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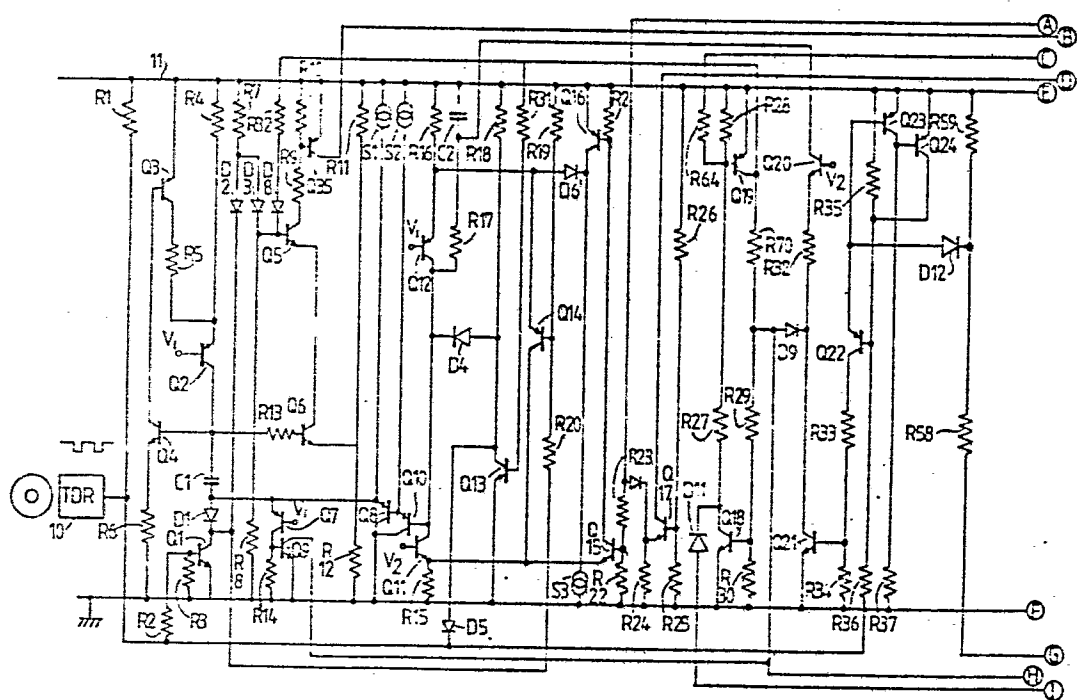
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Variable dwell I.C. engine ignition system.

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A dwell control for an ignition system of the general type including a closed loop control which operates to vary the instant after each spark at which energy storage is commenced for the next spark. At low speeds the closed loop control is overridden and the circuit output (Q44) is operated at constant duty ratio. Switch over between the two modes of operation is effected under the control of a bistable circuit (Q₁₈, Q₁₉) which is set to one state in which a variable timer (C₁, Q₂, Q₃, Q₄) incorporated in the closed loop control determines the instant of energy storage commencement, whenever the time duration for which the energy stored exceeds a threshold in less than a predetermined duration. The bistable is set to its other state, to provide fixed duty cycle operation, whenever the timer period exceeds a limiting value, or when a pulse arrives at the circuit input (Q₁) from a transducer (10) before the expiry of the timer period. This control scheme for the bistable prevents undesirable hunting between the two operating modes.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
A	US-A-4 347 827 (J.J. LoCASCIO)		F 02 P 3/04
A	US-A-4 128 091 (I. BALAN et al.)		
A	US-A-4 043 302 (D.C. SESSIONS)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			F 02 P 3/04
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24-01-1986	Examiner LEROY C.P.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		T : theory or principle underlying the invention	
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