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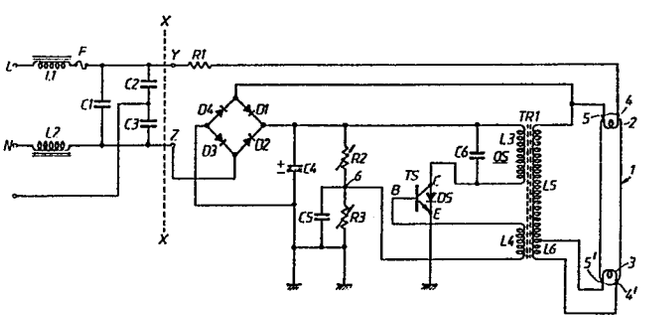
(54) Electronic ballast for fluorescent lamps.

(57) An electronic ballast for a discharge lamp has a transistor-oscillator arrangement comprising a single transistor (TS), whose base is coupled to be driven via a feedback winding (L4) of a transformer (TR1). A primary winding (L3) of the transformer forms part of a resonant circuit connected in the collector path of the transistor. A secondary winding (L5) of the transformer is connected across a discharge lamp (1) for the supply of high frequency alternating voltage to the lamp.

The transistor is biased into class A operation, by a biasing means (R2, R3). This biasing means can also be used as a dimmer by adjusting the operation of the transistor along its characteristic curve to alter the collector voltage.

The ballast has lamp connector terminals (4, 5), a first one (4) of the terminals being connected to an a.c. voltage supply (L), and the second of the connector terminals (5) being connected to a rectifying means (D1–D4). This ensures that the ballast only operates when an operative filament (2) is connected between the lamp connector terminal (4, 5).

Mains supply voltage is filtered by a line filter (L1, L2, C1–C3).



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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)
X	US-A-4 005 335 (PERPER) * Column 2, line 29 - column 5, line 32; figures 1-3 *	1-6,12 -18	H 05 B 41/392
A	US-A-4 150 323 (YEH) * Column 1, line 64 - column 2, line 61; figure 1 *	1,7-10	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)

H 05 B 41/00

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	08-12-1986	DUCHEYNE R.C.L.

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
A : technological background
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P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
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