

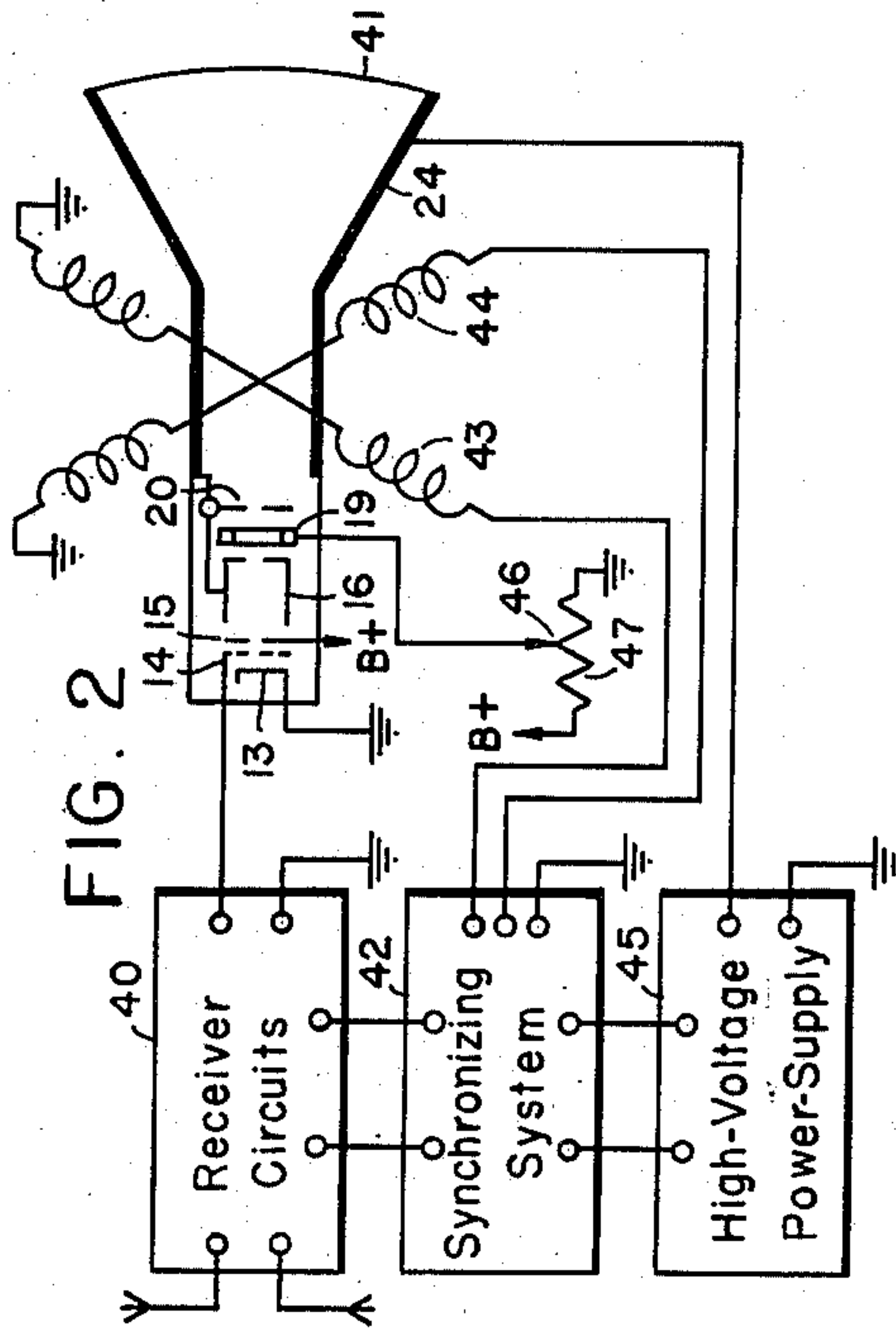
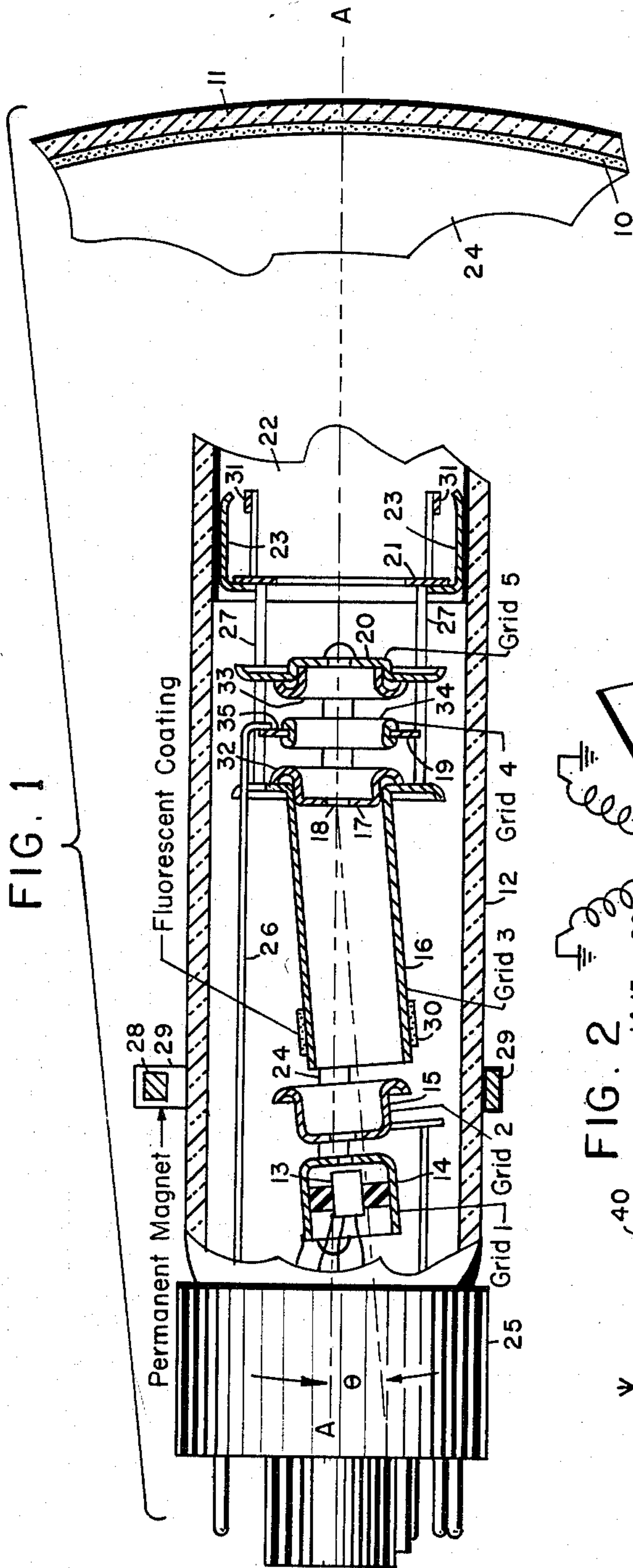
Jan. 27, 1953

J. J. O'CALLAGHAN

2,627,043

IMAGE-REPRODUCING DEVICE

Filed July 3, 1951



INVENTOR.

JEROME J. O'CALLAGHAN

BY

Francis W. Grotty

HIS ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,627,043

IMAGE-REPRODUCING DEVICE

Jerome J. O'Callaghan, Skokie, Ill., assignor to
The Rauland Corporation, a corporation of
Illinois

Application July 3, 1951, Serial No. 235,045

3 Claims. (Cl. 313—82)

1

This invention relates to image-reproducing devices and more particularly to electrostatically focused cathode-ray tubes for use as picture-reproducing devices in television receivers and the like.

In the copending application of Constantin S. Szegho, Serial No. 229,013, filed May 31, 1951, for "Image-Reproducing Device," and assigned to the present assignee, there is disclosed and claimed a novel cathode-ray tube employing a unipotential electrostatic focusing system which requires no operating potential between the B-supply voltage of the associated receiver apparatus and the final anode voltage. The unipotential electrostatic focusing system comprises three electrodes, the outermost two of which are operated at final anode voltage, while the intermediate one is operated at a voltage between ground potential and the B-supply voltage of the associated apparatus to provide the desired electrostatic field distribution comprising convergent and divergent lens components and having a net convergent effect on the electron beam. One of the outermost electrodes is connected to the conductive coating on the inner wall of the envelope by means of conventional metal spacer springs or the like, and conductive connecting strips are provided between the two outermost electrodes so that both of these electrodes are maintained at a common operating potential with the conductive coating. The getter rings are supported on the screen side of the last electrode.

While the cathode-ray tube described in the Szegho application accomplishes the objective of satisfactory focusing without employing any operating potential between that of the receiver B-supply and the final anode voltage, certain difficulties of a practical nature are sometimes encountered. Because the intermediate focusing electrode is operated at or near cathode potential, there is a high potential gradient between that electrode and the conductive wall coating, and undesirable spark discharge may result. Moreover, flashing of the getter material sometimes results in conductive deposits on the insulating spacer-support pillars for the focusing electrodes, thereby decreasing the length of the effective leakage path across these pillars and occasionally resulting in breakdown of the insulating material.

It is an important object of the present invention to provide an improved cathode-ray tube of the electrostatically focused type in which these difficulties are substantially avoided.

To accomplish this and other objects, an elec-

2

trostatically focused image-reproducing device of the cathode-ray type comprises an evacuated envelope having a fluorescent-screen-bearing target portion and a neck portion. An electron gun is housed in the neck portion of the envelope for projecting an electron beam towards the target portion, the electron gun including a cathode, a control electrode, and first and second accelerating electrodes. Following the electron gun is an electrostatic focusing system including a lens electrode and an additional electrode. A centrally apertured conductive disc is disposed in the neck portion of the envelope between the focusing system and the target portion. A conductive coating on the inner wall of the envelope extends from the direction of the target portion into the neck portion substantially only to the plane of the conductive disc. Means are provided for establishing an electrical contact between the conductive disc and the conductive coating, and an electrical connection is provided within the envelope between the additional electrode and the conductive disc.

The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood, however, by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in the several figures of which like reference numerals indicate like elements, and in which:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary side elevation, partly in cross-section and partly cut away, of an image-reproducing device constructed in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of a television receiver embodying the image-reproducing device of Figure 1.

The image-reproducing device of Figure 1 comprises a fluorescent screen 10 affixed to the glass target portion 11 of a cathode-ray tube envelope which also comprises a glass neck portion 12 enclosing an electron gun and an electrostatic focusing system. The electron gun comprises a cathode 13, a control electrode 14, and first and second accelerating electrodes 15 and 16 respectively. A diaphragm 17 having a central aperture 18 is disposed across the outlet end of second accelerating electrode 16, and aperture 18 is symmetrically centered with respect to the tube axis A—A perpendicular to the center of the fluorescent screen 10. Second accelerating electrode 16 is laterally offset from first accelerating electrode 15 to provide a transverse electrostatic-

deflection field in the region between these two electrodes, and the entire electron gun structure is tilted with respect to the tube axis A—A by an angle θ .

An electrostatic focusing system of the unipotential lens type is disposed between the electron gun and the fluorescent screen. The focusing system comprises the outlet end of second accelerating electrode 16 including diaphragm 17, a lens electrode 19, and an additional electrode 20 which are all coaxially mounted with respect to the tube axis A—A. A centrally apertured conductive disc 21 is disposed in the neck portion of the envelope between the focusing system and target portion 11. A conductive coating 22, of colloidal graphite such as aquadag or the like, extends from the direction of target portion 11 into the neck portion of the envelope substantially only to the plane of conductive disc 21, and conductive disc 21 is maintained at a common potential with conductive coating 22 by means of metal spacer springs 23.

For convenience, electrodes 14, 15, 16, 19 and 20 may be termed "grids" and may be designated by number starting with control electrode 14 as the first grid and progressing in the direction of beam travel to additional electrode 20 which is the fifth grid. All five grids are supported in predetermined mutually spaced relation by means of a pair of glass pillars 24, of which only one is shown, in a manner which will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Separate leads for grids 1, 2 and 4 extend through the base 25 of the tube, as do the supply leads for the cathode 13 and its associated heater element (not shown). Lead 26 from grid 4 through the base of the tube may be provided with an insulating glass bead (not shown) to inhibit spark discharge to electrode 16. Conductive disc 21 is mechanically supported from and electrically connected to grids 3 and 5 by means of metal connecting strips 27. Operating potential for the conductive coating 22, and therefore for the third and fifth grids, may be supplied by means of a conventional contact button if the envelope is of the all glass type, or directly to the metal cone member if the tube is of the glass-metal variety.

An external permanent magnet 28, supported in a spring clamp 29 which fits snugly around the neck of the tube and is movable both axially and rotationally, is provided to develop a magnetic field within the tube to provide separation of the negative ions from the electron beam. Moreover, a fluorescent coating 30 on the outer surface of the second accelerating electrode 16 (grid 3) is provided for facilitating alignment of the ion-trap beam-bender magnet 28.

The tube is evacuated, sealed and based in accordance with well known procedures which require no further explanation, and suitable getters 31 are supported from the surface of conductive disc 21 facing fluorescent screen 10 to absorb residual gases after evacuation.

In operation, a mixed beam of electrons and negative ions originating at cathode 13 is projected through the aperture in first accelerating electrode 15. When the mixed beam emerges from grid 2, it encounters an electrostatic field having a transverse component due to the lateral offset of grid 3 with respect to grid 2. Consequently, electrons and ions are both deflected upwardly in the view of Figure 1. The magnetic field imposed by beam-bender magnet 28 serves to deflect the electrons in a downward direction as viewed in Figure 1 without substan-

tially affecting the path taken by the negative ions. Thus, when beam-bender magnet 28 is accurately adjusted, the beam of electrons is projected centrally through aperture 18 of diaphragm 17 in a direction along the tube axis A—A, while the negative ions are intercepted by the metallic portions of grid 3 and diaphragm 17. The ion-trap mechanism is disclosed and claimed in the copending application of Willis E. Phillips et al., Serial No. 156,746, filed April 19, 1950, for "Electron Gun for Cathode-Ray Tubes," now U. S. Patent No. 2,596,508, issued May 13, 1952, and assigned to the present assignee.

The axially directed electron beam is subjected to the focusing action of the electrostatic fields produced by diaphragm 17, lens electrode 19 and the fifth grid 20 which together constitute a unipotential electrostatic focusing lens system. The general construction and operation of lenses of this type are well understood by those skilled in the art as indicated by an article entitled "Measured Properties of Strong 'Unipotential' Electron Lenses" by G. Liebmann, Proceedings of the Physical Society, section B, volume 62, part 4, pages 213-228 (April 1, 1949).

The required operating potential difference between the lens electrode (grid 4) and the other electrodes of the focusing system (grids 3 and 5) is determined by the dimensions of and the spacing between the electrodes constituting the unipotential lens. Although the relationships are not necessarily linear, the required focusing potential difference varies directly with the length and inversely with the diameter of grid 4, and inversely with the separation between grid 4 and grids 3 and 5. Certain limitations on these parameters are imposed by practical considerations; if the diameter of grid 4 is made too small, excessive spherical aberration is encountered, and if the separation between grids 3 and 4 is made too great, the deflecting influence exerted by the asymmetrical electrostatic field established between lead wire 25 and grid 3 becomes objectionable.

Unipotential electrostatic lens systems have previously been employed in cathode-ray tubes. Such lens systems have been found quite satisfactory and readily adaptable to mass production techniques when the electron gun and the focusing system are coaxial and the path of the beam is restricted to the tube axis during its entire progress from the cathode through the focusing system. However, according to present commercial practice, nearly all television picture tubes are provided with an ion-trap mechanism of one sort or another for removing negative ions from the electron beam in order to avoid deterioration of the fluorescent screen. Such types of ion-trap arrangements as are commonly employed provide ion separation by subjecting the mixed beam to opposed electrostatic and magnetic fields; both electrons and ions are transversely deflected by the electrostatic field, while the electrons only are substantially deflected in the opposite direction by the impressed magnetic field. It is apparent that the practical requirement for ion trapping results in a displacement of the electron beam from the tube axis, and it is necessary that the beam be directed to the axis before it enters the focusing system. The accuracy with which this is accomplished is of importance when magnetic focusing is employed or when a unipotential electrostatic lens system is employed with a focusing voltage source which may be varied over a relatively wide range, but slight misalignment

may be compensated by varying the focusing voltage. However, the ion trap alignment becomes much more critical when satisfactory operation of the electrostatic focusing system is required within a narrow focusing voltage range between ground potential and the B-supply voltage of the associated apparatus, owing to the increased strength of the individual lens components constituting the unipotential focusing system.

In general, if the electron beam is inaccurately centered or approaches the focusing system in an angular manner, multiplicity of focus is encountered. The most troublesome form is which this manifests itself is that of astigmatism and/or coma. In order to obtain focusing comparable with that provided by magnetic focusing systems, while operating the lens electrode at or near cathode potential, it has been found essential that the electron beam be centrally directed along the axis in its passage through the focusing system. In other words, the ion trap must be precisely adjusted for satisfactory focusing with a low-potential electrostatic lens system. Such precise alignment of the ion trap is facilitated by providing fluorescent coating 30 on the outer wall of second accelerating electrode 16. This fluorescent coating serves as an ion-trap adjustment indicator; in practice, permanent magnet 28 is moved both axially and rotationally until the glow from fluorescent coating 30 is reduced to a minimum, thus indicating precise ion trap alignment. The fluorescent coating must of course be so situated that it is excited into fluorescence whenever the electron beam is entirely or partially intercepted by diaphragm 17, and the fluorescent glow must be visible, either directly or by reflection, through the transparent neck portion 12 of the tube envelope. Other possible locations for fluorescent coating 30 include the inner wall of neck portion 12 near the space between grids 2 and 3, the inner surface of diaphragm 17, and the surface of diaphragm 20 facing the cathode. The ion-trap indicator is described and claimed in the copending applications of Constantin S. Szegho, Serial No. 134,725, filed December 23, 1949, now U. S. Patent No. 2,564,737, issued August 21, 1951, and of Constantin S. Szegho et al., Serial No. 162,906, filed May 19, 1950, both entitled "Cathode-Ray Tube," now U. S. Patent No. 2,565,533, issued August 28, 1951, and both assigned to the present assignee.

In order to obtain satisfactory focusing with the system shown in Figure 1, it is necessary to maintain rather stringent manufacturing tolerances with respect to the dimensions and spacings of the several electrodes constituting the focusing system. In addition, since grid 4 is to be operated at a potential substantially equal to that of the cathode, extremely high voltage gradients are produced between grid 4 and grids 3 and 5. In order to avoid undesirable corona effects and field emission, grids 3 and 5 are each provided with corona rings 32 and 33 in the form of rolled flanges of stainless steel or the like which are welded or otherwise secured to the respective electrodes, and grid 4 is constructed by rolling the two ends of a metal cylinder 34 over the edge of a large aperture in a metal disc 35. The construction of grid 4 is specifically disclosed and claimed in the copending application of Robert W. Shawfrank, Serial No. 234,920 filed concurrently herewith, for "Cathode-Ray Tube Electrode," and assigned to the present assignee.

The corona rings 32 and 33 also perform an additional function in facilitating the maintenance of the required close manufacturing tolerances by mechanically reinforcing the circular flanges to which they are attached against warping or bending during the assembly of the electrode system. The electrodes are assembled by means of accurately constructed jigs and are all rigidly supported by means of opposed common glass pillars 24, the gun assembly being properly oriented in the tube neck by means of other jigs in the usual manner. It has been found that these precautions suffice to insure satisfactory operation of the completed structure, any small deviations in dimensions and spacings being readily compensated by adjustment of the ion-trap magnet 28.

As compared with the somewhat similar constructions now employed in magnetically focused television picture tubes, the electron gun of the tube of Figure 1 has been modified in two further structural respects. In the first place, the angle θ by which the entire gun is tilted with respect to the tube axis A—A is reduced from about 6 degrees to about $4\frac{3}{4}$ degrees, and the amount of lateral offset of grid 3 with respect to grid 2 is reduced from 1.9 mm. to 1.6 mm. In the second place, the length of the tubular portion of grid 3 is reduced from about 38 millimeters to about 30 millimeters.

These two parameters influence the performance of the electrostatic focusing system in the following manner. In order to obtain satisfactory focusing with the reduced focusing-voltage range, it is desirable to make the electron beam more nearly parallel as it enters the focusing system. This may be accomplished by locating the unipotential lens system nearer to the cathode and thereby decreasing its focal length; for this reason grid 3 is shortened. However, it is not possible to shorten grid 3 indefinitely because a certain minimum length is required to insure ion trapping at normal operating voltages. To compensate for the impaired performance of the ion trap occasioned by shortening grid 3, the amount of lateral offset between grids 2 and 3 and the angle θ by which the entire electron gun is tilted with respect to the tube axis A—A may each be increased; however, increasing the angle of gun tilt results in an increase in the angle at which the beam enters the focusing system, resulting in greater astigmatism and/or coma, so that from this point of view the angle of gun tilt should be made as small as possible consistent with the requirement for ion-trapping with a single beam-bender magnet. The condition represented by the relationships set forth in the preceding paragraph has been found to provide good focusing while retaining ion trapping at reasonable operating voltages. In this connection, it is observed that the particular type of offset ion trap employed in the tube of Figure 1 has the important advantage over other types of ion-trap guns, such as that employing coaxial electrodes with a slanted aperture between grids 2 and 3, that a greater angle of gun tilt may be employed for a given amount of lens distortion since the cathode is closer to the tube axis. Moreover, the offset type of ion trap is free of the characteristic elliptical distortion associated with the coaxial slanted-aperture type.

For best results, it has been found that the apertures in grids 1, 2, 3 and 5 should be in marginally overlapping alignment in a direction par-

allel to the tube axis A—A. In other words, all of these apertures should intercept an imaginary straight line parallel to reference axis A—A, and the apertures in grids 1 and 2 should intercept that line asymmetrically. Fulfillment of this condition is dependent upon the angle θ by which the entire electron gun is tilted with respect to the tube axis, and also upon the length of the electron gun from the cathode to aperture 18 in diaphragm 17. If the angle θ and/or the length of the gun is increased to such an extent that the apertures in grids 1, 2, 3 and 5 are no longer in marginally overlapping alignment in a direction parallel to the tube axis, increased multiplicity of focus is encountered, and the performance of the focusing system is inferior. On the other hand, if the angle θ is decreased so that the apertures are in complete coaxial alignment, ion trapping may no longer be conveniently accomplished.

By employing a separate conductive disc 21 for establishing electrical contact to conductive coating 22, and by terminating conductive coating 22 at substantially the plane of the conductive disc 21, high potential gradients and undesirable spark discharge between the low-potential lens electrode 19 and the high-potential conductive coating 22 are substantially avoided. Moreover, even though this construction results in a space between grid 5 and conductive disc 21 in which the boundary potentials are not definitely established, no observable distortion or defocusing of the beam is encountered. The size of the aperture in conductive disc 21 is not critical but should be large with respect to the apertures in grids 3 and 5.

Moreover, conductive disc 21 serves as an effective getter shield to avoid conductive deposits on glass support pillars 24 when the getter 31 is flashed during the processing of the tube. In this manner, excessively high potential gradients along the insulating pillars and possible insulator breakdown are substantially avoided.

In the television receiver schematically illustrated in Figure 2, incoming composite television signals are received and separated into video-signal components and synchronizing-signal components by means of conventional receiver circuits 40 which may include a radio-frequency amplifier, an oscillator-converter, an intermediate-frequency amplifier, a video detector, a video amplifier and a synchronizing-signal separator, as well as suitable circuits for reproducing the sound portion of the received signal. The detected composite video signal from receiver circuits 40 is applied between the control electrode 14 and the grounded cathode 13 of an image-reproducing device 41 of the type shown in Figure 1. Synchronizing-signal components of the detected composite video signal are employed to drive a synchronizing system 42 of conventional construction which supplies the line-frequency and field-frequency deflection coils 43 and 44 with suitable scanning currents to control the scansions of the cathode-ray beam of device 41. A high-voltage power supply 45, which may also be of conventional construction, is employed to provide a suitable high operating voltage for the conductive coating 22 to which grids 3 and 5 are internally connected. Lens electrode 19 (grid 4) is connected to a variable tap 46 associated with a potentiometer resistor 47 connected between the receiver D. C. voltage supply source, conventionally designated B+, and ground. With the tube construction shown and

described in connection with Figure 1, optimum focus of the cathode-ray beam is achieved when the minimum glow of fluorescent coating 30 indicates precise ion-trap alignment and when the lens electrode 19 is operated at a potential substantially equal to that of the cathode 13.

While the invention has been described as having particular advantages in connection with a cathode-ray tube employing a unipotential electrostatic focusing lens system of the type in which the lens electrode is operated at a low potential equal to 5% or less of the final anode voltage, it is apparent that the invention may be applied to advantage in cathode-ray tubes employing other types of unipotential electrostatic focusing arrangements. Moreover, the invention may be employed in a cathode-ray tube having any type of electron gun, with or without provision for ion trapping.

While a particular embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described, it is apparent that various changes and modifications may be made, and it is therefore contemplated in the appended claims to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. An electrostatically focused image-reproducing device of the cathode-ray type comprising: an evacuated envelope having a neck portion and enclosing a target portion; an electron gun housed in said neck portion of said envelope for projecting an electron beam toward said target portion and including a cathode, a control electrode, and first and second accelerating electrodes; an electrostatic focusing system including a lens electrode and an additional electrode; a centrally apertured conductive disc disposed in said neck portion between said focusing system and said target portion; a conductive coating on the inner wall of said envelope extending from the direction of said target portion into said neck portion substantially only to the plane of said conductive disc; means establishing an electrical contact between said conductive disc and said conductive coating; and an electrical connection within said envelope between said additional electrode and said conductive disc.

2. An electrostatically focused image-reproducing device of the cathode-ray type comprising: an evacuated envelope having a neck portion and enclosing a target portion; an electron gun housed in said neck portion of said envelope for projecting an electron beam toward said target portion and including a cathode, a control electrode, and first and second accelerating electrodes; a unipotential electrostatic focusing system including said second accelerating electrode, a lens electrode, and an additional electrode; a centrally apertured conductive disc disposed in said neck portion between said focusing system and said target portion; a conductive coating on the inner wall of said envelope extending from the direction of said target portion into said neck portion substantially only to the plane of said conductive disc; means establishing an electrical contact between said conductive disc and said conductive coating; and an electrical connection within said envelope between said second accelerating electrode, said additional electrode, and said conductive disc.

3. An electrostatically focused image-reproducing device of the cathode-ray type comprising: an evacuated envelope having a neck portion and enclosing a target portion; an electron

gun housed in said neck portion of said envelope for projecting an electron beam toward said target portion and including a cathode, a control electrode, and first and second accelerating electrodes; and electrostatic focusing system including a lens electrode and an additional electrode; a centrally apertured conductive disc disposed in said neck portion between said focusing system and said target portion; a conductive coating on the inner wall of said envelope extending from the direction of said target portion into said neck portion substantially only to the plane of said conductive disc; means establishing an electrical contact between said conductive disc and said conductive coating; an electrical connection within said envelope between said additional electrode and said conductive disc; and a getter ring supported on the surface of said conductive disc facing said target portion.

JEROME J. O'CALLAGHAN. 20

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
2,058,194	Rudenberg	Oct. 27, 1936
2,070,319	Rudenberg	Feb. 9, 1937
2,210,127	Rogowski	Aug. 6, 1940
2,363,359	Ramo	Nov. 21, 1944
2,452,919	Gabor	Nov. 2, 1948
2,454,345	Rudenberg	Nov. 23, 1948
2,555,850	Glyptis	June 5, 1951

OTHER REFERENCES

Industrial Electronics and Control, by R. G. Kloeffler (copyright 1949), published by John W. Wiley & Co., p. 453, Fig. 2.