

# 国内外电子镇流器技术及电路大观

三 分 册

江苏省电光源工业科技情报站

# 国内外电子镇流器技术及电路大观

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## 前 言

我国电子镇流器经过近十年的发展,已初具规模,它将为我国照明工业作出积极贡献。由于我国电子镇流器的生产厂家多,规模小。产品质量上与国外有一定的差距。为缩小与国外同类产品的差距,并创造出具有我国特色的电子镇流器,特编辑<<国内外电子镇流器技术与电路大观>>。

该<<大观>>共收编了电子镇流器专题文献94篇,国内外专利文献155篇,大约200多万字,系统地介绍了各种类型电子镇流器的技术特性、工艺、配件、测试、国内外标准等。适用于科研、生产、经营以及教学等部门。

<<大观>>共分五章四册出版,第一册(第一,二章):综述与理论,技术工艺与配件;第二册和第三册(第三章):类型与特性;第四册(第四,五章):高压气体放电灯电子镇流器,测试与标准。

由于时间短,编辑水平有限,可能存在着许多不足之处,请批评指正。在此对大力支持和积极参与该项工作的同志及文献的作者深表谢意。

编 者

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# 目 录

## 前言

## 第一章 综述与理论

页码

电子镇流器的分类	1-1
浅谈镇流器的种类与结构	1-13
电子镇流器的发展	1-17
荧光灯电子镇流器的现状	1-22
来自全国电子镇流器质量分析会的信息	1-25
大力推广节能电子镇流器荧光灯	1-30
努力研制适合国情的荧光灯电子镇流器	1-33
荧光灯高级电子镇流器优异特性综述	1-36
放电灯的发展与电子镇流器	1-41
电子镇流器的谐波分析	1-47
交流电子镇流器及电子节能灯对供电系统谐波影响的探讨	1-48
试析荧光灯电子镇流器电源谐波含量不同标准间的换算方法	1-54
电子镇流器谐波分析原理及测试仪器	1-56
带有逐流电路高性能电子镇流器的理论分析	1-59
电子镇流器质量情况分析	1-67
感应式电子启辉镇流器的试验研究	1-72
荧光灯线路的中线上电流有多大?	1-74
电子镇流器的改进	1-75
电子镇流器的设计原理	1-80
变流型电子镇流器原理及设计	1-84
荧光灯电子镇流器的设计与应用	1-88
串联谐振式电子镇流器的设计	1-92
电子镇流变换变压器的设计	1-98
电子变压器中降压器的设计	1-100
电子镇流器的最佳设计	1-103
SUM系列高级电子镇流器的研制报告	1-117
生产SUM系列高级电子镇流器的效益分析	1-126
节能降耗, 高效实用, 新型电子镇流器试制生产汇报	1-132
高效节能荧光灯电子镇流器的研制及应用	1-136
浅谈影响荧光灯交流电子镇流器质量的几个主要参数	1-139

电子镇流器的电源电流和功率因数	1-141
荧光灯系统与电子镇流器的相互影响	1-147
提高电子镇流器的功率因数	1-151
节能电子镇流器	1-156
荧光灯高频电子镇流器——节能与可靠性问题	1-167
紧凑荧光灯镇流器的选择	1-175

## 第二章 技术工艺与配件

荧光灯与电子镇流器配套使用的几个问题	2-1
电子镇流器与荧光灯管匹配的设计方法	2-4
异形荧光灯功率的确定及基准镇流器的选择	2-7
电子镇流时紧凑型荧光灯的早期发黑	2-9
如何提高高效节能荧光灯电子镇流器的寿命	2-11
电子镇流器和荧光灯的寿命	2-17
可改善荧光灯性能的电子镇流器	2-21
电子镇流器的可靠性分析	2-26
论电子镇流器的可靠性	2-33
试论电子镇流器的适用性和可靠性	2-36
厚膜集成电子镇流器的设计与可靠性分析	2-39
荧光灯电子镇流器及其可靠性	2-42
电子镇流器专用VDMOS功率场效应器件	2-46
开关电源和有源谐波滤波技术在电子镇流器中的应用	2-47
功率MOSFET的结构与特性	2-50
功率MOSFET的应用技术	2-56
SG3524在SPWM逆变器中的应用	2-60
电子镇流器功率三极管的选择	2-61
采用功率因数控制器KA7514设计的电子镇流器	2-63
电子镇流器中功率晶体管输入回路分析	2-66
气体放电灯用电子镇流器	2-70
节能型高频半波电子镇流器	2-76
电子镇流器振荡器	2-79

## 其它

日光灯快速节能起动器	2-87
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一种新式日光灯电子启辉器	2-89
日光灯管启亮器	2-100
高效节能荧光灯启辉器	2-103
日光灯电子启动器	2-106
快速电子启辉器	2-113
多功能电灯开关	2-120
新型荧光灯变换器	2-125
荧光灯低压驱动器	2-130
预告熄灭定时照明灯组	2-135
多功能日光灯复明器	2-140
一种调光节能长寿荧光灯具	2-153

### 第三章 种类与特性

#### (一) 荧光灯电子镇流器

电子镇流器电路	3-1
一种可同时驱动多支荧光灯的电子镇流器	3-9
节能荧光灯用电子镇流器	3-13
一种新型的日光灯电子镇流器	3-15
荧光灯电子镇流器	3-18
高效节能灯管电子镇流器	3-29
荧光灯用电子镇流器	3-33
荧光灯电子镇流器	3-38
荧光灯电子镇流器	3-42
新型荧光灯电子镇流器	3-45
日光灯电子镇流器	3-52
荧光灯电子镇流器	3-55
通用型荧光灯电子镇流器	3-57
日光灯电子镇流器	3-64
荧光灯用电子镇流器	3-70
日光灯电子镇流器	3-72
多功能荧光灯电子镇流器	3-81
荧光灯电子启辉镇流器	3-85
荧光灯电子镇流器	3-90
荧光灯的电子稳定器	3-94
全电子双端荧光灯灯脚镇流器	3-104
带开关壁装式电子镇流器	3-110
电容式电子镇流器	3-113
非线性BAT103电容器镇流的荧光灯	3-117

RC定时式电子镇流器	3-119
一种预热式电子镇流器	3-124
荧光灯混合式电路镇流器的改进	3-126
新型混合式荧光灯镇流器	3-130
电子变压器和电子镇流器	3-133
一种改进型电子镇流器	3-145
高节能电子镇流器	3-148
一种新型电子镇流器	3-152
一种直流型节能荧光灯镇流器	3-155
断流控制式电子镇流器	3-158
高性能电子镇流器	3-170
高功率因数电子镇流器	3-176
节能高效日光灯镇流器	3-177
高可靠高功率因数快速启点镇流器	3-180
高效多用节电荧光灯激励装置	3-188
高性能电子镇流器	3-193
模块式高频电子镇流器	3-198
高频场激发荧光灯装置	3-203
荧光灯用高频电子镇流器	3-208
气体放电灯用高频镇流器	3-216
110伏电子镇流器	3-226
宽电压适用电子镇流器	3-230
固化模块电子镇流器	3-236
悬垂式多用电子镇流器	3-242
电子镇流器	3-248
电子镇流器	3-253
电子镇流器	3-258
电子镇流器	3-262
电子镇流器	3-265
电子镇流器	3-269
电子镇流器	3-270
电子镇流器	3-274
多功能电子镇流器	3-278
高效电子镇流器	3-284
两支荧光灯用高效电子镇流器	3-288
多支荧光灯电子镇流器系统	3-294
一组(20支~40支)荧光灯用电子镇流器	3-303
荧光灯阵列电子镇流器	3-314
T12-20W F40-T12-34W~35W-40W荧光灯高频电子镇流器	3-323

荧光灯供电用自动化电子镇流器	3-329
荧光灯高功率因数电子镇流器	3-347
校正功率因数的电子镇流器	3-357
荧光灯高功率因数电子镇流器	3-373
荧光灯通用电子镇流器	3-377
电子镇流器使灯启动和燃点过程	3-384
荧光灯双工作模式电子镇流器	3-397
荧光灯高频电子镇流器	3-404
荧光灯供电装置—高频电子镇流器	3-412
改善荧光灯电流峰值因数的电子镇流器	3-414
飞机照明荧光灯电子镇流器	3-421
集成电路块的高频荧光灯系统	3-425
立体放电灯高频照明系统	3-431
对负载的电压, 电流和相位敏感的荧光灯电子镇流器	3-441
荧光灯电子镇流器电路	3-449
荧光灯或其他放电灯用电容式电子镇流器	3-474
荧光灯电子镇流器电路	3-480

## (二) 紧凑型荧光灯电子镇流器

紧凑型荧光灯用电子镇流器	3-487
紧凑荧光灯与电子镇流器	3-492
内装高频电子镇流器的紧凑型荧光灯的特性	3-496
U形荧光灯用推挽式调光电路	3-499
120V/60HZ/9W U形荧光灯用电子镇流器	3-504
电路板横竖组合电子镇流器	3-510
增强型荧光灯电子镇流器电路	3-513
环形荧光灯用电子镇流器	3-515

## (三) 调光与可控电子镇流器

荧光灯电子调光镇流器	3-520
荧光灯调光电子镇流器	3-525
荧光灯调光	3-529
荧光灯调光式电子镇流器的研究	3-532
节能调光无频闪电子镇流器	3-536
调光电子镇流器	3-545
节能磁控调光式荧光灯镇流器	3-550
可连续调光的荧光灯	3-553



节能调压调光式荧光灯镇流器	3-558
高效节能双管调光日光灯	3-560
荧光灯可调电子镇流器	3-565
可调节荧光灯电流电子镇流器	3-575
高频气体放电灯调光镇流器	3-580
荧光灯可控电子镇流器	3-590
电子镇流器控制装置	3-596
两支荧光灯用可控电子镇流器	3-606
荧光灯可控电子镇流器	3-607
荧光灯预调电子镇流器	3-616

#### (四) 具有保护功能的电子镇流器

成倍延长灯管寿命的无干扰长寿命电子镇流器	3-623
具有异常状态保护的电子镇流器	3-631
带过流保护的荧光灯用电子镇流器	3-634
电子镇流器全功能保护系统	3-639
带过载保护的电子镇流器	3-644
有灯不启动保护功能的电子镇流器	3-647
新型预热式荧光灯自保护电子镇流器	3-654
热电藕合继电器保护电子镇流器	3-663
自保护电子镇流器	3-668
带有灯不起动保护装置的电子镇流器	3-671
具备灯不起动保护功能的电子镇流器	3-678
具有平衡检测保护电路的电子镇流器	3-685
带保护电阻的电子荧光灯	3-690
密封防射频干扰电子镇流器	3-694
带保护三极管电路镇流器	3-698
消除谐振电感电磁效应电子镇流器	3-700
带有逐流电路的荧光灯电子镇流器	3-703
直流荧光灯用全波倍压镇流器	3-710
快速启动荧光灯用具有抗冲击性能电子镇流器	3-713
防高压电子镇流器	3-719
荧光灯电子镇流器保护电路	3-726
具有异常状态保护功能的荧光灯电子镇流器	3-736
整流波形部分平滑式荧光灯电子镇流器	3-738
无启辉器型电子节能灯	3-744
安全节能利废电子镇流器	3-748

可使废灯管复明的高可靠性电子镇流器	3-751
节电荧光灯镇流器	3-756
带灯座的日光灯电子镇流器	3-763

## 第四章 高强度放电灯用电子镇流器

高强度放电灯的新型电子镇流器	4-1
高强度气体放电灯用交流电子镇流器的探讨	4-6
高强度气体放电灯电子点灯线路的研究(上下)	4-12
电子镇流高强度气体放电灯的启动和保护方式	4-15
高强度气体放电灯电子镇流器	4-22
高气压放电灯的电子镇流器	4-27
高压气体放电灯电子镇流器	4-32
高强度放电灯电子镇流器	4-38
气体放电灯低功耗三相容性镇流器	4-56
用于金属卤化物灯的电子镇流器	4-60
自耦式金属卤化物灯电子镇流器	4-66
金属卤化物灯用电子镇流器	4-69
金属卤化物灯用电子镇流器	4-84
钠灯电子镇流器	4-94
改进的低压卤素灯电源	4-100
高压钠灯节能电子镇流器	4-108
高压钠灯电子镇流器	4-122
高压钠灯用稳定电压电子镇流器	4-129
高压钠灯紧急可变电子镇流器	4-135
高压钠灯照明系统	4-141
高压汞灯电子镇流器	4-148
新型霓虹灯变压器	4-152
全电子霓虹灯变压器	4-155
单相节能霓虹灯电子镇流器	4-161
带有过载保护的霓虹灯电源	4-167
一种高效节能霓虹灯电源	4-176
霓虹灯交直流电子启辉器	4-181
霓虹灯连接装置—闭式霓虹灯组合镇流器	4-186
低压霓虹灯用电子镇流器	4-198
霓虹灯电子变压器的开发	4-208

## 第五章 测试与标准

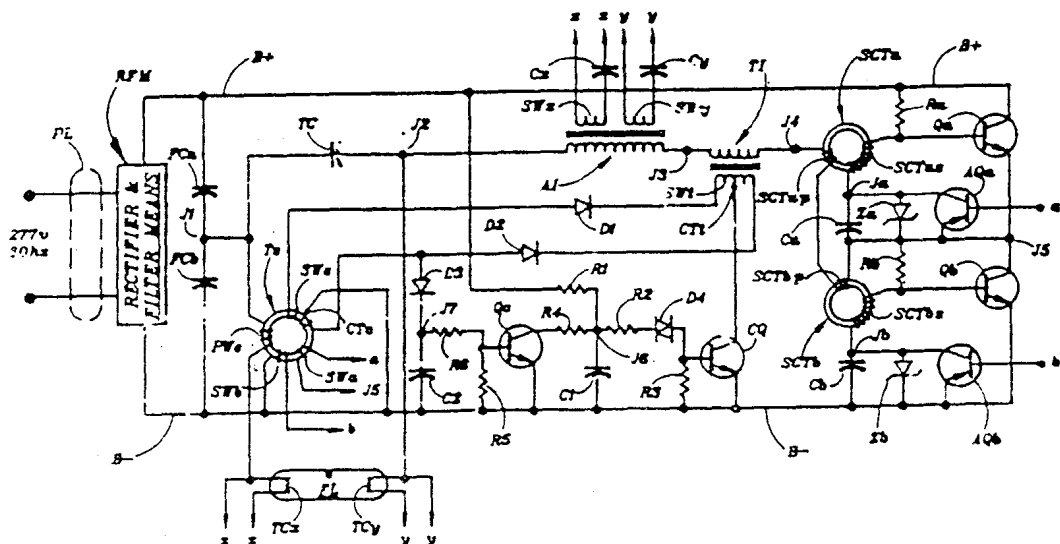
电子镇流器的高温寿命试验	5-1
电子镇流器的考核	5-4
与电子镇流器一体化双H灯光参数的试验	5-8
一种考核电子镇流器的新试验方法	5-12
电子镇流器功耗的精确测量	5-14
多功能程控镇流器测试台	5-18
IEC荧光灯和镇流器的热力测试指南	5-22
浅谈镇流器的性能要求与检测方法(上)	5-25
浅谈镇流器的通用性能要求与检测方法(下)	5-31
浅谈镇流器的安全要求与其检测方法	5-37
荧光灯用电子镇流器专业标准在执行中的几个问题(上)	5-47
荧光灯交流电子镇流器检测与质量分析	5-51
国际电光源市场上UL注册商标介绍	5-60
管形荧光灯用交流电子镇流器一般要求,安全要求及性能要求--国标	5-63
IEC 标准管形荧光灯用交流电子镇流器	5-102

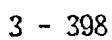
### 第三章 种类与特性(后部)

#### 荧光灯用双工作模式电子镇流器

USP 4 935 669

荧光灯自振荡逆变式电子镇流器有两种工作模式:(a)第一种模式,此模式转换频率约为70KHz,并与第一调谐电路谐振,通过谐振电压加到荧光灯阴极上;(b)第二种模式,在此模式中转换频率约30KHz,并与第二调谐电路谐振,通过该谐振电源给灯供电。当开始给镇流器供电时、镇流器以第一种模式开始工作。从而供电加热灯丝,仍然没有给灯供电,大约1秒钟后,在灯丝达到完全白炽后,逆变器自动变为第二种模式,从而给灯供电,同时消除灯丝加热电源。如果由于某种原因,灯在约10毫秒内不点燃,逆变器就返回到第一种模式;此后在其两种模式中进行循环,直到灯点燃。





## TWO-MODE ELECTRONIC BALLAST

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

## 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to electronic ballasts for gas discharge lamps, particularly to ballasts wherein the load is powered by way of a series-excited parallel-loaded resonant L-C circuit.

## 2. Description of Prior Art

There are two predominant types of electronic ballasts for gas discharge lamps: (a) a first type may be referred-to as the parallel-resonant type and involves the use of a current-excited (i.e., parallel-excited) parallel-loaded resonant L-C circuit; and (b) a second type that may be referred-to as the series-resonant type and involves the use of a voltage-excited (i.e., series-excited) parallel-loaded resonant L-C circuit.

An example of the parallel-resonant type of electronic ballasts is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,277,726 to Burke. An example of the series-resonant type of electronic ballasts is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,538,095 to Nilssen.

Of these two types of electronic ballasts, the parallel-resonant type is conducive to yielding a stable easy-to-control self-oscillating inverter-type ballast; whereas the series-resonant type, although potentially simpler and more efficient, is harder to control in that it has a natural tendency to self-destruct in case the lamp load be removed.

To mitigate this tendency to self-destruct under no-load conditions, various protection circuits have been developed, such as for instance described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,638,562 to Nilssen.

## GENERAL PURPOSE OF PRESENT INVENTION

The general purpose of the present invention is that of providing a method for cost-effectively controlling the operation of a series-resonant electronic inverter-type ballast for fluorescent lamps.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

## 1. Objects of the Invention

An object of the present invention is the provision of a cost-effective control arrangement for attaining proper operation of an electronic ballast wherein the lamp load is powered by way of a series-excited predominantly parallel-loaded resonant L-C circuit.

This as well as other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description and claims.

## 2. Brief Description

A self-oscillating inverter-type fluorescent lamp ballast has two modes of operation: (a) a first mode in which the inversion frequency is about 70 kHz and is resonant with a first tuned L-C circuit by which power is supplied to the cathodes of the fluorescent lamp; and (b) a second mode in which the inversion frequency is about 30 kHz and is resonant with a second tuned L-C circuit by which main lamp power is supplied.

When the ballast is initially powered-up, it starts operation in its first mode, thereby providing cathode heating power without yet providing main lamp power. About one second later, after the cathodes have reached full incandescence, the inverter automatically changes into its second mode, thereby providing main lamp power while at the same time removing cathode heating

power. If for some reason the lamp were not to ignite within about 10 milli-seconds, the inverter reverts back into its first mode; thereafter cycling (with a period of about one second) between its two modes until the lamp does ignite.

Thus, the first tuned L-C circuit is resonant at 70 kHz; and, due to inherent frequency-selectivity characteristics, this first tuned circuit provides cathode heating power only when being excited at or near 70 kHz. Likewise, the second tuned L-C circuit provides main lamp starting voltage and operating power only when being excited at or near 30 kHz.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The drawing diagrammatically illustrates the circuit arrangement of the invention in its preferred embodiment.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

## 1. Details of Construction

The drawing schematically illustrates the preferred embodiment of the invention in the form of a half-bridge inverter-type two-mode electronic ballast for a fluorescent lamp.

In the drawing, 277 Volt/60 Hz power line voltage from an ordinary electric utility power line PL is provided to the AC power input terminals of a rectifier and filter means RFM, the DC output from which is applied between a B+ bus and a B- bus.

A filter capacitor FCa is connected between the B+ bus and a junction J1; a filter capacitor FCb is connected between junction J1 and the B- bus. A tank capacitor TC is connected between junction J1 and a junction J2. An auxiliary inductor AI is connected between junction J2 and a junction J3; and a main tank inductor TI is connected between junction J3 and a junction J4.

Junction J4 is connected with a junction J5 by way of series-connected primary windings SCTap and SCTbp of saturable current transformers SCTa and SCTb, respectively.

A first main inverter transistor Qa is connected with its collector to the B+ bus and with its emitter to junction J5; a second main inverter transistor Qb is connected with its collector to junction J5 and with its emitter to the B- bus.

Secondary winding SCTa of saturable current transformer SCTa is connected between the base of transistor Qa and a junction Ja. A capacitor Ca is connected between junctions Ja and J5. A Zener diode Za is connected with its anode to junction Ja and with its cathode to junction J5. An auxiliary transistor AQA is connected with its collector to junction Ja and with its emitter to junction J5. A resistor Ra is connected between the B+ bus and the base of transistor Qa. The base of auxiliary transistor AQA is designated a.

Secondary winding SCTb of saturable current transformer SCTb is connected between the base of transistor Qb and a junction Jb. A capacitor Cb is connected between junction Jb and the B- bus. A Zener diode Zb is connected with its anode to junction Jb and with its cathode to the B- bus. An auxiliary transistor AQB is connected with its collector to junction Jb and with its emitter to the B- bus. A resistor Rb is connected between junction J5 and the base of transistor Qb. The base of auxiliary transistor AQB is designated b.

Tank inductor TI has a secondary winding SWt, which has a center tap CTt connected with the collector of a control transistor CQ. The emitter of control transistor CQ is connected with the B- bus.

The terminals of secondary winding SWt are connected with the cathodes of two diodes D1 and D2; whose anodes are connected with the terminals of a secondary winding SWc of a control transformer Tc; which secondary winding has a center tap CTC connected with the B- bus.

A fluorescent lamp FL has two thermionic cathodes TCx and TCy; which has power input terminals x-x and y-y, respectively. One of the power input terminals of cathode TCx is connected with junction J1 by way of primary winding PWC of control transformer Tc. One of the power input terminals of cathode TCy is connected with junction J2.

Power input terminals x-x and y-y of cathodes TCx and TCy are connected with power output terminals x-x and y-y of secondary windings SWx and SWy of auxiliary inductor AI, all respectively; which secondary windings have series-connected capacitors Cx and Cy, also respectively.

A resistor R1 is connected between the B+ bus and a junction J6; and a capacitor C1 is connected between junction J6 and the B- bus. A resistor R2 and a Diac D4 are connected in series between junction J6 and the base of control transistor CQ. A resistor R3 is connected between the base of transistor CQ and the B- bus.

A resistor R4 is connected between junction J6 and the collector of a transistor Qc, whose emitter is connected with the B- bus. A resistor R5 is connected between the base of transistor Qc and the B- bus. A resistor R6 is connected between the base of transistor Qc and a junction J7. A capacitor C2 is connected between junction J7 and the B- bus. A diode D3 is connected with its anode to the anode of diode D2 and with its cathode to junction J7.

Control transformer Tc also has two secondary windings SWa and SWb. The terminals of secondary winding SWa are connected between base a of transistor AQA and junction J5; the terminals of secondary winding SWb are connected between the B- bus and base b of transistor AQB.

## 2. Details of Operation

The operation of the circuit arrangement schematically illustrated by the drawing may be explained as follows.

In the arrangement of the drawing, ordinary 277 Volt/60 Hz power line voltage is provided from the power line (PL) and is rectified and filtered by conventional rectifier and filter means RFM such as to provide a DC voltage between the B+ and the B- buses, with the B+ bus carrying the positive polarity.

The half-bridge inverter, which principally consists of capacitors FCa and FCb, transistors Qa and Qb, and saturable current feedback transformers SCTa and SCTb, is self-oscillating and functions in a substantially ordinary manner, such as for instance described in conjunction with FIG. 8 of U.S. Pat. No. Re. 31,758 to Nilsen.

The output of the half-bridge inverter is provided to and between junctions J1 and J4; between which junctions are connected in series: tank capacitor TC, tank inductor TI, and auxiliary inductor AI.

Auxiliary inductor AI is tuned to about 70 kHz by way of capacitors Cx and Cy; which two capacitors are

connected with the secondary windings of the auxiliary inductor as well as with the loads connected to the output of these secondary windings. Thus, only when lamp cathodes TCx and TCy are indeed connected with the two secondary windings is the auxiliary inductor tuned to about 70 kHz. As a result, at about 70 kHz, the auxiliary inductor appears like a parallel-resonant circuit as viewed from between junctions J2 and J3.

Tank inductor TI is tuned to series-resonate with tank capacitor TC at about 30 kHz; which is to say that the total impedance between junctions J1 and J4 appears substantially like a series-resonant circuit at about 30 kHz.

At 30 kHz, the impedance of auxiliary inductor AI is inductive and relatively small, and is at that frequency simply considered as a small part of tank inductor TI.

At 70 kHz, the impedance of tank capacitor TC is capacitive and relatively small, whereas the impedance of tank inductor TI is inductive and relatively high.

Thus, when the inverter oscillates at 70 kHz, its output voltage is applied by way of high-impedance tank inductor TI to the parallel-resonant circuit represented by auxiliary inductor AI; which parallel-resonant circuit then operates to power the two thermionic cathodes of fluorescent lamp FL. During this mode, the power provided to these two cathodes is about two watts, and the magnitude of the current then drawn from the inverter output is quite small. As a result, the magnitude of the 70 kHz voltage resulting across tank capacitor TC is very small.

On the other hand, when the inverter oscillates at 30 kHz, essentially no power is provided to the thermionic cathodes. However, at that frequency, the resonant series-tuned L-C circuit then loading the inverter's output causes a 30 kHz voltage of very large magnitude to develop across the tank capacitor. The magnitude of this 30 kHz voltage is so large as to cause the fluorescent lamp to ignite; whereafter the magnitude of the 30 kHz voltage across the tank capacitor will be determined by the current-voltage characteristics of the fluorescent lamp. In reality, at the 30 kHz series-resonance, the output provided from the output terminals to the fluorescent lamp (i.e., from junctions J1 and J2) will essentially be a 30 kHz constant-magnitude current.

The frequency of inverter oscillation is determined by the saturation characteristics of saturable current transformers SCTa and SCTb in conjunction with the magnitude of the voltage presented to their secondary windings SCTas and SCTbs.

The magnitude of the voltage presented to secondary windings SCTas and SCTbs will be determined by the base-emitter voltage of transistors Qa and Qb in combination with the magnitude of the voltage present at junctions Ja and Jb as referenced to the emitters of transistors Qa and Qb, respectively.

With no control signals provided to the bases a and b of auxiliary transistors AQA and AQB, the magnitude of the voltage at junctions Ja and Jb will be determined by the Zener voltages of Zener diodes Za and Zb; which Zener voltages are chosen to be about 4.0 Volt each. However, when sufficient control current is provided to each of bases a and b, transistors AQA and AQB become conductive and therefore operative to shunt Zener diodes Za and Zb, thereby to cause the magnitudes of the voltages at junctions Ja and Jb to become very low (about 1.0 Volt each).

Thus, absent control currents at bases a and b, the inverter will oscillate at about 70 kHz; whereas, with

control currents, the inverter will oscillate at about 30 kHz.

When the inverter is initially powered-up, no lamp current is flowing through the primary winding of control transformer Tc and control transistor CQ is non-conductive; which means that no control currents are provided to bases a and b of transistors AQA and AQB. Thus, when initially powered-up, the inverter will initiate oscillations at a frequency of about 70 kHz.

However, after about one second, capacitor C1 will have reached a voltage high enough to cause Diac D4 to break down; which, in turn, causes capacitor C1 to discharge into the base of control transistor CQ, thereby causing this transistor to become conductive.

Control transistor CQ will remain conductive for a period of about 10 milli-seconds; and, during this period, current from secondary winding SWt of tank inductor TI will flow through secondary winding SWc of control transformer Tc; thereby—via secondary windings SWa and SWb on control transformer Tc—providing control currents to bases a and b of transistors AQA and AQB; thereby causing capacitors Ca and Cb to discharge to a voltage level of about 1 Volt; thereby, in turn, to cause the inverter's oscillating frequency to become about 30 kHz.

With the inverter frequency at 30 kHz, the magnitude of the voltage provided between the lamp's cathodes becomes large enough to cause lamp ignition within the 10 milli-second period; which, in turn, gives rise to the flow of lamp current; which lamp current flows through primary winding PWc of control transformer Tc, thereby continuing to provide control currents to bases a and b of transistors AQA and AQB; thereby continuing to maintain the inverter's oscillation frequency at 30 kHz.

On the other hand, if the fluorescent lamp were to fail to ignite within the 10 milli-second time-window during which the control transistor CQ be conductive, control currents to bases a and b would not be sustained; thereby causing the inverter to revert to its 70 kHz oscillating frequency.

In short, with a properly operational fluorescent lamp connected, the ballast arrangement of the drawing operates as follows.

(1) Upon initial connection to the power line, the inverter starts oscillating at a 70 kHz frequency; which, via a 70 kHz resonating circuit associated with auxiliary inductor AI, therefore causes cathode heating power to be provided to the thermionic cathodes of the fluorescent lamp.

(2) After about one second, at which time the cathodes are fully thermionic, control transistor CQ suddenly becomes conductive and thereafter remains conductive for a period of about 10 milli-seconds. With transistor CQ conductive, control current is provided to auxiliary transistors AQA/AQB; which then become conductive, thereby to cause a reduction in the magnitudes of the voltages across capacitors Ca/Cb; which, in turn, causes the frequency of inverter oscillation to reduce to 30 kHz and to remain at 30 kHz for at least 10 milli-seconds.

(3) With the inverter oscillating at 30 kHz, series-resonance occurs between tank capacitor TC and tank inductor TI (including the net inductance of auxiliary inductor AI and its associated circuitry); which series-resonance, due to so-called Q-multiplication effects, results in a high-magnitude 30 kHz voltage developing across the tank capacitor.

(4) The high-magnitude 30 kHz voltage developing across the tank capacitor is applied across the fluorescent lamp and, because its cathodes are already thermionic, causes it to ignite immediately. The resulting lamp current will then, via control transformer Tc, continue to provide control current to auxiliary transistors AQA/AQB; thereby, even after the initial 10 millisecond period, ensuring that the inverter's frequency of oscillation remains at 30 kHz.

(5) When the inverter is operating at 30 kHz, essentially no power is being delivered to the cathodes of the fluorescent lamp, thereby providing for improved energy efficiency as compared with the situation where cathode power be supplied on a continuous basis.

(6) If the lamp were to be removed or if lamp current otherwise were to fail to flow, control current would cease to be provided to auxiliary transistors AQA/AQB, thereby causing the inverter's oscillation frequency to revert to 70 kHz. Thus, as long as no lamp current is flowing, the inverter will alternate between two modes: a first mode of oscillating at 70 kHz and a second mode of oscillating at 30 kHz, spending about one second (1000 milli-seconds) at 70 kHz for each 10 milliseconds at 30 kHz.

### 3. Additional Comments

(a) To protect against possible self-destruction of the inverter circuit (which might occur if the circuit were to operate for a period of time without being connected with a properly functioning lamp load), it may be advantageous to connect a voltage-limiting means, such as a Varistor, in parallel with the tank capacitor.

(b) For further details relative to the biasing arrangement used in connection with main inverter transistors QA/Qb, reference is made to FIG. 3 of U.S. Pat. No. 4,307,353 to Nilsen.

(c) By providing for additional levels of adjustment for the magnitude of the bias voltage (i.e., the voltage across capacitors Ca/Cb), corresponding adjustment of the magnitude of lamp current may be attained, thereby to provide for lamp dimming.

(d) It is believed that the present invention and its several attendant advantages and features will be understood from the preceding description. However, without departing from the spirit of the invention, changes may be made in its form and in the construction and interrelationships of its component parts, the form herein presented merely representing the preferred embodiment.

### I claim:

#### 1. An arrangement comprising:

self-oscillating inverter means connected with a source of DC voltage and operative to provide an inverter voltage at an inverter output, the inverter voltage having a frequency, the inverter means being self-oscillating by way of positive feedback means and having control means operative in response to a control input to control the self-oscillation frequency;

gas discharge lamp means having: (i) main lamp terminals operative to receive main lamp operating power, and (ii) thermionic cathode means having cathode terminals operative to receive cathode heating power;

impedance means connected in circuit between the inverter output, the main lamp terminals, and the cathode terminals, the impedance means being operative to supply from the inverter output main lamp operating power to the main lamp terminals



and cathode heating power to the cathode terminals, the amount of main lamp operating power and the amount of cathode heating power supplied both being dependent on the frequency of the inverter voltage; and

control means operative to provide the control input in such manner as to control the frequency of the inverter voltage, thereby to control the amount of main lamp operating power as well as the amount of cathode heating power.

2. The arrangement of claim 1 wherein: (i) the amount of cathode heating power supplied to the cathode terminals is a first function of the frequency of the inverter voltage, and (ii) the amount of main lamp operating power is a second function of the frequency of the inverter voltage, the second function being substantially different from the first function.

3. The arrangement of claim 2 wherein the amount of cathode heating power supplied decreases as the amount of main lamp operating power increases.

4. The arrangement of claim 1 wherein the impedance means comprises a first and a second tuned circuit means, the first tuned circuit means being operative to determine the amount of cathode heating power being supplied to the cathode terminals, the second tuned circuit means being operative to determine the amount of main lamp operating power being supplied to the main lamp terminals.

5. The arrangement of claim 1 combined with current sensing means connected in circuit with the main lamp terminals as well as with the control means, the current sensing means being operative to sense lamp current flowing between the main lamp terminals and, in response to this lamp current, to provide at least part of the control input.

6. The arrangement of claim 1 wherein the impedance means comprises a series-tuned L-C circuit connected across the inverter output.

7. An arrangement comprising:

inverter means connected with a source of DC voltage and operative to provide an inverter voltage at an inverter output, the inverter voltage having a frequency, the inverter means having control means operative in response to a control input to control this frequency;

gas discharge lamp means having: (i) main lamp terminals operative to receive main lamp operating power, and (ii) thermionic cathode means having cathode terminals operative to receive cathode heating power;

impedance means connected in circuit between the inverter output, the main lamp terminals, and the cathode terminals, the impedance means being operative to supply from the inverter output main lamp operating power to the main lamp terminals and cathode heating power to the cathode terminals, the amount of main lamp operating power and the amount of cathode heating power supplied both being dependent on the frequency of the inverter voltage; and

control means operative to provide the control input in such manner as to control the frequency of the inverter voltage between a first frequency and a second frequency;

such that the arrangement is operative to provide: (i) a substantive amount of cathode heating power but only a negligible amount of main lamp operating power at the first frequency, and (ii) a negligible

amount of cathode heating power but a substantive amount of lamp operating power at the second frequency.

8. An arrangement comprising:

inverter means connected with a source of DC voltage and operative to provide an inverter voltage at an inverter output, the inverter voltage having a frequency, the inverter means having control means operative in response to a control input to control this frequency;

gas discharge lamp means having: (i) main lamp terminals operative to receive main lamp operating power, and (ii) thermionic cathode means having cathode terminals operative to receive cathode heating power;

impedance means connected in circuit between the inverter output, the main lamp terminals, and the cathode terminals, the impedance means being operative to supply from the inverter output main lamp operating power to the main lamp terminals and cathode heating power to the cathode terminals, the magnitude of the main lamp operating voltage and the magnitude of the cathode heating voltage both being dependent on the frequency of the inverter voltage; and

control means operative to provide the control input in such manner as to control the frequency of the inverter voltage between a first frequency and a second frequency;

such that the arrangement is operative to provide: (i) at the first frequency, a substantive magnitude of cathode heating voltage but only a negligible magnitude of main lamp operating voltage, and (ii) at the second frequency, a substantive magnitude of main lamp operating voltage.

9. In a power supply means connected with and operative to power a gas discharge lamp, the lamp having a pair of main lamp terminals and a cathode, the cathode having a pair of cathode terminals, an improvement comprising:

(1) control input means operative in response to a control input to cause the power supply means to function in either of two modes:

(a) a first mode wherein: (i) a first cathode voltage is provided to the cathode terminals, and (ii) a first lamp voltage is provided to the main lamp terminals, the magnitude of the first lamp voltage being insufficient to cause lamp ignition; and

(b) a second mode wherein: (i) a second cathode voltage is provided to the cathodes, the magnitude of the second cathode voltage being substantially lower than that of the first cathode voltage, and (ii) a second lamp voltage is provided to the main lamp terminals, the magnitude of the second lamp voltage being sufficient to cause lamp ignition; and

(2) control output means connected with the control input means and operative to provide the control input, thereby to cause the power supply means to exist in the first mode for a period of time before causing it to change to the second mode.

10. The improvement of claim 9 wherein the magnitude of the second lamp voltage is substantially larger than that of the first lamp voltage.

11. The improvement of claim 9 wherein the first lamp voltage has a first frequency and the second lamp voltage has a second frequency, the first frequency being different from the second frequency.