

Protecting Internal Design in Japan

March 22, 2011

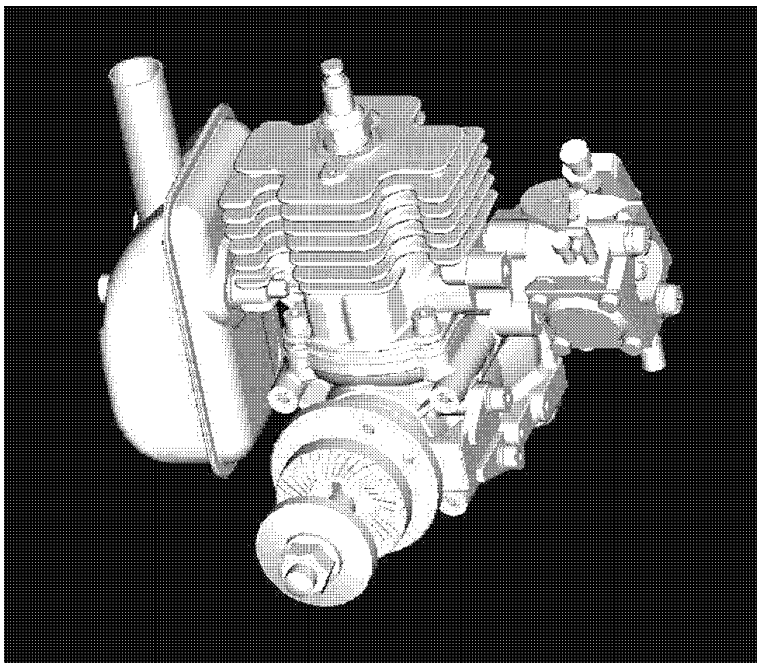
Akihiro Ryuka

Designs of internal parts are protected by design law in Japan, as far as they can be seen when they are sold. Tokyo IP High Court said in the decision Ne-1119, in 2003, "Designs are protected so that purchasers or consumers do not confuse products with others. Therefore, products are protected if their designs can be seen when they are sold."

Art. 4.2 of the European Community Design Regulations requires that a component part be visible during normal use, however, it is different in Japan.

Examples of internal designs

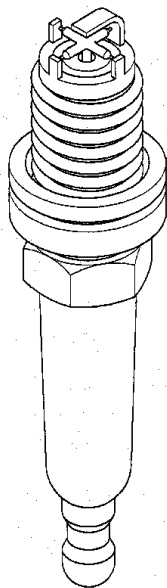
1. Engine , Registration No. 1257361



2. Engine Cover, Registration No. 1258,613



3. Spark Plug, Registration No. 1348,267



Should you need any other information, please feel free to contact us.

Best regards,

Aki Ryuka