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LIGHT-EMITTING DEVICE

Abstract

A light-emitting device includes: a base including: a mount surface, and a lateral wall located around the mount surface, the lateral wall including: a pair of first protrusions having first upper surfaces, each of the first upper surfaces having the same height from the mount surface, the pair of first protrusions being located opposite to each other in a first direction, and one or more conduction regions or metal regions disposed on each of the first upper surfaces of the pair of first protrusions; and one or more semiconductor laser elements mounted on the mount surface of the base, the one or more semiconductor laser elements being configured to emit light forward to one of the first protrusions.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/404,397, filed on Jan. 4, 2024, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/183,506, filed on Mar. 14, 2023 (now U.S. Pat. No. 11,955,768), which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/223,344, filed on Apr. 6, 2021 (now U.S. Pat. No. 11,631,959), which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2020-069005, filed on Apr. 7, 2020. The entire contents of these applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present disclosure relates to light-emitting devices.

[0003] In some light-emitting devices that include a light-emitting element, such as a semiconductor laser element, a light-emitting diode, or an organic EL, adjustment in output of emitted light has been required. For example, Japanese Patent Publication No. H11-273138 describes a light-emitting device in which a photodiode configured to receive a portion of light emitted from a light-emitting element is disposed at an upper portion of the light-emitting device.

SUMMARY

[0004] In some light-emitting devices including a light-emitting element such as a semiconductor laser element, a space where the light-emitting element is disposed is required to be sealed. In that case, secure sealing of the light-emitting element and appropriate light reception by a light-receiving element lead to implementation of a stable operation of the light-emitting device.

[0005] A light-emitting device according to one embodiment of the present disclosure includes: a base including a mount surface and a lateral wall located around the mount surface, the lateral wall having a first upper surface and a second upper surface located at different heights from the mount surface; one or more light-emitting elements mounted on the mount surface of the base; a light-receiving element configured to receive a portion of light emitted from the one or more light-emitting elements; a first light-transmissive member bonded to the first upper surface and sealing a space in which the light-emitting elements are mounted; and a second light-transmissive member bonded to the second upper surface and supporting the light-receiving element.

[0006] In the light-emitting device according to the present disclosure, the space where the one or more light-emitting elements are disposed is sealed, and light emitted from the light-emitting elements can be detected. Therefore, the light-emitting device according to the present disclosure can operate stably.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. 1A is a perspective view schematically showing a configuration example of a light-emitting device **100** according to an example embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0008] FIG. 1B is an exploded schematic perspective view of the light-emitting device **100** in which some elements thereof are separately shown.

[0009] FIG. 1C is a schematic plan view of a configuration of the light-emitting device **100** without illustration of elements at upper and central sides of the light-emitting device **100**.

[0010] FIG. 1D is a schematic plan view of a base **10** in an example embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0011] FIG. 1E is a schematic cross-sectional view of a configuration of FIG. 1D taken along line IE-IE parallel to a Y-Z plane.

[0012] FIG. 1F is a schematic cross-sectional view of a configuration of FIG. 1D taken along line IF-IF parallel to an X-Z plane.

[0013] FIG. 1G is a schematic perspective view of elements at central sides of FIG. 1B when viewed from below the light-emitting device **100**.

[0014] FIG. 2 is a schematic cross-sectional view of the light-emitting device **100** taken along line II-II parallel to the Y-Z plane of FIG. 1A.

[0015] FIG. 3 is a schematic plan view of central elements of FIG. 1B when viewed from below the light-emitting device **100**.

[0016] FIG. 4 is a schematic plan view of a configuration of the light-emitting device **100** without illustration of a first light-transmissive member **40**.

[0017] FIG. 5 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a configuration example of a light-emitting device **110** according to a first variation of this embodiment, taken along the Y-Z plane.

[0018] FIG. 6A is a plan view schematically showing a configuration example of a light-emitting device **120** according to a second variation of this embodiment.

[0019] FIG. 6B is a schematic cross-sectional view of the light-emitting device **120** taken along line VIB-VIB parallel to the Y-Z plane of FIG. 6A.

[0020] FIG. 6C is a schematic plan view of a configuration of the light-emitting device **120** without illustration of a first light-transmissive member **40** and a second light-transmissive member **50**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0021] Light-emitting devices according to certain embodiments of the present disclosure will be described in detail below with reference to the drawings. The same reference characters in a plurality of drawings denote the same or similar parts or components.

[0022] Moreover, the description below is intended to give a concrete form to the technical ideas of the present disclosure, and the scope of the present disclosure is not intended to be limited thereto. The size, material, shape, relative arrangement, etc. of the components are intended as examples, and the scope of the present disclosure is not intended to be limited thereto. The size, arrangement relationship, etc. of the members shown in each drawing may be exaggerated in order to facilitate understanding.

EMBODIMENTS

[0023] First, an example of a basic configuration of a light-emitting device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. 1A-1G.

[0024] FIG. 1A is a perspective view schematically showing a configuration example of a light-emitting device **100** according to an example embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 1B is an exploded schematic perspective view of the light-emitting device **100** in which a first light-transmissive member **40** and a second light-transmissive member **50**, which are bonded to a base **10**, are illustrated to be separated from each other. For description with reference to this exploded

illustration, a portion having the first light-transmissive member **40**, a portion having the second light-transmissive member **50**, and a portion having the base **10** may also be referred to as an upper constituent portion, middle constituent portion, and lower constituent portion, respectively, of the light-emitting device **100**. FIG. **1C** is a schematic plan view of the lower constituent portion of the light-emitting device **100**. FIG. **1D** is a schematic plan view of the base **10**. FIG. **1E** is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line IE-IE of FIG. **1D**. FIG. **1F** is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line IF-IF of FIG. **1D**. FIG. **1G** is a schematic perspective view of the middle constituent portion of the light-emitting device **100** when viewed from below the light-emitting device **100**. In the drawings, X, Y, and Z directions which are orthogonal to each other are shown to indicate correspondence of directions between the drawings.

[0025] The light-emitting device **100** includes the base **10**, one or more light-emitting elements **20**, one or more submounts **22**, a reflector **24**, a light-receiving element **30**, the first light-transmissive member **40**, and the second light-transmissive member **50**. Each of the first light-transmissive member **40** and the second light-transmissive member **50** has a plate shape. In examples shown in the figures, the X direction is defined as the direction in which the light-emitting elements **20** and the reflector **24** are arranged in parallel, the Y direction is defined as the direction in which the light-emitting elements **20** and the reflector **24** are arranged in series, and the Z direction is defined as the thickness direction of the plate shape.

[0026] As shown in FIG. **1E**, the base **10** includes a bottom portion **10b** having a mount surface **10s**. The base **10** includes a lateral wall **10w** surrounding the mount surface **10s** of the bottom portion **10b**. The lateral wall **10w** has a first upper surface **10u.sub.1** above the mount surface **10s**. The lateral wall **10w** also has a second upper surface **10u.sub.2** above the mount surface **10s** and below the first upper surface **10u.sub.1**.

[0027] The lateral wall **10w** also has a third upper surface **10u.sub.3** above the mount surface **10s** and below the first upper surface **10u.sub.1**. The first upper surface **10u.sub.1** is an uppermost surface of the base **10** or the lateral wall **10w**. The third upper surface **10u.sub.3** is located below the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**. The first upper surface **10u.sub.1**, the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**, and the third upper surface **10u.sub.3** have different heights from the mount surface **10s**.

[0028] As shown in FIG. **1D**, the first upper surface **10u.sub.1** surrounds the mount surface **10s** in a top view. As used herein, a side where a space surrounded by the first upper surface **10u.sub.1** of the lateral wall **10w** in a top view is provided is referred to as an “inner side of the lateral wall **10w**.” The second upper surface **10u.sub.2** and the third upper surface **10u.sub.3** are located inward of the lateral wall **10w**.

[0029] The base **10** includes a plurality of protrusions located inward of the lateral wall **10w**. The protrusions of the base **10** protrude from an inner lateral surface of the base **10**, which meets the first upper surface **10u.sub.1** of the base **10**, inward with respect to the lateral wall **10w**.

[0030] As shown in FIG. **1E**, the plurality of protrusions of the base **10** include a pair of first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** that protrude inward from two respective inner lateral surfaces of the lateral wall **10w** of the base **10** which are opposite to each other in the Y direction. As shown in FIG. **1F**, the plurality of protrusions further include a pair of second protrusions **10wp.sub.2** that protrude inward from two respective inner lateral surfaces of the lateral wall **10w** of the base **10** which are opposite to each other in the X direction. Open arrows shown in FIGS. **1E** and **1F** indicate directions in which the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** protrude and directions in which the second protrusions **10wp.sub.2** protrude, respectively.

[0031] Each of the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** has the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**. Therefore, the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** have respective upper surfaces having the same height. Each of the second protrusions **10wp.sub.2** has the third upper surface **10u.sub.3**. Therefore, the second protrusions **10wp.sub.2** have respective upper surfaces having the same height.

[0032] The first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** and the second protrusions **10wp.sub.2** are arranged to form a step between the mount surface **10s** and the first upper surface **10u.sub.1**. Therefore, each

first protrusion **10wp.sub.1** has an inner lateral surface located between the mount surface **10s** and the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**. Also, each second protrusion **10wp.sub.2** has an inner lateral surface located between the mount surface **10s** and the third upper surface **10u.sub.3**. These inner lateral surfaces are located inward of the inner lateral surface meeting the first upper surface **10u.sub.1**, in a direction toward inward of the lateral wall **10w**.

[0033] The first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** are located opposite to each other. As described below, the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** support the second light-transmissive member **50**. The second protrusions **10wp.sub.2** are located opposite to each other. As described below, conduction regions **80** through which power is to be supplied to the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** are disposed on the second protrusions **10wp.sub.2**.

[0034] The second upper surface **10u.sub.2** or the third upper surface **10u.sub.3**, each of which is located at respective two opposite portions, is not necessarily in a form of two separate upper surfaces, and may be in a form of a single upper surface having two opposite portions. For example, a second upper surface **10u.sub.2** and/or a third upper surface **10u.sub.3** may be formed along all inner lateral surfaces of the base **10** in a top view to meet the inner lateral surfaces, so that a single upper surface having two opposite portions can be formed.

[0035] The uppermost surface of the first protrusion **10wp.sub.1** is located at a higher position from the mount surface than that of the uppermost surface of the second protrusion **10wp.sub.2**. The second protrusions **10wp.sub.2** are located between the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1**. The first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** are not located between the second protrusions **10wp.sub.2**. Such arrangement of the protrusions, with the upper surface of the first protrusion **10wp.sub.1** located at a higher position, allows for facilitating formation of the base **10**.

[0036] While the lateral wall **10w** has a substantially rectangular-tube shape in one example, the lateral wall **10w** may have a substantially cylindrical-tube or elliptical-tube shape. The lateral wall **10w** surrounds the one or more light-emitting elements **20**, the one or more submount **22**, and the reflector **24**. In one example, a plurality of light-emitting elements **20**, a plurality of submounts **22**, and the reflector **24** are located between the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** and between the second protrusions **10wp.sub.2**.

[0037] As shown in FIG. **1C**, the first upper surface **10u.sub.1** has a bonding region **60** that is bonded to the first light-transmissive member **40**. The bonding region **60** surrounds the mount surface **10s** when viewed from above. As shown in FIG. **1C**, the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** has a plurality of bonding regions **70** that are bonded to the second light-transmissive member **50**. The bonding region **60** and the bonding region **70** are formed of a metal such as gold. The bonding material will be described below. As shown in FIG. **1C**, the third upper surface **10u.sub.3** has a plurality of conduction regions **80** each electrically connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of light-emitting elements **20**. The plurality of conduction regions **80** are electrically connected to an external control circuit through internal interconnects of the base **10**. The external control circuit supplies power to the plurality of light-emitting elements **20**.

[0038] The one or more light-emitting elements **20** are arranged on the one or more submounts **22** disposed on the mount surface **10s**. In the example of FIG. **1C**, the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** are arranged on the submount **22**. The light-emitting elements **20** and a plurality of submounts **22** may be arranged in one-to-one correspondence. The light-emitting elements **20** may be indirectly mounted on the mount surface **10s** via the submount **22**, or may be directly mounted on the mount surface **10s** without the submount **22**.

[0039] The one or more light-emitting elements **20** arranged on the mount surface **10s** emit light toward the reflector **24** disposed on the mount surface **10s**. The reflector **24** has a light reflection surface **24s** inclined with respect to the mount surface **10s**. The light reflection surface **24s** reflects light emitted from the plurality of light-emitting elements **20**. In the example of FIG. **1C**, with respect to the plurality of light-emitting elements **20**, a single reflector **24** is disposed on the mount surface **10s**. Alternatively, with respect to the plurality of light-emitting elements **20**, a plurality of

reflectors may be disposed on the mount surface **10s**. The light-emitting elements **20** and the reflectors **24** may be arranged in one-to-one correspondence. Reflected light is transmitted through the first light-transmissive member **40** and the second light-transmissive member **50** and then is emitted to the outside.

[0040] The plurality of light-emitting elements **20** include a first light-emitting element **20.sub.1**, a second light-emitting element **20.sub.2**, and a third light-emitting element **20.sub.3**. For example, the first light-emitting element **20.sub.1** is a semiconductor laser element configured to emit blue laser light, the second light-emitting element **20.sub.2** is a semiconductor laser element configured to emit green laser light, and the third light-emitting element **20.sub.3** is a semiconductor laser element configured to emit red laser light. Mixing light emitted from the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** allows for emitting light having a variety of colors in the visible region.

[0041] Each of the one or more light-emitting elements **20** has two emitters, and one emission end surface thereof has two light emission portions. The number of emitters included in a single light-emitting element **20** is not limited to two, and may be one or three or more. That is, each light-emitting element includes one or more emitters.

[0042] The light-emitting elements **20** may emit light of a color other than those illustrated above. Two or more of the light-emitting elements **20** may emit light having the same color. The number of light-emitting elements **20** is not necessarily three, and may be one or greater. The plurality of light-emitting elements **20** may include a light-emitting diode (LED) configured to emit incoherent light instead of a semiconductor laser element.

[0043] A plurality of conduction regions **90**, each electrically connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of light-emitting elements **20**, are disposed on the upper surface of the submount **22**. In the example of FIG. **1C**, the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** are electrically connected to the plurality of conduction regions **80** of the third upper surface **10u.sub.3** through a plurality of first wires **20w**. Wiring of the plurality of first wires **20w** will be described below.

[0044] The light-receiving element **30** is configured to receive a portion of light emitted from the light-emitting elements **20**. The light-receiving element **30** is configured to also receive a portion of light emitted from the light-emitting elements **20** and then reflected by the light reflection surface **24s** of the reflector **24**. The light-receiving element **30** has a plurality of light-receiving portions **30p** that receive respective light beams separately emitted from the plurality of light-emitting elements **20**.

[0045] In the example of FIG. **1G**, the plurality of light-receiving portions **30p** include a first light-receiving portion **30p.sub.1** configured to receive a portion of light emitted from the first light-emitting element **20.sub.1**, a second light-receiving portion **30p.sub.2** configured to receive a portion of light emitted from the second light-emitting element **20.sub.2**, and a third light-receiving portion **30p.sub.3** configured to receive a portion of light emitted from the third light-emitting element **20.sub.3**.

[0046] In the light-receiving element **30**, a photoelectric current is to be generated according to the intensity of received light. The light-receiving element **30** has a plurality of conduction regions **32**, from which a photoelectric current is to be extracted. The plurality of conduction regions **32** will be described below.

[0047] The first light-transmissive member **40** is bonded to the first upper surface **10u.sub.1**, and together with the base **10**, hermetically seals a space in which the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** are mounted. The hermetic sealing allows for reducing the influence of dust attraction caused by laser light. The first light-transmissive member **40** has a light-shielding portion **40s** that limits a light-transmissive region **40t** that can transmit light emitted from the light-emitting elements **20**. The light-shielding portion **40s** reflects and/or absorbs light incident on the light-shielding portion **40s**, which allows for reducing leakage of unintended light from a region other than the light-transmissive region **40t**. The light-shielding portion **40s** may, for example, be formed by disposing a metal film on a surface of the first light-transmissive member **40**.

[0048] The second light-transmissive member **50** is bonded to the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**, and has a support surface on which the light-receiving element **30** is supported. In the example of FIG. **1G**, the light-receiving element **30** is supported on a lower surface **50s** of the second light-transmissive member **50**. The light-receiving portions **30p** of the light-receiving element **30** are located below the first upper surface **10u.sub.1** and the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**. With the light-receiving element **30** supported on the lower surface **50s**, an optical path length to a light-receiving surface can be reduced. Sizes of the second light-transmissive member **50** in the X and Y directions are smaller than sizes of the first light-transmissive member **40** in the X and Y directions. The second light-transmissive member **50** is covered by the first light-transmissive member **40** in a top plan view.

[0049] In the example of FIG. **1G**, the second light-transmissive member **50** has a plurality of bonding regions **52** that are bonded to the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**. The bonding region **52** may be formed of the same material as that of the bonding regions **60** and **70**. The plurality of bonding regions **52** of the second light-transmissive member **50** include a plurality of conduction regions **52a** that are electrically connected to the light-receiving element **30**, and a non-conduction region **52b** that is not electrically connected to the light-receiving element **30**. The plurality of conduction regions **52a** are electrically connected to respective conduction regions **32** of the light-receiving element **30** through respective second wires **30w**. Wiring of the plurality of second wires **30w** will be described below.

[0050] The plurality of bonding regions **70** of the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** include a plurality of bonding regions **70a** that are bonded to respective conduction regions **52a** of the second light-transmissive member **50**, and a bonding region **70b** that is bonded to the non-conduction region **52b**.

[0051] The plurality of bonding regions **70a** are provided on one of the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1**, and the bonding region **70b** is provided on the other of the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1**. The plurality of bonding regions **70a**, which have electrical conductivity, are electrically connected to an external current detection circuit through internal interconnects in the base **10**. The current detection circuit is configured to detect a photoelectric current according to the intensity of light received by the light-receiving element **30**. The bonding region **70b** is not electrically connected to the internal interconnects in the base **10**.

[0052] With the non-conduction region **52b** of the second light-transmissive member **50** and the bonding region **70b** of the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**, the bonding strength between the second light-transmissive member **50** and the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** can be improved. In the present specification, the plurality of bonding regions **70** of the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** are also referred to as a “plurality of first bonding regions,” and the plurality of bonding regions **52** of the second light-transmissive member **50** are also referred to as a “plurality of second bonding regions.”

[0053] In the light-emitting device **100** according to the present embodiment, the plurality of separate conduction regions **52a** are disposed on the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** for electrical connection of the light-receiving element **30**. Therefore, even when the second light-transmissive member **50** and the base **10** are bonded together, a gap occurs between adjacent separate conduction regions **52a**, so that it is difficult to form a sealed space having maintained hermeticity. In the light-emitting device **100**, a configuration having the first light-transmissive member **40** and the second light-transmissive member **50** allows hermetic sealing.

[0054] Next, with reference to FIG. **2**, receiving of a portion of light emitted from the light-emitting element **20** by the light-receiving element **30** will be described. FIG. **2** is a cross-sectional view of the light-emitting device **100** taken along line II-II parallel to the Y-Z plane of FIG. **1A**. A region indicated by dashed lines represents traveling of light emitted from the light-emitting element **20**.

[0055] Light emitted laterally from the light-emitting element **20**, which has a divergence described

below, is reflected upward by the light reflection surface **24s** of the reflector **24**, and then travels toward the first light-transmissive member **40** and the second light-transmissive member **50**. The term “laterally” means a direction toward the lateral wall **10w**. More specifically, the term “laterally” means a direction toward the inner lateral surface of the lateral wall **10w** opposite to the light emission surface of the light-emitting element **20**. In the case in which light is emitted from a plurality of surfaces, the largest surface of the plurality of surfaces is herein defined as a light emission surface.

[0056] A portion of light emitted from the light-emitting element **20**, transmitted through the second light-transmissive member **50**, and then entering the first light-transmissive member **40** enters the light-shielding portion **40s**. Such a portion of light entered the light-shielding portion **40s** is not transmitted through the light-shielding portion **40s**. The light-shielding portion **40s** is preferably located outside a region where light having a predetermined intensity is obtained. For example, the light-shielding portion **40s** may be provided so as to limit an end portion of light having a large divergence.

[0057] The intensity of light emitted to the outside may, for example, be in the range of 90-98% of the intensity of light emitted from the light-emitting element **20**. For example, in the case in which the light-emitting device **100** according to the present embodiment is used as a light source for a head-mounted display device, the intensity of light emitted to the outside may, for example, be in the range of 40-80 mW. The intensity of light emitted out may be adjusted to be outside such a range, depending on the application.

[0058] In the example of FIG. 2, the light-receiving element **30** is disposed adjacent to a region of the second light-transmissive member **50** through which light beams emitted from the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** are transmitted. Also, the light-receiving element **30** is disposed such that a portion of light reflected upward at the light reflection surface **24s** of the reflector **24** directly enters the light-receiving element **30**. A portion of light emitted from the light-emitting element **20** that has an intensity equal to or less than a predetermined intensity enters the light-receiving portion **30p** of the light-receiving element **30**. For example, if the predetermined intensity of light is 2-10% of the peak intensity of light, the light-receiving element **30** is allowed to receive light that is strong enough to be detected while sufficient light is emitted to the outside. Such an arrangement of the light-receiving element **30** allows for receiving light having intensity great enough to be detected.

[0059] Next, elements of the light-emitting device **100** will be described in detail.

Base **10**

[0060] The base **10** may, for example, be formed of a ceramic containing at least one of AlN, SiC, and alumina, as a base material. The base **10** may have a substantially rectangular-tube shape having a closed bottom, a substantially cylindrical-tube shape having a closed bottom, or a substantially elliptical-tube shape having a closed bottom. The shape and size of the base **10** may be adjusted, as appropriate, according to the desired shape and size of the light-emitting device **100**.

[0061] In the case in which the base **10** has a substantially rectangular-tube shape having a closed bottom, the base **10** has a size in the X direction of, for example, 3 mm or greater and 6 mm or less, a size in the Y direction of, for example, 3 mm or greater and 6 mm or less, and a size in the Z direction of, for example, 1 mm or greater and 3 mm or less.

Light-Emitting Element **20**

[0062] The plurality of light-emitting elements **20** are provided on the mount surface **10s**. A distance between centers of two adjacent light-emitting elements is, for example, 0.35 mm or greater. As a result, the mutual influence of heat between light-emitting elements can be reduced. Meanwhile, the distance between centers of two adjacent light-emitting elements is preferably, for example, 2.5 mm or less in view of reducing a size of the light-emitting device **100**.

[0063] In the case in which the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** are mounted on the mount surface **10s** of the base **10** via the submount **22**, the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** and the

submount **22** are bonded together, and the submount **22** and the base **10** are bonded together, using a bonding material such as AuSn, Au, or Ag. In the case in which the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** are mounted on the mount surface **10s** without using the submount **22**, the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** and the base **10** are bonded together using such a bonding material. [0064] The plurality of light-emitting elements **20** may include a semiconductor laser element configured to emit blue, green, or red laser light in the visible light region, or infrared or ultraviolet laser light. The semiconductor laser element has a rectangular outer shape in a top view. A lateral surface of the semiconductor laser element meeting one of the two shorter sides of the rectangle serves as an emission end surface of the semiconductor laser element from which light is to be emitted. The upper and lower surfaces of the semiconductor laser element are larger than the emission end surface.

[0065] The emission peak wavelength of the blue light is preferably in a range of 420-494 nm, more preferably in a range of 440-475 nm. Examples of the semiconductor laser element configured to emit blue laser light include a semiconductor laser element that contains a nitride semiconductor. Examples of the nitride semiconductor include GaN, InGaN, and AlGaN.

[0066] The emission peak wavelength of the green light is preferably in a range of 495-570 nm, more preferably in a range of 510-550 nm. Examples of the semiconductor laser element configured to emit green laser light include a semiconductor laser element that contains a nitride semiconductor. Examples of the nitride semiconductor include GaN, InGaN, and AlGaN.

[0067] The emission peak wavelength of the red light is preferably in a range of 605-750 nm, more preferably in a range of 610-700 nm. Examples of the semiconductor laser element configured to emit red laser light is a semiconductor laser element that contains an InAlGaP, GaInP, GaAs, or AlGaAs semiconductor. For the semiconductor laser element configured to emit red light, a semiconductor laser element that includes two or more waveguide regions can be used. The output power of semiconductor laser elements containing such semiconductors easily decreases due to heat as compared to semiconductor laser elements containing a nitride semiconductor. Increasing waveguide regions allows for dispersing heat, so that decrease in the output power of the semiconductor laser element can be reduced.

[0068] Next, a configuration of the semiconductor laser element will be described. The semiconductor laser element has, for example, a structure in which an n-type semiconductor layer, an active layer, and a p-type semiconductor layer are layered in this order in the Z direction. The semiconductor laser element further includes an electrode located at an n-type semiconductor layer side, and an electrode located at a p-type semiconductor layer side. In the present specification, the electrode located at the n-type semiconductor layer side is referred to as an “n-side electrode,” and the electrode located at the p-type semiconductor layer side is referred to as a “p-side electrode.”

[0069] When a voltage is applied to the n-side electrode and the p-side electrode to cause an electric current equal to or greater than a threshold value to flow, laser light is emitted from the emission end surface of the active layer.

[0070] Laser light emitted from the semiconductor laser element has a divergence, and forms an elliptical far-field pattern (hereinafter referred to as an “FFP”) in a plane parallel to the light emission end surface. The FFP is a shape or light intensity distribution of emitted light at a location apart from the emission end surface. A portion of light having an intensity equal to or greater than $1/e^2$ of the peak intensity value in this light intensity distribution is determined as a “primary portion of light.”

[0071] The FFP of light emitted from the semiconductor laser element has an elliptical shape that is longer in the direction in which the plurality of semiconductor layers including the active layer are layered than in the direction in which the emission end surface of the active layer extends. The direction in which the emission end surface of the active layer extends is referred to as a “horizontal direction” of the FFP, and the direction in which the plurality of semiconductor layers are layered is referred to as a “vertical direction” of the FFP.

[0072] Based on the light intensity distribution of the FFP, an angle corresponding to the full width at half maximum of the light intensity distribution is determined as a divergence angle of light of the semiconductor laser element. The divergence angle of light in the vertical direction of the FFP is referred to as a “vertical divergence angle,” and the divergence angle of light in the horizontal direction of the FFP is referred to as a “horizontal divergence angle.”

Submount 22

[0073] The submount 22 has a lower surface, an upper surface, and lateral surfaces, and has a rectangular parallelepiped shape. The submount 22 is narrowest in the vertical direction (the Z direction). The submount 22 may have a shape other than a rectangular parallelepiped shape. The submount 22 can be formed of, for example, at least one of SiN, AlN, and SiC. A metal film is disposed on the upper and lower surfaces of the submount 22.

[0074] Concerning heat dissipation, the submount 22 may serve to transmit heat generated from the light-emitting elements 20 to the outside. In that case, the thermal conductivity of the submount 22 is preferably higher than that of the mount surface 10s of the base 10. The submount 22 can also serve to adjust a position at which the light-emitting element 20 emits light. The position at which the light-emitting element 20 emits light may be set at a higher position according to the relationship between the location of the light emitting element 20 and the location of the reflector 24, so as to adjust a position in reflector 24 where light is irradiated.

Reflector 24

[0075] The reflector 24 is disposed on the mount surface 10s of the base 10, and has the light reflection surface 24s that reflects light emitted laterally from the plurality of light-emitting elements 20 upward and toward the first light-transmissive member 40 and the second light-transmissive member 50. An angle between the light reflection surface 24s and the mount surface 10s can be 45 degrees. The angle may be other than 45 degrees.

[0076] A portion of the reflector 24 that forms the outer shape of the reflector 24 may, for example, be formed using a glass or metal as a base material. In the case in which heat resistance is considered, the base material is preferably a material that is highly resistant to heat. Examples of such a material include glasses such as quartz or BK7 (borosilicate glass), metals such as Al, and Si. The light reflection surface 24s may, for example, be formed of a metal such as Ag or Al, or a dielectric multilayer film such as Ta.sub.2O.sub.5/SiO.sub.2, TiO.sub.2/SiO.sub.2, or Nb.sub.2O.sub.5/SiO.sub.2. Alternatively, instead of the structure in which the light reflection surface 24s is additionally provided on the sloped surface of the reflector 24, the reflector 24 may be formed of a light reflective material so that the sloped surface thereof directly serves as the light reflection surface 24s.

[0077] The light reflectance of the light reflection surface 24s can be in a range of 99 to 100% or less than 100%, with respect to the peak wavelength of light to be reflected.

[0078] The reflector 24 is not required in the case in which the light-emitting element 20 directly emits light upward.

Light-Receiving Element 30

[0079] The light-receiving element 30 may include, for example, a photodiode, such as a p-n photodiode or a PIN photodiode, as the light-receiving portion 30p. A p-n photodiode has a configuration in which a p-type semiconductor layer and an n-type semiconductor layer are joined together. A PIN photodiode has a configuration in which a p-type semiconductor layer, an intrinsic semiconductor layer, and an n-type semiconductor layer are joined together in this order. In a photodiode, an electrode located on the p-type semiconductor layer is referred to as a “p-side electrode” of the photodiode, and an electrode located on the n-type semiconductor layer is referred to as an “n-side electrode” of the photodiode. A photoelectric current depending on the intensity of light incident to the photodiode is extracted from the p-side and n-side electrodes of the photodiode. The photodiode may, for example, contain a semiconductor such as Si or Ge.

First Light-Transmissive Member 40 and Second Light-Transmissive Member 50

[0080] The first light-transmissive member **40** has a lower surface, an upper surface, and lateral surfaces, and has a rectangular parallelepiped shape. The first light-transmissive member **40** has light-transmissive properties that allow light to be transmitted therethrough. The expression “light-transmissive” as used herein mean having a transmittance of 80% or greater with respect to light. The first light-transmissive member **40** may have a shape other than a rectangular parallelepiped shape. The first light-transmissive member **40** may partially have a region through which light is not transmitted.

[0081] The first light-transmissive member **40** can be formed using sapphire as a base material. Sapphire is a material that has a relatively high refractive index and a relatively high strength. For the base material, for example, a glass, ceramic, or the like, may be used instead of sapphire.

[0082] The first light-transmissive member **40** may, for example, be bonded to the bonding region **60** of the first upper surface **10u.sub.1** using a bonding material such as AuSn, Au, or Ag. A bonding region for bonding to the bonding region **60** may be provided in the lower surface of the first light-transmissive member **40**.

[0083] The first light-transmissive member **40** may have a size in the X direction of, for example, in a range of 2-6 mm, a size in the Y direction of, for example, in a range of 2-6 mm, and a size in the Z direction of, for example, in a range of 0.2-0.6 mm.

[0084] The shape, light-transmissive properties, and base material of the second light-transmissive member **50** are similar to those of the first light-transmissive member **40**.

[0085] The plurality of bonding regions **52** of the second light-transmissive member **50** may, for example, be bonded to the plurality of bonding regions **70** of the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** using a bonding material such as solder or silver paste.

[0086] The second light-transmissive member **50** may have a size in the X direction of, for example, in a range of 1-5 mm, a size in the Y direction of, for example, in a range of 1-5 mm, and a size in the Z direction of, for example, in a range of 0.2-0.6 mm.

[0087] Next, wiring of the first wires **20w** and the second wires **30w** will be described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **3**. The first wires **20w** and the second wires **30w** may, for example, be formed of at least one of Au, Ag, Cu, and Al.

[0088] As shown in FIG. **1C**, the plurality of conduction regions **90** provided on the submount **22** are electrically connected to the plurality of light-emitting elements **20**. A single conduction region **90** and a single conduction region **80** are electrically connected together by a corresponding one of the plurality of first wires **20w**. Therefore, each of the plurality of conduction regions **90** and a corresponding one of the plurality of conduction regions **80** are electrically connected through a corresponding one of the plurality of first wires **20w**. Likewise, each of the plurality of light-emitting elements **20** and a corresponding one of the other conduction regions **80** of the plurality of conduction regions **80** are electrically connected through a corresponding one of the other first wires **20w** of the plurality of first wires **20w**. This wiring allows an external control circuit to supply power to the light-emitting elements **20**. In addition to the light-emitting elements **20**, a Zener diode that protects the light-emitting elements **20** from surge current or static electricity may be provided. The Zener diode can, for example, be disposed on the third upper surface **10u.sub.3** or the upper surface of the submount **22**.

[0089] FIG. **3** is a schematic plan view of central elements of the light-emitting device **100** as viewed from below. The plurality of conduction regions **32** of the light-receiving element **30** include three conduction regions **32** provided in the light-receiving surface. Each of the three conduction regions **32** is electrically connected to one of the electrodes of the photodiode included in a corresponding one of the three light-receiving portions **30p**. The light-receiving element **30** also has a single conduction region in the bonding surface. The single conduction region is electrically connected to the other electrode of each of the photodiodes of all the three light-receiving portions **30p**.

[0090] The plurality of conduction regions **52a** of the second light-transmissive member **50** include

four conduction regions **52a**. The plurality of second wires **30w** include four second wires **30w**. The conduction regions **52a** and respective conduction regions **32** are connected electrically in one-to-one correspondence by respective second wires **30w**. The single conduction region in the bonding surface of the light-receiving element **30** is electrically connected to a corresponding one of the conduction regions **52a** by a corresponding one of the second wires **30w**.

[0091] The plurality of conduction regions **32** of the light-receiving element **30** may be provided in a bonding surface where the light-receiving element **30** and the second light-transmissive member **50** are bonded together. In that case, the plurality of conduction regions **32**, and respective ones of the plurality of conduction regions **52a** of the second light-transmissive member **50**, are bonded in one-to-one correspondence. In addition, such a bonding does not need the second wires **30w**, so that a height of the light-emitting device **100** can be reduced by a height that would otherwise be required for preventing the wire from touching another element. This can contribute to reduction in size of the device.

[0092] Next, bonding of the second light-transmissive member **50** to the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** will be described with reference to FIG. 4. FIG. 4 is a schematic plan view of a configuration of the light-emitting device **100** without illustration of the first light-transmissive member **40** is removed. Dashed lines indicate the light-receiving element **30** and the plurality of bonding regions **52** located on the lower surface **50s** of the second light-transmissive member **50**.

[0093] The plurality of bonding regions **70a** of the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** include four bonding regions **70a**. The bonding regions **70a** of the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** are bonded to the conduction regions **52a** of the second light-transmissive member **50** in one-to-one correspondence. In other words, each of the plurality of conduction regions **52a** of the second light-transmissive member **50** is bonded to a corresponding different one of the bonding regions **70a** of the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**.

[0094] The bonding region **70a** of the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** has a size different from that of the conduction region **52a** of the second light-transmissive member **50**, and therefore, the position of the light-receiving element **30** can be adjusted such that a portion of light emitted from the light-emitting elements **20** that has an intensity equal to or lower than a predetermined intensity enters the light-receiving portions **30p** of the light-receiving element **30**. In the example of FIG. 4, the bonding region **70a** of the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** is larger than the region where the bonding region **70a** and the conduction region **52a** of the second light-transmissive member **50** are bonded together, which allows for adjusting the position of the light-receiving element **30**. In the case in which the bonding is performed while adjusting the position, silver paste is preferably used to bond the conduction region **52a** and the bonding region **70a** together, and the non-conduction region **52b** and the bonding region **70b** together. A region where movement for the positional adjustment can be performed preferably has a length in a range of 100-300 μm in a lengthwise or lateral direction.

[0095] A photoelectric current according to the intensity of light received by each of the three light-receiving portions **30p** is extracted from a respective corresponding one of the bonding regions **70a**.

[0096] As described above, in the light-emitting device **100** according to the present embodiment, the first light-transmissive member **40** for hermetic sealing, and the second light-transmissive member **50** for the light-receiving element **30**, are separately provided, which allows for achieving both the hermetic sealing of the space in which the light-emitting element **20** is mounted and the detection of a photoelectric current according to the intensity of light received by the light-receiving element **30**.

VARIATIONS

[0097] Next, a first variation of the light-emitting device **100** according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 5. The same configurations as those of the example of FIGS. 1A-4 may not be described. FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of a configuration example of a

light-emitting device **110** according to the first variation of the present embodiment, taken along the Y-Z plane. The light-emitting device **110** of the first variation is different from the light-emitting device **100** according to the present embodiment in that the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** do not meet the mount surface **10s**, and are located above the mount surface **10s** at a distance from the mount surface **10s**. With this structure, the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** can support the second light-transmissive member **50**. Thus, the first protrusions **10wp.sub.1** do not necessarily meet the mount surface **10s** or extend in the Z direction continuously from the mount surface **10s**.

[0098] Next, a second variation of the light-emitting device **100** according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 6A-6C. FIG. 6A is a plan view schematically showing a configuration example of the light-emitting device **120** according to the second variation of this embodiment. FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional view of the light-emitting device **120** taken along line VIB-VIB parallel to the Y-Z plane of FIG. 6A. FIG. 6C is a plan view of a configuration of the light-emitting device **120** without illustration of the first light-transmissive member **40** and the second light-transmissive member **50**.

[0099] The light-emitting device **120** of the second variation is different from the light-emitting device **100** according to the present embodiment in that the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**, to which the second light-transmissive member **50** is bonded, is the uppermost surface of the lateral wall **10w**. In addition, the first upper surface **10u.sub.1**, to which the first light-transmissive member **40** is bonded, is provided in the first protrusion **10wp.sub.1**. The first protrusion **10wp.sub.1** surrounds the plurality of light-emitting elements **20**, the submount **22**, and the reflector **24**. There is a step between the first upper surface **10u.sub.1** and the second upper surface **10u.sub.2**. Thus, in the light-emitting device **120** of the second variation, the second upper surface **10u.sub.2** is located above the first upper surface **10u.sub.1**.

[0100] The second upper surface **10u.sub.2** does not necessarily include a portion in which the plurality of bonding regions **70** are not provided. A configuration of a portion of light-emitting device **120** below the first light-transmissive member **40** in the second variation is the same as that described above.

[0101] A size in the X direction of the second light-transmissive member **50** is smaller than that of the first light-transmissive member **40**. A size in the Y direction of the second light-transmissive member **50** is greater than that of the first light-transmissive member **40**. A size in the X direction of the second light-transmissive member **50** may be greater than that of the first light-transmissive member **40**.

[0102] In the example of FIG. 6B, the primary portion of light emitted from the light-emitting element **20** is transmitted through the light-transmissive region **40t** of the first light-transmissive member **40**. The light-receiving element **30** is configured to receive a portion of light transmitted through the light-transmissive region **40t** of the first light-transmissive member **40**. The light-receiving element **30** is configured to receive a peripheral portion of light emitted from the light-transmissive region **40t**.

[0103] The light-receiving element **30** can be located such that the light-receiving element **30** partially or completely overlaps the light-shielding portion **40s** in a top plan view. In order to efficiently receive the peripheral light, the light-receiving element **30** is preferably located such that at least a portion of the light-receiving element **30** completely overlaps the light-shielding portion **40s** in a top plan view.

[0104] The light-shielding portion **40s** may be provided on a surface of the second light-transmissive member **50** opposite to a surface of the second light-transmissive member **50** to which the light-receiving element **30** is bonded, instead of or in addition to providing the light-shielding portion **40s** on the first light-transmissive member **40**.

[0105] The intensity of light entering the light-receiving portions **30p** of the light-receiving element **30** may be in a range of 2-10% of the peak intensity of light emitted from the light-emitting elements **20**. Most of the light that has been transmitted through the light-transmissive region **40t** is

transmitted through the second light-transmissive member **50** and emitted to the outside of the light-emitting device **110**. The intensity of light emitted to the outside may be in a range of 90-98% of the intensity of light emitted from the light-emitting elements **20**.

[0106] The light-receiving element **30** is disposed inside the light-emitting device **120**, and therefore, is less likely to receive external light, such as illumination light, compared to an example in which the light-receiving element is provided outside the light-emitting device.

[0107] The light-emitting device of the present disclosure is applicable to, for example, light sources for a head-mounted display, projector, automotive headlight, illuminating device, display backlight, etc.

[0108] It is to be understood that although certain embodiments of the present invention have been described, various other embodiments and variants may occur to those skilled in the art that are within the scope and spirit of the invention, and such other embodiments and variants are intended to be covered by the following claims.

Claims

1. A light-emitting device comprising: a base comprising: a mount surface, and a lateral wall located around the mount surface, the lateral wall comprising: a pair of first protrusions having first upper surfaces, each of the first upper surfaces having the same height from the mount surface, the pair of first protrusions being located opposite to each other in a first direction, and one or more conduction regions or metal regions disposed on each of the first upper surfaces of the pair of first protrusions; and one or more semiconductor laser elements mounted on the mount surface of the base, the one or more semiconductor laser elements being configured to emit light forward to one of the first protrusions.
2. The light-emitting device according to claim 1, further comprising: a pair of second protrusions having second upper surfaces, the pair of second protrusions being located opposite to each other in a second direction which is perpendicular to the first direction.
3. The light-emitting device according to claim 2, wherein: the second protrusions are provided lower than the first protrusions.
4. The light-emitting device according to claim 2, wherein: each of the second upper surfaces has the same height from the mount surface.
5. The light-emitting device according to claim 2, wherein: the pair of first protrusions and the pair of second protrusions are connected in a top view.
6. The light-emitting device according to claim 5, wherein: the pair of first protrusions and the pair of second protrusions form a rectangular-tube shape in a top view.
7. The light-emitting device according to claim 1, further comprising: a reflector located between the one or more semiconductor laser elements and the one of the first protrusions.
8. The light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the one of the first protrusions is less than the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the other of the first protrusions.
9. The light-emitting device according to claim 7, wherein the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the one of the first protrusions is less than the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the other of the first protrusions.
10. A base comprising: a mount surface having a first mounting region of one or more semiconductor laser elements, and a lateral wall located around the mount surface, the lateral wall comprising: a pair of first protrusions having first upper surfaces, each of the first upper surfaces having the same height from the mount surface, the pair of first protrusions being located opposite to each other in a first direction, one of the first protrusions being located in a direction in which

light from the one or more semiconductor laser elements travels, and one or more conduction regions of metal regions disposed on each of the first upper surfaces of the pair of first protrusions.

11. The base according to claim 10, further comprising: a pair of second protrusions having second upper surfaces, the pair of second protrusions being located opposite to each other in a second direction which is perpendicular to the first direction.

12. The base according to claim 11, wherein: the second protrusions are provided lower than the first protrusions.

13. The base according to claim 11, wherein: each of the second upper surfaces has the same height from the mount surface.

14. The base according to claim 11, wherein: the pair of first protrusions and the pair of second protrusions are connected in a top view.

15. The base according to claim 14, wherein the pair of first protrusions and the pair of second protrusions form a rectangular-tube shape in a top view.

16. The base according to claim 10, wherein: the mount surface having a second mounting region of a reflector located between the one or more semiconductor laser elements and the one of the first protrusions.

17. The base according to claim 16, wherein: the mount surface is one flat surface including the first mounting region and the second mounting region.

18. The base according to claim 10, wherein: the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the one of the first protrusions is less than the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the other of the first protrusions.

19. The base according to claim 16, wherein: the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the one of the first protrusions is less than the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the other of the first protrusions.

20. The base according to claim 17, wherein: the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the one of the first protrusions is less than the number of the conduction regions or metal regions disposed on the first upper surface of the other of the first protrusions.
