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(54) **STAGE LIGHTING FIXTURE**

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USPC 362/558, 296.01, 235, 285

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A stage lighting fixture having:

a casing having a closed first end and an open second end;

a light source housed inside the casing, close to the first end, and which emits a light beam along an optical axis;

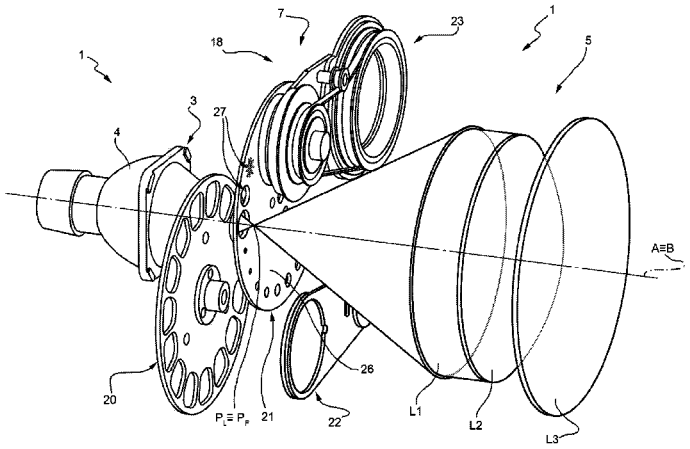
an optical assembly positioned to intercept the light beam, and having a focal point located between the light source and the optical assembly; and

a reflector coupled to the light source;

the reflector and the light source being designed and coupled to concentrate the light beam substantially at a work point substantially coincident with the focal point of the optical assembly; and

the light source being defined by a short-arc lamp to project a light bar.

18 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



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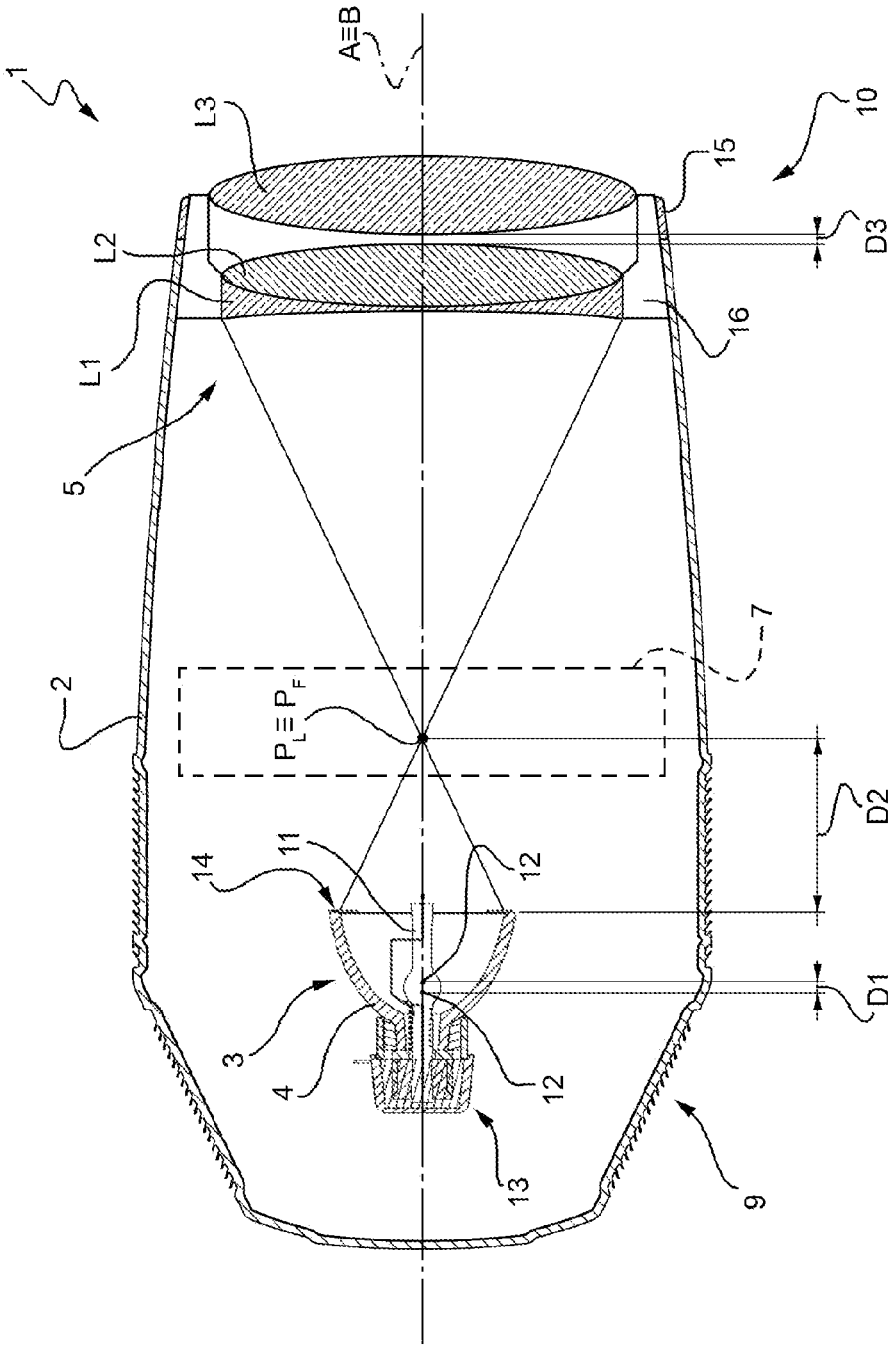

FIG. 1

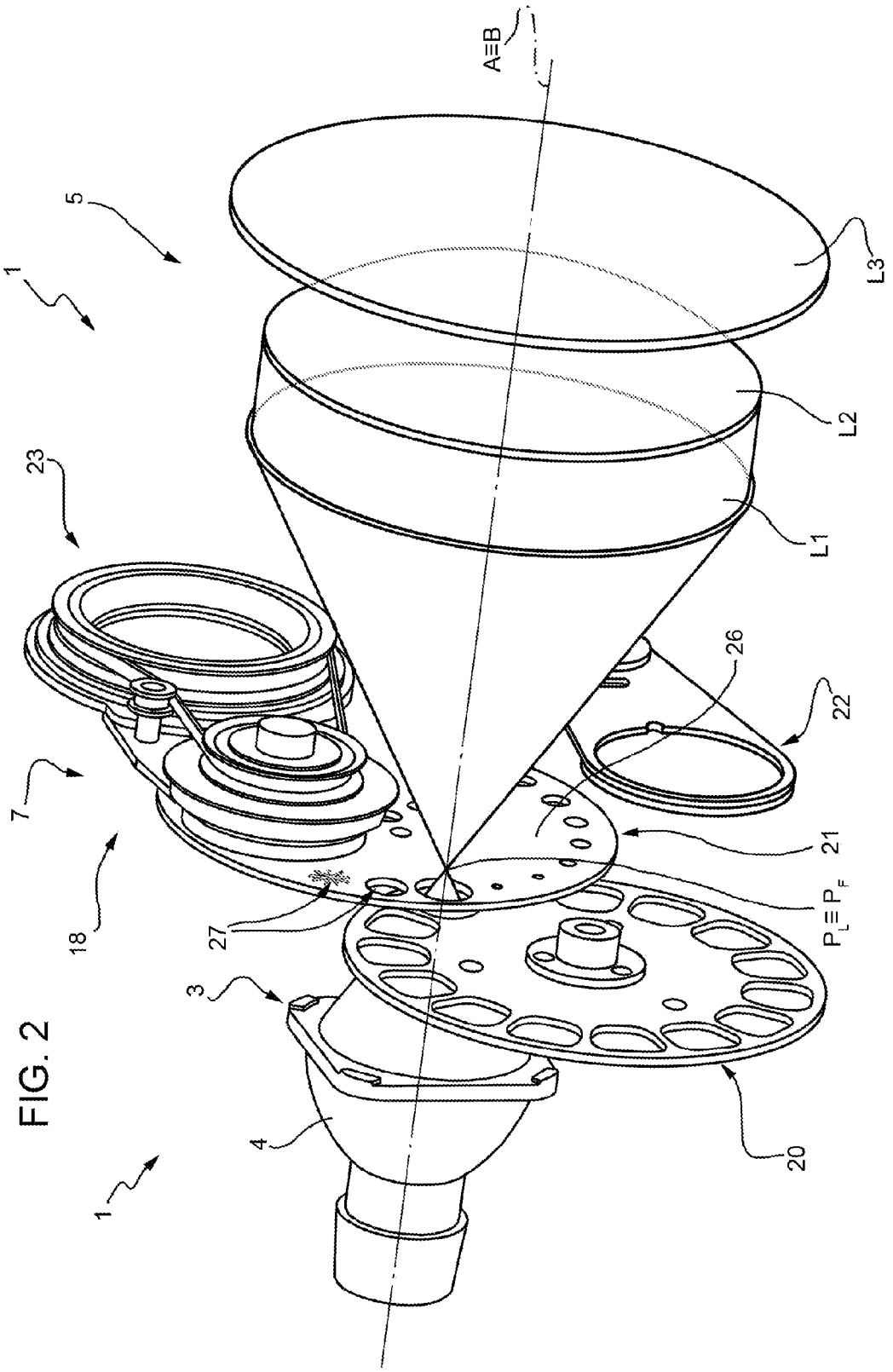

FIG. 2

STAGE LIGHTING FIXTURE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/225,861, filed Sep. 6, 2011, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The present invention relates to a stage lighting fixture.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Stage lighting fixtures are known comprising a casing with a closed first end and open second end; a light source housed inside the casing, close to the closed first end, and which emits a light beam along an optical axis; and an optical assembly positioned to intercept the light beam.

Lighting fixtures of this type are unable to produce a perfect, strong beam, i.e. produce a strong beam, but with chromatic defects in the form of a halo of a different colour from the beam.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a stage lighting fixture designed to eliminate the above drawbacks of the known art, and which is straightforward in design and cheap and easy to produce.

According to the present invention, there is provided a stage lighting fixture as claimed in claim **1**.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A non-limiting embodiment of the present invention will be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. **1** shows a schematic, partly sectioned side view, with parts removed for clarity, of a stage lighting fixture in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. **2** shows a view in perspective, with parts removed for clarity, of the FIG. **1** stage lighting fixture.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Number **1** in FIG. **1** indicates a stage lighting fixture comprising a casing **2**, a light source **3**, a reflector **4**, an optical assembly **5**, and a processing assembly **7**.

Casing **2** extends along a longitudinal axis A, has a closed end **9**, and an open end **10** opposite closed end **9** along axis A, and is preferably supported on supporting means (not shown for the sake of simplicity) to rotate about two perpendicular so-called PAN and TILT axes.

Light source **3** is housed inside and coupled to casing **2**, at closed end **9** of casing **2**, and emits a light beam substantially along an optical axis B.

In the non-limiting embodiment described and shown, optical axis B coincides with longitudinal axis A of casing **2**.

Light source **3** is what is commonly referred to as a 'short-arc lamp'.

More specifically short-arc lamp **3** comprises a normally glass or quartz bulb **11** containing halogens.

Bulb **11** contains two electrodes **12** connected to a power circuit **13** (shown partly) and spaced a distance D1 apart.

Distance D1 between electrodes **12** is less than roughly 2 mm and, in the non-limiting example described and shown, is roughly 1 mm.

In the non-limiting example described and shown, short-arc lamp **3** has a power of roughly 189 watts.

Lamp **3**, for example, is a PHILIPS MSD Platinum 5R type.

Reflector **4** is preferably elliptical, is coupled to light source **3**, and has an outer edge **14**.

More specifically, reflector **4** and light source **3** are designed and coupled to substantially concentrate the light beam at a work point P_L at a distance D2 from outer edge **14** of reflector **4**.

In the non-limiting example described and shown, distance D2 is roughly 34.5 mm.

In other words, reflector **4** and light source **3** are designed and coupled to emit a very strong, focused light beam.

Optical assembly **5** is located at open end **10** of casing **2**, and is centred about optical axis B to close casing **2**. More specifically, optical assembly **5** is fixed to a supporting ring **15**, in turn fitted to casing **2**, e.g. by screws (not shown for the sake of simplicity).

Optical assembly **5** has a focal point P_F located between light source **3** and optical assembly **5**.

In the non-limiting example described and shown, focal point P_F substantially coincides with work point P_L.

Optical assembly **5** is preferably movable along axis A of casing **2** to adjust the position of focal point P_F.

Optical assembly **5** preferably comprises a biconcave lens L**1**, a biconvex lens L**2**, a biconvex lens L**3**, and a frame **16** supporting lenses L**1**, L**2** and L**3**. Lenses L**1** and L**2** are connected, whereas lenses L**2** and L**3** are spaced apart by a distance D3, preferably of roughly 1 mm.

The characteristics of lenses L**1**, L**2**, L**3** of optical assembly **5** are shown in the table below, where the term 'face a' refers to the beam entry face, and 'face b' to the beam exit face of the lens.

LENS	RADIUS OF CURVATURE (mm)	THICKNESS (mm)	DIAMETER (mm)
L1 face a	201.037	5	108
L1 face b	150.063		108
L2 face a	150.063	30.700	108
L2 face b	86.321		108
L3 face a	249.812	19.30	130
L3 face b	249.812		130

Processing assembly **7** (shown schematically in FIG. **1**) is housed inside casing **2**, between light source **3** and optical assembly **5**.

As shown in FIG. **2**, processing assembly **7** comprises beam light beam processing elements **18** for selectively modifying and intercepting the beam emitted by light source **3**.

Processing assembly **7** preferably has actuating means (not shown) for moving light beam processing elements **18** along axis A, so the position of each light beam processing element **18** with respect to light source **3** and optical assembly **5** is adjustable.

In the non-limiting example described and shown, light beam processing elements **18** preferably comprise a colour assembly **20**, a gobo assembly **21**, a diffuser glass **22**, and a prismatic lens **23**.

Gobo assembly **21** comprises at least one disk **26**, which preferably rotates about its axis, and in which are cut a number of gobos **27** of different shapes or patterns.

In a variation not shown, the gobos are disks fitted to disk **26** and therefore interchangeable as required.

In actual use, disk **26** rotates to selectively intercept the light beam with a given gobo **27** and project a respective light pattern.

Gobo assembly **21** is positioned so that the gobo **27** intercepting the beam is located substantially at work point P_L coincident with focal point P_F.

The image projected of gobo **27** is thus of maximum intensity and focused.

Lighting fixture **1** according to the present invention thus generates a very strong and, at the same time, high-quality light beam.

The intensity of the beam is mainly due to using a high-efficiency short-arc lamp **3**.

The high quality of the beam is mainly due to optical assembly **5**, which eliminates any unsightly chromatic defects, and provides for optimum focus not obtainable, for example, using a Fresnel lens.

The lighting fixture according to the present invention, in fact, has no Fresnel objective.

The lighting fixture according to the present invention is able to exploit most of the intensity of the beam, due to focal point P_F of optical assembly **5** coinciding with work point P_L.

Light source **3** and reflector **4** direct the beam to substantially one point: focal point P_F of optical assembly **5**, where it is caught by optical assembly **5** and projected in substantially parallel rays.

Optical assembly **5** thus catches and projects the strongest, brightest part of the beam generated by light source **3** and reflected by reflector **4**.

Using a powerful, high-efficiency short-arc lamp combined with the particular configuration of light source **3** and reflector **4** (aimed at concentrating the beam at focal point P_F of optical assembly **5**) produces a particular optical effect: a sharp, homogeneous, very bright, substantially cylindrical, white 'light bar' with no aberration phenomena; the term 'light bar' being intended to mean a narrow, aligned, well defined, highly concentrated light beam.

In other words, lighting fixture **1** according to the present invention can generate beams of a brightness so far only achievable using lamps of nine times the power. In fact, the beam emitted by lighting fixture **1** according to the present invention is so concentrated and aligned as to resemble a laser beam.

Moreover, lighting fixture **1** according to the present invention is able to generate extremely bright light bars with much lower energy consumption as compared with conventional lighting fixtures, and with no loss in terms of projection quality.

The lamp used, in fact, has an absorption of no more than 189 W, and is also highly reliable, with an average working life of 2000 hours.

Finally, lighting fixture **1** according to the present invention is highly compact, by virtue of employing short-arc lamp **3**, which, together with reflector **4**, has a total axial length of roughly 60 mm.

Clearly, changes may be made to the stage lighting fixture as described herein without, however, departing from the scope of the accompanying Claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A stage lighting fixture comprising:

a casing having a closed first end and an open second end;

a short arc lamp which is housed inside the casing, close to the first end, and which emits a light beam along an optical axis;

a reflector coupled to the light source;

an output optical assembly spaced from the reflector and positioned to intercept the light beam, and having a focal point located between the short arc lamp and the optical assembly;

the reflector and the short arc lamp being designed and coupled to concentrate the light beam substantially at a work point substantially coincident with the focal point of the output optical assembly; and

processing means which is configured to process the light beam and is located between the light source and the optical assembly; the processing means comprising at least one light beam processing element being located substantially at the work point.

2. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the short-arc lamp comprises a bulb containing two electrodes connected to a power circuit and spaced a first distance apart.

3. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **2**, wherein the first distance between the electrodes is less than roughly 2 mm.

4. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **3**, wherein the first distance between the electrodes is roughly 1 mm.

5. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the reflector has an outer edge; the work point being located a second distance from the outer edge of the reflector.

6. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **5**, wherein the second distance is roughly 34.5 mm.

7. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the light beam processing elements comprise at least one diffuser glass.

8. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the light beam processing elements comprise at least one colour assembly.

9. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the light beam processing elements comprise at least one prismatic lens.

10. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the light beam processing elements comprise at least one gobo assembly.

11. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **10**, wherein the gobo assembly comprises at least one disk having a number of gobos for intercepting the light beam; the gobo assembly being positioned so that the gobo in use is located substantially at the work point.

12. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the optical assembly is movable to adjust the position of the focal point.

13. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the optical assembly comprises a biconcave first lens.

14. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **13**, wherein the optical assembly comprises a biconvex second lens coupled to the biconcave first lens.

15. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **14**, wherein the optical assembly comprises a biconvex third lens located a third distance from the biconvex second lens.

16. A lighting fixture as claimed in claim **15**, wherein the third distance is roughly 1 mm.

17. A stage lighting fixture comprising:

a casing having a closed first end and an open second end;

a light source comprising a short arc lamp which is housed inside the casing, close to the first end, and which emits a light beam along an optical axis;

a reflector coupled to the light source; and

an output optical assembly spaced from the reflector and positioned to intercept the light beam, and having a focal point located between the light source and the optical assembly;

the reflector and the light source being designed and coupled to concentrate the light beam substantially at a

work point substantially coincident with the focal point of the output optical assembly so as to emit a sharp, substantially cylindrical 'light bar' intended to as a narrow, aligned, well defined, highly concentrated light beam.

18. A stage lighting fixture comprising:

a casing having a closed first end and an open second end;

a short arc lamp which is housed inside the casing, close to the first end, and which emits a light beam along an optical axis;

a reflector, which is coupled to the short-arc lamp to direct the light beam along an optical axis; is shaped and spaced apart from the short-arc lamp to concentrate the light beam substantially at a work point located along the optical axis; and

an output optical assembly, which is located at the second end of the casing, is configured to have a focal point located along the optical axis, and is spaced apart from the short-arc lamp so that the focal point coincides with the work point;

wherein the optical assembly comprises a biconcave first lens (L**1**), a biconvex second lens (L**2**), a biconvex third lens (L**3**), and a frame supporting the first, second and third lenses (L**1**, L**2**, L**3**), whereas the second lens (L**2**) and the third lens (L**3**) are spaced apart by a distance, preferably of roughly 1 mm; wherein the first, second and third lenses (L**1**, L**2**, L**3**) are provided with the following characteristics, where the terms 'face a' refers to the beam entry face, and 'face b' to the beam exit face of the respective lens:

LENS	RADIUS OF CURVATURE	THICKNESS	DIAMETER
L1 face a	201.037	5	108
L1 face b	150.063		108
L2 face a	150.063	30.700	108
L2 face b	86.321		108
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L3 face b	249.812		130.

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