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Systems and methods for wireless transmission of electricity for spa illumination

Abstract

This disclosure relates generally to induction systems for wirelessly transmitting electricity. Specifically, embodiments of the present disclosure relate to methods and systems for wirelessly transmitting electricity to a light incorporated within, for example, a spa. In some embodiments, the systems include at least one pair of induction coils (e.g., receiving and transmitting coils) incorporated into a selectively removable spa seatback. The at least one pair of induction coils can be used to wirelessly transmit electricity to a light disposed within the selectively removable spa seatback. In some embodiments, a converter is incorporated into the system to adjust at least one characteristic of the light, such as brightness, color, and/or a lighting pattern.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION (1) This application is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/984,872, filed on Nov. 10, 2022 and titled SYSTEMS and METHODS FOR WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICITY FOR SPA ILLUMINATION (“the '872 Application”), now U.S. Pat. No. 11,808,442, issued Nov. 7, 2023. The entire disclosure of the '872 Application is hereby incorporated herein.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) This disclosure relates generally to the wireless transmission of electricity. More specifically, this disclosure relates to providing wireless electricity to spa lighting applications.

SUMMARY

(2) In various aspects, systems and methods are provided for the wireless transmission of electricity. Specifically, systems and methods of the present disclosure are provided for the wireless transmission of electricity to various spa accessories. For example, in some embodiments, a method of wirelessly transmitting electricity to a light includes installing a transmitting device in connection with a spa shell. For example, the transmitting device can be installed on top of the spa shell, just under a top surface of the spa shell, and/or within a cavity or port defined by a portion of the spa shell. The method can additionally include installing a receiving device within a selectively removable spa seatback, where the receiving device is in electrical communication with the light. Similar to the transmitting device, the receiving device can be installed in connection with the spa shell. The method can further include transmitting, by the transmitting device, an induction signal and receiving, by the receiving device, the induction signal. The received induction signal can then be used to power the light.

(3) Systems for wirelessly transmitting electricity to a light in, for example, a selectively removable spa seatback are also disclosed. In some embodiments, a system for wirelessly transmitting electricity to a light can include a selectively removable spa seatback and a transmitting device in connection with a spa shell. The transmitting device can be installed on top of the spa shell, just under a top surface of the spa shell, and/or within a cavity or port defined by a portion of the spa shell. The system can also include a receiving device housed within the selectively removable spa seatback, where the receiving device is in electrical communication with the transmitting device. In some embodiments, the system can further include a light within the selectively removable spa seatback, where the light is in electrical communication with the receiving device. In some embodiments, the system also includes a converter in electrical communication with the light and a control box of a spa.

(4) Other aspects of the disclosed subject matter, as well as features and advantages of various aspects of the disclosed subject matter, should be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art through consideration of the ensuing description, the accompanying drawings, and the appended claims.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) In the Drawings:

(2) FIG. 1 provides a cross-sectional side view of an embodiment of an induction lighting system according to the present disclosure.

(3) FIGS. 2 and 3 provide side views of the embodiment of the induction lighting system shown in FIG. 1.

(4) FIG. 4 provides a back, perspective view of an embodiment of a manifold used in an induction lighting system of the present disclosure.

(5) FIGS. 5A and 5B provide perspective views of induction coils disposed within a spa according to the present disclosure.

(6) FIGS. 6A and 6B provide perspective views of induction coils disposed within a spa according to the present disclosure.

(7) FIGS. 7 and 8 illustrate flowcharts of embodiments of methods according to the present disclosure.

(8) FIGS. 9 through 11 provide schematic block diagrams of an induction lighting system

according to the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(9) Disclosed are systems and methods for the wireless transmission of electricity. Specifically, systems and methods of the present disclosure are provided for the wireless transmission of electricity to various spa accessories. In some embodiments, the various spa accessories include lights, cup holders, candles, or other spa components.

(10) FIG. 1 provides a cross-sectional side view of an embodiment of an induction lighting system **10** according to the present disclosure. FIGS. 2 and 3 provide side views of the embodiment of the induction lighting system **10** shown in FIG. 1. As illustrated in FIGS. 1-3, the induction lighting system **10** includes a spa shell **12**, a selectively removable seatback **15** with a manifold **25**, a body **30** for housing induction receiving coils **32**, a body **35** for housing induction transmitting coils **37**, and a light **40**. At least a portion of the induction lighting system **10** can be housed by the spa shell **12**. In some embodiments, the system **10** can also include a nozzle **45** for providing water or other fluids to the spa and/or the selectively removable spa seatback **15**.

(11) The selectively removable seatback **15** includes a pillow or headrest **22** and a snap cap or attachment point **20**. In some embodiments, the pillow **22** is connected to the snap cap **20**. In some embodiments, the snap cap **20** is configured to pivot or rotate about a pivot point **24**. In some embodiments, the manifold **25** (see FIG. 4) removably connects the selectively removable seatback **15** to the spa shell **12**. For example, the spa shell **12** can define a hollow configured to receive the selectively removable seatback **15**, and the manifold **25** can be configured to removably secure the selectively removable seatback **15** within the hollow.

(12) In some embodiments, the spa shell **12** has an exterior surface **13** and an interior surface **14**. A port extends through the spa shell **12**, from the exterior surface **13** to the interior surface **14**, for receiving the body **35** for housing induction transmitting coils **37**. The port is positioned such that the induction transmitting coils **37** housed within the body **35** interface with the induction receiving coils **32** housed within the body **30**. In some embodiments, water flows between the body **35** for housing induction transmitting coils **37** and the selectively removable seat back **15**.

(13) The spa shell **12** defines the hollow configured to receive the selectively removable seatback **15**. In some embodiments, the port extends through the spa shell **12** and into a portion of the hollow. This allows the induction transmitting coils **37** housed within the body **35** to interface with the induction receiving coils **32** housed within the body **30**. In other embodiments, the body **35** for housing induction transmitting coils **37** extends only partially through the spa shell **12**, or the body **35** for housing induction transmitting coils **37** can be behind the spa shell **12**. The selectively removable seatback **15** can be in an installed position or an uninstalled position. In the installed position, the selectively removable seatback **15** is secured within the hollow via the manifold **25**. Additionally, in the installed position, the bodies **30**, **35** are aligned such that the induction receiving coils **32** and the induction transmitting coils **37** are aligned and can interface with each other. This arrangement allows the induction receiving coils **32** to receive an induction signal generated and transmitted by the induction transmitting coils **37**. Induction receiving coils **32** can receive an induction signal generated and transmitting by the induction transmitting coils **37** even if water flows between the bodies **30**, **35**.

(14) In the uninstalled position, the selectively removable seatback **15** has been removed from the hollow and/or the spa shell **12** entirely. A second selectively removable seatback **15** can then be placed within the hollow, where the second selectively removable seatback **15** will then be in the installed position.

(15) In some embodiments, the manifold **25** is sized and shaped to provide a body **30** for housing induction receiving coils **32**. For example, the body **30** can be defined by the manifold **25**. Additionally, and/or alternatively, the body **30** can be a separate housing attached to the manifold **25**. In either case, the body **30** is sized, shaped, and/or otherwise configured to house the induction receiving coils **32**. For example, the induction receiving coils **32** can be disposed within a cavity of

the body **30**. In some embodiments, the light **40** is attached to the body **30** and in electrical communication with the induction receiving coils **32**. The induction receiving coils **32** are configured to receive an induction signal transmitted by the induction transmitting coils **37**. The induction signal received by the receiving coils **32** can be converted to an electric current to power the light **40** and/or other spa accessories.

(16) As discussed, the body **35** for housing the induction transmitting coils **37** can be received by an aperture or port in the spa shell **12**. As illustrated, the manifold **25** positions the body **30** within the cavity of the spa shell **12** such that the body **30** (and, thus, the induction receiving coils **32**) substantially abuts and aligns with the body **35** (and, thus, the induction transmitting coils **37**). In other words, the manifold **25** positions the body **30** within the cavity such that the body **30** (and, thus, the induction receiving coils **32**) interfaces with the body **35**. By placing the bodies **30**, **35** in such an arrangement, the induction receiving coils **32** can receive an induction signal generated and transmitted by the induction transmitting coils **37**. In some embodiments, the induction transmitting coils **37** are connected to and in electrical communication with a control box (see FIGS. **9** and **10**) for the spa. In some embodiments, an additional power supply is incorporated into the system **10** to provide adequate power (e.g., adequate amperage, watts, etc.) to the induction transmitting coils **37**.

(17) Housing both the induction receiving and transmitting coils **32**, **37** within the bodies **30**, **35** seals and/or protects the induction receiving and transmitting coils **32**, **37** from exposure to water or other liquids. By using induction signals to power lights and/or other spa accessories, no electrical (i.e., conductive) components are exposed to water, thereby increasing the safety of the spa. That is, lights and other accessories can be powered by the disclosed induction systems without risk of electrocuting a user of the spa. Additionally, because the lights are fully integrated into the selectively removable seatbacks **15**, the safety of the spa is maintained as the selectively removable seatbacks **15** are interchanged.

(18) FIG. **4** provides a front, perspective view of an embodiment of a manifold **25**. For example, the manifold **25** may be incorporated into a selectively removable seatback **15**, as described herein. The manifold **25** can include a pair of top support brackets **50** and a pair of bottom support brackets **55**. As illustrated, the manifold **25** defines or includes the body **30** to house and receive the induction receiving coils **32**. In some embodiments, the top support brackets **50** are sized and shaped to receive the pillow **22** of the selectively removable seatback **15**. In some embodiments, the top support brackets **50** also interact or engage with the spa shell **12** to attach or anchor the selectively removable seatback **15** to the spa shell **12** (see FIG. **1**). In some embodiments, the bottom support brackets **55** interact or engage with the hollow of the spa shell **12** to attach or anchor the selectively removable seatback **15** to the spa shell **12**. In some embodiments, the bottom support brackets **55** together define the body **30**. Alternatively, the bottom support brackets **55** together define a cavity to receive the body **30**. The body **30** houses and receives the induction receiving coils **32**.

(19) FIGS. **5A** and **5B** provide perspective views of induction coils disposed within a spa shell according to the present disclosure. As illustrated in FIG. **5A**, the induction coils or induction plates **65a** can be disposed just under a top surface **62** of a spa shell **60**. In some embodiments, the spa shell **60** is constructed from an acrylic material, and the induction coils **65a** are disposed just under the acrylic shell. In some embodiments, the shell **60** has a thickness of approximately 0.6 to 2 centimeters (cm), such as 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0, 1.5, 1.75, 1.8 cm or a thickness within a range defined by any two of the foregoing values (e.g., approximately 0.25 to 0.75 inches, such as 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6 inches or a thickness within a range defined by any two of the foregoing values). In some embodiments, the induction coils **65a** are induction transmitting coils, and are configured to generate and transmit an induction signal to be received by induction receiving coils. The induction coils **65a** are configured to generate a sufficiently strong induction signal such that the induction signal can be transmitted through the thickness of the spa shell **60** and received by receiving coils.

(20) For example, as shown in FIG. **5B**, induction receiving coils **65b** can be disposed or otherwise

arranged on the top surface **62** of the spa shell **60**. The induction receiving coils **65b** can be disposed in an area of the top surface **62** that substantially corresponds to or aligns with the placement of the induction coils **65a** under the top surface **62** of the spa shell **60**. The induction receiving coils **65b** can be configured to receive an induction signal generated and transmitted by the induction coils **65a**. The induction receiving coils **65b** can also be configured to use or transmit the received induction signal to power an accessory.

(21) FIGS. **6A** and **6B** provide perspective views of an accessory in use with the induction coils of FIGS. **5A** and **5B**. As illustrated in FIGS. **6A** and **6B**, an accessory **70**, such as a cup, can be placed on the top surface **62** of the spa shell **60**. The accessory **70** is placed on the top surface **62** over the induction receiving coils **65b** (the induction transmitting coils **65a** have been omitted for clarity). As outlined, placement of the induction receiving coils **65b** substantially aligns with placement of the induction transmitting coils **65a**. The induction receiving coils **65b** can be used to provide power to the accessory **70**.

(22) In some embodiments, the induction receiving coils **65b** are disposed within the accessory **70**, such as within a bottom of a cup. Placement of the accessory **70** on the top surface **62** of the shell **60** allows the induction receiving coils **65b** to interface and be in electrical communication with the induction transmitting coils **65a**. In some embodiments, the accessory **70** also includes lights or other components to be powered by the induction signal received by the induction receiving coils **65b**. The top surface **62** can include a cup holder and the induction transmitting coils **65a** can be placed at the bottom of the cup holder, just under the top surface **62**.

(23) Also disclosed are methods of providing wireless transmission of electricity. For example, in some embodiments, disclosed are methods of providing wireless transmission of electricity to spa components such as lights, cup holders, candles, or other components that may be incorporated into a spa. Methods of providing wireless transmission of electricity are known, such as the method described in U.S. Pat. No. 9,887,588, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

(24) FIGS. **7** and **8** illustrate flowcharts of example methods for providing wireless transmission of electricity. Specifically illustrated are methods for providing wireless transmission of electricity to a spa accessory, such as a light incorporated into a spa. FIG. **7** illustrates a method **100** for providing wireless transmission of electricity to a light. In some embodiments, the method **100** includes installing a transmitting device in connection with a spa shell, at **105**. As described, the transmitting device can be disposed within a port defined by the spa shell. The method **100** can also include installing a receiving device within a selectively removable seatback, at **110**. As described, the receiving device can be housed or otherwise connected to a manifold of the selectively removable seatback. In some embodiments, the transmitting and receiving devices are installed such that they interface with each other.

(25) The method **100** further includes transmitting an induction signal, at **115**. For example, the transmitting device can generate and transmit the induction signal. The method **100** includes, at **120**, receiving the induction signal and using the induction signal to power a light. For example, the induction signal can be received by the receiving device and subsequently transmitted or transferred to the light.

(26) FIG. **8** illustrates a method **200** for providing wireless transmission of electricity to a light. In some embodiments, the method **200** includes installing a transmitting device in connection with a spa shell, at **205**. As described, the transmitting device can be disposed within a port defined by the spa shell. The method **200** can also include installing a receiving device within a selectively removable seatback that is received by the spa shell, at **210**. As described, the selectively removable seatback can be disposed within a hollow defined by an interior surface of the spa shell. Further, the receiving device can be housed or otherwise connected to a manifold of the selectively removable seatback. In some embodiments, the transmitting and receiving devices are installed such that they interface with each other. For example, a portion of the transmitting device may extend from a port in an exterior of the spa shell through a portion of the hollow, thereby allowing

the transmitting device to interface with the receiving device.

(27) The method **200** further includes transmitting an induction signal, at **215**. For example, the transmitting device can generate and transmit the induction signal. The method **200** includes, at **220**, amplifying the induction signal. As described with respect to FIG. **10** below, the induction signal can be amplified by an amplifier. The method **200** further includes receiving the amplified induction signal, at **225**. For example, the receiving device will receive the amplified induction signal subsequent to amplification of the induction signal. The method **200** additionally includes converting the received and amplified induction signal into electricity, at **230**. The converted electricity can then be used to power a light. For example, the amplified induction signal can be received by the receiving device, converted from an electromagnetic wave to an electrical current, where the electrical current is subsequently transmitted or transferred to the light.

(28) FIG. **9** provides a schematic block diagram of one example of an architecture for wirelessly transmitting electricity to a device, such as a light, according to the present disclosure. As illustrated, the architecture **300** includes at least one transmitting coil **310**, at least one receiving coil **315**, and at least one light **320**. The at least one transmitting coil **310** is in communication (e.g., electrical communication) with the at least one receiving coil **315**, and the at least one receiving coil **315** is in communication (e.g., electrical communication) with the at least one light **320**. The architecture **300** can also include a converter **325** in communication with the light **320**, and a control box **330** in communication with both the at least one transmitting coil **310** and the converter **325**. In some embodiments, the control box **330** is the control box/power supply for the spa. In other words, the control box **330** may provide power to other components of the spa, such as pumps, filters, jets, other lights incorporated into the spa, etc.

(29) In some embodiments, the converter **325** is configured to adjust at least one lighting characteristic of the light **320**. For example, the converter **325** can be configured to adjust at least a brightness or intensity, color, and/or lighting pattern of the light **320**. A lighting pattern can include, for example, pulsed output of the light **320**. In some embodiments, the converter **325** can be configured to match a pulsed output of the light **320** to, for example, a rhythm or beat of music.

(30) When a user interchanges a selectively removable seatback (see the selectively removable seatback **15** illustrated in FIGS. **1-3**), the converter **325** is configured to adjust at least one characteristic of the light **320** such that the overall lighting characteristics for the spa are uniform. For example, in an embodiment, the overall lighting color within the spa is set to a constant blue. When the user interchanges a first selectively removable seatback for a second selectively removable seatback, the converter **325** will adjust the light **320** of the second selectively removable seatback to output a constant blue. In this way, the overall lighting characteristics for the spa can be maintained without interruption from the interchange of the selectively removable seatbacks.

(31) FIG. **10** provides a schematic block diagram of another example of an architecture according to the present disclosure. As illustrated, the architecture **400** includes at least one transmitting coil **410**, at least one amplifier **440**, at least one receiving coil **415**, and a plurality of lights **420**. The at least one transmitting coil **410** is in communication (e.g., electrical communication) with the at least one amplifier **440**; the at least one amplifier **440** is in communication with at least one receiving coil **415**; and the at least one receiving coil **415** is in communication (e.g., electrical communication) with the plurality of lights **420**.

(32) In some embodiments, the at least one amplifier **440** is configured to receive an induction signal generated and transmitted by the at least one transmitting coil **410**. In some embodiments, the at least one amplifier **440** is further configured to amplify the received induction signal and transmit the amplified induction signal to the at least one receiving coil **415**.

(33) The architecture **400** can also include a converter **425** in communication with the plurality of lights **420**, and a control box **430** in communication with both the at least one transmitting coil **410** and the converter **425**. In some embodiments, the control box **430** is the control box/power supply for the spa. In other words, the control box **430** may provide power to other components of the spa,

such as pumps, filters, jets, other lights incorporated into the spa, etc.

(34) Similar to the architecture **300** of FIG. **9**, in some embodiments, the converter **425** is configured to adjust at least one characteristic of the plurality of lights **420**. For example, the converter **425** can be configured to adjust at least a brightness or intensity, color, and/or lighting pattern of the plurality of lights **420**. A lighting pattern can include, for example, pulsed output of the plurality of lights **420**. In some embodiments, the converter **425** can be configured to match or correspond a pulsed output of the plurality of lights **420** to, for example, a rhythm or beat of music.

(35) When a user interchanges a selectively removable seatback (see the selectively removable seatback **15** illustrated in FIGS. **1-3**), the converter **425** is configured to adjust at least one lighting characteristic of the plurality of lights **420** such that the overall lighting characteristics for the spa are uniform. In some embodiments, the at least one lighting characteristic includes a brightness or intensity, color, and/or lighting pattern. For example, in an embodiment, the overall lighting color within the spa is set to a constant blue. When the user interchanges a first selectively removable seatback for a second selectively removable seatback, the converter **425** will adjust the plurality of lights **420** of the second selectively removable seatback to output a constant blue. In this way, the overall lighting characteristics for the spa can be maintained without interruption from the interchange of the selectively removable seatbacks.

(36) As illustrated, the architecture **400** also includes an additional power supply **445** in electrical communication with the at least one transmitting coil **410**. In some embodiments, the control box **430** is configured to provide a first amperage and the additional power supply **445** is configured to provide a second amperage, which is greater than the first amperage. When the number of lights included in the plurality of lights **420** satisfies a threshold value, the at least one transmitting coil **410** can receive power from the additional power supply **445** instead of the control box **430**.

Specifically, when the plurality of lights **420** require an amperage that exceeds the first amperage of the control box **430**, the additional power supply **445** can be used to provide power and/or amperage to the at least one transmitting coil **410** and, thus, the plurality of lights **420**.

(37) FIG. **11** provides a schematic block diagram of another embodiment of the architecture **400** illustrated in FIG. **10**. Thus, like elements will be labelled with like reference numbers. As illustrated in FIG. **11**, the architecture **400** includes at least one transmitting coil **410**, at least one amplifier **440**, at least one receiving coil **415**, at least one spa seatback light **420**, and a plurality of spa lights **520**. The plurality of spa lights **520** are installed and/or disposed in connection with the spa shell. The at least one transmitting coil **410** is in communication (e.g., electrical communication) with the at least one amplifier **440**; the at least one amplifier **440** is in communication with at least one receiving coil **415**; and the at least one receiving coil **415** is in communication (e.g., electrical communication) with the at least one spa seatback light **420**.

(38) Similar to the architecture **300** and **400** of FIGS. **9** and **10**, in some embodiments, the converter **425** is configured to adjust at least one characteristic of both the at least one spa seatback light **420** and the plurality of spa lights **520**. In some embodiments, the converter **425** is configured to adjust the lighting characteristic(s) for both lights **420**, **520** simultaneously. In some embodiments, the converter **425** is configured to adjust the lighting characteristic(s) for both lights **420**, **520** asynchronously. For example, the converter **425** can be configured to adjust at least a brightness or intensity, color, and/or lighting pattern of the at least one spa seatback light **420** and/or the plurality of spa lights **520**. A lighting pattern can include, for example, a pulsed output of the lights **420**, **520**. In some embodiments, the converter **425** can be configured to match or correspond the pulsed output of the lights **420**, **520** to, for example, a rhythm or beat of music.

(39) In some embodiments, the control box **430** is also configured to control and/or adjust at least one characteristic of both the at least one spa seatback light **420** and the plurality of spa lights **520**. In some embodiments, the control box **430** and the converter **425** both control and/or adjust at least one characteristic of the at least one spa seatback light **420** and/or the plurality of spa lights **520**.

(40) The architecture **400** illustrated in FIG. **11** additionally includes a controller **510**. In some

embodiments, the controller **510** is in communication (e.g., electrical communication) with the at least one spa seatback light **420**, the plurality of spa lights **520**, and the control box **430**. Additionally, and/or alternatively, the controller **510** is in communication (e.g., electrical communication) with the additional power supply **445**.

(41) In some embodiments, the controller **510** can be configured to control at least one lighting characteristic for the at least one spa seatback light **420** and/or the plurality of spa lights **520**. As before, the at least one lighting characteristic can include, at least, a brightness or intensity, color, and/or a lighting pattern. In some embodiments, the controller **510** controls the at least one lighting characteristic for both lights **420**, **520** simultaneously or substantially simultaneously. In some embodiments, the controller **510** controls the at least one lighting characteristic for both lights **420**, **520** asynchronously. Though not illustrated, in some embodiments, the architecture **400** includes a user interface in communication with the controller **510**. The user interface can allow a user to select at least one setting corresponding to the lighting characteristics for the at least one spa seatback light **420** and/or the plurality of spa lights **520**.

(42) While particular embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, it should be understood that various other changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the claimed subject matter. Moreover, although various aspects of the claimed subject matter have been described herein, such aspects need not be utilized in combination. It should also be noted that some of the embodiments disclosed herein may have been disclosed in relation to a particular water-containing vessel (e.g., a spa); however, other vessels (e.g., pools, tubs, swim spas, etc.) are also contemplated. A spa is also known in the industry as a hot tub and is generally formed of a concave shell to receive and contain water. Structures, such as a jet, can extend through the concave shell to move water from a surface outside the spa to a surface inside the spa or shell. Surfaces inside the shell are referred to as more “proximal” while surfaces that extend through the shell are referred to as “distal.” A proximal side of the spa shell faces the portion of the spa shell where the user relaxes. Electrical communication means direct wired electrical communication, wireless electrical communication, induction communication, magnetic communication, etc.

(43) In one embodiment, the terms “about” and “approximately” refer to numerical parameters within 10% of the indicated range. The terms “a,” “an,” “the,” and similar referents used in the context of describing the embodiments of the present disclosure (especially in the context of the following claims) are to be construed to cover both the singular and the plural, unless otherwise indicated herein or clearly contradicted by context. Recitation of ranges of values herein is merely intended to serve as a shorthand method of referring individually to each separate value falling within the range. Unless otherwise indicated herein, each individual value is incorporated into the specification as if it were individually recited herein. All methods described herein can be performed in any suitable order unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context. The use of any and all examples, or exemplary language (e.g., “such as”) provided herein is intended merely to better illuminate the embodiments of the present disclosure and does not pose a limitation on the scope of the present disclosure. No language in the specification should be construed as indicating any non-claimed element essential to the practice of the embodiments of the present disclosure.

(44) Groupings of alternative elements or embodiments disclosed herein are not to be construed as limitations. Each group member may be referred to and claimed individually or in any combination with other members of the group or other elements found herein. It is anticipated that one or more members of a group may be included in, or deleted from, a group for reasons of convenience and/or patentability. When any such inclusion or deletion occurs, the specification is deemed to contain the group as modified thus fulfilling the written description of all Markush groups used in the appended claims.

(45) Certain embodiments are described herein, including the best mode known to the author(s) of

this disclosure for carrying out the embodiments disclosed herein. Of course, variations on these described embodiments will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the foregoing description. The author(s) expects skilled artisans to employ such variations as appropriate, and the author(s) intends for the embodiments of the present disclosure to be practiced otherwise than specifically described herein. Accordingly, this disclosure includes all modifications and equivalents of the subject matter recited in the claims appended hereto as permitted by applicable law. Moreover, any combination of the above-described elements in all possible variations thereof is encompassed by the present disclosure unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context.

(46) Specific embodiments disclosed herein may be further limited in the claims using consisting of or consisting essentially of language. When used in the claims, whether as filed or added per amendment, the transition term “consisting of” excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claims. The transition term “consisting essentially of” limits the scope of a claim to the specified materials or steps and those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristic(s). Embodiments of this disclosure so claimed are inherently or expressly described and enabled herein.

(47) Although this disclosure provides many specifics, these should not be construed as limiting the scope of any of the claims that follow, but merely as providing illustrations of some embodiments of elements and features of the disclosed subject matter. Other embodiments of the disclosed subject matter, and of their elements and features, may be devised which do not depart from the spirit or scope of any of the claims. Features from different embodiments may be employed in combination. Accordingly, the scope of each claim is limited only by its plain language and the legal equivalents thereto.

Claims

1. A method of wirelessly transmitting electricity to a light in a selectively removable spa seatback, the method comprising: installing a transmitting device in connection with a spa shell; installing a receiving device within the selectively removable spa seatback, the receiving device in electrical communication with the light; transmitting, by the transmitting device, an induction signal; and receiving, by the receiving device, the induction signal, and using the induction signal to power the light.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the induction signal comprises a near field induction signal.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising: amplifying the induction signal to create an amplified induction signal; and generating an electrical current according to the amplified induction signal, wherein the electrical current powers the light.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein generating the electrical current comprises converting the amplified induction signal into the electrical current.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the induction signal into an electrical signal.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting device and the receiving device are installed such that the transmitting device abuts and interfaces with the receiving device when the selectively removable spa seatback is in an installed position.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising flowing water through the selectively removable spa seatback.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein both the transmitting device and the receiving device are isolated from a flow of water.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting device is received within a port extending through the spa shell.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting device is housed by a body that is received

within a port extending through the spa shell.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the selectively removable spa seatback comprises a manifold for connecting the selectively removable spa seatback to the spa shell.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the manifold comprises a body for housing the receiving device, a pair of top support brackets for receiving a portion of the selectively removable spa seatback and connecting the selectively removable spa seatback to the spa shell, and a pair of bottom support brackets for connecting the selectively removable spa seatback to the spa shell.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the manifold comprises a body for housing the receiving device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the light is attached to the body of the manifold.

15. A method of wirelessly transmitting electricity to a spa accessory, the method comprising: installing a transmitting device in connection with a spa shell; installing a receiving device in connection with the spa shell, the receiving device in electrical communication with the spa accessory; transmitting an induction signal by the transmitting device; amplifying the induction signal to generate an amplified induction signal; receiving the amplified induction signal by the receiving device; converting the received and amplified induction signal to an electric current; and using the electric current to power the spa accessory.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the induction signal comprises a near field induction signal.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the spa accessory is in connection with a removable spa seatback removeably received by the spa shell.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the spa accessory comprises a light.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein installing the receiving device comprises: installing a selectively removable spa seatback, the selectively removable spa seatback comprising: a manifold having a pair of top brackets and a pair of bottom brackets, the pair of top brackets and pair of bottom brackets for connecting the selectively removable spa seatback to the spa shell, and a body defined by the manifold, the body for housing the receiving device; and installing the receiving device within the body of the manifold.

20. A method of wirelessly transmitting electricity to at least one spa accessory, the method comprising: installing a transmitting device in connection with a spa shell; installing a receiving device in connection with a top surface of the spa shell, the receiving device in electrical communication with the at least one spa accessory; transmitting an induction signal by the transmitting device; amplifying the induction signal to generate an amplified induction signal; receiving the amplified induction signal by the receiving device; converting the received and amplified induction signal to an electric current; using the electric current to power the at least one spa accessory, the at least one spa accessory comprising a cup.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the transmitting device is installed under the top surface of the spa shell and the receiving device is installed on the top surface of the spa shell, such that the receiving device is substantially aligned with the transmitting device.
