

(19)



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(11) Publication number:

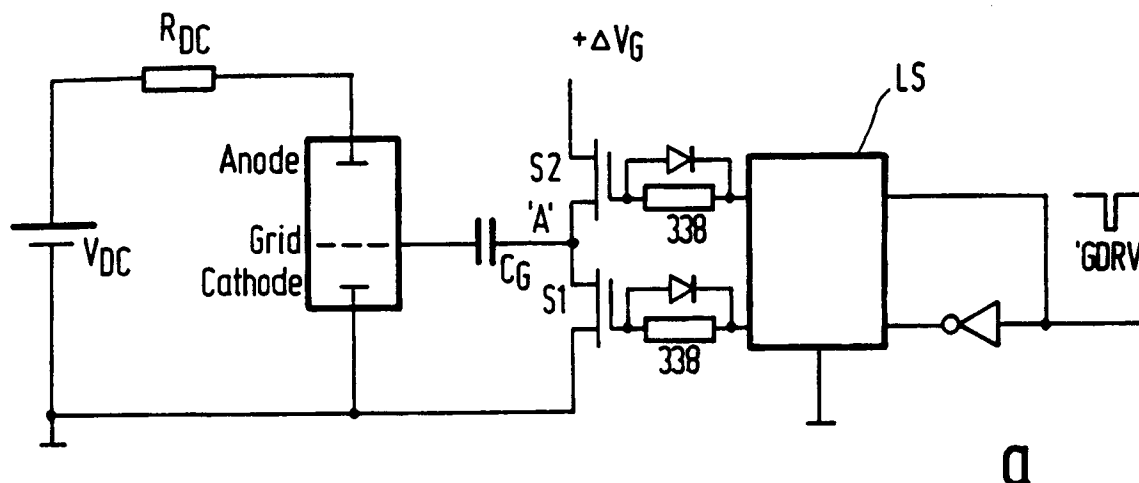
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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION(21) Application number: **91203345.3**(51) Int. Cl.⁵: **H01J 61/04**(22) Date of filing: **18.12.91**(30) Priority: **27.12.90 US 634370**(43) Date of publication of application:
01.07.92 Bulletin 92/27(84) Designated Contracting States:
BE DE FR GB IT NL(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
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NL-5656 AA Eindhoven(NL)(54) **Grid controlled gas discharge lamp.**

(57) A low pressure gas discharge lamp (such as a fluorescent lamp) which includes a wire mesh grid (32) disposed within the lamp envelope (10) so as to intercept the electrons flowing between the lamp electrodes. A lead wire (38) extends from the grid (32) to the outside of the lamp envelope (10), when the grid (32) is provided with a negative voltage with respect to the surrounding plasma the lamp may be switched off. The grid controlled lamp eliminates the

need for a solid state power switch in the lamp driving circuitry. As such, the lamp current flows only through the lamp not through the electronic ballast/lamp driving circuitry. With the lamp current removed from the ballast circuitry, power dissipation problems in the driver circuitry are eliminated. The grid controlled lamp design greatly facilitates circuit design.

**EP 0 492 722 A3**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 20 3345

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.5)
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 011, no. 023 (E-473)22 January 1987 & JP-A-61 193 353 (FUJITSU KIDEN LTD) 27 August 1986 * abstract *	1,4	H01J61/04
A,D	CA-A-685 386 (NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CO) * page 3 - page 4; figures 1-4 *	1,4	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 010, no. 087 (E-393)5 April 1986 & JP-A-60 232 657 (HITACHI SEISAKUSHO) 19 November 1985 * abstract *	1,4	
A	EP-A-0 115 444 (GTE) * page 3; figures 1,2 *	1,4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H01J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 OCTOBER 1992	Examiner HULNE S.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 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			