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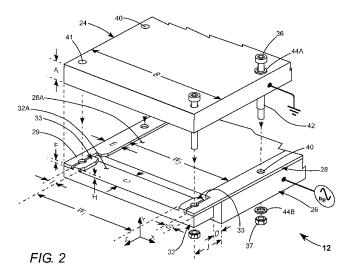
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### (54) Title: PARTICLE DAMAGE PROTECTION FOR HIGH POWER CO2 SLAB LASER MIRRORS



(57) Abstract: A CO2 gas discharge laser 10 includes elongated planar live and ground electrodes (24, 26) vertically spaced and electrically insulated from each. The electrodes are spaced apart by ceramic spacer strips (28) arranged along the edges of the electrodes. An auxiliary electrode (32) is located at each end of the live electrode, co-planar with the live electrode, longitudinally spaced part from the live electrode vertically spaced apart from, but electrically connected to, the ground electrode. The auxiliary electrode has two raised portions (33) spaced apart by a distance less than the distance between inside edges of the ceramic strips. The raised portions of the auxiliary electrode prevent erosion of the ceramic strips by laser radiation generated in the resonator when the laser is operating.





### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSI INV. ADD.	FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER H01S3/038 H01S3/03 H01S3/03	4 H01S3/0971						
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC								
B. FIELDS SEARCHED								
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)								
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched								
Electronic d	ata base consulted during the international search (name of data base	se and, where practical, search terms used)						
EPO-In	ternal, INSPEC, WPI Data		·					
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT								
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the rele	evant passages	Relevant to claim No.					
X	WO 2005/078877 A1 (COHERENT INC [ SHACKLETON CHRISTIAN J [US]; GARD PHILLIP J [US]) 25 August 2005 (2005-08-25)		10-12					
A	figure 1a page 7, line 24 - page 8, line 5		1-9,13, 14					
A	US 2006/029116 A1 (SHACKLETON CHRISTIAN J [US] ET AL) 9 February 2006 (2006-02-09) figure 1b paragraph [0025]		1-9					
A	US 5 216 689 A (GARDNER PHILLIP 3 AL) 1 June 1993 (1993-06-01) figures 3-5,9	US] ET	1-9					
Furt	ther documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	X See patent family annex.						
* Special (	categories of cited documents :							
"A" documo	categories of cited documents:  ent defining the general state of the art which is not dered to be of particular relevance document but published on or after the international	*T* later document published after the intern or priority date and not in conflict with th cited to understand the principle or theo invention	e application but ry underlying the					
filing of the filling	date ent which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or is cited to establish the publication date of another	X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone  Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention						
"O" docum other	on or other special reason (as specified)  nent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or  means	cannot be considered to involve an inve document is combined with one or more ments, such combination being obvious in the art.	ntive step when the other such docu-					
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### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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