

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1726
Examiner : Julian Anthony
Serial No. : 13/146,669
Filed : July 28, 2011
Inventors : Eduard Pytlik
 : Jürgen Lindner
 : Ulrich Barenthin
 : Winfried Gaugler
Title : BUTTON CELLS AND METHOD
 : FOR PRODUCING SAME

Customer No.: 035811
Docket No.: RUF-11-1270
Confirmation No.: 6273
Dated: May 2, 2014

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated March 27, 2014, the Applicants amend the application as follows:

EASTV75846501.1

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A button cell comprising:

a housing cup and a housing top separated from one another by an electrically insulating seal and which form a housing with a flat bottom area and a flat top area parallel to it, and

an electrode-separator assembly within the housing comprising at least one positive and at least one negative electrode in the form of flat layers and connected to one another by at least one flat separator,

wherein the electrode layers are aligned essentially at right angles to the flat bottom and top areas and the button cell is closed without being beaded over, and the electrode-separator assembly is in the form of a spiral winding whose end faces face in a direction of the flat bottom area and the flat top area.

2. (Previously Presented) The button cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrodes and/or the separator are/is in the form of strips or ribbons.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The button cell as claimed in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the winding has an axial cavity in its center, which axial cavity is at least partially filled by a winding core.

5. (Previously Presented) The button cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrode-separator assembly has one of the following layer sequences:

negative electrode/separator/positive electrode/separator and
positive electrode/separator/negative electrode/separator.

6. (Previously Presented) The button cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the positive electrode and/or the negative electrode are/is connected via an output conductor to the housing in an area of the flat bottom area and/or of the flat top area.

7. (Currently Amended) The button cell as claimed in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, further comprising at least one insulator which prevents direct mechanical and electrical contact between the end faces of the winding and the flat bottom and top areas.

8. (Previously Presented) The button cell as claimed in claim 7, wherein the at least one insulator is a flat layer composed of plastic arranged between the end faces of the winding and the flat bottom and top areas.

9. (Previously Presented) The button cell as claimed in claim 1, which is rechargeable.

10. (Previously Presented) The button cell as claimed in claim 1, having a height:diameter ratio of < 1 .

11. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a button cell according to claim 1, comprising inserting an electrode-separator assembly with electrodes in the form of a flat layer into the housing such that the electrode layers are aligned essentially at right angles to the flat bottom and top areas, wherein the housing comprises a metallic cup part and a metallic top part.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the electrode-separator assembly is inserted as a winding.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:
inserting the winding into the metallic top part, and
inserting the metallic top part with the winding into a metallic cup part.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the winding is heat-treated on its end faces before being installed, with it being at least for a short time subjected to a temperature at which the separator is thermoplastically deformable.

Remarks

The Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the subject matter of Claim 3.

Claim 3 has been cancelled in view of the inclusion of that subject matter into Claim 1.

Claim 4 has also been amended to depend from Claim 1 in view of the cancellation of Claim 3.

Finally, Claim 7 has similarly been amended in view of the cancellation of Claim 3.

Entry of the above amendments and cancellation into the official file and consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Applicants enclose a new Fig. 4 and respectfully request that it be entered into the official file.

The drawings stand objected to with respect to the claimed insulator which prevents direct mechanical and electrical contacts between the end faces of the winding and the flat bottom of top areas must be shown. The Applicants note that original Claim 4 shows such an insulator with respect to reference numbers 411 and 412. However, the originally submitted Fig. 4 shows a button cell that is closed in a classical manner with an edge of the cell cup 401 being beaded inward over an edge of the cell top 402. New Fig. 4 has been modified such that the button cell 400 is closed without being beaded over in accordance with Claim 1 and, also, in accordance with the claimed feature wherein the insulator prevents direct and electrical contact between the end faces of the winding in the flat bottom and top areas. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Nakayama. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in view of the addition

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