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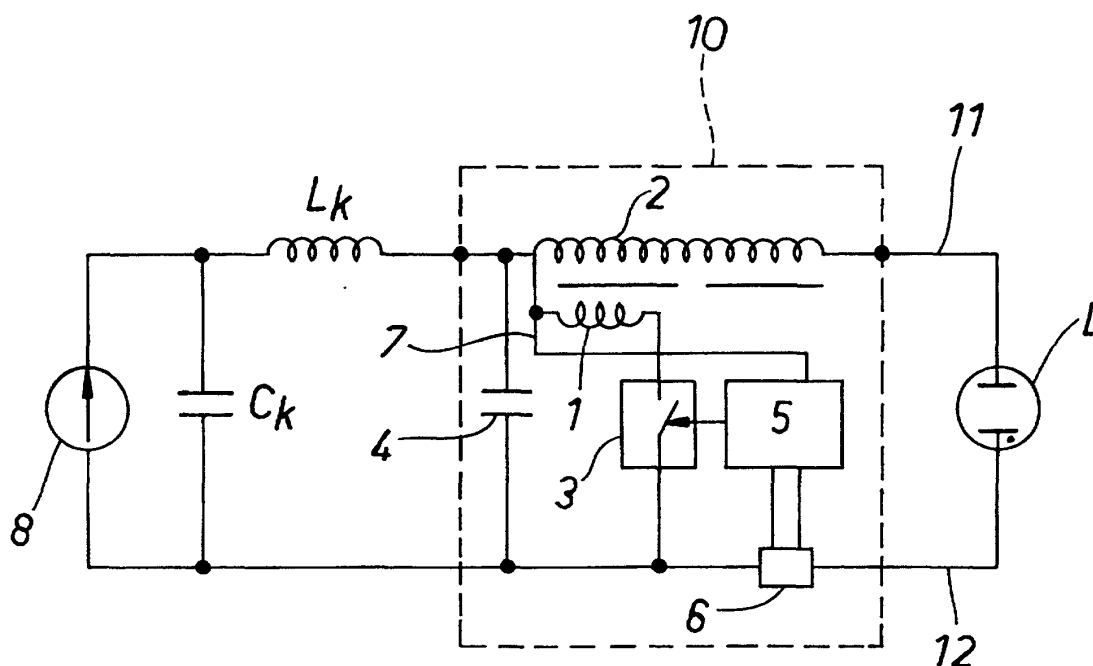
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(54) **Method and ignition circuit for switching a high pressure lamp on and off**

(57) The invention relates to a method and an ignition circuit for switching a high pressure lamp on and off. A load circuit is capable of being short-circuited by means of a switch (3), which is connected in series with a primary winding (1) of a pulse transformer (1, 2) and whose on-off control is also used for generating ignition voltage pulses through a secondary winding (2) to a lamp (L). Upon a controlled closing of the switch (3) con-

ductively for an extended period of time, a current ballast (Lk) will be subjected to a through-going short-circuit current for the load circuit and the lamp voltage falls to such a low level that the lamp is turned off. This lamp turn-off function can be used both for switching off a normally burning lamp and for terminating an abnormal status of gas discharge of a lamp not ignited between ignition attempts, in order to give the lamp a chance to cool down prior to another ignition attempt.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 66 0040

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H05B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 13 November 2003	Examiner Maicas, J
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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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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