12. An electric heating unit as claimed in claim 11 in which the first and second holder members are formed of a ceramic material.

13. An electric heater comprising:

a housing having a rear air inlet and a forward air inlet;

a fan mounted inside the housing for producing an air flow forwardly from the rear air inlet to the forward air outlet, the fan having a fan venturi for directing the air flow including a forward venturi opening, a rear venturi opening and a longitudinal venturi axis;

a multiplicity of plate-shaped heating elements each having a core of semiconductor material with a positive resistance-temperature coefficient, each core having a pair of opposing core faces including a forward core face and a rear core face and a multiplicity of apertures extending between the forward and rear core faces whereby air can flow through the cores, each heating element having a forward conductive coating over its forward core face and a rear conductive coating over its rear core face;

a heating element holder mounted in the housing intermediate of the forward venturi opening and the forward air outlet and having forward and rear holder faces, the heating element holder including holding means for holding the heating elements in generally coplanar, spaced-apart relationship and for orienting each of the cores generally perpendicular to the longitudinal venturi axis and spaced forwardly of the forward venturi opening, the rear holder face having a recess positioned over the forward venturi opening to receive substantially all air flow from the forward venturi opening, the holder having a multiplicity of passages each having a forward passage opening in the front face of the heating element holder and a rear passage opening in the recess spaced forwardly of the forward venturi opening, each passage having an associated one of the heating elements positioned intermediate of its forward and rear passage openings and so oriented that all air flow in the passage flows through the associated heating element, each passage flaring radially outwardly and rearwardly from the rear core face of the associated heating element to its rear passage opening, the recess flaring radially outwardly and rearwardly from about the rear passage openings to the rear face of the heating element holder; and,

electrical contact means extending into the heater element holder for use in placing the forward and rear conductive coatings of the heating element cores and the fan in contact with a source of electric power.

14. An electric heater as claimed in claim 13 in which:

the heating element holder includes forward and rear separable holder members, the forward holder member overlaying the forward core faces and the rear holder member overlaying the rear core faces;

the electrical contact means include coating contact means between the forward and rear holder members for separately contacting each of the forward and rear conductive coatings, and including terminal means accessible externally of the heating element holder and connected to the coating contact means for defining a first terminal electrically connected to the forward conductive coatings and a second terminal electrically connected to the rear conductive coatings and electrically isolated from the first terminal; and,

attachment means for drawing the forward and rear holder members together in elastically displaceable relative relationship whereby the heating elements are secured in the heating element holder and the forward and rear holder members are separable with expansion of the heating elements.

15. An electric heater as claimed in claim 14 in which:

the forward holder member has a face internal to the heating element holder;

the rear holder member has a face internal to the heating element holder;

the internal faces of the holder members are contoured together to define a multiplicity of pockets, each pocket containing one of the heating elements.

16. An electric heater as claimed in claim 15 in which the coating contact means comprise a pair of conductive metal plates located between the forward and rear holder members and shaped to seat against the internal faces of the forward and rear holder members, the pair of conductive metal plates including a forward metal plate overlaying the forward conductive coatings and a rear metal plate overlaying the rear conductive coatings, the forward and rear metal plates being apertured to permit passage of air through the apertures of the cores of the heating elements.

17. An electric heater as claimed in claim 16 in which the forward and rear holder members have a multiplicity of pairs of aligned apertures, one aperture of each pair of aligned apertures being formed in the forward holder member and the other aperture of each pair of aligned apertures being formed in the rear holder member, and in which the attachment means comprise:

a multiplicity of fasteners, one fastener associated with each of the pairs of aligned apertures;

each fastener having a shaft extending through the associated pair of aligned apertures with a forward shaft end portion extending externally of the forward holder member and a rear shaft end portion extending externally of the rear holder member, a forward abuttment member attached to the forward shaft end portion, a rear abuttment member attached to the rear shaft end portion, and coil spring means acting between one of the forward and rear abuttment members and a corresponding one of the forward and rear holder members for urging the holder member together.

18. An electric heater as claimed in claim 17 in which the forward and rear holder members are formed of a ceramic material.

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