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- (71) **Applicant (for all designated States except US):** CRANE ELECTRONICS, INC. [US/US]; 10201 Willows Road, Redmond, Washington 98052 (US).
- (72) **Inventors; and**
- (75) **Inventors/Applicants (for US only):** FURMANCZYK, Kaz [US/US]; 7406 58th Place Northeast, Marysville, Washington 98270 (US). STEPHENSON, Randy [US/US]; 9231 122nd Court Northeast, Apt. D130, Kirkland, Washington 98033 (US).
- (74) **Agents:** BOLLER, Timothy, L. et al.; Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC, Suite 5400, 701 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104-7064 (US).
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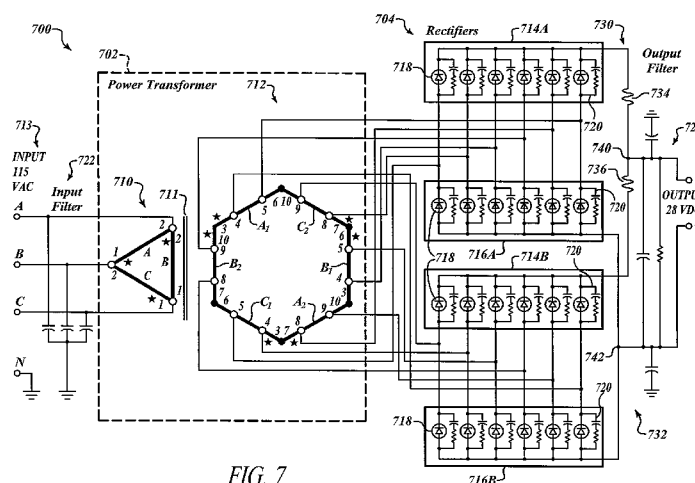


FIG. 7

(57) **Abstract:** A power converter has a transformer having three primary windings configured to receive respective phases of a three-phase alternating current (AC) input signal in a delta configuration and three secondary windings, each split into two portions, wherein the portions are coupled together in a regular hexagon. The power converter includes a rectifier having a first rectifier path coupled between taps of the secondary windings and a positive output of the power converter and a second rectifier path coupled between taps of the secondary windings and a negative output. One of the secondary windings may be reversed with respect to the other secondary windings. The primary windings may be split with a corresponding secondary winding sandwiched between portions of the primary. One of the paths may have a different inductance than the other path.

AC/DC POWER CONVERSION SYSTEM AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF SAME

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

- This application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) to U.S.
5 provisional patent application Serial No. 61/464,000 filed February 24, 2011,
which is incorporated by reference herein, in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

Field

- This disclosure generally relates to systems, methods and articles
10 for converting alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC), such as AC/DC
converters including transformers having primary and secondary windings and
a rectifier.

Description of the Related Art

- AC/DC converters are frequently used to convert alternating
15 current sources into direct current power supplies. AC/DC converters, such as
those used in avionics, typically include a transformer and a rectifier. In many
applications, a transformer converts a first AC signal having a first voltage level
to a second AC signal having a second voltage level, and a rectifier converts
the second AC signal to a DC signal.

- 20 A transformer typically includes at least two windings of
electrically conductive material such as wire. The windings are spaced
sufficient close together such that an electrical current flow through one winding
will induce an electrical current to flow in the other winding when it is connected
to a load. Windings through which current is driven are typically denominated
25 as primary windings, while windings in which current is induced are typically
denominated as secondary windings. The transformer also may include a core,
for example a magnetic or ferrous core extending between the windings.

A rectifier typically includes a plurality of diodes or thyristors configured to convert an AC signal to a DC signal. For example, a full-bridge rectifier may be employed to convert an AC signal to a DC signal. Additional devices may be employed to provide power conditioning, such as inter-phase
5 transformers, balancing inductors, inter-phase reactors, filters, etc.

In many applications, transformer size and/or weight are important factors in realizing a practical and/or commercially successful device. For example, power converters for use in avionics typically must be lightweight and may need to occupy a small volume. Such applications, however, typically
10 require high performance, such as high-current, low noise power conversion. Many applications may additionally, or alternatively, require low-cost power converters. Cost may be dictated by a number of factors including type of materials, amount of materials, and/or complexity of manufacture, among other factors.

15 BRIEF SUMMARY

In an embodiment, a power converter comprises a transformer having: three primary windings configured to receive respective phases of a three-phase alternating current (AC) input signal in a delta configuration; and three secondary windings each split into two portions, the portions of the
20 secondary windings coupled together into a closed regular hexagon, with each portion of each secondary winding having at least two taps and the taps distributed at regular angles on the closed regular hexagon; a first rectification path coupled between taps of the secondary windings and a positive output of the power converter and having an inductance; and a second rectification path
25 coupled between taps of the secondary windings and a negative output of the power converter and having an inductance different from the inductance of the first rectification path. In an embodiment, one of the secondary windings has a polarity opposite of a polarity of the other secondary windings. In an embodiment, one of the primary windings has a polarity opposite of the other
30 primary windings and a secondary winding corresponding to the one primary

winding has a polarity opposite of the other secondary windings. In an embodiment, the one primary winding and the corresponding secondary have a same polarity. In an embodiment, each primary winding is split in two portions and each secondary winding is sandwiched between two portions of a

5 corresponding primary winding. In an embodiment, the first rectification path comprises 12 rectifiers, each coupled to a respective tap of the secondary windings through respective couplings have a first inductance, and the second rectification path comprises 12 rectifiers, each coupled to a respective tap of the secondary windings through respective couplings having a second inductance

10 different than the first inductance. In an embodiment, the couplings of the first rectification path have a length different than a length of the couplings of the second rectification path. In an embodiment, the couplings of the first rectification path each comprise an inductor. In an embodiment, the first rectification path comprises: a first plurality of rectifiers having cathodes

15 coupled together; an inductor coupled between the cathodes of the first plurality of rectifiers and the positive output; a second plurality of rectifiers having cathodes coupled together; and an inductor coupled between the cathodes of the second plurality of rectifiers and the positive output. In an embodiment, the first rectification path comprises a lead having a length different than a length of

20 a corresponding lead of the second rectification path. In an embodiment, the inductance of the first rectification path is at least five times the inductance of the second rectification path. In an embodiment, the taps of the secondary windings are distributed at substantially identical central angles on the regular hexagon. In an embodiment, two taps on one portion of a secondary winding

25 are on adjacent turns of the portion of the secondary winding. In an embodiment, the transformer comprises three substantially identical coils, each coil comprising one of the primary windings and a corresponding secondary winding. In an embodiment, the transformer comprises a transformer core and the coils are wound on the transformer core. In an embodiment, the coils are

30 positioned next to each other in a row and a center coil has a polarity different than a polarity of the other coils.

In an embodiment, a method comprises: coupling three primary windings of a transformer together in a differential configuration to receive respective phases of a three-phase alternating current; coupling split portions of three secondary windings of the transformer together into a regular hexagonal configuration; providing a plurality of taps distributed at regular angles on the secondary windings, each split secondary winding portion having at least two taps; forming a first rectification path between the plurality of taps and a positive output, the first rectification path having an inductance; and forming a second rectification path between the plurality of taps and a negative output, the second rectification path having an inductance different than the inductance of the first rectification path. In an embodiment, the transformer comprises first, second and third coils and the method comprises: positioning the first, second and third coils together in a row with the second coil separating the first and third coils, secondary windings of the second coil having a polarity different than a polarity of secondary windings of the first coil and of the third coil. In an embodiment, the transformer comprises first, second and third coils and the method comprises: positioning the first, second and third coils together in a row with the second coil separating the first and third coils, the second coil having a polarity different than a polarity of the first coil and of the third coil. In an embodiment, the primary windings are split into first and second primary portions and the portions of the each secondary winding are sandwiched between first and second primary portions of a respective primary winding. In an embodiment, the inductance of the first rectification path is at least five times the inductance of the second rectification path.

In an embodiment, a power converter comprises: means for converting three-phase alternating current (AC) power signals into multi-phase AC power signals; first means for rectifying multi-phase AC power signals; second means for rectifying multiphase AC power signals; first means for coupling to couple the means for converting to the first means for rectifying and to couple the first means for rectifying to a first output of the power converter; and second means for coupling to couple the means for converting to the

second means for rectifying and to couple the second means for rectifying to a second output of the power converter, wherein the first means for coupling has an inductance different than an inductance of the second means for coupling. In an embodiment, the means for converting comprises a transformer having:

5 primary including three primary windings configured to couple to respective phases of an AC power signal in a delta configuration; and a secondary including three secondary windings, each secondary winding corresponding to a respective primary winding and split into two portions, wherein the portions of the secondary windings are coupled together into a closed hexagon and each

10 portion of a secondary winding comprises at least two taps. In an embodiment, two of the secondary windings have a polarity opposite of the other secondary winding. In an embodiment, one of the primary windings has a polarity opposite of the other primary windings and the corresponding secondary winding has a polarity opposite of the other secondary windings. In an embodiment, the

15 primary windings are each split in two portions and the two portions of the corresponding secondary winding are sandwiched between the two portions of the corresponding primary winding. In an embodiment, the first means for coupling comprises an inductor coupled between the first means for rectifying and the means for converting. In an embodiment, the first means for coupling

20 comprises an inductor coupled between the first means for rectifying and the first output of the power converter. In an embodiment, the means for converting is configured to convert three-phase alternating current (AC) power signals into twelve-phase AC power signals and the power converter is configured to provide a twenty-four pulse direct-current voltage. In an embodiment, the

25 inductance of the first means for coupling is at least five times the inductance of the second means for coupling.

In an embodiment, a power converter comprises: means for converting three-phase alternating current (AC) power signals into twelve-phase AC power signals; first means for rectifying multi-phase AC power

30 signals coupled to the means for converting; and second means for rectifying multi-phase AC power signals coupled to the means for converting and to the

first means for rectifying multi-phase AC power signals. In an embodiment, the means for converting comprises a transformer having: a primary including three primary windings configured to couple to respective phases of an AC power signal in a delta or differential configuration; and a secondary including three
5 secondary windings, each secondary winding corresponding to a respective primary winding and split into two portions, wherein the portions of the secondary windings are coupled together into a closed hexagon and each portion of a secondary winding comprises two taps. In an embodiment, one of the primary windings has a polarity opposite of the other primary windings and
10 the corresponding secondary winding has a polarity opposite of the other secondary windings. In an embodiment, the one primary winding and the corresponding secondary have a same polarity. In an embodiment, the primary windings are each split in two portions. In an embodiment, the two portions of each secondary winding are sandwiched between the two portions of a
15 corresponding primary winding. In an embodiment, the first means for rectifying multi-phase AC power signals is coupled between the means for converting and an output of the converter through a first rectification path, and second means for rectifying is coupled between the means for converting and the output of the converter through a second rectification path, wherein the first rectification path
20 has an inductance different from an inductance of the second rectification path. In an embodiment, the first rectification path comprises an inductor coupled between the first means for rectifying multi-phase AC power signals and the means for converting. In an embodiment, the first rectification path comprises a plurality of inductors coupled between the first means for rectifying multi-phase
25 AC power signals and the means for converting. In an embodiment, the first rectification path comprises an inductor coupled between the first means for rectifying multi-phase AC power signals and an output of the power converter. In an embodiment, the first means for rectifying multi-phase AC power signals comprises first and second branches and the first rectification path comprises a
30 first inductor coupled between the first branch and an output of the power converter and a second inductor coupled between the second branch and the

output of the power converter. In an embodiment, the first rectification path comprises a lead having a length different than a length of a corresponding lead of the second rectification path. In an embodiment, the inductor comprises a length of wire. In an embodiment, the inductance of the first rectification path is
5 at least five times the inductance of the second rectification path. In an embodiment, the power converter does not employ inter-phase transformers in the rectification paths. In an embodiment, the power converter does not employ input inductors between an AC power source and the means for converting.

In an embodiment, a power converter comprises: a transformer
10 having: three primary windings configured to receive respective phases of a three-phase alternating current (AC) input signal in a delta configuration; and three secondary windings, each split into two portions, wherein the portions are coupled together into a closed regular hexagon, each portion of each secondary has at least two taps and the taps are distributed at substantially
15 identical central angles on the regular hexagon; a first rectifier branch coupled between taps of the secondary windings and a positive output of the power converter; and a second rectifier branch coupled between taps of the secondary windings and a negative output of the power converter. In an embodiment, one of the primary windings has a polarity opposite of the other primary windings
20 and a secondary winding corresponding to the one primary winding has a polarity opposite of the other secondary windings. In an embodiment, the one primary winding and the corresponding secondary have a same polarity. In an embodiment, the primary windings are split in two portions. In an embodiment, each secondary winding is sandwiched between two portions of a
25 corresponding primary winding. In an embodiment, the first rectifier branch has an inductance different from an inductance of the second rectifier branch. In an embodiment, the first rectifier branch comprises 12 rectifiers, each coupled to a respective tap of the secondary windings through respective couplings having a first inductance; and the second rectifier branch comprises 12 rectifiers, each
30 coupled to a respective tap of the secondary windings through respective couplings having a second inductance different that the first inductance. In an

embodiment, the couplings of the first rectifier branch have a length different than a length of the couplings of the second rectifier branch. In an embodiment, the couplings of the first rectifier branch each comprise an inductor. In an embodiment, the first rectifier branch comprises: a first plurality
5 of rectifiers having cathodes coupled together; an inductor coupled between the cathodes of the first plurality of rectifiers and the positive output; a second plurality of rectifiers having cathodes coupled together; and an inductor coupled between the cathodes of the second plurality of rectifiers and the positive output. In an embodiment, the first rectifier branch comprises a lead having a
10 length different than a length of a corresponding lead of the second rectifier branch. In an embodiment, the inductance of the first rectifier branch is at least five times an inductance of the second rectifier branch. In an embodiment, the power converter does not employ inter-phase transformers between the secondary windings and the outputs of the power converter.

15 In an embodiment, a transformer comprises: a primary including three primary windings configured to couple to respective phases of an AC power signal in a delta or differential configuration; and a secondary including three secondary windings, each secondary winding corresponding to a respective primary winding and split into two portions, wherein the portions of
20 the secondary windings are coupled together into a closed hexagon and each portion of a secondary winding comprises two taps. In an embodiment, one of the primary windings has a polarity opposite of the other primary windings and the corresponding secondary winding has a polarity opposite of the other secondary windings. In an embodiment, the one primary winding and the
25 corresponding secondary have a same polarity. In an embodiment, the primary windings are each split in two portions. In an embodiment, the two portions of each secondary winding are sandwiched between the two portions of a corresponding primary winding. In an embodiment, the closed hexagon is a closed regular hexagon and the taps are distributed at substantially identical
30 central angles on the closed regular hexagon. In an embodiment, two taps on one portion of a secondary winding are on adjacent turns of the portion of the

secondary winding. In an embodiment, the transformer comprises three identical coils, each coil comprising one of the primary windings and the corresponding secondary winding. In an embodiment, the transformer further comprises a transformer core, wherein the coils are wound on the transformer
5 core. In an embodiment, the coils are positioned next to each other in a row and a center coil in the row has a polarity different than a polarity of the other coils. In an embodiment, a power converter comprises a transformer as described herein.

In an embodiment, a method comprises: forming first coil having a
10 primary winding and a secondary winding split into first and second portions; forming a second coil having a primary winding and a secondary winding split into first and second portions; forming a third coil having a primary winding and a secondary winding split into first and second portions; coupling the primary windings of the first, second and third coils together in a differential
15 configuration; and coupling the portions of the secondary windings together in a regular hexagonal configuration. In an embodiment, the method further comprises: positioning the first, second and third coils together in a row with the second coil separating the first and third coils. In an embodiment, the method further comprises: forming the second coil with a polarity different than a
20 polarity of the first coil and of the second coil. In an embodiment, the primary windings of the coils are split into first and second primary portions and the portions of the secondary windings are sandwiched between the primary portions of the respective winding. In an embodiment, the method further comprises: providing a plurality of taps at regular angles on the secondary
25 windings; forming a first rectification path; forming a second rectification path; and coupling the taps to the first and second rectification paths. In an embodiment, the first rectification path has an inductance different than an inductance of the second rectification path. In an embodiment, the inductance of the first rectification path is at least five times the inductance of the second
30 rectification path.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings, identical reference numbers identify similar elements or acts unless the context indicates otherwise. The sizes and relative positions of elements in the drawings are not necessarily drawn to scale. For example, the shapes of various elements and angles may not be drawn to scale, and some of these elements may be enlarged and positioned to improve drawing legibility. Further, the particular shapes of the elements as drawn, are not intended to convey any information regarding the actual shape of the particular elements, and have been solely selected for ease of recognition in the drawings.

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of a power converter.

Figure 1A is a schematic representation of an aircraft power system.

Figure 2 is a schematic representation of a power converter.

Figure 3 is a schematic representation of a power converter.

Figure 4 is a schematic representation of a power converter.

Figure 5 is a schematic representation of an embodiment of a Delta-Hex power converter.

Figure 6 is a schematic representation of an embodiment of a Delta-Hex power converter.

Figure 7 is a schematic representation of an embodiment of a Delta-Hex power converter.

Figure 8 is a schematic representation of an embodiment of a transformer.

Figure 9 is a top view of an embodiment of a transformer.

Figure 10 is a front view of an embodiment of a Delta-Hex power converter.

Figure 11 is a first side view of the embodiment of a Delta-Hex power converter of Figure 10.

Figure 12 is a second side view of the embodiment of a Delta-Hex power converter of Figure 10.

Figure 13 is an isometric view of an embodiment of a Delta-Hex power converter.

Figure 14 is a graphical representation of a ripple in a DC output of an embodiment of a 6-pulse power converter.

5 Figure 15 is a graphical representation of an input current of an embodiment of a 6-pulse power converter.

Figure 16 is a graphical representation of a ripple in a DC output of an embodiment of a 12-pulse power converter.

10 Figure 17 is a graphical representation of an input current of an embodiment of a 12-pulse power converter.

Figure 18 is a graphical representation of a ripple in a DC output of an embodiment of a 24-pulse power converter.

Figure 19 is a graphical representation of an input current of an embodiment of a 24-pulse power converter.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following description, certain specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of various disclosed embodiments. However, one skilled in the relevant art will recognize that embodiments may be practiced without one or more of these specific details, or with other methods, components, materials, etc. In other instances, well-known structures associated with power converters, transformers, circuits employing transformers, and machinery useful in manufacturing power converters and transformers have not been shown or described in detail to avoid unnecessarily obscuring descriptions of the embodiments.

25 Unless the context requires otherwise, throughout the specification and claims which follow, the word “comprise” and variations thereof, such as, “comprises” and “comprising” are to be construed in an open, inclusive sense, that is as “including, but not limited to.”

Reference throughout this specification to “one embodiment” or
30 “an embodiment” means that a particular feature, structure or characteristic

described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment. Thus, the appearances of the phrases “in one embodiment” or “in an embodiment” in various places throughout this specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment. Further more, the particular
5 features, structures, or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments.

As used in this specification and the appended claims, the singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” include plural referents unless the context indicates otherwise. It should also be noted that the term “or” is generally
10 employed in its sense including “and/or” unless the context indicates otherwise.

The headings and Abstract of the Disclosure provided herein are for convenience only and do not interpret the scope or meaning of the embodiments.

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of the building blocks of an
15 example power converter 100 configured to convert a three-phase AC input to a DC output. The power converter 100 comprises a three-phase to n-phase transformer 102, and an n-pulse rectifier 104.

The transformer 102 is configured to receive a three-phase input signal 106 and comprises a three-phase primary 108 and an n-phase
20 secondary 110. The transformer 102 is configured to provide an n-phase AC signal 112. The rectifier 104 comprises a plurality of branches 114 coupled to respective outputs of the n-phase AC signal 112. As illustrated, each branch comprises two diodes 116. Other rectifying devices may be employed, such as thyristors, etc. The rectifier 104 produces a DC output 118.

25 Higher pulse rectification generally provides lower ripple on the DC output and lower AC input current distortion, and thus generally results in a higher power-quality for a power converter. Generally, a 6-pulse converter topology may be considered acceptable for use in avionics equipment rated less than 35 VA. A 12-pulse converter topology is generally acceptable for a
30 significant number of aerospace applications. A 24-pulse topology is typically

used for higher power equipment or when a high power quality is desired or specified.

Avionics applications may typically employ transformer/rectifier units such as the power converter 100 of Figure 1 to convert a three-phase AC power source, such as a 115 Volt AC power source operating at a fixed frequency, such as 400 Hz, a 115 Volt AC 360 Hz to 800 Hz variable frequency power source, a 230 Volt AC 360 Hz to 800 Hz variable frequency power source, etc., to a DC power supply, such as a 28 Volt DC power supply, etc. The load presented to the power converter may typically be between 100 amps and 400 amps. Typical functions for a power converter used in avionics may include supplying short-term overloads to clear downstream faults, providing galvanic isolation between an aircraft AC power source and a DC power supply, power conditioning to provide acceptable power quality on the AC and DC sides of the power converter for proper function of the aircraft power system and electrical loads, self-monitoring and reporting of faults, etc. Power converters, such as the power converter of Figure 1, may be employed in other applications and be configured to provide other functions. Transformer/rectifier power converters may employ topologies using additional devices, such as inter-phase transformers, balancing inductors, inter-phase reactors, filters, etc., in order to provide the desired functionality, such as acceptable power quality.

Figure 1A is a functional block diagram of an example aircraft power system 150. As illustrated, an aircraft engine or turbine 152 is configured to drive a generator 154. The generator 154 is configured to provide an AC power signal to a power converter 156, such as the power converter 100 illustrated in Figure 1. Typically the power generated on airplanes is 115 Volt AC power at 400 Hz or a variable frequency. Other voltage levels and frequencies may be employed. The power converter 156 is coupled to a DC bus 158 and is configured to provide a DC power signal to the DC bus 158. One or more loads 160, such as flight equipment, including critical flight equipment, may be coupled to the DC bus 158 and configured to draw power

from the DC bus 158. Typically, flight equipment may use 28 Volt DC power to operate. Other output voltage levels may be employed.

Figure 2 is an electrical schematic diagram of an example power converter 200 employing transformer/rectifier topology. The power converter
5 comprises a transformer 210 having a primary 208 in a Wye, or star, configuration, a first secondary 212 in a Wye configuration and second secondary 214 in a Delta, or differential, configuration. The power converter 200 may be used, for example, in aerospace applications. The power converter 200 comprises an input 202 configured to receive a 3-phase AC power signal,
10 for example, a 115 Volt AC signal. The input 202 is coupled to respective filter inductors 204 for each phase input configured to attenuate EMI emissions generated by a rectifier stage 206.

Outputs of the filter inductors 204 are coupled to respective windings of the primary 208 of the transformer 210, which has three windings in
15 a Wye configuration. The first secondary 212 has three windings in a Wye configuration and the second secondary 214 has three windings in a Delta configuration.

The rectification stage 206 comprises a first full-wave rectification bridge 216 couple to the windings of the first secondary 212, a second full-wave
20 rectification bridge 218 coupled to the windings of the second secondary 214, and an inter-phase transformer IPT 222. The voltages in the secondary transformer windings are shifted 30 degrees from each other, thus the power converter has power quality characteristics of a 12-pulse rectification. As can be seen from Figure 2, three additional inductors and an IPT transformer were
25 used in order to meet the desired power quality. These additional components add size, weight and cost to the power converter 200.

Figure 3 is an electrical schematic of a power converter 300 employing a Wye/Delta – Zig/Zag topology to obtain 24-pulse power quality characteristics. The power converter 300 may be used, for example, in
30 aerospace applications. The power converter 300 comprises an input stage 302, a transformer stage 304, and a rectification stage 306.

The input stage 302 comprises three input inductors 308 configured to receive respective phases of a 3-phase AC power signal, for example, a 115 Volt AC signal at 400 Hz, etc. The input inductors 308 are configured to attenuate EMI emissions generated by the rectification stage 306.

- 5 The transformer stage 304 comprises two transformers 310, 312. Each transformer 310, 312 has a core 311, 313. The first transformer 310 has a Wye – Zig/Zag configuration in which the primary coupled to the input stage 302 is in a Wye configuration, and the first transformer 310 has two 3-phase secondaries coupled to the rectification stage 306 in a Zig/Zag configuration.
- 10 The second transformer 312 has a Delta – Zig/Zag configuration in which the primary coupled to the input stage 302 is in a Delta configuration, and the second transformer 312 has two three-phase secondaries coupled to the rectification stage 306 in a Zig/Zag configuration.

- The rectification stage 306 comprises four full-wave rectification
- 15 bridges 314 coupled to the windings of respective secondary outputs of the first and second transformers 310, 312. The rectification stage 306 also comprises an inter-phase assembly 320, which as illustrated comprises three inter-phase transformers IPT 322. The power converter 300 has power quality characteristics of a 24-pulse rectification. As can be seen from Figure 3, three
- 20 input inductors, an additional transformer in the transformer stage with two secondaries in each transformer, and three IPT transformers were employed in order to meet the desired power quality. These additional components add size, weight and cost to the power converter 300.

- Figure 4 is an electrical schematic of a power converter 400
- 25 having a Delta-Hex topology. The power converter 400 has a transformer 402 and a rectifier 404. The transformer 402 has a primary 406 having three windings coupled in a Delta configuration to an AC input signal, for example a three-phase 115 Volt variable frequency signal, and a secondary 408 with three split windings coupled together in a hexagonal configuration. The windings of
- 30 the secondary 408 are coupled to a full-wave rectifier bridge 404. An example

of a power converter employing a Delta-Hex topology is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,225,784 issued to Rosa.

Power converters in a Delta-Hex topology use fewer magnetic components than transformer/rectifier power converter topologies typically used in low-voltage/high-current applications for which high-quality power is desired or specified. While attempts have been made to use Delta-Hex power converter topologies in applications for which high-power quality was desired or specified, in practice the quality of power produced by Delta-Hex topology power converters has not been good enough for use in low-voltage/high-current power converter applications. For example, total harmonic distortion in a Delta-Hex power converter topology such as the one illustrated in Figure 4 may typically be 12% or more, which is too high for many high current/low voltage applications, such as many aerospace applications.

Figure 5 is an electrical schematic of an embodiment of a power converter 500 employing a Delta-Hex topology. The power converter 500 comprises a transformer 502 and a rectifier stage 504. The transformer 502 comprises a primary 506, a secondary 508 and a core 510.

The primary 506 has first winding A, a second winding B, and a third winding C configured to couple to a 3-phase AC input signal 512 in a Delta configuration. Each winding A, B, C of the primary 506 has a respective first tap 1 and second tap 2. As illustrated, the taps 1, 2 of the windings A, B, C of the primary 506 are at the ends of the windings A, B, C. The reference number assigned to a tap or an end of a winding is not necessarily indicative of a turn count at the tap or end. The primary windings A, B, C typically have more than one turn. For example, a primary winding, such as winding A of primary 506, may have 61 turns in an embodiment. Other numbers of turns may be employed. A polarity of each winding A, B, C of the primary 506 is indicated by a star*.

The secondary 508 comprises a first split secondary winding A₁, A₂, a second split secondary winding B₁, B₂, and a third split secondary winding C₁, C₂, coupled together at the ends in a hexagonal configuration. A current in

the first winding A of the primary 506 induces a current in the first split winding A_1 , A_2 of the secondary 508, a current in the second winding B of the primary 506 induces a current in the second split winding B_1 , B_2 of the secondary 508, and a current in the third winding C of the primary 506 induces a current in the third split winding C_1 , C_2 of the secondary 508. Other currents, generally of a lesser magnitude, may be induced in other windings.

As illustrated, each split secondary winding has multiple turns, a first portion (e.g., A_1) with half of the turns, two ends 3, 6 and two taps 4, 5, and a second portion (e.g., A_2) with half of the turns, two ends 7, 10 and two taps 8, 9, with the taps 4, 5, 8, 9 configured to couple to the rectification stage 504. In an embodiment, 8 total turns may be employed, with two turns between taps on a same portion of a secondary winding. Other numbers of turns may be employed and the taps in embodiments with different numbers of turns may be at different turns of the windings. A polarity of each winding of the secondary 508 is indicated by a star*.

A polarity of the second winding B of the secondary 508 is reversed with respect to a polarity of the first winding A and of the third winding C of the secondary 508. For example, a polarity of the second split winding B_1 , B_2 of the secondary 508 is reversed with respect to a polarity of the first split winding A_1 , A_2 and of the third split winding C_1 , C_2 of the secondary 508. Reversing the polarity at least partially cancels leakage fields from adjacent coils and makes it easier to manufacture by allowing shorter connections between adjacent coils, which may further reduce leakage currents, losses, parasitic effects, etc.

In Delta-Hex topologies like the one illustrated in Figure 4, the minimum practical number of turns between taps on a same portion of a secondary winding was 3 or higher in order to obtain turn ratios closer to ideal ratios and thus avoid power quality issues arising from turn-ratio deviations. In an embodiment, reversing the polarity of the split second winding B_1 , B_2 of the secondary 508 at least partially compensates for larger turn-ratio deviations and coil asymmetries, and thus facilitates obtaining acceptable power quality even

when a minimum number of turns between taps coupled to the rectifier stage 504 is reduced to, for example, two turns. Reducing the number of turns between taps facilitates the use of transformers having windings with fewer turns, and thus facilitates smaller, lighter and less expensive transformers and
5 power converters.

The power converter 500 comprises a first rectification path 530 and a second rectification path 532 between taps of the secondary windings of the transformer 502 and respective outputs of the power converter 500, with the first and second rectification paths 530, 532 having different inductances. This
10 difference in inductance provides an additional phase shift in the currents. As illustrated, the rectifier stage 504 comprises a first rectifier 514 and a second rectifier 516, configured to provide full-wave rectification to each secondary output. The first and second rectifiers 514, 516 may comprise diodes, thyristors, snubbers, etc. The taps are configured to couple to the rectifier
15 stage (e.g., taps 4, 5, 8, 9 of each of the secondary windings) in two ways, one of which has a higher inductance than the other, which is illustrated as an inductance 520. For example, a difference in inductance on the order of 5 micro-Henries may be employed. Other differences in inductances may be employed. In some embodiments, a desired difference in inductance may be
20 obtained by simply providing half of the secondary outputs with longer leads than the other half of the secondary outputs. The difference in inductance, such as a value of the inductance 520, may be selected such that the voltages/currents in the outputs of secondary 508 of the transformer 502 are shifted approximately 15 degrees from each other, resulting in power
25 characteristics of a 24-pulse rectification, without the use of inter-phase transformers.

A desired difference in inductance between the first rectification path 530 and the second rectification path 532 may be obtained in other ways. For example, a desired difference in inductance between the first rectification
30 path 530 and the second rectification path 532 may be obtained by coupling an inductor between node 540 and the positive output of the power converter 500,

coupling an inductor between the node 540 and the first rectifier 514 and an inductor between the node 540 and the second rectifier 516 (see Figure 7), coupling inductors between the taps of the secondary windings of the transformer 502 and the second rectifier 516, coupling an inductor between
5 node 542 and the negative output of the power converter 500, coupling an inductor between the node 542 and the first rectifier 514 and an inductor between the node 542 and the second rectifier 516, etc. As noted above, the use of leads of different lengths rather than inductive coils may be sufficient to obtain a desired difference in inductance between the first rectification path 530
10 and the second rectification path 532.

In an embodiment, the transformer 502 comprises three identical or substantially identical coils, each having a primary winding (e.g., primary winding A) and a split secondary winding (e.g., split secondary winding A₁, A₂). Non-identical coils may be employed, although typically identical or
15 substantially identical coils may provide higher power quality. The secondary windings may be physically split as well as logically split, which may facilitate accessing the taps. In an embodiment, each portion of a split secondary winding may be identical. In an embodiment, the portions of a split secondary winding may be substantially identical. In an embodiment, portions of a split
20 secondary winding may have a same number of turns. In an embodiment, portions of a split secondary winding may have a similar, but different, number of turns. In an embodiment, a primary winding (e.g., primary winding A) may be physically split, which in some embodiments provides better power quality by at least partially reducing harmonic distortion, for example at selected harmonics.
25 For example, a physically split primary may have a split secondary winding sandwiched between portions of the split primary winding (see coil 810 of Figure 8). A split primary winding may have two identical portions, may have two substantially similar portions having a similar, but different number of turns, etc. In an embodiment, the coils may be substantially identical with one of the
30 coils having a polarity opposite of a polarity of the other coils. The windings of

the transformer 502 may comprise, for example, copper, anodized aluminum, combinations thereof, etc.

For a 3-phase 115 Volt AC input signal at 400 Hz and an output of 28 volts DC to a load of 125 amps, the total harmonic distortion of an embodiment of the power converter 500 of Figure 5 was in the range of 3% to 5%. The topology of the embodiment of Figure 5 is much simpler than the topologies of the power converters 200, 300 of Figures 2 and 3, and the use of IPT transformers and filter inductors was avoided while achieving a lower harmonic distortion than Delta-Hex power converters such as the power converter 400 of Figure 4. Superior electrical performance over the approaches of Figures 2 through 4 may be obtained as well. In an embodiment, voltage drops and power dissipation in IPT transformers and input inductors may be avoided, power efficiencies are improved, rectifier diodes share current equally (which facilitates handling overloads), EMI emissions are lower and AC current distortions are at an acceptable level.

Figure 6 is an electrical schematic of an embodiment of a power converter 600 employing a Delta-Hex topology. The power converter 600 comprises a transformer 602 and a rectifier stage 604. The transformer 602 comprises a primary 610, a secondary 612 and a core 611.

The primary 610 has first winding A, a second winding B, and a third winding C configured to couple to a 3-phase AC input signal 613 in a Delta configuration. Each winding A, B, C of the primary 610 has a respective first tap 1 and second tap 2. As illustrated, the taps 1, 2 of the windings A, B, C of the primary 610 are at the ends of the windings A, B, C. The reference number assigned to a tap or an end of a winding is not necessarily indicative of a turn count at the tap or end. The primary windings A, B, C typically have more than one turn. For example, a primary winding, such as winding A of primary 610, may have 61 turns in an embodiment. A polarity of each winding A, B, C of the primary 610 is indicated by a star*.

The secondary 612 comprises a first split secondary winding A₁, A₂, a second split secondary winding B₁, B₂, and a third split secondary winding

C_1 , C_2 , coupled together at the ends in a hexagonal configuration. A current in the first winding A of the primary 610 induces a current in the first split winding A_1 , A_2 of the secondary 612, a current in the second winding B of the primary 610 induces a current in the second split winding B_1 , B_2 of the secondary 612, and a current in the third winding C of the primary 610 induces a current in the third split winding C_1 , C_2 of the secondary 612. Other currents, generally of a lesser magnitude, may be induced in other windings.

As illustrated, each split secondary winding has multiple turns, a first portion (e.g., A_1) with half of the turns, two ends 3, 6 and two taps 4, 5, and a second portion (e.g., A_2) with half of the turns, two ends 7, 10 and two taps 8, 9, with the taps 4, 5, 8, 9 configured to couple to the rectification stage 604. In an embodiment, 8 total turns may be employed, with two turns between taps on a same portion of a secondary winding. Other numbers of turns may be employed and the taps in embodiments with different numbers of turns may be at different turns of the windings. A polarity of each winding of the secondary 612 is indicated by a star*.

A polarity of the second split winding B_1 , B_2 of the secondary 612 is reversed with respect to a polarity of the first split winding A_1 , A_2 and of the third split winding C_1 , C_2 of the secondary 612. As discussed above, in Delta-Hex designs such as the one illustrated in Figure 4, the minimum practical number of turns between taps was 3 or higher in order to obtain turn ratios closer to ideal ratios and thus avoid power quality issues arising from the deviations. In an embodiment, reversing the polarity of the second winding B of the primary 610 and the split second winding B_1 , B_2 of the secondary 612 at least partially compensates for larger turn-ratio deviations and coil asymmetries, and thus facilitates obtaining acceptable power quality even when a minimum number of turns between taps coupled to the rectifier stage 604 is reduced to, for example, two turns. Reducing the number of turns between taps facilitates the use of transformers having windings with fewer turns, and thus facilitates smaller, lighter and less expensive transformers and power converters.

The rectification stage 604 comprises a first rectifier branch 614 and a second rectifier branch 616. As illustrated each rectifier branch 614, 616 includes six diodes 618 coupled in parallel with an optional snubber 620. Other rectifier branch configurations may be employed. As illustrated, each snubber
5 comprises a resistor coupled in series with a capacitor. A snubber may comprise, for example, a 4 micro-Farad capacitor coupled in series with a 1 ohm resistor. Other snubbers may be employed and snubbers may be omitted in some embodiments.

Respective anodes of the diodes 608 of the first rectifier branch
10 614 are coupled to taps 4, 9 of the first split secondary winding A_1 , A_2 , to taps 4, 9 of the third split secondary winding C_1 , C_2 , and to taps 5, 8 of the second split secondary winding B_1 , B_2 . Respective cathodes of the diodes 618 of the second rectifier branch 616 are coupled to taps 5, 8 of the first split secondary winding A_1 , A_2 , to taps 5, 8 of the third split secondary winding C_1 , C_2 , and to
15 taps 4, 9 of the second split secondary winding B_1 , B_2 .

The cathodes of the first rectifier branch 614 are coupled together and to a positive output of the power converter 600, and the anodes of the second rectifier branch 616 are coupled together and to a negative output of the power converter 600. As illustrated, the power converter is configured to
20 provide an output of approximately 28 Volts DC in response to an input of 115 Volts AC. As illustrated, the power converter 600 has an optional input filter 622, an optional output filter 624 and an optional current shunt 626, which may be used, for example, to monitor the performance of the power converter 600 and/or load conditions. Other filter and shunt configurations may be employed.

25 In an embodiment, the transformer 602 comprises three identical coils or substantially identical coils, each having a primary winding (e.g., primary winding A) and a split secondary winding (e.g., split secondary winding A_1 , A_2). Non-identical coils may be employed, although typically identical or substantially identical coils may provide higher power quality. The secondary
30 windings may be physically split as well as logically split, which may facilitate accessing the taps. In an embodiment, each portion of a split secondary

winding may be identical. In an embodiment, the portions of a split secondary winding may be substantially identical. In an embodiment, portions of a split secondary winding may have a same number of turns. In an embodiment, portions of a split secondary winding may have a similar, but different, number of turns. In an embodiment, a primary winding (e.g., primary winding A) may be physically split, which in some embodiments provides better power quality by reducing harmonic distortion, for example reducing distortion at selected harmonics. In an embodiment, a physically split primary may have a split secondary winding sandwiched between portions of the split primary winding (see coil 810 of Figure 8). A split primary winding may have two identical portions, may have two substantially similar portions having a similar, but different number of turns, etc. In an embodiment, the coils may be substantially identical with one of the coils having a polarity opposite of a polarity of the other coils. The windings of the transformer 602 may comprise, for example, copper, anodized aluminum, combinations thereof, etc.

In simulations and testing applying a 3-phase 115 Volt AC input signal to an embodiment of the power converter 600 of Figure 6, an output of approximately 28 volts DC was obtained with a total harmonic distortion in the range of 7% to 7.5%, and input current waveforms consistent with 12-pulse rectification. The topology of the embodiment of Figure 6 is much simpler than the topologies of the power converters 200, 300 of Figures 2 and 3, and the use of IPT transformers and filter inductors was avoided while achieving a lower harmonic distortion than Delta-Hex power converters such as the power converter 400 of Figure 4. Superior electrical performance over the topologies illustrated in Figures 2-4 may be obtained as well. In an embodiment, voltage drops and power dissipation in IPT transformers and input inductors may be avoided, power efficiencies are improved, rectifier diodes share current equally (which facilitates handling overloads), EMI emissions are lower and AC current distortions are at an acceptable level.

Figure 7 is an electrical schematic of an embodiment of a power converter 700 employing a Delta-Hex topology. The power converter 700

comprises a transformer 702 and a rectifier stage 704. The transformer 702 comprises a primary 710, a secondary 712 and a core 711.

The primary 710 has first winding A, a second winding B, and a third winding C configured to couple to a 3-phase AC input signal 713 in a Delta configuration. Each winding A, B, C of the primary 710 has a respective first tap 1 and second tap 2. As illustrated, the taps 1, 2 of the windings A, B, C of the primary 710 are at the ends of the windings A, B, C. The reference number assigned to a tap or an end of a winding is not necessarily indicative of a turn count at the tap or end. The primary windings A, B, C typically have more than one turn. For example, a primary winding, such as winding A of primary 710, may have 61 turns in an embodiment. A polarity of each winding A, B, C of the primary 710 is indicated by a star*.

The secondary 712 comprises a first split secondary winding A₁, A₂, a second split secondary winding B₁, B₂, and a third split secondary winding C₁, C₂, coupled together at the ends in a hexagonal configuration. A current in the first winding A of the primary 710 induces a current in the first split winding A₁, A₂ of the secondary 712, a current in the second winding B of the primary 710 induces a current in the second split winding B₁, B₂ of the secondary 712, and a current in the third winding C of the primary 710 induces a current in the third split winding C₁, C₂ of the secondary 712. Other currents, generally of a lesser magnitude, may be induced in other windings (e.g., a current in the first winding A of the primary 710 may induce a current in the second split winding B₁, B₂ of the secondary 712, but this current will generally be of a lesser magnitude than a current induced in the first split winding A₁, A₂ of the secondary 712 by the current in the first winding A of the primary 710).

As illustrated, each split secondary winding has multiple turns, a first portion (e.g., A₁) with half of the turns, two ends 3, 6 and two taps 4, 5, and a second portion (e.g., A₂) with half of the turns, two ends 7, 10 and two taps 8, 9, with the taps 4, 5, 8, 9 configured to couple to the rectification stage 704. In an embodiment, 8 total turns may be employed, with two turns between taps on a same portion of a secondary winding. Other numbers of turns may be

employed and the taps in embodiments with different numbers of turns may be at different turns of the windings. A polarity of each winding of the secondary 712 is indicated by a star*.

A polarity of the second split winding B_1 , B_2 of the secondary 712 is reversed with respect to a polarity of the first split winding A_1 , A_2 and of the third split winding C_1 , C_2 of the secondary 712. As discussed above, Delta-Hex designs like the one illustrated in Figure 4, the minimum practical number of turns between taps was 3 or higher in order to obtain turn ratios closer to ideal ratios and thus avoid power quality issues arising from the deviations. In an embodiment, reversing the polarity of the split second winding B_1 , B_2 of the secondary 712 at least partially compensates for larger turn-ratio deviations and coil asymmetries, and thus facilitates obtaining acceptable power quality even when a minimum number of turns between taps coupled to the rectifier stage 704 is reduced to two turns. Reducing the number of turns between taps facilitates the use of transformers having windings with fewer turns, and thus facilitates smaller, lighter and less expensive transformers and power converters. Some embodiments may reverse the polarity of the primary winding B with respect to the primary windings A and C.

The rectification stage 704 comprises a first set of rectifier branches 714A, 714B coupled to a positive output of the power converted 700 and a second set of rectifier branches 716A, 716B coupled to a negative output of the power converter 700. As illustrated each rectifier branch 714A, 714B, 716A and 716B includes six diodes 718 coupled in parallel with an optional snubber 720. Other rectifier branch configurations may be employed. As illustrated, each snubber comprises a resistor coupled in series with a capacitor. A snubber may comprise, for example, a 4 micro-Farad capacitor coupled in series with a 1 ohm resistor. Other snubbers may be employed and snubbers may be omitted in some embodiments.

The taps 4, 5, 8, 9 of each secondary winding configured to couple to the rectifier stage 704 are each coupled to a respective anode of a

diode 718 of the first set of rectifier branches 714A, 714B and to a respective cathode of a diode 718 of the second set of rectifier branches 716A, 716B.

The power converter 700 comprises a first rectification path 730 and a second rectification path 732 between taps of the secondary windings of the transformer 702 and outputs of the power converter 700, with the first and second rectification paths 730, 732 having different inductances. This difference in inductance provides an additional phase shift in the currents. As illustrated, the first rectification path 730 includes a coupling between cathodes of the diodes 718 of the first set of rectifier branches 714A, 714B and the positive output of the power converter 700, and the second rectification path 732 includes a coupling between anodes of the diodes 718 of the second set of rectifier branches 716A, 716B. As illustrated, the difference in inductance between the first rectification path 730 and the second rectification path 732 is obtained by coupling inductors 734, 736 into a portion of the rectification path 730 coupling the diodes 718 of the first set of rectifier branches 714A, 714B to the positive output of the power converter 700. For example, inductors having an inductance of approximately 5 micro-Henries may be employed. Other inductances may be employed, and a desired difference in inductance between the first rectification path 730 and the second rectification path 732 may be obtained in other ways. In some embodiments, a desired difference in inductance may be obtained by simply configuring a portion of the rectification path 730 coupling the first set of rectifier branches 714A, 714B to the positive output of the power converter 700 to have a longer, or shorter, length than a portion of the rectification path 732 coupling the second set of rectifier branches 716A, 716B to the negative output of the power converter 700. For example, half of the secondary outputs may be configured with longer leads than the other half of the secondary outputs. The difference in inductance may be selected such that the voltages/currents in the outputs of secondary 712 of the transformer 702 are shifted approximately 15 degrees from each other, resulting in power characteristics of a 24-pulse rectification. Additional examples of ways to obtain a desired difference in inductance between the first

rectification path 730 and the second rectification path 732 include placing an inductor between node 740 and the positive output of the power converter 700, placing a pair of inductors between the node 742 and respective sets of rectifiers of the second set of rectifiers 716A, 716B, placing inductors between
5 the taps of the secondary windings of the transformer 702 and the first set of rectifiers 714A, 714B (see Figure 5), placing an inductor between node 742 and the negative output of the power converter 700, etc. As noted above, the use of leads of different lengths rather than inductive coils may be sufficient to obtain a desired difference in inductance between the first rectification path 730 and the
10 second rectification path 732.

In an embodiment, the transformer 702 comprises three identical coils or substantially identical coils, each having a primary winding (e.g., primary winding A) and a split secondary winding (e.g., split secondary winding A_1 , A_2). Non-identical coils may be employed, although typically identical or
15 substantially identical coils may provide higher power quality. The secondary windings may be physically split as well as logically split, which may facilitate accessing the taps. In an embodiment, each portion of a split secondary winding may be identical. In an embodiment, the portions of a split secondary winding may be substantially identical. In an embodiment, portions of a split
20 secondary winding may have a same number of turns. In an embodiment, portions of a split secondary winding may have a similar, but different, number of turns. In an embodiment, a primary winding (e.g., primary winding A) may be physically split, which in some embodiments provides better power quality by reducing harmonic distortion for example at selected harmonics. For example,
25 a physically split primary may have a split secondary winding sandwiched between portions of the split primary winding (see Figure 8). A split primary winding may have two identical portions, may have two substantially similar portions having a similar, but different number of turns, etc. In an embodiment, the coils may be substantially identical with one of the coils having a secondary
30 winding with a polarity opposite of a polarity of the secondary windings of the

other coils. The windings of the transformer 702 may comprise, for example, copper, anodized aluminum, combinations thereof, etc.

As illustrated, the power converter 700 is configured to provide an output of approximately 28 Volts DC in response to an input of 115 Volts AC.

- 5 As illustrated, the power converter 700 has an optional input filter 722 and an optional output filter 724. Other filter configurations may be employed.

- In simulations and testing applying a 3-phase 115 Volt AC input signal to an embodiment of the power converter 700 of Figure 7, an output of approximately 28 volts DC was obtained with a total harmonic distortion in the
- 10 range of 3.3% to 4.2%, with input current waveforms consistent with 24-pulse rectification. The topology of the embodiment of Figure 7 is much simpler than the topologies of the power converters 200, 300 of Figures 2 and 3, and the use of IPT transformers and filter inductors was avoided while achieving a lower harmonic distortion than Delta-Hex power converters such as the power
- 15 converter 400 of Figure 4. Superior electrical performance over the topologies of Figures 2-4 may be obtained as well. In an embodiment, voltage drops and power dissipation in IPT transformers and input inductors may be avoided, power efficiencies are improved, rectifier diodes share current equally (which facilitates handling overloads), EMI emissions are lower and AC current
- 20 distortions are at an acceptable level.

Figure 8 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a transformer 800, suitable for use, for example, in embodiments of the power converters illustrated in Figures 5-7. Figure 9 is a top view of an embodiment of the transformer 800 of Figure 8.

- 25 The transformer 800 comprises three coils 810, 820, 830 wound on a core 802. The core 802 may, for example, take the form of a magnetizable or ferrite material, for instance a rod or bar of ferrite, samarium cobalt or neodymium-iron-boron. While not illustrated, the transformer 800 may include a housing.

- 30 The first coil 810 comprises a primary winding A split into an inner winding portion 812 and an outer winding portion 814. The inner winding

portion 812 comprises two taps 1, 2 positioned at the ends of the inner winding portion 812. The outer winding portion 814 comprises two taps 11, 12 positioned at the ends of the outer winding portion 814. The primary winding A has a first polarity indicated by a star*. The total number of turns of the primary

5 A may be selected to facilitate obtaining a desired turns ratio (see, for example, Table 1, below). The total number of turns of the primary winding A may be, for example, 181 turns, 121 turns, 61 turns, etc. The total number of turns of the inner winding portion 812 of the primary winding A may be, for example, 90, 91, 92, 60, 61, 62, 30, 31, or 32 turns, and the total number of turns of the outer

10 portion 814 of the primary winding A may be, for example, 91, 90, 89, 61, 60, 59, 31, 30, or 29 turns. Other total numbers of turns and numbers of turns in respective portions may be employed. The first coil 810 comprises a split secondary A₁, A₂ having four ends 3, 6, 7, 10 and four taps 4, 5, 8, 9. As illustrated, the split secondary A₁, A₂ is sandwiched between the first portion

15 812 and the second portion 814 of the primary A. The secondary winding A₁, A₂ has the first polarity as indicated by a star*. The total number of turns of the secondary winding A₁, A₂, may be, for example, 22, 16 or 8, with each portion A₁, A₂ typically having half of the total turns, for example 11, 8 or 4 turns. Other total numbers of turns and numbers of turns in respective portions may be

20 employed.

The second coil 820 comprises a primary winding B split into an inner winding portion 822 and an outer winding portion 824. The inner winding portion 822 comprises two taps 11, 12 positioned at the ends of the inner winding portion 822. The outer winding portion 824 comprises two taps 1, 2

25 positioned at the ends of the outer winding portion 824. The primary winding B has a second polarity indicated by a star*, and different from the first polarity. The total number of turns of the primary B may be selected to facilitate obtaining a desired turns ratio (see Table 1, below). The total number of turns of the primary winding B may be, for example, 181 turns, 121 turns, 61 turns,

30 etc. The total number of turns of the inner winding portion 822 of the primary winding B may be, for example, 90, 91, 92, 60, 61, 62, 30, 31, or 32 turns, and

the total number of turns of the outer portion 824 of the primary winding B may be, for example, 91, 90, 89, 61, 60, 59, 31, 30, or 29 turns. Other total numbers of turns and numbers of turns in respective portions may be employed. The second coil 820 comprises a split secondary B_1 , B_2 having four ends 3, 6, 7, 10 and four taps 4, 5, 8, 9. As illustrated, the split secondary B_1 , B_2 is sandwiched between the first portion 822 and the second portion 824 of the primary B. The secondary winding B_1 , B_2 has the second polarity as indicated by a star*. The total number of turns of the secondary winding B_1 , B_2 , may be, for example, 22, 16 or 8, with each portion B_1 , B_2 typically having half of the total turns, for example 11, 8 or 4 turns. Other total numbers of turns and numbers of turns in respective portions may be employed.

The third coil 830 comprises a primary winding C split into an inner winding portion 832 and an outer winding portion 834. The inner winding portion 832 comprises two taps 1, 2 positioned at the ends of the inner winding portion 832. The outer winding portion 834 comprises two taps 11, 12 positioned at the ends of the outer winding portion 834. The primary winding C has the first polarity indicated by a star*. The total number of turns of the primary C may be selected to facilitate obtaining a desired turns ratio (see Table 1, below). The total number of turns of the primary winding C may be, for example, 181 turns, 121 turns, 61 turns, etc. The total number of turns of the inner winding portion 832 of the primary winding C may be, for example, 90, 91, 92, 60, 61, 62, 30, 31, or 32 turns, and the total number of turns of the outer portion 834 of the primary winding C may be, for example, 91, 90, 89, 61, 60, 59, 31, 30, or 29 turns. Other total numbers of turns and numbers of turns in respective portions may be employed. The third coil 830 comprises a split secondary C_1 , C_2 having four ends 3, 6, 7, 10 and four taps 4, 5, 8, 9. As illustrated, the split secondary C_1 , C_2 is sandwiched between the first portion 832 and the second portion 834 of the primary C. The secondary winding C_1 , C_2 has the first polarity as indicated by a star*. The total number of turns of the secondary winding C_1 , C_2 , may be, for example, 22, 16 or 8, with each portion C_1 , C_2 typically having half of the total turns, for example 11, 8 or 4 turns. Other

total numbers of turns and numbers of turns in respective portions may be employed.

The first coil 810, the second coil 820 and the third coil 830 are positioned next to each in a row, with the second coil 820 positioned between
5 the first coil 810 and the third coil 830.

The first, second and third coils 810, 820, 830 may typically be identical or substantially identical, with the polarity of the second coil 820 being opposite of a polarity of the first and third coils 810, 830 in an embodiment.

Figure 9 is a top view of an embodiment of the transformer 800 of
10 Figure 8, suitable for use, for example, in embodiments of the power converters illustrated in Figures 5-7. The transformer comprises a core 802 having three coils wound on it, which as illustrated are the first, second and third coils 810, 820, 830 of Figure 8. Figure 9 shows the couplings of the secondary windings of the coils 810, 820, 830 to each other in an embodiment. The third tap 3 of
15 the third coil 830 is coupled to the seventh tap 7 of the first coil 810, the sixth tap 6 of the third coil 830 is coupled to the seventh tap 7 of the second coil 820, the seventh tap 7 of the third coil 830 is coupled to the sixth tap 6 of the second coil 820, the tenth tap 10 of the third coil 830 is coupled to the sixth tap 6 of the first coil 810, the third tap 3 of the first coil 810 is coupled to the tenth tap 10 of
20 the second coil 820 and the tenth tap 10 of the first coil 810 is coupled to the third tap 3 of the second coil 820. The fourth tap 4, the fifth tap 5, the eighth tap 8, and the ninth tap 9 of the respective coils 810, 820, 830 are available for coupling to a rectifier stage (see, for example, rectifier stage 704 of Figure 7).

Figures 10 through 12 show front and side views of an
25 embodiment of a power converter 1000, and illustrates an example layout of the components of a transformer and rectifier suitable for use, for example, in the embodiment of a power converter 700 of Figure 7. As illustrated, the transformer employs the physical configuration of the embodiment of a transformer 800 of Figures 8 and 9 and the rectifier employs the electrical
30 configuration of the rectifier 704 of the power converter 700 of Figure 7.

Figure 13 is an isometric view of an embodiment of a power converter 1300. The power converter 1300 comprises a transformer 1302 having a coil heat sink 1336, and a rectifier 1304 including a plurality of diodes 1318 coupled to diode heat sinks 1338. As illustrated, the diode heat sinks 1338 are electrically coupled to the diodes 1318, and are configured as bus bars for positive and negative DC outputs of the power converter 1300. While 12 diodes are shown, additional diodes may be employed in some embodiments. The power converter may employ, for example, a Delta-Hex topology such as the topologies illustrated in Figures 5-7, etc.

10 Figures 14-19 graphically illustrate typical differences in power-quality produced by power converters employing 6-pulse, 12-pulse and 24-pulse conversion topologies.

Figure 14 is a graphical representation of a ripple in a DC output of an embodiment of a 6-pulse power converter. The DC ripple as illustrated is about 14 percent of the output voltage. Figure 15 is a graphical representation of an input current of an embodiment of a 6-pulse power converter. The total harmonic distortion as illustrated is approximately 28 to 32 percent.

Figure 16 is a graphical representation of a ripple in a DC output of an embodiment of a 12-pulse power converter. The DC ripple as illustrated is about 3.4 percent of the output voltage. Figure 17 is a graphical representation of an input current of an embodiment of a 12-pulse power converter. The total harmonic distortion as illustrated is approximately 9 to 14 percent.

Figure 18 is a graphical representation of a ripple in a DC output of an embodiment of a 24-pulse power converter. The DC ripple as illustrated is about 0.9 percent. Figure 19 is a graphical representation of an input current of an embodiment of a 24-pulse power converter. The total harmonic distortion as illustrated is approximately 3 to 5 percent.

Table 1 provides some examples of transformer winding turns, tap turn placements, and calculated resulting tap/center errors. Simulations of embodiments of power converters in a Delta-Hex configuration such as those

illustrated in Figures 5 through 12, produced acceptable power quality for tap center errors as high as 7.5%. In practice, coils with a total number of turns in the primary windings of 181 or less may typically be employed in power converters used in avionics applications. For topologies like that shown in

- 5 Figure 4, the power quality is border line when the number of turns is 181, and generally too low when the number of turns is less than 181. In contrast, the power quality for embodiments of the Delta-Hex topologies shown in Figures 5-7 is generally good enough to use in applications requiring a high-current, low voltage supply, such as avionics applications.

10

Calculated Number of Turns				Tap Center Error
Primary Total	Secondary			
	Total/Section	L-R Taps	Center	Tap/Center Error [%]
61	8/4	1	2	6.4
121	16/8	2	4	6.4
181	22/11	3	5	2.5
241	30/15	4	7	0.3
302	38/19	5	9	1.1
362	46/23	6	11	2.0
422	52/26	7	12	1.2

Table 1

- The above description of illustrated embodiments, including what is described in the Abstract, is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the
- 15 embodiments to the precise forms disclosed. Although specific embodiments of and examples are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure, as will be recognized by those skilled in the relevant art. The teachings provided herein of the various embodiments can be applied to other
- 20 transformers, rectifiers and power converters, not necessarily the exemplary transformers, rectifiers and power converters generally described above. The

teachings provided herein of the various embodiments can be applied to other circuits, including other converter circuits, not necessarily the exemplary converter circuits generally described above.

The various embodiments described above can be combined to
5 provide further embodiments. Aspects of the embodiments can be modified, if necessary, to employ systems, circuits and concepts of the various patents, applications and publications discussed herein to provide yet further embodiments.

These and other changes can be made to the embodiments in
10 light of the above-detailed description. In general, in the following claims, the terms used should not be construed to limit the claims to the specific embodiments disclosed in the specification and the claims, but should be construed to include all possible embodiments along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled. Accordingly, the claims are not
15 limited by the disclosure.

CLAIMS

1. A power converter, comprising:
a transformer having:
three primary windings configured to receive respective phases of a three-phase alternating current (AC) input signal in a delta configuration; and
three secondary windings each split into two portions, the portions of the secondary windings coupled together into a closed regular hexagon, with each portion of each secondary winding having at least two taps and the taps distributed at regular angles on the closed regular hexagon;
a first rectification path coupled between taps of the secondary windings and a positive output of the power converter and having an inductance; and
a second rectification path coupled between taps of the secondary windings and a negative output of the power converter and having an inductance different from the inductance of the first rectification path.
2. The power converter of claim 1 wherein one of the secondary windings has a polarity opposite of a polarity of the other secondary windings.
3. The power converter of claim 2 wherein each primary winding is split in two portions and each secondary winding is sandwiched between two portions of a corresponding primary winding.
4. The power converter of claim 1 wherein each primary winding is split in two portions and each secondary winding is sandwiched between two portions of a corresponding primary winding.

5. The power converter of claim 1 wherein,
the first rectification path comprises 12 rectifiers, each coupled to a respective tap of the secondary windings through respective couplings having a first inductance; and

the second rectification path comprises 12 rectifiers, each coupled to a respective tap of the secondary windings through respective couplings having a second inductance different than the first inductance.

6. The power converter of claim 5 wherein the couplings of the first rectification path have a length different than a length of the couplings of the second rectification path.

7. The power converter of claim 5 wherein the couplings of the first rectification path each comprise an inductor.

8. The power converter of claim 1 wherein the first rectification path comprises:

a first plurality of rectifiers having cathodes coupled together;
an inductor coupled between the cathodes of the first plurality of rectifiers and the positive output;

a second plurality of rectifiers having cathodes coupled together;
and

an inductor coupled between the cathodes of the second plurality of rectifiers and the positive output.

9. The power converter of claim 1 wherein the first rectification path comprises a lead having a length different than a length of a corresponding lead of the second rectification path.

10. The power converter of claim 1 wherein the inductance of the first rectification path is at least five times the inductance of the second rectification path.

11. The power converter of claim 1 wherein the taps of the secondary windings are distributed at substantially identical central angles on the regular hexagon.

12. The power converter of claim 1 wherein two taps on one portion of a secondary winding are on adjacent turns of the portion of the secondary winding.

13. The power converter of claim 1 wherein the transformer comprises three substantially identical coils, each coil comprising one of the primary windings and a corresponding secondary winding.

14. The power converter of claim 13 wherein the transformer comprises a transformer core and the coils are wound on the transformer core.

15. The power converter of claim 14 wherein the coils are positioned next to each other in a row and a center coil has a polarity different than a polarity of the other coils.

16. A method, comprising:
coupling three primary windings of a transformer together in a differential configuration to receive respective phases of a three-phase alternating current;
coupling split portions of three secondary windings of the transformer together into a regular hexagonal configuration;

providing a plurality of taps distributed at regular angles on the secondary windings, each split secondary winding portion having at least two taps;

forming a first rectification path between the plurality of taps and a positive output, the first rectification path having an inductance; and

forming a second rectification path between the plurality of taps and a negative output, the second rectification path having an inductance different than the inductance of the first rectification path.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the transformer comprises first, second and third coils and the method comprises:

positioning the first, second and third coils together in a row with the second coil separating the first and third coils, secondary windings of the second coil having a polarity different than a polarity of secondary windings of the first coil and of the third coil.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the primary windings are split into first and second primary portions and the portions of the each secondary winding are sandwiched between first and second primary portions of a respective primary winding.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the inductance of the first rectification path is at least five times the inductance of the second rectification path.

20. A power converter, comprising:
means for converting three-phase alternating current (AC) power signals into multi-phase AC power signals;
first means for rectifying multi-phase AC power signals;
second means for rectifying multiphase AC power signals;

first means for coupling to couple the means for converting to the first means for rectifying and to couple the first means for rectifying to a first output of the power converter; and

second means for coupling to couple the means for converting to the second means for rectifying and to couple the second means for rectifying to a second output of the power converter, wherein the first means for coupling has an inductance different than an inductance of the second means for coupling.

21. The power converter of claim 20 wherein the means for converting comprises a transformer having:

a primary including three primary windings configured to couple to respective phases of an AC power signal in a delta configuration; and

a secondary including three secondary windings, each secondary winding corresponding to a respective primary winding and split into two portions, wherein the portions of the secondary windings are coupled together into a closed hexagon and each portion of a secondary winding comprises at least two taps.

22. The power converter of claim 21 wherein two of the secondary windings have a polarity opposite of the other secondary winding.

23. The power converter of claim 22 wherein the primary windings are each split in two portions and the two portions of the corresponding secondary winding are sandwiched between the two portions of the corresponding primary winding.

24. The power converter of claim 20 wherein the first means for coupling comprises an inductor coupled between the first means for rectifying and the means for converting.

25. The power converter of claim 20 wherein the first means for coupling comprises an inductor coupled between the first means for rectifying and the first output of the power converter.

26. The power converter of claim 20 wherein the means for converting is configured to convert three-phase alternating current (AC) power signals into twelve-phase AC power signals and the power converter is configured to provide a twenty-four pulse direct-current voltage.

27. The power converter of claim 20 wherein the inductance of the first means for coupling is at least five times the inductance of the second means for coupling.

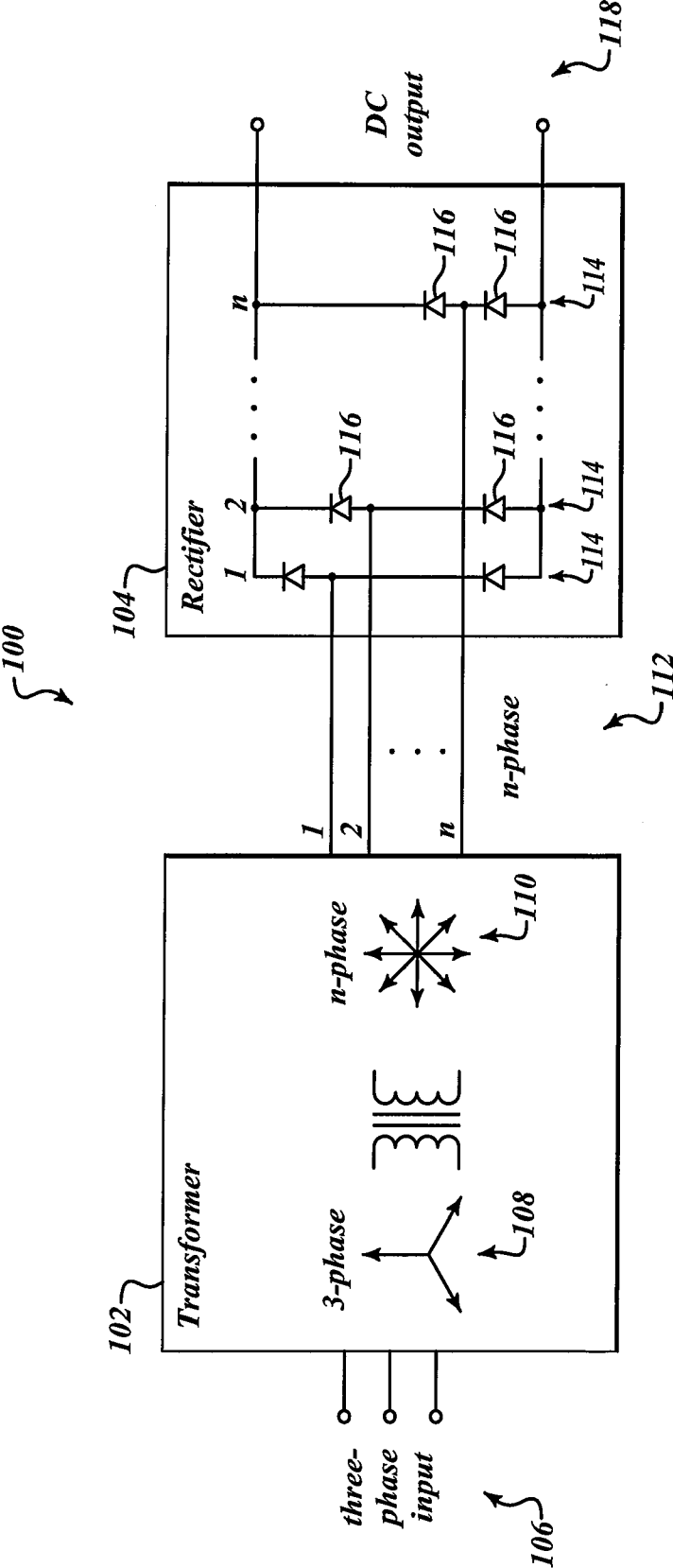


FIG. 1

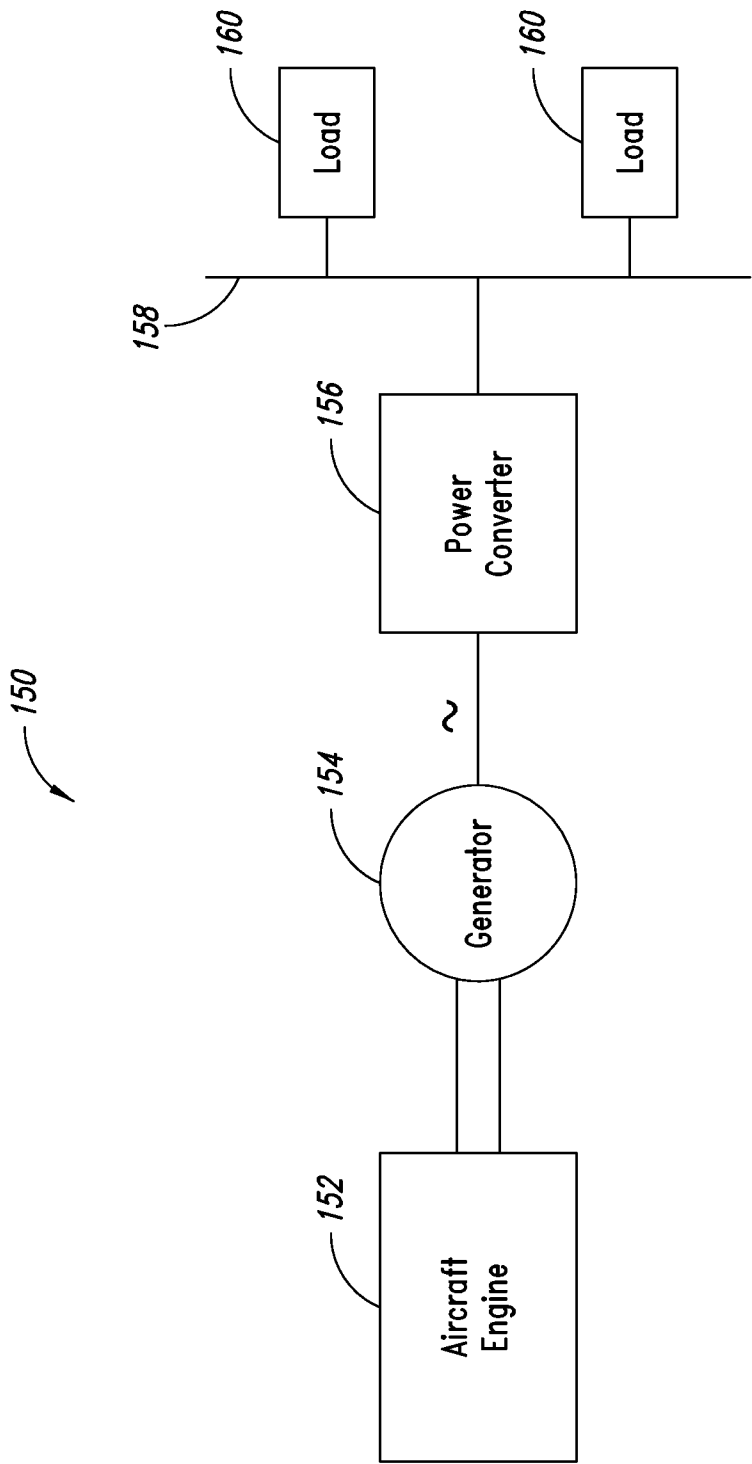


FIG. 1A

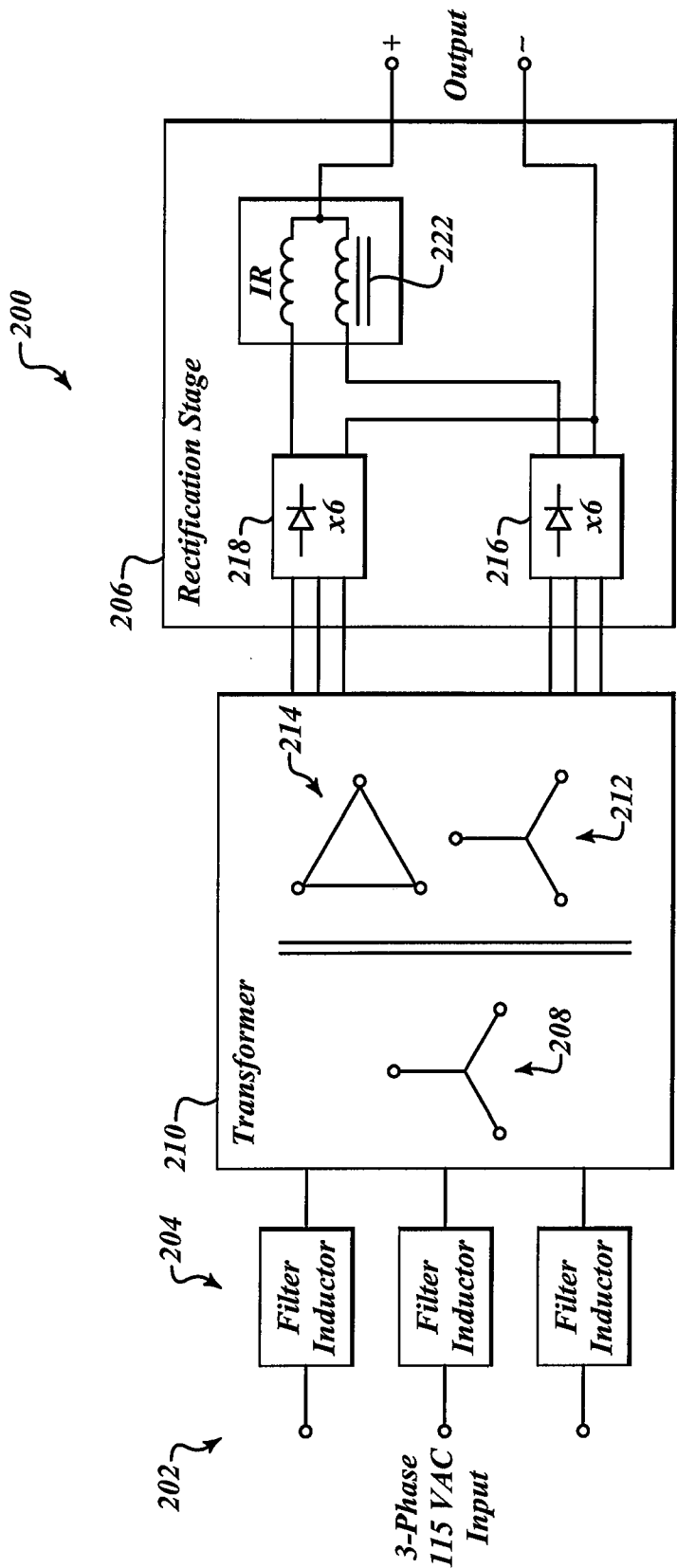


FIG. 2

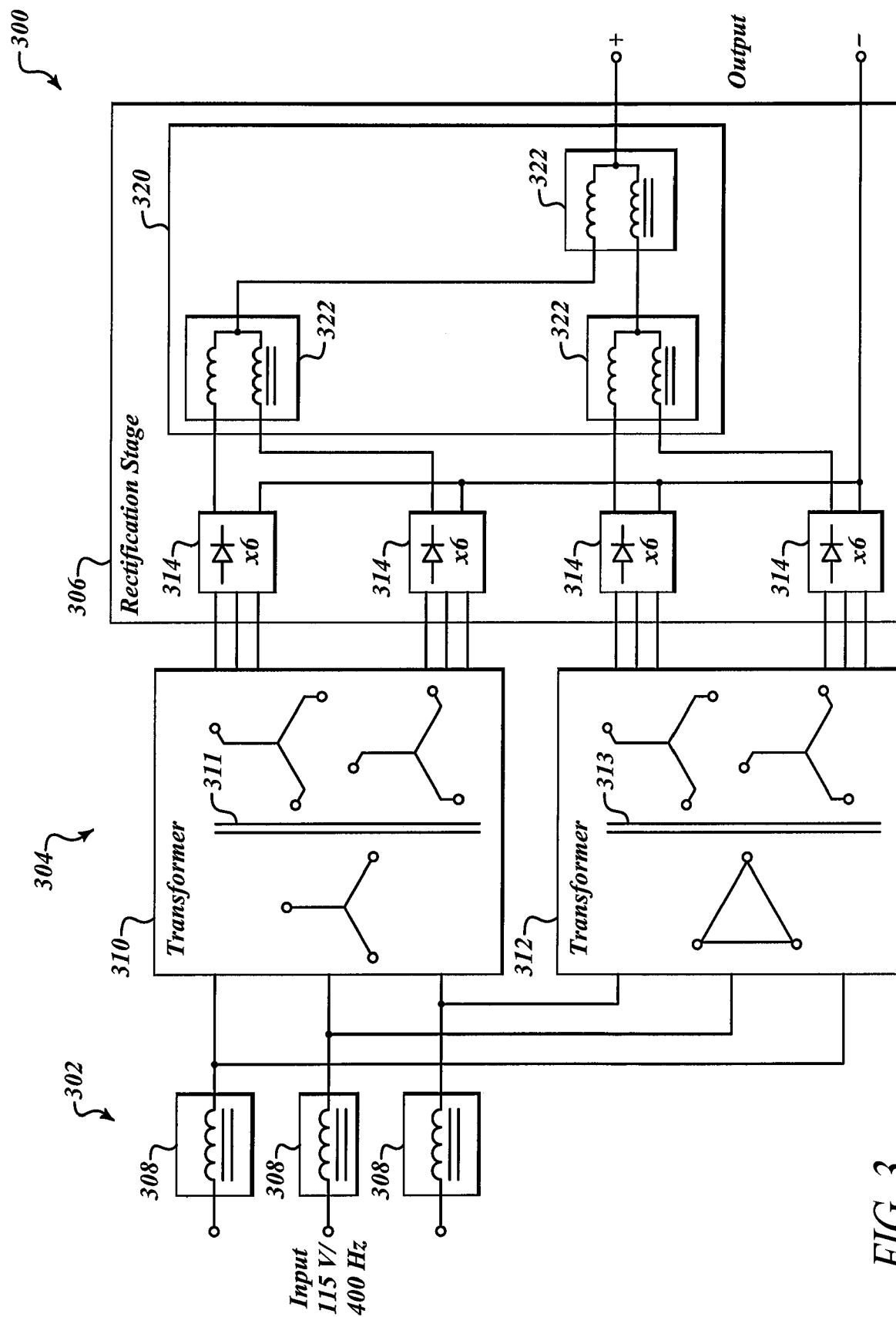


FIG. 3

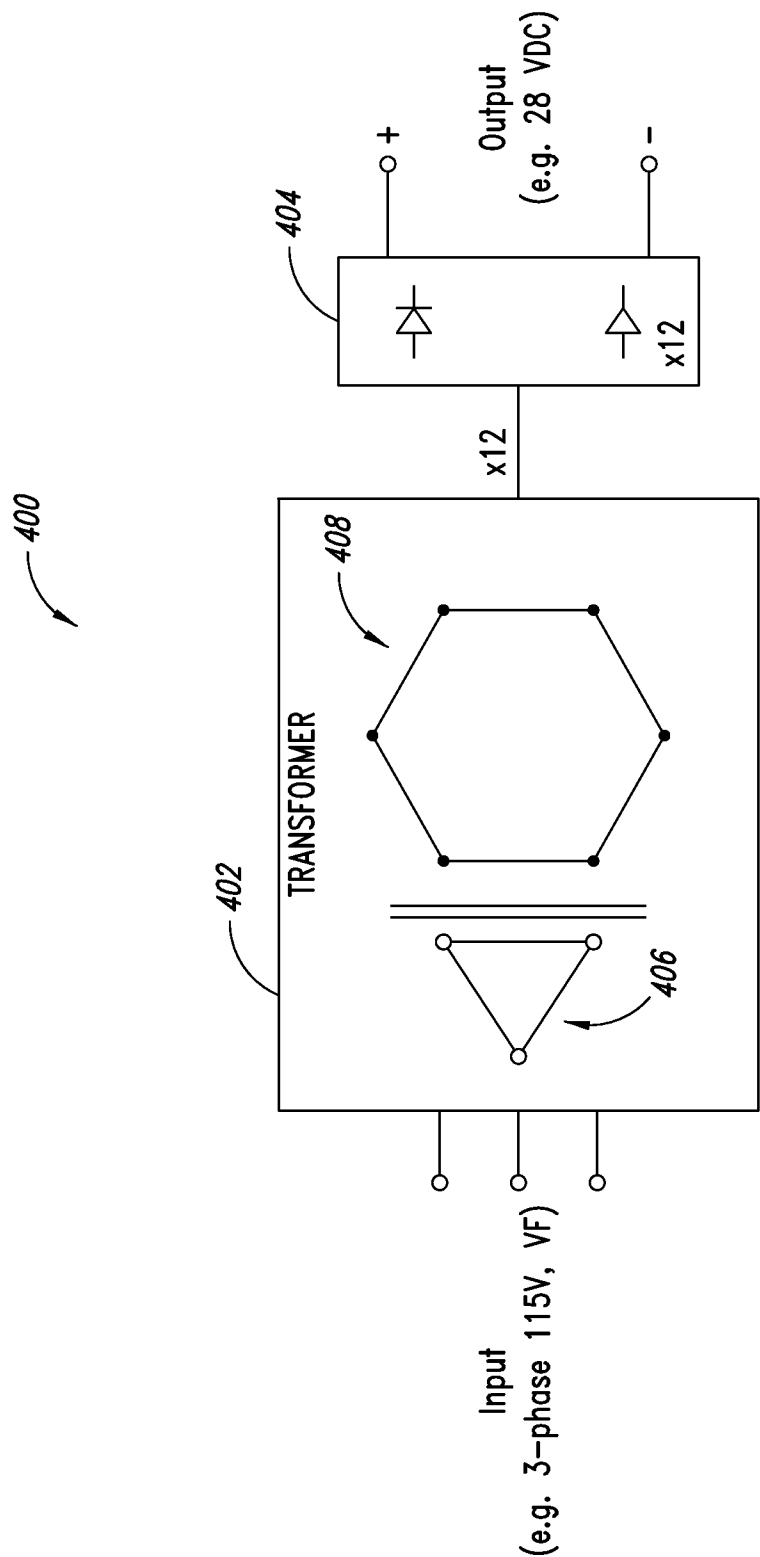


FIG. 4

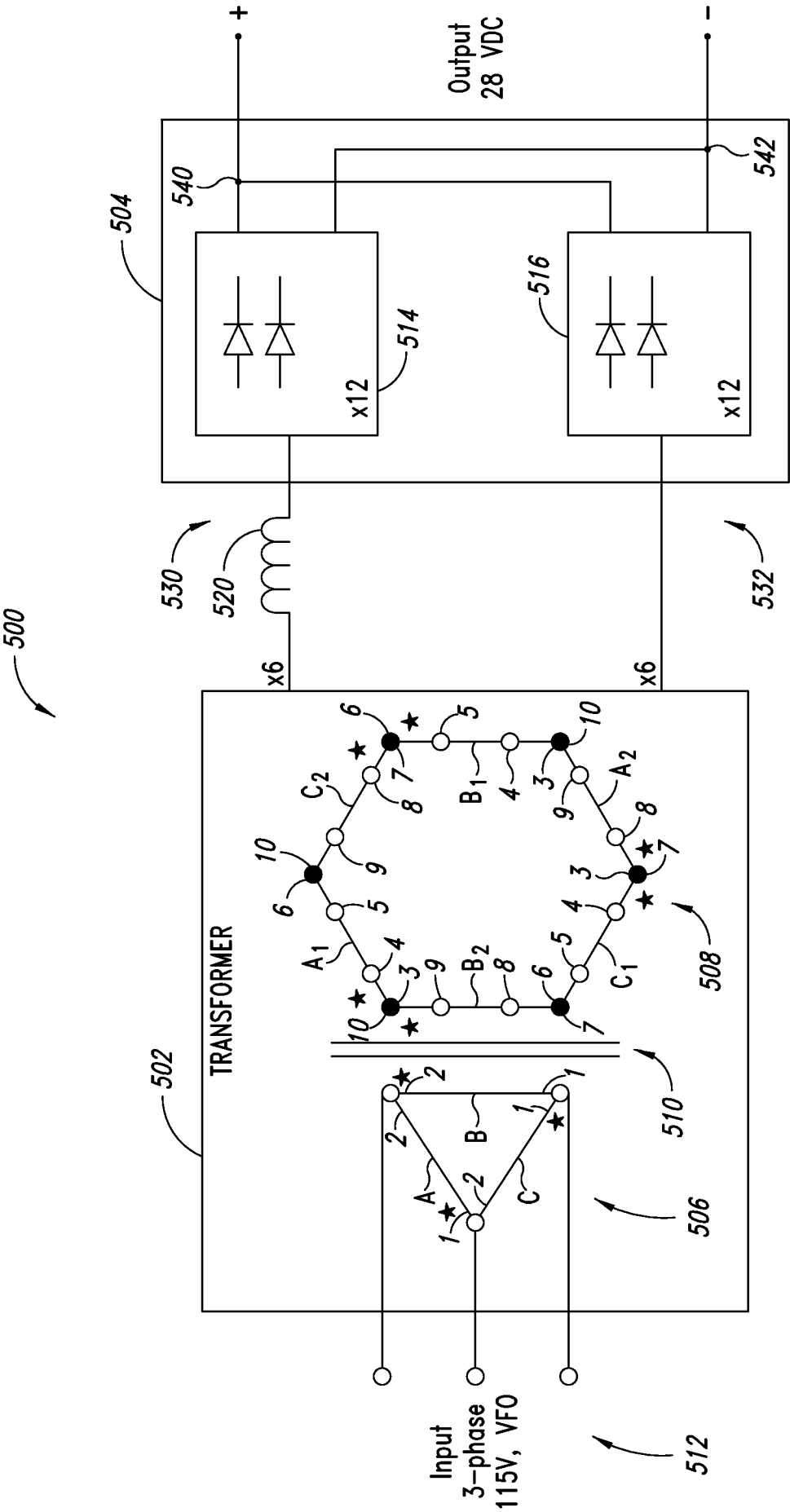


FIG. 5

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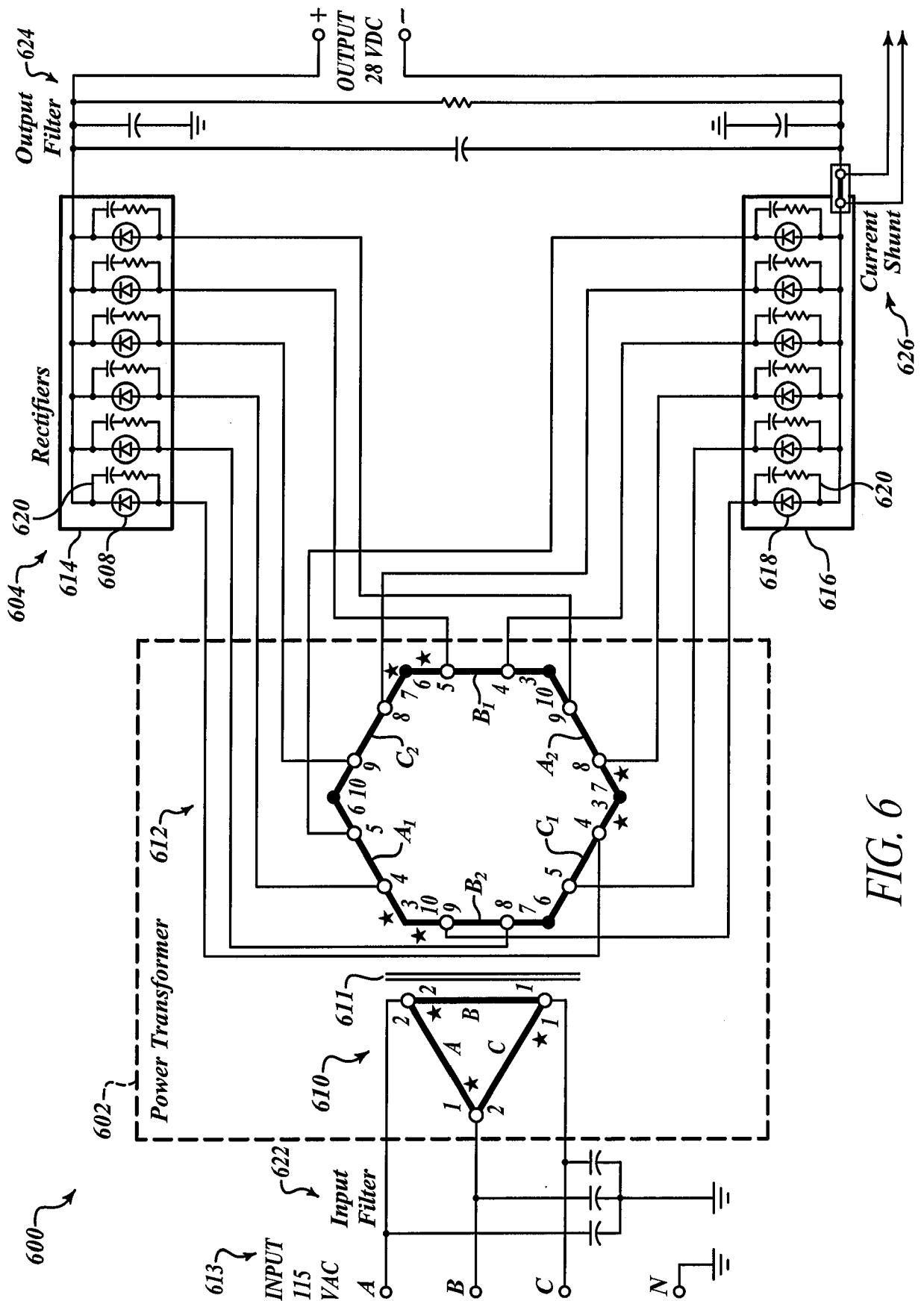


FIG. 6

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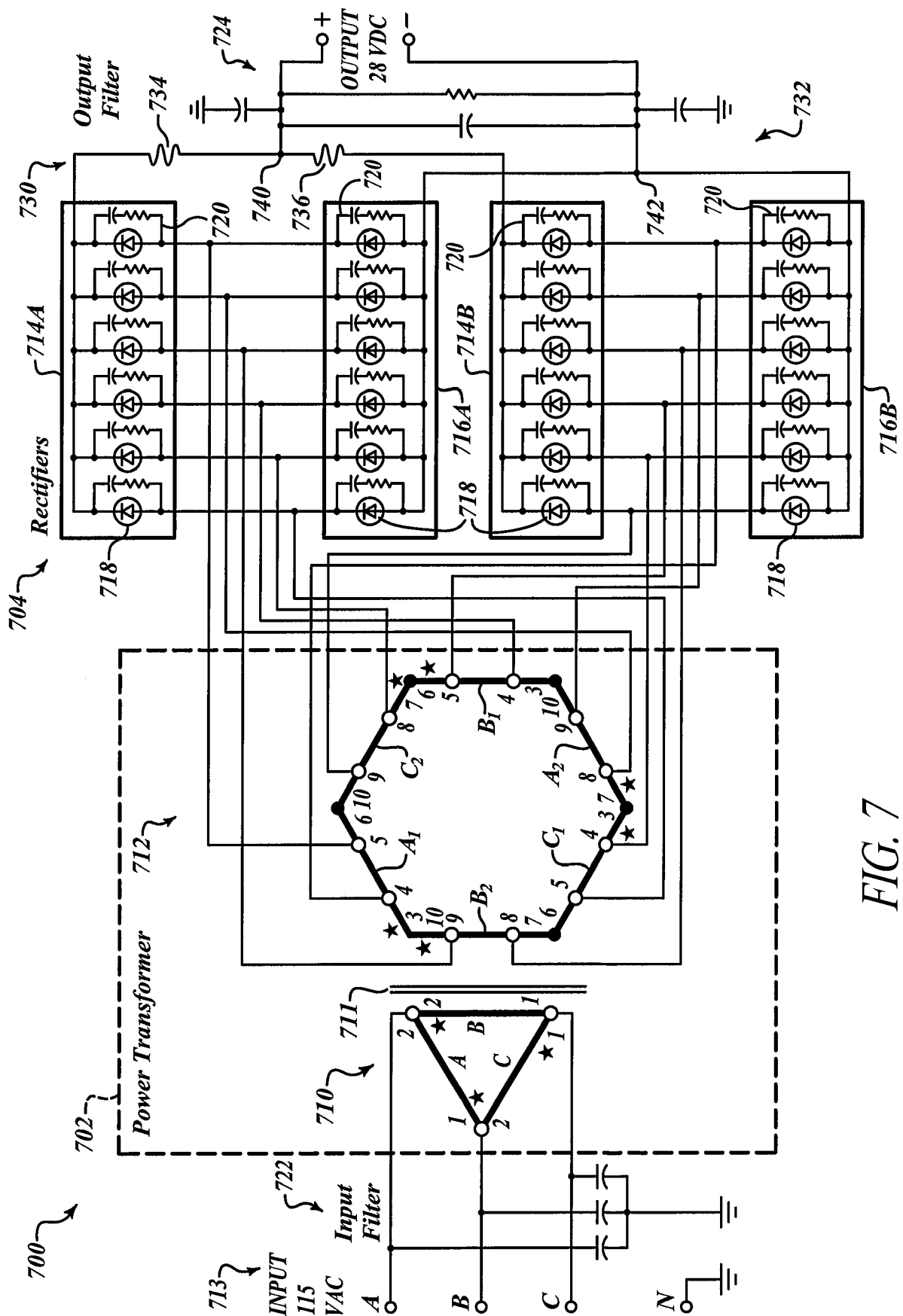
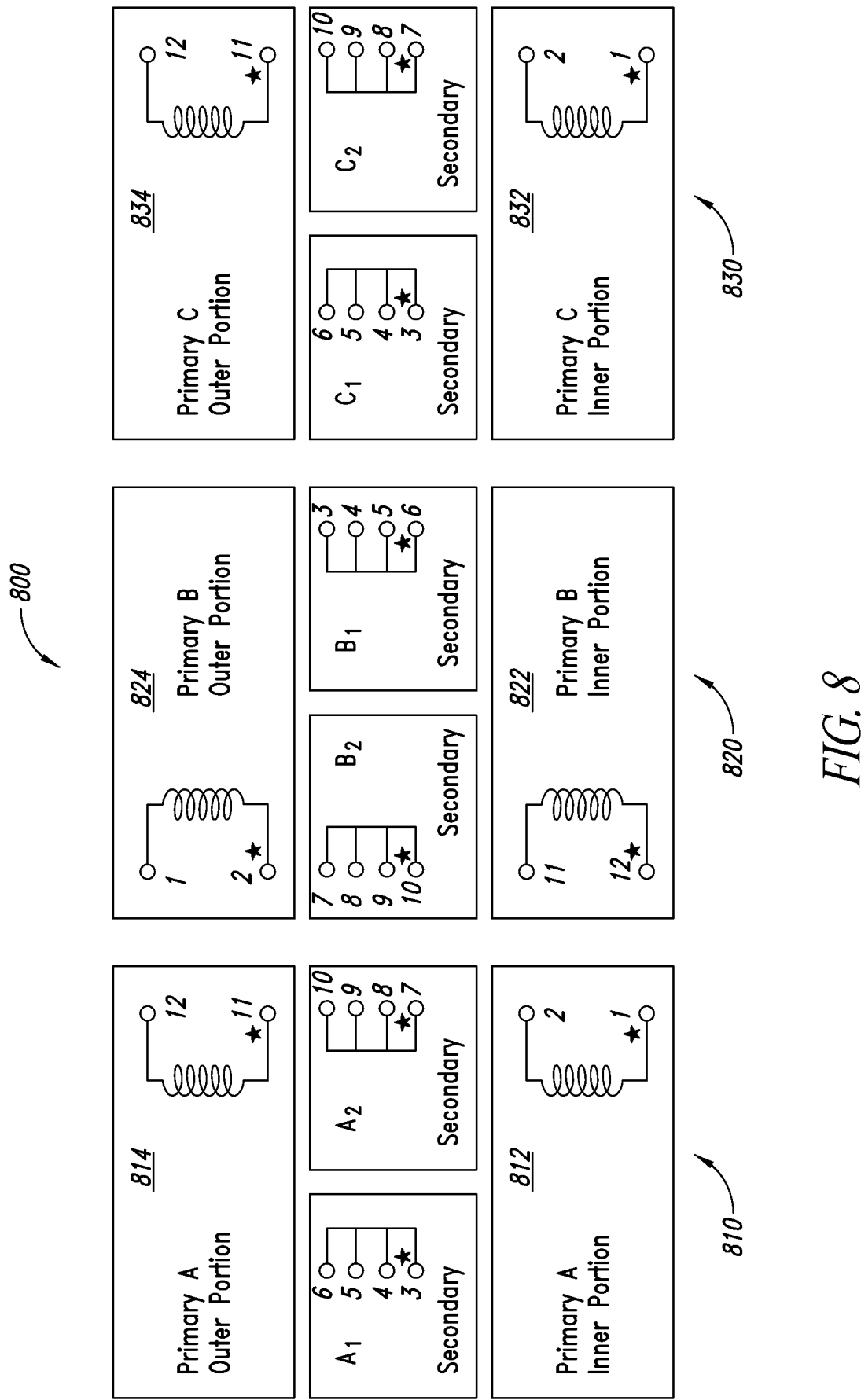


FIG. 7



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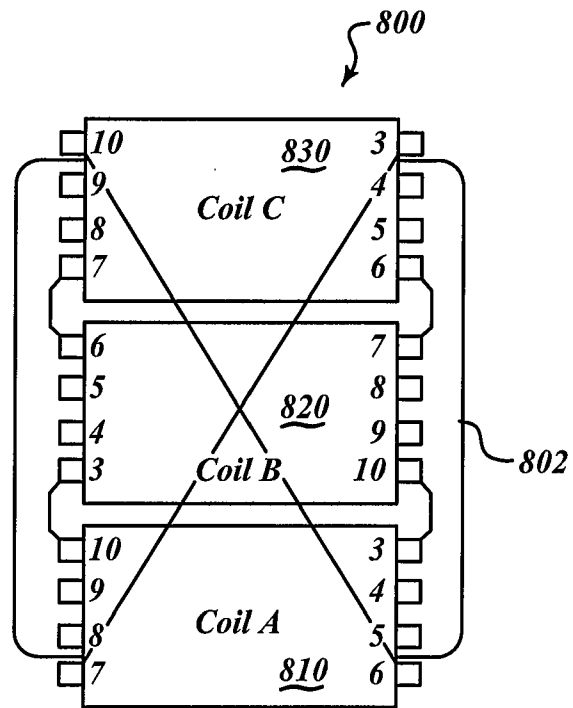


FIG. 9

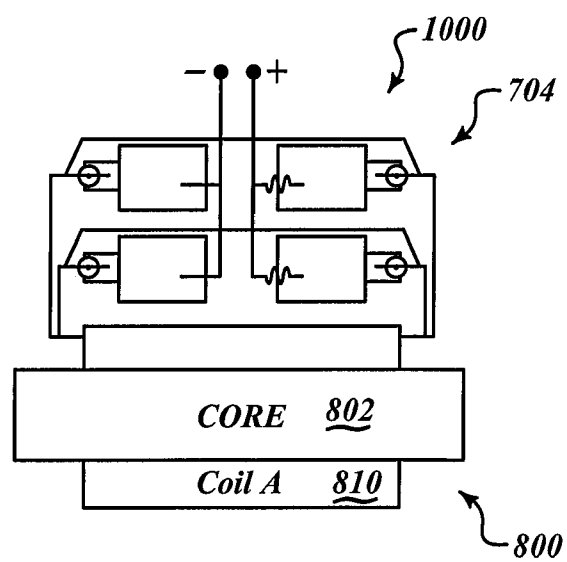


FIG. 10

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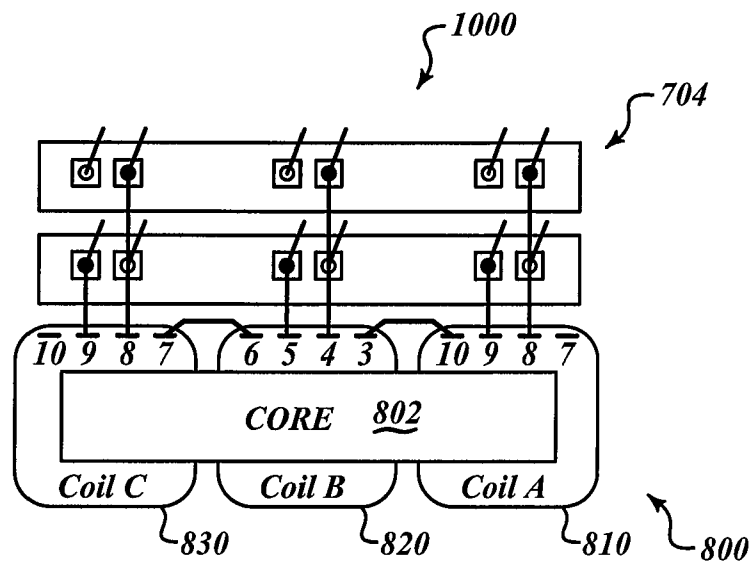


FIG. 11

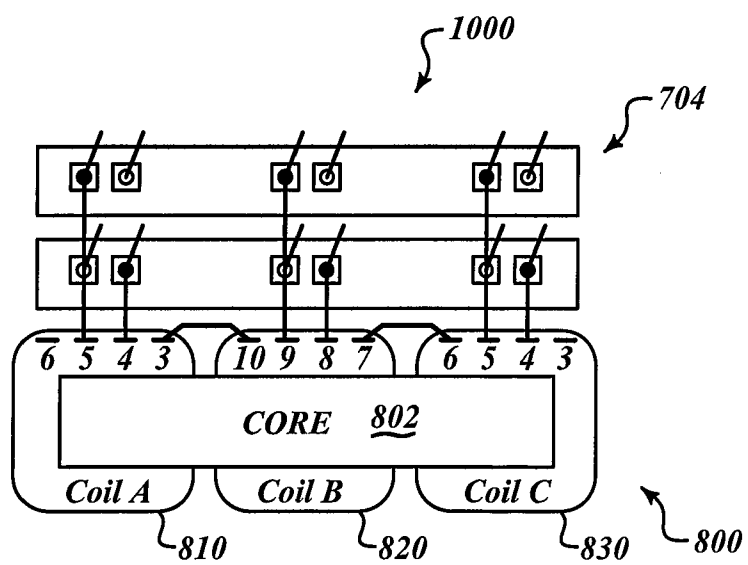
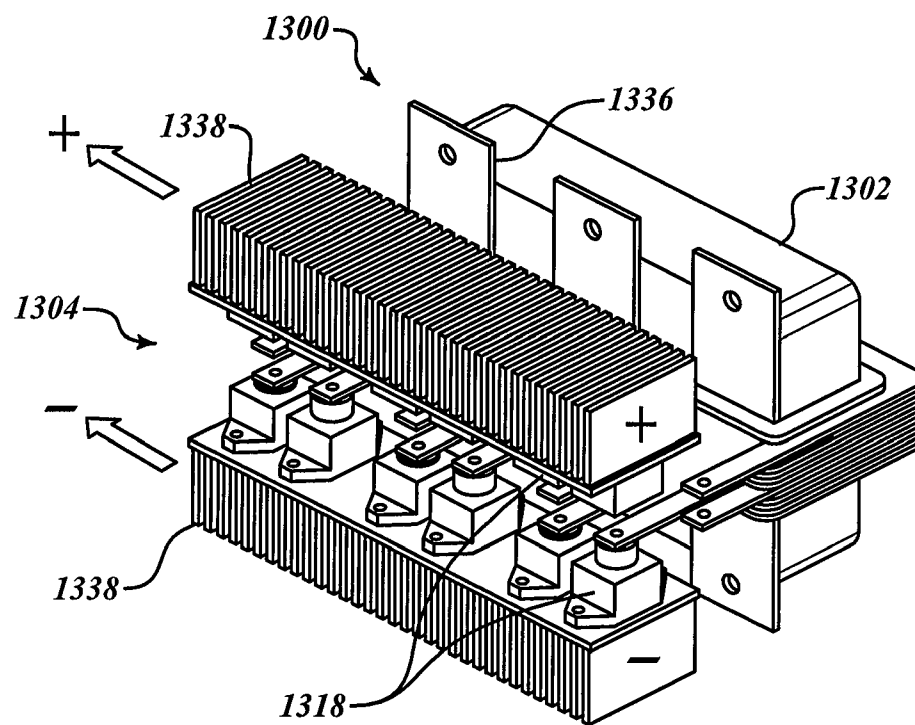


FIG. 12

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*FIG. 13*

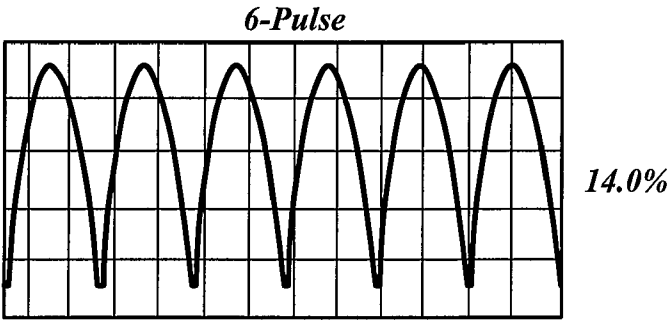


FIG. 14

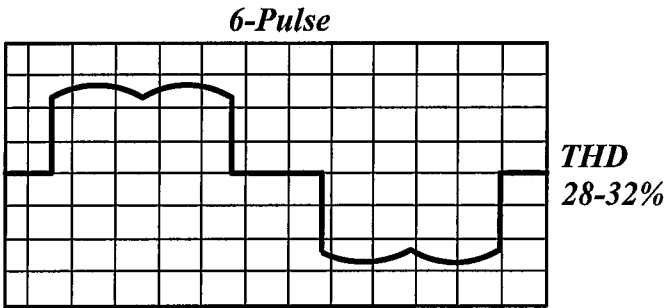


FIG. 15

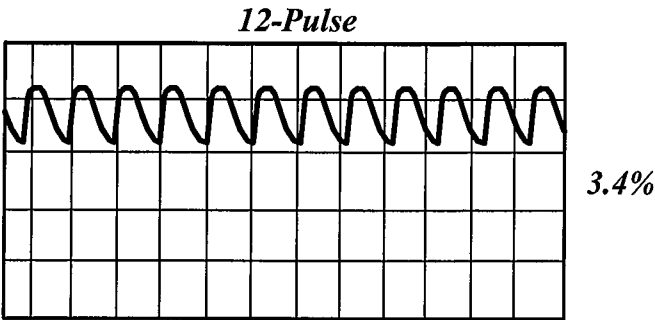


FIG. 16

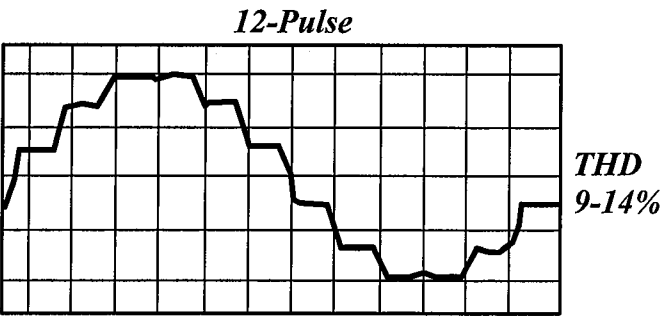
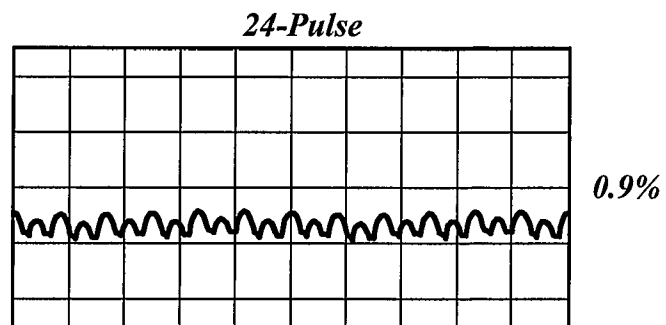
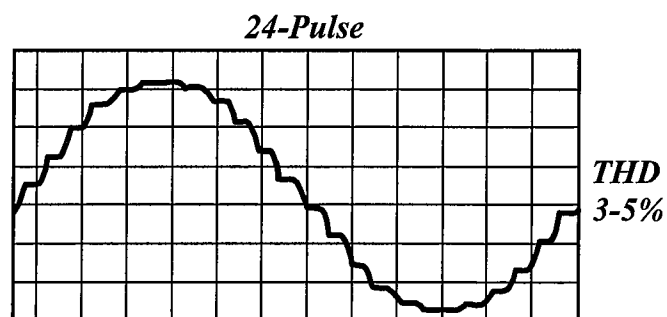


FIG. 17

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*FIG. 18**FIG. 19*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 12/26465

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - H02M 7/02 (2012.01)

USPC - 363/3

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC(8): H02M 7/02 (2012.01)

USPC: 363/3

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

IPC(8): H02M 7/02 (2012.01)

USPC: 363/3, 34, 67, 87, 108

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PubWEST; PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB; Google Scholar; Google Patent; Search Terms: Y-Delta winding transformer auto-transformer hexagon phase inductance inductor rectifier diode bridge multi-phase three-phase twelve-phase n-phase coil core polygon six primary secondary tertiary

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2010/0176755 A1 (Hoadley et al.) 15 July 2010 (15.07.2010) para. [0018] through [0038], Fig. 1-9	1-5, 7, 8 and 10-27 6 and 9
Y	US 2002/0015320 A1 (Mochikawa et al.) 07 February 2002 (07.02.2002) para. [0064], [0067], [0068], [0071], [0083], [0086], [0089]	6 and 9
A	US 2009/0067206 A1 (Oguchi et al.) 12 March 2009 (12.03.2009) entire document	1-27
A	US 2004/0125523 A1 (Edwards et al.) 01 July 2004 (01.07.2004) entire document	1-27
A	US 2009/0273431 A1 (Hurst) 05 November 2009 (05.11.2009) entire document	1-27
A	US 5,148,357 A (Paice) 15 September 1992 (15.09.1992) entire document	1-27
A	US 6,335,872 B1 (Zhou et al.) 01 January 2002 (01.01.2002) entire document	1-27

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 June 2012 (13.06.2012)

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 JUN 2012

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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