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(54) **DEVICE FOR INTRODUCING SMALL AMOUNTS OF MERCURY INTO FLUORESCENT LAMPS**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **313/565**; 313/566; 252/181.6

(58) **Field of Search** 313/550, 564, 313/565, 566; 252/181.1, 181.2, 181.6

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(57) ABSTRACT

A device and a method are disclosed for introducing into the fluorescent lamps small amounts of mercury. The device is formed of a metallic container which is capable of containing powders of one or more compounds having the general formula $Ti_xZr_yHg_z$, but is not hermetically sealed, in order to allow the discharge of mercury vapors generated by the decomposition of such compounds. Some possible device geometries are disclosed, as well as some possible arrangements of the same inside lamps. Finally a method is disclosed for introducing mercury into a lamp by means of a device of the invention, without the device remaining in the resulting lamp.

20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

