parts together in the eye by separating the arms **51, 52**, positioning the lens body or optic **34** therebetween, and permitting the arms **51, 52** to resume their normal undeformed condition, as shown in FIG. **2**. The lens **32**, in assembled condition, may then be seated in the eye as shown in FIG. **1**.

It has been found that an optic of no more than 3 mm diameter is necessary for suitable vision. Use of such miniature optic would substantially reduce the size of the incision required and thus reduce the risks involved in the surgery. In the past, however, the glare resulting from light impinging on the peripheral marginal regions of a 3 mm optic has been found so distracting that such optics were not considered viable. According to the present invention however, that disadvantage has been substantially eliminated, since any light rays which would otherwise be deflected from the peripheral marginal regions of such miniature optic toward the retina are now absorbed or redirected by the masking means overlying those peripheral marginal regions. Preferably the lens according to the present invention has a pair of imaginary coordinate axes such as axes X—X and Y—Y which are at right angles to each other and also are at right angles to the optical axis **60**. The preferred lens body according to the present invention has a maximum dimension in a direction parallel to one of the said pair of coordinate axes which is about 3 mm. For example, the dimension X of optic **34** in FIG. **8** may be about 3 mm and the dimension Y may be about 5 mm. It will be seen that with a lens body such as shown in FIG. **8**, the masking means need only be provided in connection with the marginal peripheral regions **35*a*** and need not be provided along the marginal peripheral regions **35*b*** of the rectangular optic since only the former will normally be within the bundle of light rays impinging on the retina through the pupil of the eye.

From the foregoing description it will be appararent that an intraocular lens constructed in accordance with the invention has the advantage that the lens can be inserted into the eye through an opening which is smaller than the incisions currently required for conventional intraocular lenses. It will be noted that these openings currently must be at least 5 mm in length as determined by the minimum size optic in conventional use.

While there have been described what are at present considered to be the preferred embodiments of this invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the invention, and it is, therefore, aimed to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. An intraocular lens comprising:

a lens body for focusing light rays on the retina of an eye, said lens body having a pair of imaginary coordinate axes at right angles to one another and to the optical axis; and

position-fixation means for seating said lens body in the eye, said position-fixation means separable from said lens body outside the eye and attachable to said lens body inside the eye;

said lens body having a maximum dimension in the direction parallel to one of its pair of coordinate axes which is substantially less than 5 mm;

said position-fixation means including masking means overlying at least those portions of the periphery of said lens body which are transverse to said one coordinate axis in the region of said maximum dimension when said position fixation means is attached to said lens body, said position-fixation means further including a central stem portion and a pair of limb portions extending from opposite ends of said stem portion and flexible arm means extending transversely from said stem portion intermediate and in the same direction as said limb portions, said arm means including said masking means and being adapted to be connected with said lens body within the eye.

2. An intraocular lens in accordance with claim **1** in which said maximum dimension is about 3 mm.

3. An intraocular lens in accordance with claim **1** in which said position fixation means includes holding means for engaging at least a portion of the periphery of said lens body for attachment thereto.

4. An intraocular lens in accordance with claim **3** in which said holding means surround the periphery of said lens body.

5. An intraocular lens according to claim **1** in which said masking means is adapted to mask from the retina of the eye, light rays which would otherwise produce a glare effect by being deflected toward the retina from said portion of the periphery of the lens body at an angle different from the angle of the light rays passing through immediately adjacent regions of said lens body.

6. An intraocular lens in accordance with claim **1** in which said masking means comprises optically black means overlying said portions.

7. An intraocular lens according to claim **1** in which said lens body has a maximum dimension in a direction parallel to the other of its coordinate axes which is substantially greater than said first mentioned dimension.

8. In an intraocular lens according to claim **1** in which said arm means substantially surrounds said lens body.

9. In an intraocular lens according to claim **1** in which said arm means comprises a pair of arms each fixed at one of its ends to said position-fixation means and having a free end, said arms adapted to embrace opposite portions respectively of said lens body for securely fastening the latter to said position-fixation means.

10. An intraocular lens according to claim **1** in which said lens body has a miximum dimension in a direction parallel to the other of its pair of coordinate axes which is also substantially less than 5 mm.

11. An intraocular lens comprising:

a lens body for focusing light rays on the retina of an eye, said lens body having a pair of imaginary coordinate axes at right angles to one another and to the optical axis; and

position-fixation means for seating said lens body in the eye, said position-fixation means separable from said lens body outside the eye and attachable to said lens body inside the eye;

said lens body having a maximum dimension in the direction parallel to one of its pair of coordinate axes which is substantially less than 5 mm;

said position-fixation means including masking means comprising elongated prism means overlying at least those portions of the periphery of said lens body which are transverse to said one coordinate axis in the region of said maximum dimension when said position fixation means is attached to said lens body.