordingly, vehicle exhaust noise is further reduced.

[0009] In a third aspect of the present invention, the external pipe (1) and the internal pipe (2) curve toward a direction in which the internal pipe (2) is eccentrically positioned relative to the external pipe.

[0010] According to the third aspect of the present invention, exhaust noise traveling straight in the internal pipe efficiently enters into a thick part of the noise absorbing material and is reduced. Accordingly, vehicle exhaust noise is further reduced.

[0011] Each reference sign in parentheses in the above description exemplarily indicates a correspondence relation with specific means described in embodiments to be described later.

[0012] As described above, a tail pipe according to the present invention can reduce vehicle exhaust noise without increase in the entire outer diameter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013]

FIG. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a tail pipe according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a transverse sectional view of the tail pipe; FIG. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of a tail pipe according to a second embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 4 is a diagram comparing effects of a tail pipe according to the present invention and the conventional tail pipe.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0014] Embodiments described below are merely exemplary. Various kinds of designing modifications performed by the skilled person in the art without departing from the scope of the present invention are also included in the range of the present invention.

First embodiment

[0015] FIG. 1 illustrates a longitudinal sectional view of a tail pipe, and FIG. 2 illustrates a transverse sectional view of the tail pipe. As illustrated FIG. 2, the tail pipe is a double pipe including a large-diameter cylindrical ex-

ternal pipe 1 and a small-diameter cylindrical internal pipe 2 positioned inside the external pipe 1 (FIG. 2). In the present embodiment, the external pipe 1 and the internal pipe 2 are each formed by butt-welding a plate material. Butt-welded parts 11 and 21 extend in the longitudinal direction along surfaces of the external pipe and the internal pipe, respectively, which are positioned lower in FIGS. 1 and 2.

[0016] The internal pipe 2 is eccentrically positioned toward one side (downward in FIGS. 1 and 2) from a cylinder axis C in the external pipe 1. With this configuration, the section of a space S formed between the outer periphery of the internal pipe 2 and the inner periphery of the external pipe 1 is smallest at a lower position in the radial direction, incrementally increases upward, and is largest at an upper position in the radial direction.

[0017] The external pipe 1 is narrowed down toward the outer periphery of the internal pipe 2 at one end and closes one end of the space S. The internal pipe 2 has one end coupled with a downstream outlet of a vehicle exhaust pipe (not illustrated). The internal pipe 2 has the other end, the diameter of which largely increases in a horn shape toward one side (upward in FIGS. 1 and 2) in the radial direction, and opens outward with an opening edge joined to an opening of the external pipe 1 at the other end. The space S is closed in this structure.

[0018] The internal pipe 2 is provided with a large number of through-holes 22 formed on a peripheral wall covered by the external pipe 1. Exhaust noise generated in the internal pipe 2 passes through the through-holes 22 outward in the radial direction. The through-holes 22 of the internal pipe 2 are not provided at nor near the lower welded part 21 of the internal pipe 2, which is formed by butt-welding a plate material. A well-known noise absorbing material 3 is encapsulated in the space S formed between the internal pipe 2 and the external pipe 1. The thickness of the noise absorbing material 3 is smallest at a lower position in the pipe radial direction, incrementally increases upward, and is largest at an upper position in the pipe radial direction.

[0019] In the tail pipe having such a structure, exhaust noise generated in the internal pipe 2 is emitted outward in the radial direction through the through-holes 22 and absorbed by the noise absorbing material 3 in the space S. In this case, since no through-holes 22 are formed at and near the lower welded part 21 of the internal pipe 2, the exhaust noise is emitted into the noise absorbing material 3 in the space S through the through-holes 22 formed on right, left, and upper sides of the internal pipe 2. Then, the exhaust noise is excellently absorbed and reduced by the noise absorbing material 3 having a sufficient thickness in this region.

[0020] This effect is illustrated in FIG. 4. FIG. 4 compares the magnitudes of external exhaust noise when a conventional concentric tail pipe having a constant outer diameter with the eccentric tail pipe having a constant outer diameter according to the present embodiment are each coupled to a vehicle exhaust pipe. In FIG. 4, line x

represents the magnitude of external exhaust noise of the conventional tail pipe, and line y represents the magnitude of external exhaust noise of the tail pipe according to the present embodiment. As understood from FIG. 4, when the entire tail pipe has a constant outer diameter, exhaust noise at 250 Hz or higher, in particular, is excellently reduced, as compared to the conventional concentric tail pipe, for the eccentric tail pipe according to the present embodiment including the noise absorbing material having a sufficient thickness.

Second embodiment

[0021] According to the present embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 3, a tail pipe that is a double pipe having a structure same as that of the first embodiment curves as a whole in a direction (downward in FIG. 3) in which the internal pipe 2 is eccentrically positioned. With this configuration, noise of most of exhaust gas flowing from a vehicle exhaust pipe into the tail pipe is emitted from the internal pipe 2 into the noise absorbing material 3 in the space S through the through-holes 22 positioned outward of the curve (upward in FIG. 3) because the exhaust gas mainly has a straight traveling component (arrows in FIG. 3). Since the noise absorbing material 3 in this region has a sufficient thickness, the noise having entered into the noise absorbing material 3 is excellently absorbed and reduced.

[0022] This effect is illustrated with line z in FIG. 4. As understood from FIG. 4, a further favorable exhaust noise reducing effect is obtained than the case in which the eccentric tail pipe according to the first embodiment is used (line y).

Other embodiments

[0023] Although no through-holes are provided in the direction in which the internal pipe is eccentrically positioned relative to the external pipe in the above-described embodiments, a favorable effect as compared to conventional cases is obtained when through-holes are also provided in the direction.

[0024] It is explicitly stated that all features disclosed in the description and/or the claims are intended to be disclosed separately and independently from each other for the purpose of original disclosure as well as for the purpose of restricting the claimed invention independent of the composition of the features in the embodiments and/or the claims. It is explicitly stated that all value ranges or indications of groups of entities disclose every possible intermediate value or intermediate entity for the purpose of original disclosure as well as for the purpose of restricting the claimed invention, in particular as limits of value ranges.

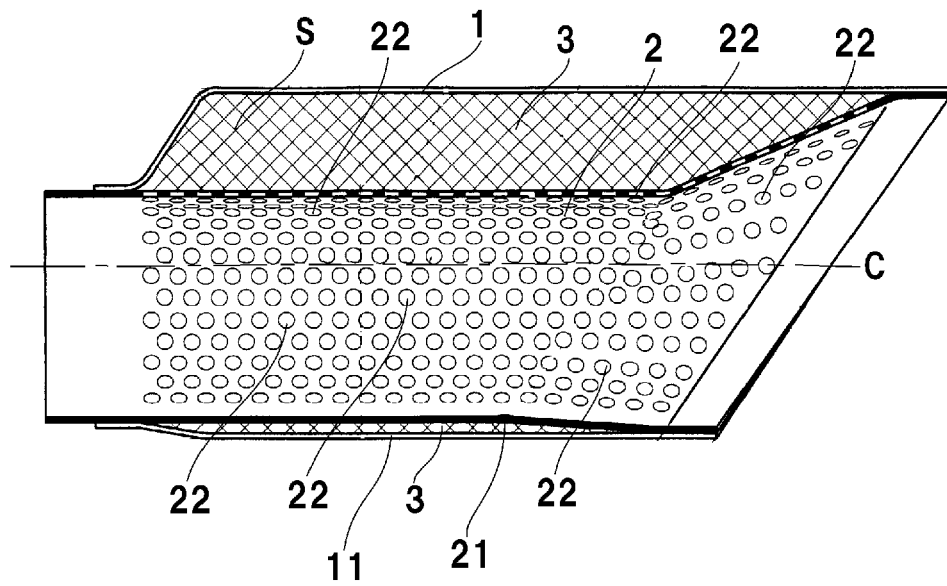
Claims

1. A tail pipe that is a double pipe including an external pipe (1) and an internal pipe (2) and in which a noise absorbing material (3) is disposed between an outer periphery of the internal pipe (2) provided with a through-hole (22) formed on a peripheral wall and an inner periphery of the external pipe (1), wherein the internal pipe (2) is eccentrically positioned relative to the external pipe (1) so that the noise absorbing material (3) has a larger thickness on one side in a pipe radial direction and a smaller thickness on the other side in the pipe radial direction. 5
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2. The tail pipe according to claim 1, wherein no through-hole (22) is formed on the peripheral wall of the internal pipe (2) on the other side in the pipe radial direction. 15
3. The tail pipe according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the external pipe (1) and the internal pipe (2) curve toward a direction in which the internal pipe (2) is eccentrically positioned relative to the external pipe (1) . 20
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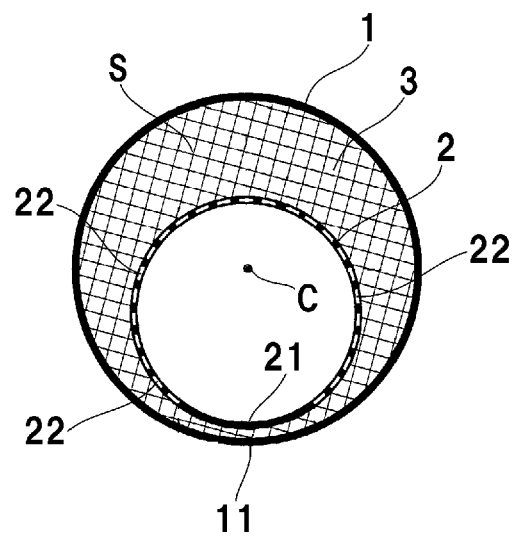
Amended claims in accordance with Rule 137(2) EPC.

1. A tail pipe that is a double pipe including an external pipe (1) and an internal pipe (2) and in which a noise absorbing material (3) is disposed between an outer periphery of the internal pipe (2) provided with a through-hole (22), which is formed on a peripheral wall, and an inner periphery of the external pipe (1), wherein the internal pipe (2) is eccentrically positioned relative to the external pipe (1) so that the noise absorbing material (3) has a larger thickness on one side in a pipe radial direction and a smaller thickness on the other side in the pipe radial direction, and wherein the external pipe (1) and the internal pipe (2) curve toward a direction in which the internal pipe (2) is eccentrically positioned relative to the external pipe (1) . 30
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2. The tail pipe according to claim 1, wherein no through-hole (22) is formed on the peripheral wall of the internal pipe (2) on the other side in the pipe radial direction. 50
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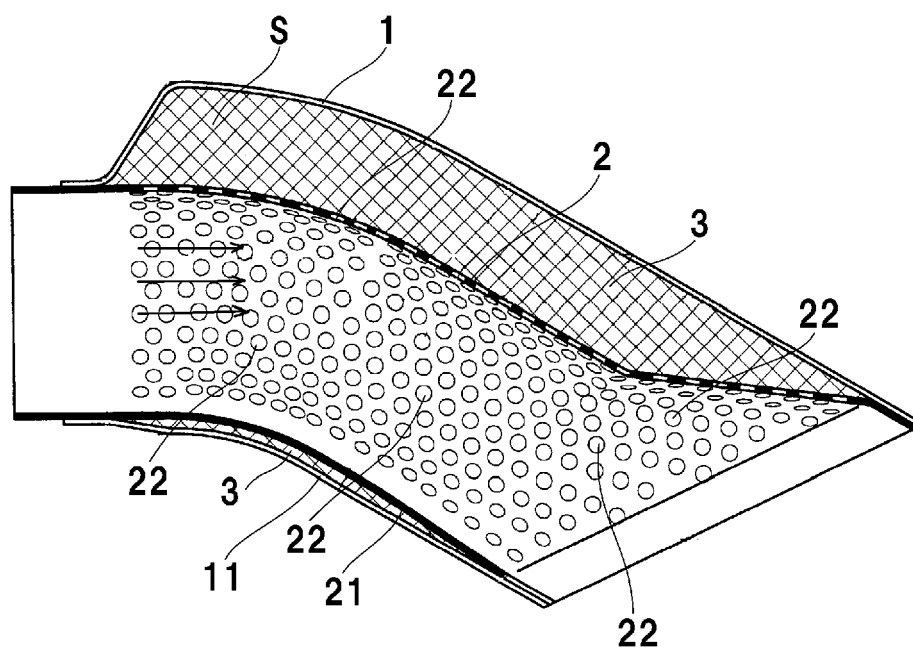
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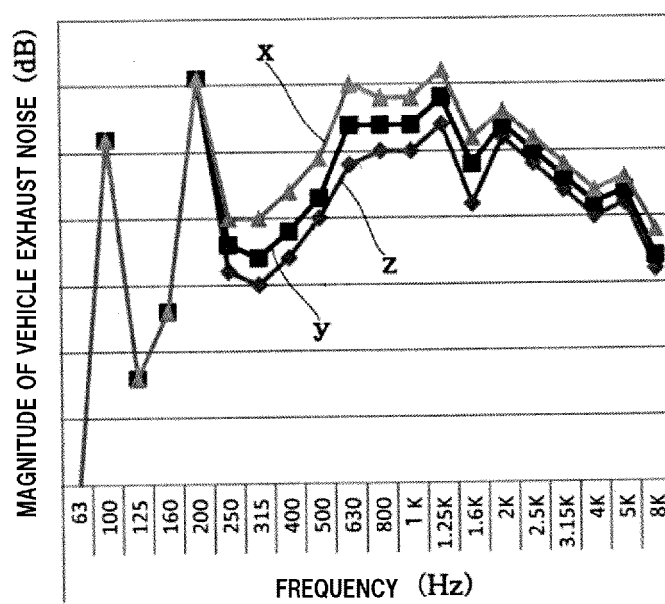
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F i g . 3



F i g . 4





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 18 16 7814

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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Y	* column 3, line 39 - line 56; figures 2,4 *	2,3	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 24 July 2018	Examiner Kolland, Ulrich
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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