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Rearview device for vehicles with circuit board

Abstract

The present disclosure refers to a rearview device, in particular a rearview mirror device and/or a rearview display device, mountable on a vehicle through a mounting structure, the rearview device comprising: a rearview element including at least one of a reflective element and a display element; a circuit board for providing an electrical connection to at least one of the rearview element, a light module, a heating element, sensing means and a human machine interface; and a housing coupled with the mounting structure, wherein the housing provides a mounting coupling portion to which the mounting structure is connected and an internal space in which the circuit board is arranged, wherein at least one fastening member for coupling the housing and the mounting structure is engaged on the mounting coupling portion, wherein the circuit board is attached to the housing adjacent to the mounting coupling portion, and wherein the circuit board is arranged in the internal space of the housing so as to not interfere with the installation of the rearview device on the vehicle when the at least one of the fastening member is engaged on the mounting coupling portion.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) This application is a is a National Stage Entry of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2020/070820, filed on Jul. 23, 2020, which claims the benefit of priority to both German Patent Application No. DE 10 2019 120 396.1, filed on Jul. 29, 2019, and to U.S. application Ser. No. 16/524,953, filed on Jul. 29, 2019, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

(1) The present disclosure relates generally to rearview devices for vehicles and, more particularly, to a rearview mirror device mountable on a vehicle to provide a rear view to a driver.

2. Discussion of Related Art

(2) A rearview mirror device is a device mounted inside or outside a vehicle to provide a driver with a visual field of a region behind and/or at the sides of the vehicle.

(3) In addition, various elements may be installed in an internal space of the rearview mirror device so that useful information and convenience functions are provided to a driver and a passenger of the vehicle.

(4) Currently, many users prefer a rearview mirror device design that minimizes weight and volume while providing a wide sense of sight. Accordingly, bezel-less or thin-bezel type rearview mirror devices have been developed. These kinds of rearview mirror devices provide a wider field of view and decreased weight and volume due to a reduced bezel portion in the entire housing.

(5) Therefore, in order to provide such a rearview mirror device, a design capable of efficiently utilizing a limited space in an interior of the rearview mirror device and reducing the manufacturing cost is required.

SUMMARY

(6) The present disclosure is directed to a rearview device capable of efficiently utilizing a limited space in an interior space of the rearview device while providing a wider field of view to a driver.

(7) In one aspect, a rearview device mountable on a vehicle through a mounting structure includes a rearview element including at least one of a reflective element and a display element, preferably provided on at least one substrate; a circuit board for providing an electrical connection to at least one of the rearview element, a light module, a heating element, sensing means and a human machine interface; and a housing coupled with the mounting structure. The housing provides a mounting coupling portion to which the mounting structure is connected and an internal space in which the circuit board is arranged. At least one fastening member for coupling the housing and the

mounting structure is engaged on the mounting coupling portion. The circuit board is attached to the housing adjacent to the mounting coupling portion. The circuit board is arranged in the internal space of the housing so as to not interfere with the installation of the rearview device on the vehicle when the at least one of the fastening member is engaged on the mounting coupling portion.

(8) The circuit board may have a bent shape. Also the circuit board may include at least a first region and a second region. The first area and the second area may have different sizes.

(9) At least one sensor of the sensing means may be provided and may be disposed in the first region of the circuit board for detecting light received from the rearward of the vehicle.

(10) The at least a portion of the first region may be arranged adjacent to the at least one fastening member. The second region may be spaced apart from the at least one fastening member.

(11) The housing may further include at least one first protrusion for fastening the circuit board, and the circuit board may have a hole corresponding to each of the first protrusions, in particular for a fastening member to be connected with the respective first protrusion.

(12) The circuit board may include a first surface and a second surface, and a first distance from the first surface to a front surface of the rearview element may be less than or equal to a second distance from a top surface of the fastening element facing with the first surface to the front surface of the rearview element.

(13) An embodiment of the rearview device is characterized by at least one conductive spring for electrically connecting the circuit board with at least one of the rearview element, the light module, the heating element, the sensing means and the human machine interface, with preferably each conductive spring being at least partly arranged on a second protrusion, in particular surrounding at least a portion thereof, passing through an opening of the circuit board, contacting a first electrode and a second electrode, and/or tapering in the direction of the mounting structure or having a reduced diameter in the region passing through the opening of the circuit board.

(14) It is proposed that each first electrode is provided at the edge of one of the openings of the circuit board, and each second electrode is provided at the rearview element, the light module, the heating element, the sensing means or the human machine interface to be connected with the circuit board, and/or each second protrusion is provided with a reduced diameter portion surrounded by the reduced diameter portion of the respective conductive spring and a shoulder acting as a stop for the respective conductive spring.

(15) The rearview device may further include a housing cover disposed between the rearview element and the housing to support at least the rearview element. The housing cover may include a coated region having a predetermined reflectivity at least partially. The coated region preferably provides a bezel portion.

(16) A periphery of the housing may be formed to be larger than a periphery of the housing cover such that an edge of the housing is at least partially exposed to a driver of the vehicle.

(17) A peripheral region of the housing cover may include a first surface which is exposed to a driver of the vehicle and a second surface which is not exposed to the driver of the vehicle and received in the housing. There may be a step between the first surface and the second surface.

(18) At least one third protrusion may accommodate at least a part of the housing cover, and the housing cover may be provided with at least one groove or opening corresponding to each of the third protrusions.

(19) It is also proposed that each first, second and/or third protrusion is formed in or together with the housing.

(20) An adhesive element may be provided between the housing cover and the rearview element for attaching the rearview element to the housing cover.

(21) At least one opening may be formed in a front portion or a front plate of the housing cover such that the electrical connection between the rearview element, the light module, the heating element, the sensing means and/or the human machine interface on the one side and the circuit board on the other side is allowed through the opening.

- (22) The adhesive element may be formed with a groove at a position corresponding to the opening such that the electrical connection provided through the at least one opening formed in the housing cover is directly transmitted to the rearview element, the light module, the heating element, the sensing means and/or the human machine interface.
- (23) At least one hole may be formed in the housing so that at least one wire for providing the electrical connection provided from the vehicle to the circuit board may pass through the hole. The circuit board may be provided with at least one connecting member for connecting the at least one wire and at least one component disposed on the circuit board. At least one wire passing through the hole may be connected to the connecting member through an empty space between the mounting coupling portion and the circuit board.
- (24) The hole may be formed adjacent to the mounting coupling portion.
- (25) The connecting member may be attached to one surface of the circuit board in a first direction or a second direction.
- (26) The rearview device can comprise the light module, the heating element, the sensing means and/or the human machine interface.
- (27) In another aspect, a rearview mirror device mountable on a vehicle includes at least a first sensor and a second sensor for detecting light received from outside of the vehicle and a rearview element including a reflective element. An operating state of the reflective element is changed based on a signal detected from at least one of the first sensor and the second sensor. The rearview mirror device further includes a circuit board providing an electrical connection to the reflective element, a housing for providing an internal space for attaching the circuit board and an additional member between the circuit board and the housing for fixing the first sensor. At least one opening for guiding the light received from a front of the vehicle into the inside of the housing is formed on a rear cover of the housing. The additional member is disposed within a predetermined distance from the housing such that the first sensor directly receives the light entering through the opening.
- (28) The present disclosure also relates to a vehicle with at least one rearview device of the disclosure.
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Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present disclosure will become more apparent to those of ordinary skill in art by describing exemplary embodiments thereof in detail with reference to accompanying drawings, in which:
- (2) FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating an example of a rearview mirror device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (3) FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view for schematically illustrating each element of the rearview mirror device shown in FIG. 1;
- (4) FIG. 3 is a view illustrating an example of an internal structure of a housing according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (5) FIG. 4 is a view illustrating an example of the shape of a rear surface of the housing according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (6) FIG. 5 is a view illustrating an example of a state in which a circuit board is attached to the housing and arranged in an internal space of the housing according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (7) FIGS. 6 and 7 are views illustrating examples of the shape of the circuit board according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (8) FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of the shape of an opening according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

- (9) FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of a state in which a separate member is disposed according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (10) FIG. 10 is a view illustrating an example of the shape of the separate member according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (11) FIG. 11 is a see-through view illustrating each element mounted or coupled in the internal space of the housing according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (12) FIG. 12 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of a state in which the circuit board is disposed according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (13) FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of the shape of the housing according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (14) FIGS. 14 and 15 are views illustrating examples of the shape of a housing cover according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (15) FIG. 16 is a view illustrating an example of a structure in which the housing cover and a rearview element are disposed according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (16) FIG. 17 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of a coupling state between the housing and the housing cover according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (17) FIG. 18 is a view illustrating an example of an adhesive element according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (18) FIG. 19 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an alternative rearview device according to the present disclosure;
- (19) FIG. 20a is an enlarged view of a part of the cross-section of FIG. 19;
- (20) FIG. 20b is a side view of a conductive spring to be used with the rearview device of FIG. 19;
- (21) FIG. 20c is a cross-sectional view of one end of a protrusion formed with the housing of the rearview device of FIG. 19; and
- (22) FIG. 21a-f illustrate the mounting of the printed circuit board to the housing of the rearview device of FIG. 19.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- (23) The foregoing objects, features and advantages of the present disclosure will become more apparent from the following detailed description related to accompanying drawings. However, various modifications may be applied to the present disclosure, and the present disclosure may have various embodiments. Hereinafter, specific embodiments, which are illustrated in the drawings, will be described in detail.
- (24) In the drawings, the thicknesses of layers and regions are exaggerated for clarity. When it is indicated that an element or layer is “on” or “above” another element or layer, this includes a case in which another layer or element is interposed there between as well as a case in which the element or layer is directly above the other element or layer. In principle, like reference numerals designate like elements throughout the specification. In the following description, like reference numerals are used to designate elements which have the same function within the same idea illustrated in the drawings of each embodiment.
- (25) When detailed description of known functions or configurations related to the present disclosure is deemed to unnecessarily blur the gist of the disclosure, the detailed description thereof will be omitted. Also, numerals (e.g., first, second, etc.) used in the description herein are merely identifiers for distinguishing one element from another element.
- (26) In addition, the terms “module” and “unit” used to refer to elements in the following description are given or used in combination only in consideration of ease of writing the specification, and the terms themselves do not have distinct meanings or roles.
- (27) Furthermore, the use of a singular term, such as, “a” is not to be interpreted as limiting the number of components or details of particular components. Additionally, various terms and/or phrases describing or indicating a position or directional reference such as, but not limited to, “top”, “bottom”, “front”, “rear”, “forward”, “rearward”, “end”, “outer”, “inner”, “left”, “right”,

“vertical”, “horizontal”, etc. may relate to one or more particular components as seen generally from a user's vantage point during use or operation, and such terms and/or phrases are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a representative basis for describing the disclosure to one skilled in the art.

(28) Hereinafter, elements of a rearview device in form of a rearview mirror device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, see FIGS. **1** to **18**; and further elements of a rearview device according to another embodiment of the present disclosure will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. **19** to **21f**.

(29) In the specification, “rearview device” is an interior mirror for vehicles that is mounted on an inner surface of a vehicle windshield to provide a field of view behind the vehicle to a driver.

(30) Also, in the specification, the “rearview device” may further provide the driver of the vehicle with an anti-glare function related to light entering from the behind the vehicle.

(31) Also, in the specification, the “rearview device” may further provide various additional functions, and various components for providing the additional functions may be integrated in the interior of the device.

(32) For example, the various components may include a sensing means providing a humidity or temperature sensor configured to detect environment in an interior of the vehicle, a camera sensor or a motion sensor configured to monitor motion and/or condition of the driver of the vehicle, and/or a compass sensor, a display unit configured to provide the driver of the vehicle with various pieces of information, a human machine interface in particular with a microphone, a wireless communication unit (e.g., Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, etc.), and an antenna, a navigation system, and an input module (e.g., a button, a touch sensor, or the like), a module for payment of various fees such as a highway toll, an interface for controlled area network (CAN) communication, a light module, corresponding to each of the above-described functions.

(33) Meanwhile, the various components for providing the additional functions may be disposed on one or more circuit boards which will be described below. Alternatively, the input module corresponding to each of the above-described functions may be provided on a housing, a housing cover, or a rearview element which will be described below.

(34) FIG. **1** is a perspective view illustrating an example of a rearview mirror device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. Also, FIG. **2** is an exploded perspective view for schematically illustrating each element of the rearview mirror device illustrated in FIG. **1**.

(35) Referring to FIGS. **1** and **2**, a rearview mirror device **1000** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may be coupled to a mounting structure **1100** and mounted on a vehicle windshield.

(36) Here, the mounting structure **1100** is a configuration for fixing the rearview mirror device **1000** to the windshield at a front surface of the vehicle.

(37) For example, as illustrated in FIG. **2**, the mounting structure **1100** may include a first mounting bracket **1110** coupled to the rearview mirror device **1000**, a second mounting bracket **1120** coupled to the vehicle windshield, a connecting element **1115** configured to connect the first mounting bracket and the second mounting bracket, and the like.

(38) For example, that is, the mounting structure **1100** and the rearview mirror device **1000** may be coupled to each other via at least the first mounting bracket **1110**, the second mounting bracket **1120**, and the connecting element **1115**. Therefore, the mounting structure **1100** may serve as a support structure for safely fixing the rearview mirror device **1000** to the front surface of the vehicle.

(39) Also, for example, the first mounting bracket **1110** and the second mounting bracket **1120** may further include a connecting structure (not illustrated) so that the rearview mirror device **1000** is rotatable vertically and/or horizontally within a preset angle range while being attached to the windshield of the vehicle.

(40) In other words, the mounting structure **1100** may provide a rotational force so that the direction, angle, or the like of the rearview mirror device **1000** is adjustable according to a user's needs.

(41) Therefore, the driver of the vehicle may adjust the direction, angle, or the like of the rearview mirror device **1000**, which is mounted on an inner surface of the windshield, appropriately.

(42) Hereinafter, each element of the rearview mirror device according to a first embodiment of the present disclosure will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. **2** to **17**.

(43) Referring to FIG. **2**, the rearview mirror device **1000** according to a first embodiment of the present disclosure may include a housing **1200**, a circuit board **1250**, a housing cover **1300**, an adhesive element **1400**, a rearview element **1500**, and the like.

(44) The housing **1200** is a configuration for accommodating the circuit board **1250**, the housing cover **1300**, the adhesive element **1400**, the rearview element **1500**, and the like.

(45) For example, the housing **1200** may include various coupling structures disposed inside and outside the housing **1200** so that the housing **1200** directly or indirectly accommodates the above-mentioned elements.

(46) Also, for example, the housing **1200** may be designed to facilitate assembly of the elements while accommodating the elements in a compact manner.

(47) The entire shape of the housing **1200** will be described below, and a coupling structure for mounting each element will be described in detail in the description of the corresponding element.

(48) FIG. **3** is a view illustrating an example of an internal structure of the housing **1200** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure, and FIG. **4** is a view illustrating an example of the shape of a rear surface of the housing **1200** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(49) Referring to FIGS. **3** and **4**, a mounting coupling portion **1210** for fastening the above-described mounting structure **1100** may be provided in the housing **1200**.

(50) For example, the mounting coupling portion **1210** may be formed at a central portion of the housing **1200**, and the mounting structure **1100** may be coupled to the central portion of the housing **1200** via the mounting coupling portion **1210** and stably support the housing **1200**.

(51) That is, the rearview mirror device **1000** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may be safely fixed to an upper portion of the vehicle windshield while being coupled to the above-described mounting structure **1100**.

(52) Also, for example, the mounting coupling portion **1210** may have a shape corresponding to that of the above-described first mounting bracket **1110**.

(53) For example, as described in FIG. **4**, a groove **1210R** to which the first mounting bracket **1110** is coupled may be provided in the rear surface of the housing **1200**.

(54) Referring to FIG. **4**, the groove **1210R** may be formed to be concave.

(55) The groove **1210R** which may be formed to be concave may guide an accurate attachment position of the first mounting bracket **1110** and allow the first mounting bracket **1110** to be stably coupled to the housing **1200**.

(56) On the other hand, referring to FIG. **3**, a mounting coupling portion **1210F** at an internal side of the housing **1200** may be formed to be convex.

(57) In this case, the first mounting bracket **1110** may be mounted on the mounting coupling portion **1210F** via additional fastening members **1230** and **1231**.

(58) For example, as illustrated in FIG. **2**, a plurality of screws **1231** may be provided at the mounting coupling portion **1210**, and the first mounting bracket **1110** and the housing **1200** may be firmly coupled to each other by screw coupling.

(59) Also, as illustrated in FIG. **3**, a plurality of openings **1211**, **1212**, and **1213** for fastening the plurality of screws **1231** may be formed on the mounting coupling portion **1210**.

(60) Also, referring to FIG. **2**, an additional connecting member **1230** for coupling between the first mounting bracket **1110** and the housing **1200** may be further provided at the mounting coupling portion **1210**.

(61) For example, the connecting member **1230** may be disposed between the first mounting bracket **1110** and the housing **1200** and prevent damages to the housing **1200** when the first mounting bracket **1110** and the housing **1200** are fastened to each other by the above-described plurality of screws **1231**.

(62) Therefore, by the plurality of screws **1231** and the additional connecting member **1230**, the first mounting bracket **1110** and the housing **1200** may maintain a state of being stably and firmly coupled to the upper portion of the vehicle windshield.

(63) Also, referring to FIG. 4, at least one opening **1265** configured to guide light entering from the front of the vehicle to an inside of the housing **1200** may be formed in the rear surface of the housing **1200**.

(64) For example, the opening **1265** may have a structure recessed toward the interior of the housing **1200** in order to collect light entering from the front of the vehicle.

(65) Also, referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, at least one hole **1215** for allowing one or more wires W, which are configured to provide electrical connection to an interior of the rearview mirror device **1000**, to pass there through may be formed in the housing **1200**.

(66) For example, the rearview mirror device **1000** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may employ an electrical connection for providing various additional functions to the driver via the rearview mirror device **1000**. In this case, the electrical connection may be provided from an electronic device disposed in the interior of the vehicle.

(67) Also, for example, the additional functions may be related to a display unit configured to provide the driver of the vehicle with various pieces of information, a communication module configured to perform communication with another electronic device disposed inside and/or outside of the vehicle, a module configured to provide a global positioning system (GPS) function, a module for payment of various transportation fees such as a highway toll, and the like.

(68) Also, the at least one hole **1215** may be formed in an arbitrary position of the housing **1200** and may have a shape and size that allow the one or more wires to pass there through.

(69) For example, referring to FIG. 3, the hole **1215** may be formed adjacent to the above-described mounting coupling portion **1210**.

(70) Therefore, the one or more wires W may pass through the hole **1215** along the above-described mounting structure **1100**, and the one or more wires W which passed through the hole **1215** may be connected to the circuit board **1250** which will be described below.

(71) FIG. 5 is a view illustrating an example of an attachment position of a circuit board according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(72) As illustrated in FIG. 5, one or more circuit boards may be mounted in an interior of the above-described housing **1200**.

(73) Here, the circuit board is a configuration for mounting various modules, which are configured to provide the driver with various additional functions via the rearview mirror device **1000**.

(74) For example, the one or more circuit boards **1250** may be printed circuit boards (PCBs) or flexible printed circuit boards (FPCBs) and may be one-sided or two-sided.

(75) Also, for example, one or a plurality of circuit boards may be disposed or otherwise arranged in the internal space of the housing **1200** in order to effectively utilize the limited space in the interior of the housing **1200**.

(76) The rearview mirror device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may include a single circuit board **1250**.

(77) That is, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the single circuit board **1250** may be arranged in the internal space of the housing **1200**, and the circuit board **1250** may be a PCB.

(78) In this case, one or more sensor modules, control modules, or the like may be disposed on the circuit board **1250**.

(79) For example, at least one or more of a first sensor module (not illustrated) and a second sensor module (not illustrated) may be disposed on the circuit board **1250**.

(80) In this case, the first sensor module and/or the second sensor module may be a sensor configured to detect light received from the rear of the vehicle.

(81) Alternatively, the first sensor module and/or the second sensor module may be a sensor configured to detect light received from the front of the vehicle.

(82) Also, the control module (not illustrated) may control various functions provided via the rearview mirror device **1000**.

(83) For example, the control module may adjust a reflective state of the rearview element **1500**, which will be described below, on the basis of a signal received from the first sensor module and the second sensor module.

(84) As another example, the control module may further adjust a reflective state of a rearview mirror device (not illustrated) mounted outside the vehicle on the basis of a signal received from the first sensor module and the second sensor module. The adjustment of the reflective state of the rearview element **1500** will be described in detail below in the relevant section below.

(85) Alternatively, for example, a display unit configured to display various pieces of information may be further installed in the rearview mirror device **1000**. In this case, the control module may adjust an operating state of the display unit on the basis of a signal received from the first sensor module and the second sensor module.

(86) Hereinafter, the attachment position and shape of the above-described circuit board **1250** will be described in detail.

(87) Additionally, FIG. 5 is a view illustrating an example of a state in which a circuit board is attached to the housing and arranged in an internal space of the housing according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(88) In the rearview mirror device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure, the attachment position and shape of the circuit board may be modified in various ways in order to efficiently integrate various components in the interior of the device.

(89) For example, the attachment position of the circuit board **1250** may be determined in consideration of ease in coupling with the above-described one or more wires W.

(90) Alternatively, for example, the attachment position of the circuit board **1250** may be determined in consideration of the positional relationship with the components for providing various additional functions.

(91) Alternatively, for example, the attachment position of the circuit board **1250** may be determined in consideration of attachment positions of the above-described first sensor module and second sensor module.

(92) Referring to FIG. 5, the circuit board **1250** may be disposed adjacent to the above-described mounting coupling portion **1210**.

(93) This is to prevent the circuit board **1250** from interfering with coupling between the housing **1200** and the above-described mounting structure **1100** when at least one of the above-described fastening members **1230** and **1231** is fastened to the mounting coupling portion **1210** of the housing **1200**.

(94) In other words, the circuit board **1250** may be disposed so as to not interfere with mounting of the mounting structure **1100** and the housing **1200** on the vehicle windshield.

(95) Also, the circuit board **1250** may be designed in various forms so that, when at least one of the above-described fastening members **1230** and **1231** is fastened to the mounting coupling portion **1210**, the circuit board **1250** does not interfere with the housing **1200** being coupled to the above-described mounting structure **1100** and being mounted on the vehicle.

(96) Alternatively, the circuit board **1250** may be designed to be mounted in a compact manner in the above-described internal space of the housing **1200**, thereby minimizing the volume of the housing **1200**.

(97) FIGS. 6 and 7 are views illustrating examples of the shape of the circuit board according to a first embodiment of the present disclosure.

(98) For example, the circuit board according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may be formed in a bent shape in order to secure a predetermined region for coupling between the mounting coupling portion **1210** and the mounting structure **1100**,

(99) Referring to FIGS. **6** and **7**, the circuit board **1250** may be divided into a first region **A1** and a second region **A2** or into a first region **B1** and a second region **B2**.

(100) For example, the first regions **A1** and **B1** and the second regions **A2** and **B2** may have different sizes.

(101) Also, for example, as illustrated in FIG. **6**, at least a portion of the first region **A1** may be disposed adjacent to the mounting coupling portion **1210** disposed at the central portion of the housing **1200**.

(102) Also, for example, the first regions **A1** and **B1** may be a region in which the above-described at least one first sensor module is disposed.

(103) For example, it may be desirable that the first regions **A1** and **B1** of the circuit board **1250** be disposed at an appropriate position for the first sensor module to detect light entering from the rear of the vehicle.

(104) Also, for example, the first regions **A1** and **B1** may be disposed to be adjacent to at least one of the plurality of fastening members **1231**.

(105) That is, the first regions **A1** and **B1** may be disposed so as to not interfere with the at least one of the above-described fastening members **1230** and **1231** being fastened to the mounting coupling portion **1210**.

(106) Also, referring to FIG. **6**, the second regions **A2** and **B2** may be disposed to be spaced a predetermined distance apart from the mounting coupling portion **1210**.

(107) For example, the above-described one or more wires **W** may enter the housing **1200** via a predetermined space provided between the second regions **A2** and **B2** and the mounting coupling portion **1210**.

(108) Also, for example, at least one second sensor module configured to detect light entering from the front of the vehicle may be disposed in the second regions **A2** and **B2**.

(109) In this case, referring to FIG. **4**, the second sensor module may be mounted at a position corresponding to the opening **1265** formed in a rear cover of the above-described housing **1200**. In this case, the second sensor module may directly receive light collected from the opening **1265**.

(110) Therefore, the shape and arrangement of the circuit board **1250** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may be determined within the range in which the circuit board **1250** does not interfere with coupling between the housing **1200** and the mounting structure **1100**, in consideration of appropriate positions for installing modules required for providing various functions via the rearview mirror device **1000**.

(111) However, when, as described above, the second sensor module for detecting light entering from the front of the vehicle is mounted on the circuit board **1250**, it may be difficult to collect a sufficient amount of light required for the second sensor module to operate normally, according to a distance between the circuit board **1250** and the opening **1265**.

(112) Therefore, in a rearview mirror device according to another embodiment of the present disclosure, a separate member for mounting the second sensor module on a lower portion of the circuit board may be further provided so that the second sensor module is able to receive a sufficient amount of light collected via the above-described opening **1265**.

(113) In other words, by disposing a separate member for mounting the second sensor module on the lower portion of the circuit board, it is possible to adjust a distance between the second sensor module and the opening **1265**.

(114) Hereinafter, a structure for allowing the second sensor module to receive a sufficient amount of light collected via the above-described opening **1265** will be described in detail.

(115) FIG. **8** is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of the shape of an opening according to an embodiment of the present disclosure, and FIG. **9** is a cross-sectional view illustrating an

example of a state in which a separate member is disposed according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 10 is a view illustrating an example of the shape of the separate member according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(116) As described above with reference to FIG. 4, at least one opening **1265** configured to guide light entering from the front of the vehicle to the interior of the housing **1200** may be formed at the rear surface of the housing **1200**.

(117) Referring to FIG. 8, the opening **1265** may have a three-dimensional shape that is recessed toward the interior of the housing **1200** in order to collect light entering from the front of the vehicle.

(118) For example, a cross-sectional area of the opening **1265** may gradually decrease toward the interior of the housing **1200**.

(119) Also, for example, as illustrated in FIG. 8, the shape of the opening **1265** may be asymmetrical.

(120) That is, light entering from the front of the vehicle may be collected into the interior of the housing **1200** through the opening **1265** formed in the rear cover of the housing **1200**, and the second sensor module disposed in the interior of the housing **1200** may detect the light entering from the front of the vehicle.

(121) Therefore, the above-described control module may control various functions provided via the rearview mirror device **1000** on the basis of detected values collected from the second sensor module.

(122) Also, as described above, in order to allow a sufficient amount of light entering through the opening **1265** to be collected into the second sensor module, there is a need to adjust a distance between the opening and the second sensor module.

(123) For example, in order to adjust the distance between the opening **1265** and the second sensor module, a separate member **1260** on which the second sensor module is mounted may be disposed in parallel with the lower portion of the above-described circuit board **1250**.

(124) Referring to FIG. 9, the separate member **1260** may be disposed within a predetermined distance from a lower surface of the opening **1265** so that a second sensor module **S1** directly receives light entering through the opening **1265**.

(125) For example, the separate member **1260** may be disposed between the housing **1200** and the circuit board **1250**. That is, as illustrated in FIG. 9, the separate member **1260** may be spaced a predetermined distance **d5** apart from the circuit board **1250** and disposed at the lower portion of the circuit board **1250**.

(126) Alternatively, for example, the separate member **1260** may be installed so that the second sensor module attached to an upper portion of the separate member **1260** is disposed within a predetermined distance **d6** from the lower surface of the opening **1265** formed in the housing **1200**.

(127) In this case, the separate member **1260** may be fixed to the lower portion of the circuit board **1250** via at least one connecting member **1264**.

(128) For example, as illustrated in FIG. 10, the at least one connecting member **1264** may pass through the separate member **1260** and be fixed to the interior of the housing **1200**.

(129) Also, for example, the at least one connecting member may include a connecting portion **1264** configured to maintain an electrical connection with the circuit board **1250**.

(130) In this case, at least one of the first sensor module and the second sensor module may be disposed at a front surface portion of the circuit board **1250**.

(131) Therefore, the control module (not illustrated) may adjust a chromic state of the rearview element **1500**, on the basis of detected values received from the first sensor module and the second sensor module attached to the upper portions of the circuit board **1250** and the separate member **1260**.

(132) FIG. 11 is a see-through view for illustrating each element mounted or coupled in the internal space of the housing according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(133) Referring to FIG. 11, at least one connecting member **1255** configured to allow the one or more wires **W**, which passed through the above-described hole **1215**, to connect the one or more components disposed on the circuit board **1250** may be further provided on the above-described circuit board **1250**.

(134) For example, the one or more wires **W** which passed through the hole **1215** may pass through an empty space between the above-described mounting coupling portion **1210F** and the circuit board **1250** and be connected to the connecting member.

(135) For example, the connecting member **1255** may be spaced a predetermined distance apart from the mounting coupling portion **1210F** and attached to upper portions of the first regions **A1** and **B1** on the circuit board **1250**.

(136) As another example, the connecting member **1255** may be attached to upper portions of the second regions **A2** and **B2** on the circuit board **1250** adjacent to the mounting coupling portion **1210F**.

(137) As still another example, the connecting member **1255** may be attached in a first direction to one side surface of the first region.

(138) As yet another example, the connecting member **1255** may be attached in a second direction to one side surface of the second region.

(139) Also, for example, the above-described first sensor module may be attached to a first surface on the circuit board **1250**, and the connecting member **1255** may be disposed at an arbitrary position on a second surface which is opposite the first surface.

(140) Also, as illustrated in FIG. 11, a structure **1253** configured to support the circuit board **1250** may be further provided so that the circuit board **1250** may be fixed or otherwise attached to the housing **1200** in the internal space of the housing **1200**.

(141) Also, as described above, in order to provide a compact, lightweight rearview mirror device, there is a need for the above-described circuit board **1250** to be mounted in a compact manner in the internal space of the housing **1200**.

(142) FIG. 12 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of a state in which the circuit board **1250** is disposed according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(143) Referring to FIG. 12, the circuit board **1250** according to the first embodiment of the present disclosure may be disposed to be adjacent to at least one of the plurality of screws **1231** fastened to the mounting coupling portion **1210**.

(144) That is, the circuit board **1250** may be disposed so as to not interfere with the coupling between the mounting coupling portion **1210** and the mounting structure while being mounted in a compact manner in the internal space of the housing **1200**.

(145) For example, the circuit board **1250** may include a first surface facing a top of the screw **1231** and a second surface opposite the first surface. As illustrated in FIG. 12, a first distance **d1** from the front surface portion of the rearview element **1500** to the first surface of the circuit board **1250** may be less than or equal to a second distance **d2** from the front surface portion of the rearview element **1500** to an upper surface of the screw **1231**.

(146) Meanwhile, referring to FIG. 3, one or more protrusions **1251**, **1252**, and **1253** configured to fasten the circuit board **1250** may be formed at the housing **1200**. Also, as described in FIG. 6, each hole **1251C** corresponding to the protrusion **1251** is formed on the circuit board **1250**.

(147) Therefore, the circuit board **1250** may be fixed or otherwise attached to the housing **1200** through the one or more protrusions **1251**, **1252**, and **1253**.

(148) FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of the shape of the housing according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(149) As described above, the housing **1200** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may be designed to minimize the volume while providing an internal space for directly accommodating the mounting coupling portion and the circuit board.

(150) For example, as illustrated in FIG. 13, the rear cover of the housing **1200** may be bent by a

predetermined angle.

(151) In this case, a vertical distance $dh1$ from the center of the rearview element **1500** to the rear cover of the housing **1200** may be larger than a vertical distance $dh2$ from both side corners of the rearview element **1500** to the rear cover of the housing **1200**.

(152) A coupling structure for coupling with other elements formed in the interior of the housing **1200** will be described in detail below along with the description of the relevant elements.

(153) FIGS. **14** and **15** are views illustrating examples of the shape of the housing cover **1300** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(154) As described above with reference to FIG. **2**, the housing cover **1300** is a configuration for supporting the rearview element **1500**, which will be described below, and may be disposed between the rearview element **1500** and the housing **1200**.

(155) Referring to FIG. **14**, the housing cover **1300** may include a front plate **1301**, a bezel portion **1303**, a housing coupling portion **1305**, and the like.

(156) For example, the rearview element **1500** may be attached to the front plate **1301**, and the bezel portion **1303** may be at least partially exposed to the outside.

(157) In this case, the bezel portion **1303** may be formed along a periphery of the front plate **1301**, and the rearview element **1500** may be accommodated in a predetermined space defined by the front plate **1301** and the bezel portion **1303**.

(158) Therefore, the housing cover **1300** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may support the rearview element **1500** and, as illustrated in FIG. **1**, may have a form in which the bezel portion **1303** of the housing cover **1300** is exposed to the outside.

(159) Also, the housing cover **1300** may be made of a plastic material and may be transparent or colored.

(160) For example, the housing cover **1300** may be formed or molded from a polymer substrate.

(161) For example, the bezel portion **1303** may include a transparent or at least partially coated region.

(162) That is, the bezel portion **1303** may be formed of a transparent material or coated with a material having a predetermined reflectivity such that blocking of the driver's view due to the bezel portion **1303** is minimized.

(163) For example, the bezel portion **1303** may be at least partially coated by decorative coating, advanced surface technology (AST) surface coating, and a spectrally controlling system.

(164) For example, the coating material may be a chromium-based material.

(165) The chromium-based coating may be an alloy of chromium and a dopant material, the dopant material being selected from hexagonally close-packed transition metals, the alloy having a crystal structure of a primary body-centered cubic phase in coexistence with a secondary omega hexagonally close-packed phase.

(166) For example, the entire bezel portion **1303** of the housing cover **1300** may be coated with a material having a predetermined reflectivity.

(167) As another example, for example, only a partial region of the bezel portion **1303** of the housing cover **1300** may be coated with a material having a predetermined reflectivity.

(168) As still another example, a separate member (not illustrated) having a predetermined reflectivity may be coupled to a corner portion of the housing cover **1300**. For example, the separate member may be coated with transparent plastic or a chromium-based material.

(169) Also, referring to FIGS. **14** and **15**, one or more openings **1331**, **1333**, **1335**, **1337**, **1341**, **1351**, and **1361** may be formed in the front plate **1301** of the housing cover **1300** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(170) For example, one or more openings may be provided in order to provide the rearview element **1500** with the electrical connection provided from the above-described circuit board **1250**.

(171) For example, a first opening **1331** and a second opening **1333** may be formed at both left and right sides of the front plate **1301**, and an electrical connection which passes through the first

opening **1331** and the second opening **1333**, may be provided to the rearview element **1500**.
(172) FIG. **16** is a view illustrating an example of a structure in which the housing cover **1300** and the rearview element **1500**, which will be described below, are disposed according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(173) For example, referring to FIG. **16**, at least one fourth opening **1337** may be formed in one side of the front plate **1301** so that an electrical connection element (FPCB), which is provided at one side of the rearview element **1500** and extends toward the circuit board **1250**, may pass through the fourth opening **1337**.

(174) Also, for example, one end of the electrical connection element (FPCB) extending from the rearview element **1500** may be attached to the one side of the front plate **1301**.

(175) For example, a groove **1370** to which the one end of the electrical connection element (FPCB) is attached may be further formed at an arbitrary position on the front plate **1301**. In this case, the groove **1370** may guide a position at which the one end of the electrical connection element (FPCB) is attached.

(176) Also, for example, the fourth opening **1337** may be formed adjacent to the groove **1370**.

(177) Therefore, the one end of the electrical connection element (FPCB) extending from the rearview element **1500** may be attached to the groove **1370**, and the other end of the electrical connection element (FPCB) may be connected to the above-described circuit board **1250** via the fourth opening **1337**.

(178) Also, for example, in order to allow the above-described sensor to detect light entering from the rear of the vehicle, a third opening **1335** may be further provided at a position corresponding to the position at which the sensor is attached in the front plate **1301**.

(179) Therefore, light entering from the rear of the vehicle may pass through the third opening **1335** and the sensor may receive the light.

(180) Meanwhile, as described above, one or more protrusions **1251** configured to fasten the circuit board **1250** may be formed in the interior of the housing **1200**, and one or more openings **1341**, **1351**, and **1361** may be formed at positions corresponding to the one or more protrusions **1251** in the housing cover **1300**.

(181) When the above-described circuit board **1250** is attached to the housing **1200** in the internal space of the housing **1200**, since the circuit board **1250** is fastened by a separate fastening member, the one or more openings **1341**, **1351**, and **1361** are formed in order to prevent portions that protrude due to coupling of the fastening member from interfering with the housing cover **1300**.

(182) For example, referring to FIG. **14**, one or more grooves may be further formed in a rear surface of the housing cover **1300**.

(183) For example, as illustrated in FIG. **14**, grooves **1340**, **1350**, and **1360** may be respectively formed at positions corresponding to the one or more openings **1341**, **1351**, and **1361**, and a predetermined step may be formed between the housing cover **1300** and the one or more openings **1341**, **1351**, and **1361**.

(184) In this case, the grooves **1340**, **1350**, and **1360** may have a size or area larger than that of the openings **1341**, **1351**, and **1361** respectively corresponding thereto.

(185) Meanwhile, the housing **1200** and the housing cover **1300** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may be coupled without a separate fastening member.

(186) For example, in order to allow the housing cover **1300** to be fitted to the above-described housing **1200**, a separate coupling structure may be formed in the housing **1200** and the housing cover **1300**.

(187) As described above with reference to FIG. **3**, in the housing **1200**, a plurality of protrusions **1320A** may be formed at predetermined intervals along a periphery of the interior of the housing **1200** for fastening with the housing cover **1300**.

(188) In this case, the housing coupling portion **1305** formed along a periphery of the housing cover **1300** may be coupled by being fitted to the plurality of protrusions **1320A** formed along the

periphery of the interior of the housing **1200**.

(189) For example, referring to FIG. **15**, a periphery of the housing coupling portion **1306** may be formed to be less than a periphery of the above-described bezel portion **1303**.

(190) Therefore, the housing coupling portion **1305** of the housing cover **1300** may be coupled to the interior of the housing, and only the bezel portion **1303** may be exposed to the outside.

(191) Also, for example, referring to FIG. **15**, the housing coupling portion **1305** may include a plurality of concave portions **1321** and convex portions **1323**, and the concave portions **1321** and the convex portions **1323** may be formed at preset intervals. In this case, an opening **1320B** may be formed in each convex portion **1323**.

(192) For example, the openings **1320B** may be formed at position corresponding to the plurality of protrusions **1320A** formed along the periphery of the interior of the housing **1200**, and, by the protrusions **1320A** being fitted to the openings **1320B**, a coupling force between the housing **1200** and the housing coupling portion **1305** may be maintained.

(193) As another example, in the interior of the housing **1200**, protrusions **1310** may be further formed at predetermined intervals along the periphery of the interior of the housing **1200**. Therefore, the protrusions **1310** may serve to support the housing cover **1300** so that coupling between the housing **1200** and the housing cover **1300** is maintained.

(194) FIG. **17** is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of a coupling state between the housing and the housing cover according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(195) As illustrated in FIG. **17**, the housing **1200** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may be formed to be larger than the housing cover **1300** which will be described below.

(196) For example, a peripheral length of the housing **1200** may be formed to be larger than a peripheral length of the housing cover **1300**.

(197) Alternatively, for example, as illustrated in FIG. **17**, a predetermined step PH may be present between the housing **1200** and the housing cover **1300**.

(198) In this case, a peripheral surface extending from the housing **1200** toward the housing cover **1300** may form a naturally curved surface.

(199) Therefore, at least a portion of the periphery of the housing **1200** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may be exposed to the driver.

(200) FIG. **18** is a view illustrating an example of an adhesive element according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(201) The adhesive element **1400** may be a configuration for attaching the rearview element **1500** to the front plate **1301** of the above-described housing cover **1300**.

(202) Also, the adhesive element **1400** is required to be formed with a material and size capable of providing a fixing force that allows the rearview element **1500** to be stably supported by the housing cover **1300**.

(203) For example, the adhesive element **1400** may be a double-sided tape.

(204) Also, referring to FIG. **18**, in the adhesive element **1400** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure, grooves **1410**, **1420**, **1430**, and **1440** may be formed at positions corresponding to the plurality of openings **1331**, **1333**, **1335**, and **1337** formed in the above-described housing cover **1300**.

(205) This is because there is a need to form a groove having an appropriate size at the corresponding position even in the adhesive element **1400** in order to transmit the electrical connection provided from the circuit board **1250** to the rearview element **1500** as described above with reference to FIG. **14**.

(206) In the following elements of an alternative rearview device **2000** of the present disclosure will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. **19** to **21f**.

(207) Referring to FIG. **19**, the rearview device **2000** comprises a housing **2200** carrying a housing cover **2300**, which in turn carries a rearview element **2500**, which can comprise a reflective element and a display element (not shown). The rearview element **2500** is attached to the housing

cover **2300** via an adhesive element **2400**, preferably in form of a double sided tape.

(208) A driver looking at the rearview element **2500** will not only see the periphery of the housing cover **2300**, providing a bezel, but also an edge region of the housing **2200**.

(209) Between the housing **2200** and the housing cover **2300** a circuit board **2250** is arranged. Two conductive springs **2601**, **2602** connect the printed circuit board **2250** with the display element of the rearview element **2500**, as further illustrated in FIG. **20a**. According to FIG. **20a** the printed circuit board **2250** is provided with two openings **2252**, **2253** for the two conductive springs **2601**, **2602** for passing through. Each conductive spring **2601**, **2602** is carried on a protrusion **2611**, **2612** formed together with the housing **2200**.

(210) Further details of the geometry of the conductive springs **2601**, **2602** as well as the protrusions **2611**, **2612** are illustrated in FIGS. **20b** and **20c**. Accordingly, each conductive spring **2600** can be provided with a reduced diameter portion **2603** to pass through the respective opening **2252**, **2253** of the circuit board **2250**, whereas each protrusion **2610** may be formed with a reduced diameter portion **2613** in order to provide a shoulder **2614** acting as a stop for the conductive spring **2600** carried thereon.

(211) Returning to FIG. **19**, the electric contact between the printed circuit board **2250** on the one side and the display element of the rearview element **2500** on the other side is archived via electrodes **2613** to **2616**. First electrodes **2613**, **2614** are provided at the edges of the openings **2252**, **2253** of the printed circuit board **2250**, whereas second electrodes **2615**, **2616** are provided on the rearview element **2500** at its side facing the housing cover **2300**, such that an electric connection is automatically provided as soon as the conductive springs **2601**, **2602** are arranged as shown in FIG. **20a**, with the benefit of avoiding any wires between the printed circuit board **2250** and the rearview element **2500**.

(212) Existing wire connection methods for power connection between a printed circuit board and a rearview element as well as a light module, a heating element, sensing means and/or a human machine, if existing, have the following difficulties. Difficulty in assembling due to wire length, poor operation due to wire damage due to interference or wire pressure between wire and structure during assembly, and noise due to wire wobble when vibration occurs in the vehicle.

(213) In order to solve these problems, a spring connector in form of the conductive springs **2600**, **2601**, **2602** is installed. Through this, it is possible to solve the convenience of assembly, poor operation due to wire pressing, and noise.

(214) Further, the usage of the conductive springs **2600**, **2601**, **2602** reduces costs due to increased production efficiency with convenience of assembly and packaging. In the following, the installation of the printed circuit board **2250** as well as the conductive springs **2601**, **2602** within the housing **2200** is described with reference to FIG. **21a** to FIG. **21f**:

(215) FIG. **21a** provides a front view of the housing **2200** to which the mounting structure **2100** is attached via fastening members **2230**, **2231**. The housing **2200** is provided with a hole **2215** for a wire (not shown) as described with respect to the rearview device **1000** above. Still further, the housing **2200**, as better seen in FIG. **21b**, is formed with a protrusion **2251** for carrying the printed circuit board **2250**, and two protrusions **2611**, **2612** for extending through the printed circuit board **2500**.

(216) FIG. **21c** shows the housing **2200** with the circuit board **2250** attached hereto, with further details being shown in FIG. **21d**. Accordingly, a fastening member **2255** passes through an opening of the printed circuit board **2250** into the protrusion **2251** for attachment, whereas the protrusions **2611** and **2612** extend through the openings **2252** and **2253** of the printed circuit board **2250**.

(217) The conductive springs **2601**, **2602** are mounted such that their respective reduced diameter portion passes through the respective opening **2252**, **2253** and can be inserted until abutting against the shoulder of the respective protrusion **2611**, **2612** while surrounding the reduced diameter portions thereof, resulting in the structure shown in FIG. **21e**, with further details shown in FIG. **21f**.

- (218) In a next step the housing cover **2300** carrying the rearview element **2500** can be attached to the housing **2200** to complete the assembly and reach the structure shown in FIG. **19**, without any complicated measures for answering electric power transfer.
- (219) It is to be understood that the conductive spring can take various shapes and can be installed on the printed circuit board in different manners, not restricted to the hole type structure as describes above, but also in all kind of different attachment methods known to the person skilled in the art, for example via a surface mounting device.
- (220) The number of electrodes is basically implemented as two poles, but it is also possible to add or reduce electrodes.
- (221) The distance between each conductive spring acting as a spring-type connector and the respective electrode can be flexibly adapted to the geometry of the remaining parts of the rearview device.
- (222) The mechanical fastening described above can be implemented with different structures such as hooks, bolting and bonding.
- (223) The rearview device of the present disclosure is not restricted to the usage of a bezel portion but can also be of the frameless type structure.
- (224) According to the embodiments herein, a compact rearview device capable of efficiently utilizing an internal space of the device can be provided.
- (225) Also, according to some embodiments, by facilitating assembly of the rearview device, the manufacturing cost thereof can be reduced.
- (226) Although embodiments of the present disclosure have been described above using limited embodiments and drawings, one of ordinary skill in art should be capable of modifying and changing the above-described embodiments in various ways. For example, the above-described techniques may be performed in a different order from the above-described method, and/or above-described elements such as a system, a structure, a device, and a circuit may be coupled or combined in a different form from above-described method, or suitable results may be achieved even when the elements are replaced or substituted with other elements or their equivalents.
- (227) Therefore, other implementations, embodiments, and equivalents of the appended claims also belong to the scope of the claims below.

REFERENCE SIGN LIST

(228) **1000** mirror device **1100** mounting structure **1110** first mounting bracket **1115** connecting element **1120** second mounting bracket **1200** housing **1210** coupling portion **1210F** mounting coupling portion **1210R** groove **1211**, **1212**, **1213** plurality of openings **1215**, **1251C** hole **1230** fastening member **1231** fastening member **1250** circuit board **1251**, **1252**, **1253** protrusion **1251C** hole **1310** protrusion **1320A** protrusion **1320B** hole **1253** structure **1255** connecting member **1260** separate member **1264** connecting member **1265** opening **1300** housing cover **1301** front plate **1303** bezel portion **1305**, **1306** coupling portion **1321** concave portions **1323** convex portions **1320A**, **1320B**, openings **1331**, **1333**, **1335**, **1337** openings **1340**, **1350**, **1360**, **1370** groove **1341**, **1351**, **1361** openings **1410**, **1420**, **1430**, **1440** groove **1400** adhesive element **1500** rearview element **1520** electrochromic device **2000** rearview device **2100** mounting structure **2200** housing **2215** hole **2230**, **2231** fastening member **2250** circuit board **2251** protrusion **2252** opening **2253** opening **2255** fastening member **2265** opening **2300** housing cover **2301** opening **2400** adhesive element **2500** rearview element **2600**, **2601**, **2602** conductive spring **2603** reduced diameter portion **2610** protrusion **2611**, **2612** protrusion **2613** reduced diameter portion **2614** shoulder **2613**, **2614** electrode **2615**, **2616** electrode A1, B1 first region A2, B2 second region d1 first distance d2 second distance dh2 vertical distance EC electrochromic FPCB electrical connection element IGN ignition W wires

Claims

1. A rearview device mountable on a vehicle through a mounting structure, the rearview device comprising: a rearview element including at least one of a reflective element and a display element; a circuit board for providing an electrical connection to at least one of the rearview element, a light module, a heating element, sensing means and a human machine interface; a housing coupled with the mounting structure; and at least one conductive spring for electrically connecting the circuit board with at least one of the rearview element, the light module, the heating element, the sensing means and the human machine interface, wherein the housing provides a mounting coupling portion to which the mounting structure is connected and an internal space in which the circuit board is arranged, wherein at least one fastening member for coupling the housing and the mounting structure is engaged on the mounting coupling portion, wherein the circuit board is attached to the housing adjacent to the mounting coupling portion, wherein the circuit board is arranged in the internal space of the housing so as to not interfere with the installation of the rearview device on the vehicle when the at least one of the fastening member is engaged on the mounting coupling portion, wherein each conductive spring is at least partly arranged on a second protrusion surrounding at least a portion thereof, wherein each conductive spring passes through an opening of the circuit board, wherein each conductive spring contacts a first electrode and a second electrode, and wherein each conductive spring is tapering in the direction of the mounting structure or having a reduced diameter in the region passing through the opening of the circuit board.
2. The rearview device of claim 1, wherein the circuit board has a bent shape, and the circuit board includes at least a first region and a second region, with the first region and the second region having different sizes.
3. The rearview device of claim 2, further comprising: at least one sensor of the sensing means, which is disposed in the first region of the circuit board, for detecting light received from the rearward of the vehicle.
4. The rearview device of claim 2, wherein at least a portion of the first region is arranged adjacent to the at least one fastening member, and the second region is spaced apart from the at least one fastening member.
5. The rearview device of claim 1, wherein the housing further includes at least one first protrusion for fastening the circuit board, and the circuit board has a hole corresponding to each of the first protrusions for a fastening member to be connected with the respective first protrusions.
6. The rearview device of claim 1, wherein the circuit board includes a first surface and a second surface, with a first distance from the first surface to a front surface of the rearview element being less than or equal to a second distance from a top surface of the fastening member facing with the first surface to the front surface of the rearview element.
7. The rearview device of claim 1, wherein each first electrode is provided at the edge of one of the openings of the circuit board, and each second electrode is provided at the rearview element, the light module, the heating element, the sensing means or the human machine interface to be connected with the circuit board, and each second protrusion is provided with a reduced diameter portion surrounded by the reduced diameter portion of the respective conductive spring and a shoulder acting as a stop for the respective conductive spring.
8. The rearview device of claim 1, further comprising: a housing cover disposed between the rearview element and the housing to support at least the rearview element, wherein the housing cover includes a coated region having a predetermined reflectivity, with the coated region providing a bezel portion.
9. The rearview device of claim 8, wherein a periphery of the housing is formed to be larger than a periphery of the housing cover such that an edge of the housing is at least partially exposed to a driver of the vehicle, wherein a peripheral region of the housing cover includes a first surface which is exposed to a driver of the vehicle and a second surface which is not exposed to the driver of the vehicle and is received in the housing, wherein there is a step between the first surface and

the second surface.

10. The rearview device of claim 8, wherein at least one third protrusion accommodates at least a part of the housing cover, with the housing cover being provided with at least one groove or opening corresponding to each of the third protrusions.

11. The rearview mirror device of claim 1, wherein the second protrusion, a first protrusion, and a third protrusion are formed in or together with the housing.

12. The rearview device of claim 1, wherein an adhesive element is provided between a housing cover and the rearview element for attaching the rearview element to the housing cover.

13. The rearview device of claim 12, wherein at least one opening is formed in a front portion or front plate of the housing cover such that the electrical connection between the rearview element, the light module, the heating element, the sensing means and the human machine interface on the one side and the circuit board on the other side is allowed through the opening, wherein the adhesive element is formed with a groove at a position corresponding to the opening such that the electrical connection provided through the at least one opening formed in the housing cover is directly transmitted to the rearview element, the light module, the heating element, the sensing means and the human machine interface.

14. The rearview device of claim 1, wherein at least one hole is formed in the housing so that at least one wire for providing the electrical connection provided from the vehicle to the circuit board passes through the hole, with the circuit board being provided with at least one connecting member for connecting the at least one wire and at least one component disposed on the circuit board.

15. The rearview device of claim 14, wherein the at least one wire passing through the hole is connected to the connecting member through an empty space between the mounting coupling portion and the circuit board, the hole is formed adjacent to the mounting coupling portion, and the connecting member is attached to one surface of the circuit board in a first direction or a second direction.

16. The rearview device of claim 1, wherein the rearview mirror device comprises the light module, the heating element, the sensing means and the human machine interface.

17. A vehicle with the at least one rearview device of claim 1.
