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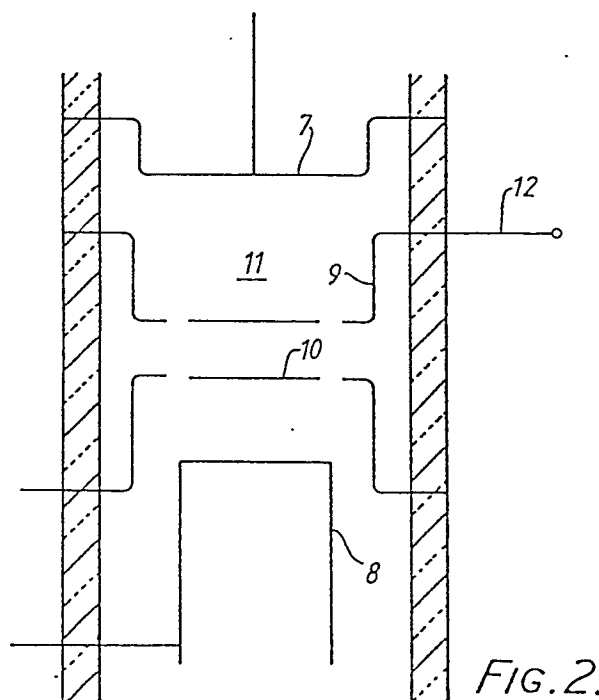
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(54) **Thyratrons.**

(57) A thyatron which enables reverse current conduction has an anode 7 and an adjacent anode grid 9 which together enclose a volume 11. A potential difference is applied between the anode 7 and anode grid 9 such that on forward conduction of the thyatron the charge density of plasma in the volume 11 is increased and when forward conduction of the thyatron stops, persists for some time in that space. On reverse conduction, the plasma contained within the volume 11 acts as a cathodic medium.

In another mode plasma may be created in volume 11 prior to the thyatron becoming conducting.



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 86303782.6
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	<u>US - A - 3 898 518</u> (MENOWN) * Fig.; column 1, lines 42-52; claims * --	1,5	H 01 J 17/56
A	<u>US - A - 4 356 426</u> (MENOWN) * Fig. 1-3; claims * --	1,5	
A	<u>GB - A - 2 065 962</u> (ENGLISH ELECTRIC VALVE) ----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4) H 01 J 17/00 H 01 J 15/00
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 28-12-1988	Examiner BRUNNER
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 O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			