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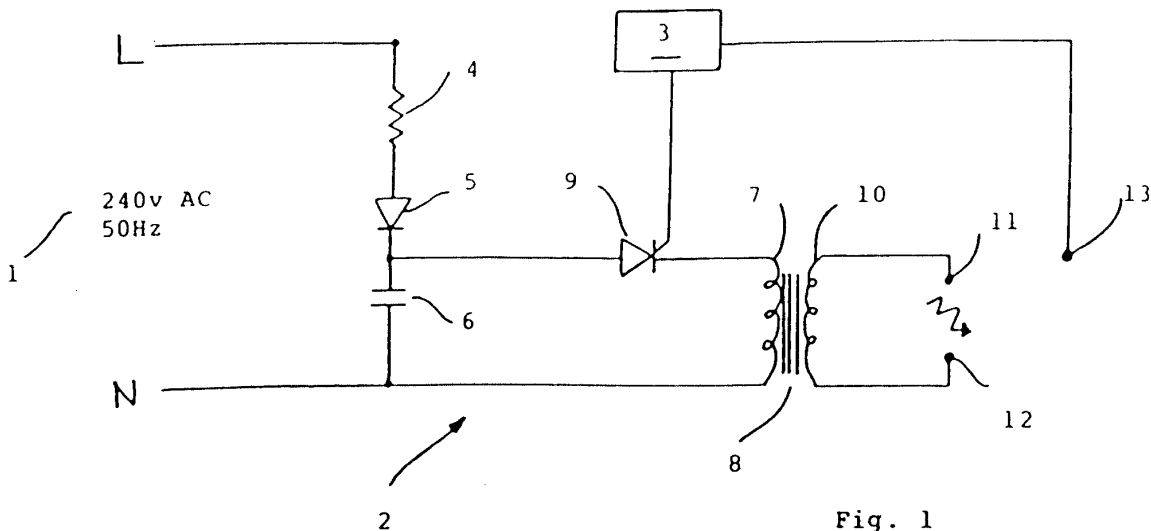
(54)

Improvements relating to spark igniters

(57)

A spark igniter for a gas-fired appliance, such as a boiler, comprises a pair of electrodes (11, 12) and a circuit (2), under the control of a microprocessor (3), that can generate, during each ignition process, successive bursts of sparks between the electrodes (11, 12),

the duration, e.g. about 200 ms, of each burst of sparks being significantly less than the time period, e.g. about 1 second, that elapses before the next burst of sparks is generated. Generation of ignition sparks in such a way enables the igniter to comply with EU electromagnetic compatibility requirements (Fig 1).





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 1144

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.6)
X	US 3 711 237 A (JAULMES E) 16 January 1973 * claim 1; figures * -----	1,5-8	F23Q3/00
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			F23Q
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 2 March 1999	Examiner Vanheusden, J
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			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 97 30 1144

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82