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Smith et al.

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(54) **LASER-DRIVEN LIGHT SOURCE**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 11/695,348, filed on Apr. 2, 2007, now Pat. No. 7,786,455, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/395,523, filed on Mar. 31, 2006, now Pat. No. 7,435,982.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

G01J 3/10	(2006.01)
G01J 1/34	(2006.01)
H01J 63/08	(2006.01)
H05H 1/24	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **250/503.1**; 250/504 R; 250/365; 313/231.31; 315/111.21; 700/121; 700/166

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 250/503.1, 250/504 R, 365; 313/231.31; 315/111.21; 700/121, 166

See application file for complete search history.

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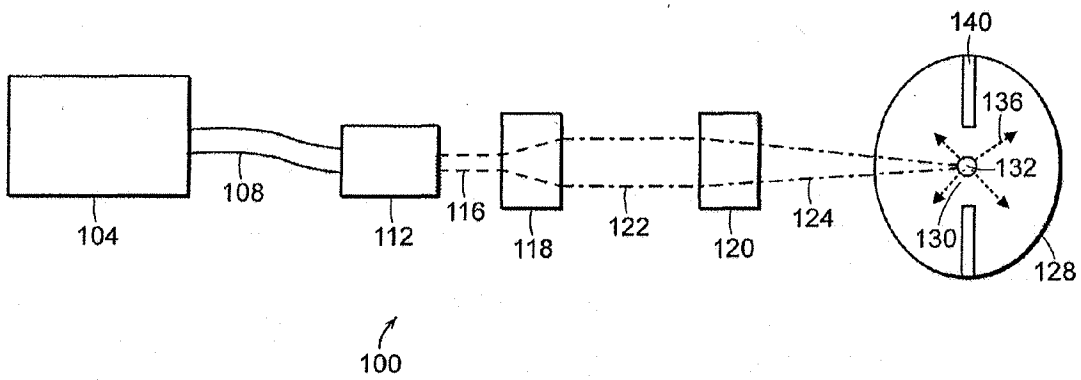
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for producing light includes a chamber and an ignition source that ionizes a gas within the chamber. The apparatus also includes at least one laser that provides energy to the ionized gas within the chamber to produce a high brightness light. The laser can provide a substantially continuous amount of energy to the ionized gas to generate a substantially continuous high brightness light.

39 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets



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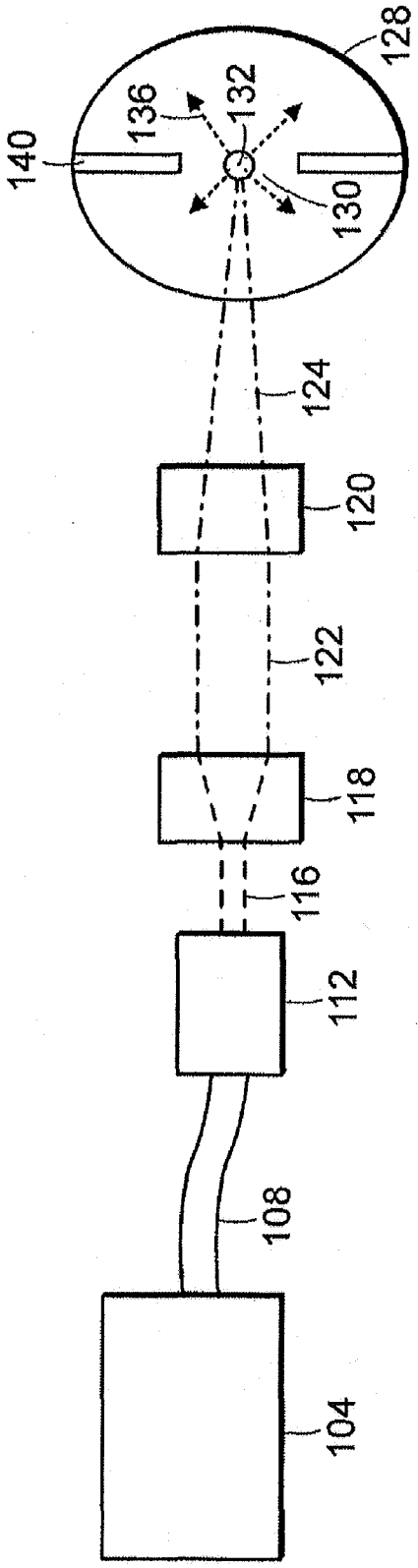

FIG. 1

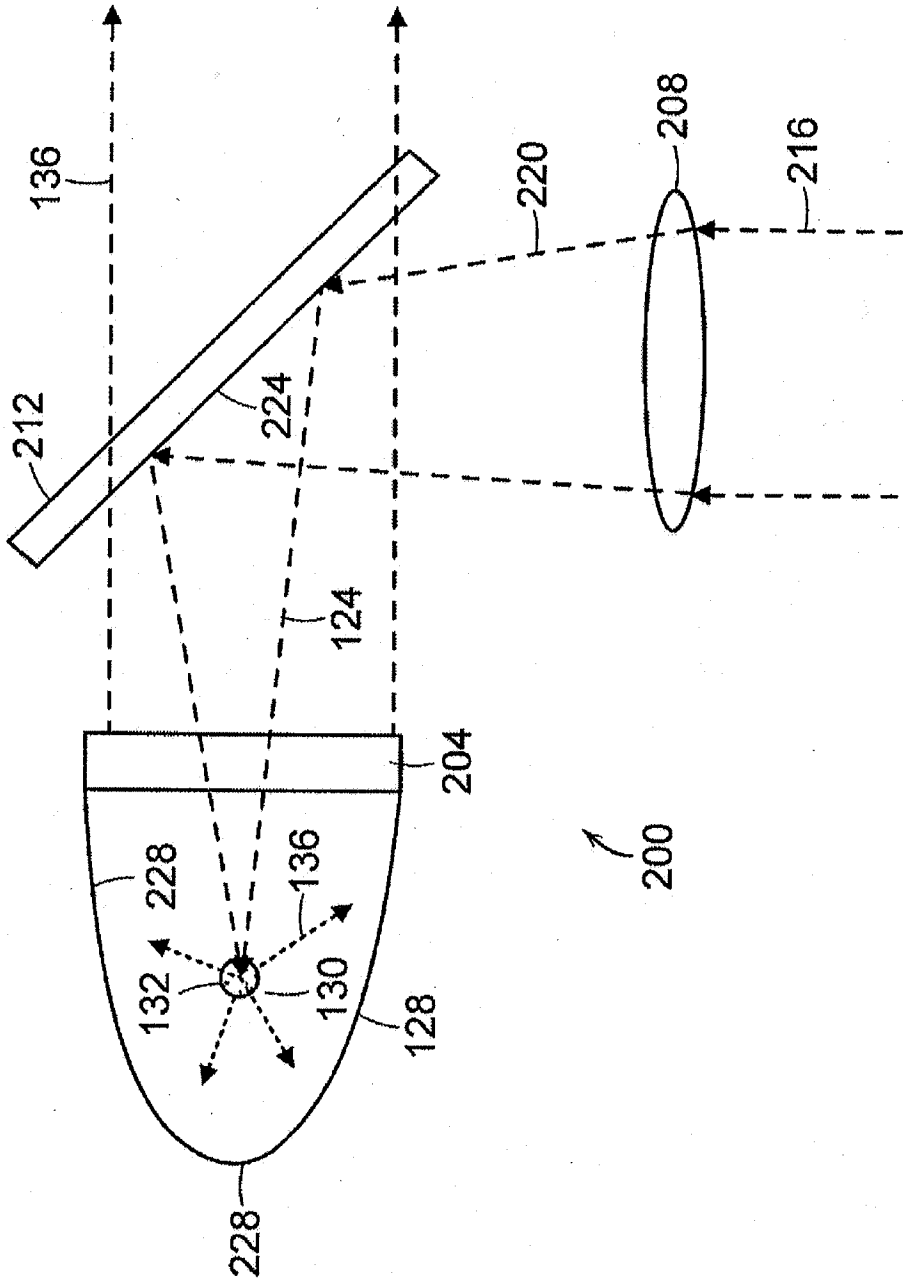

FIG. 2

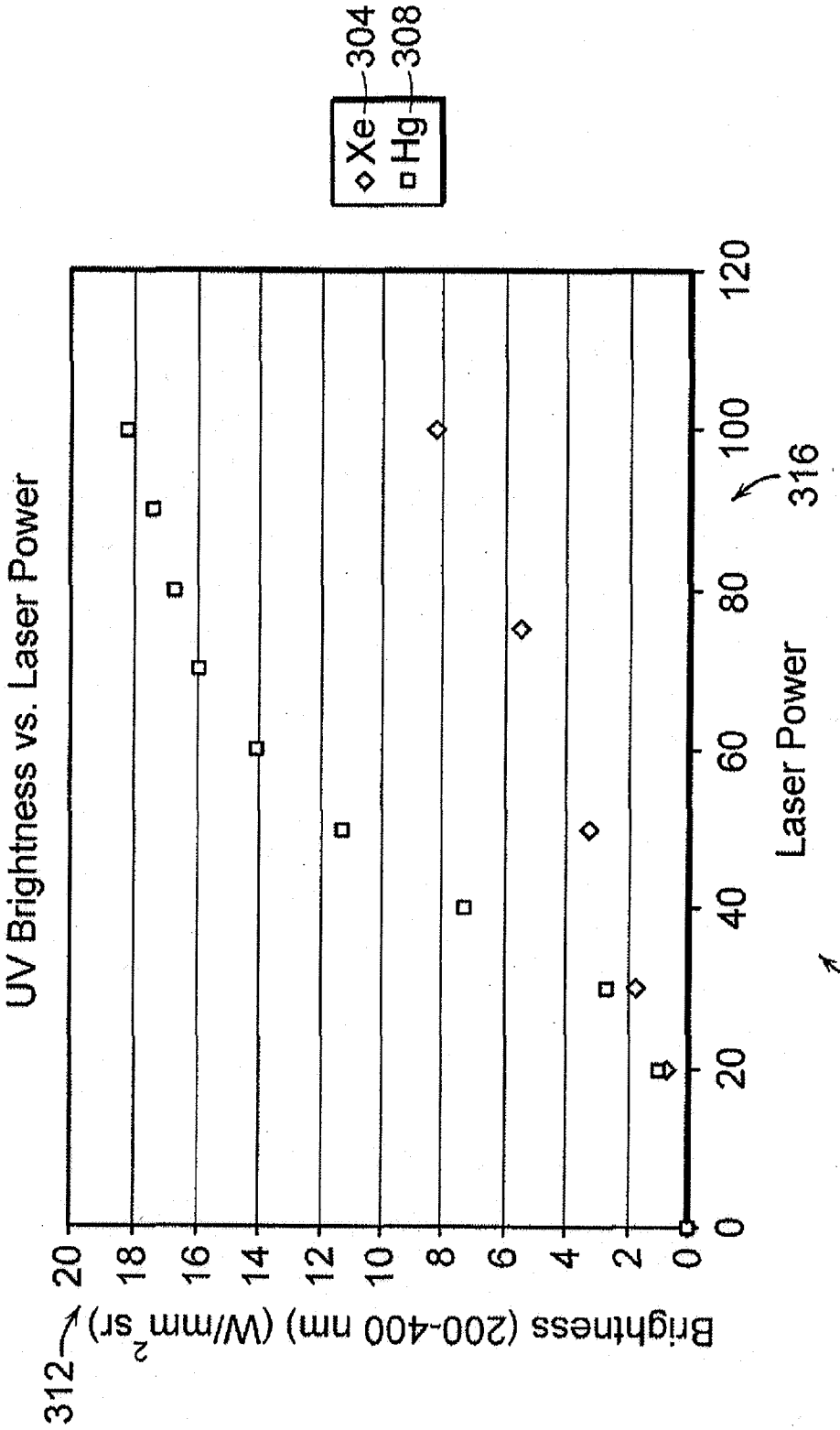

FIG. 3

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