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A foil winding pulse transformer

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(56) Related Art  
EP 0262329 A1 (International Business Machines Corp)  
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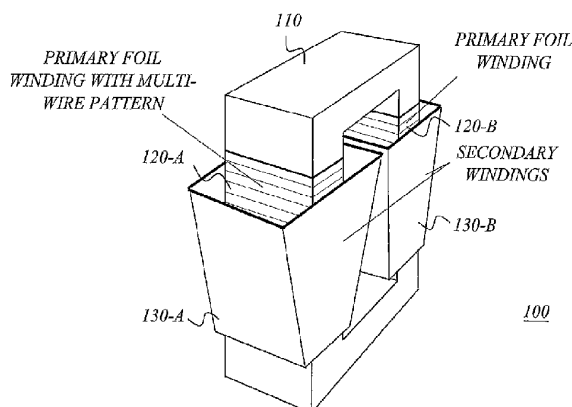
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(54) Title: A FOIL WINDING PULSE TRANSFORMER



(57) Abstract: A pulse transformer arrangement (100) is built from an uncut pulse transformer core (110) and at least one foil winding (120-A, 120-B) (each) comprising multiple insulated conducting strips arranged around the core and ending in foil winding terminals to form multiple independent primary windings. This new design principle has several advantages. Making the winding(s) of foil eliminates the need to cut the core, because of the ease of insertion of the foil winding(s) onto the core. The work to set up a plurality of primary windings is significantly reduced. In addition to the elimination of the costs for cutting the core, this also brings the further advantages of reduced DC reset current, reduced risk for electrical shorts and avoidance of excessive losses due to potential high frequency AC resistance problems.

## A FOIL WINDING PULSE TRANSFORMER

## TECHNICAL FIELD

5 The present invention relates to pulse transformers, a novel winding arrangement as well as a method of efficiently making a pulse transformer with such a winding arrangement.

## BACKGROUND

10

Electrical power systems can be found in virtually all industrial areas, and they normally involve some form of circuitry for controllably transferring electrical power or energy to the intended load. A particular example of a commonly used power system is a power modulator, which can be regarded as a device that controls the flow  
15 of electrical power. When a power modulator is designed for generating electrical pulses it is also referred to as a pulse modulator or pulse generator. In its most common form, a power modulator delivers high power electrical pulses to a specialized load. By way of example, high power electrical pulses are utilized for powering microwave amplifier tubes in driving electron accelerator systems and/or  
20 microwave generating systems for applications such as medical radiation applications and radar applications.

A key component in power modulators is the pulse transformer, which basically comprises a transformer core, one or more primary windings and one or more  
25 secondary windings. The pulse transformer is used for transferring pulse energy from the primary side to the secondary side, normally with a change in voltage and current. The transformer core is made of some magnetic material, and the windings are generally made of copper wires. In operation, the transformer is often placed in a pulse transformer tank, where a suitable fluid such as oil can cool the components efficiently  
30 and provide electrical insulation.

Transformer cores for short pulses in the range of a few microseconds are usually made of wound tape of silicon iron. This tape is typically only 0.05mm thick. This is necessary for the reduction of losses in the core. To allow for practical application of the coils/windings, the core is generally cut into two halves. When the halves are reconnected, the gap left must be minimised and therefore the surfaces have to be ground flat and possibly etched to eliminate shorts between the tape layers. There must also be a thin insulation between the halves for this reason.

#### SUMMARY

10 The present invention overcomes these and other drawbacks of the prior art arrangements.

It is a general object of the invention to provide an improved pulse transformer design.

15 According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a pulse transformer arrangement using several primary supplies for transferring pulse energy from a primary side having multiple primary windings to a secondary side, said pulse transformer arrangement including:

- an uncut pulse transformer core;
- multiple independent primary windings formed by a foil winding
- 20 including multiple insulated conducting strips arranged around said uncut pulse transformer core and ending in foil winding terminals, wherein said multi-strip foil winding is wrapped a single turn around said transformer core and said multiple conducting strips are insulated from each other and extend around the core; and
- a connection arrangement to which the terminals of said multiple
- 25 conducting strips are connected to provide connections for said multiple primary windings.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a pulse transformer arrangement for transferring pulse energy from a primary side to a secondary side, said pulse transformer arrangement including:

- 30 - an uncut pulse transformer core;
- multiple independent primary windings formed by a foil winding including multiple insulated conducting strips arranged around said uncut pulse transformer core and ending in foil winding terminals,

## 2 a

wherein said multi-strip foil winding is wrapped a single turn around said transformer core and said multiple conducting strips are insulated from each other and extend around the core, and one end of said foil winding is folded at about 45 degrees and the other end is configured with a turn of about 90 degrees so that input terminals can be arranged in close proximity to output terminals

when the two ends of the foil winding are collected together; and

- a connection arrangement to which the terminals of said multiple conducting strips are connected to provide connections for said multiple primary windings.

The invention proposes a new way to design a pulse transformer arrangement. The conventional way is to cut a transformer core into halves, insert windings on the cut core and reconnecting the core halves while minimising the gap between the halves. The invention on the other hand provides a pulse transformer arrangement which is built from an uncut pulse transformer core and a foil winding comprising multiple insulated conducting strips arranged around the core and ending in foil winding terminals to form a set of multiple independent primary windings.

This new design principle has several advantages. Making the winding(s) of foil eliminates the need to cut the core, because of the ease of insertion of the foil winding(s) onto the core. The work to set up a plurality of primary windings is significantly reduced. In addition to the elimination of the costs for cutting the core,

this also brings the further advantages of reduced DC reset current, reduced risk for electrical shorts and avoidance of excessive losses due to potential high frequency AC resistance problems.

- 5 Preferably, the multiple primary windings and their terminations may be formed on a single conducting foil deposited on an insulating foil. Advantageously, the multi-strip foil winding only needs to be wrapped a single turn around the uncut transformer core to form a plurality of independent (i.e. insulated from each other) primary windings with end terminals ready for connection. The connections can then be made for example  
10 simply by attaching standard multi-pin connectors or any other conventional connection arrangement to the ends of the conducting foil strips.

- It is also possible to efficiently form a secondary winding by displacing the wire pattern of a multi-strip foil winding by one strip when the foil is wrapped around the core  
15 and soldering the meeting ends together to form a secondary winding with a single starting end and a single terminating end.

The invention offers at least the following advantages:

- 20     ➤ Cost-effective design.
- Reduced manufacturing costs.
- Reduced DC reset current.
- 25     ➤ Reduced risk for electrical shorts.
- Avoidance of excessive losses due to potential high frequency AC resistance problems.

30

- Decreased inductance and reduced risk for sparking.

Other advantages offered by the invention will be appreciated when reading the below description of embodiments of the invention.

5

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The novel features believed characteristic of the invention are set forth in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, as well as other features and advantages thereof  
10 will be best understood by reference to the detailed description of the specific embodiments which follows, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic drawing illustrating an example of a pulse transformer  
15 arrangement according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 illustrates a multi-strip foil winding according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

20 Figure 3 is a schematic flow diagram of a method for manufacturing a pulse transformer arrangement according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

Figure 4 illustrates a winding according to another exemplary embodiment of the invention.

25

Figure 5 shows a transformer arrangement with multiple primary foil windings according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

Figures 6A-B show different views of an example of a transformer with a novel foil-  
30 type primary winding according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

For a better understanding of the invention it may be useful to start with an analysis of the conventional way to design a pulse transformer.

5

To allow for practical application of the coils/windings, the core is traditionally cut into two halves. When the halves are reconnected, the gap left must be minimized and therefore the surfaces have to be ground flat and possibly etched to eliminate shorts between the tape layers. There must also be a thin insulation between the halves for  
10 this reason.

However, the inventors have recognized that the introduction of the cut has some effects on the performance of the transformer:

- 15 Assuming, by way of example, that the remaining gaps at the cut is around 0.05 mm it will require some H-field (say 80 ampere turns) to drive a 1 T field across the gaps. This is advantageous in the way that it will bring the remnant field to near zero at zero current, leaving something like 1 to 1.5 T field rise available for the pulse. With no gap the remnant field may be around 1 T, leaving only 0 to 0.5 T for the pulse.
- 20 However, for the efficient use of the core, a DC current is often applied on an extra winding to offset the field at zero primary current to a negative field of about 1 to 1.5 T. Thereby a field swing of up to 3 T is left for the pulse. The gap requires most of this current, and has therefore a negative effect, requiring larger current supply components. With no cut the DC reset current is typically reduced by a factor of four.
- 25 In addition to the extra costs involved for cutting the core, there is also an increased risk for electrical shorts.

The type of pulse transformer using several primary supplies, e.g. as described in our US Patent 5,905,646, also published as International PCT Application  
30 PCT/SE97/02139 with International Publication Number WO 98/28845 A1, and our



US Patent 6,741,484, also published as International PCT Application PCT/SE02/02398 with International Publication Number WO 03/061125 A1, results in multiple primary windings. With conventional technique, the work to set up all these windings and to make connections for the windings is time consuming and costly.

5

There is thus a general need for an improved pulse transformer design.

A basic idea of the present invention is to provide a pulse transformer arrangement based on an uncut pulse transformer core and at least one foil winding having multiple  
10 insulated conducting strips arranged around the core and ending in foil winding terminals to form multiple independent primary windings.

In the example schematically illustrated in Fig. 1, the pulse transformer arrangement 100 basically comprises an uncut core 110, two foil windings 120-A, 120-B and two  
15 secondary windings 130-A, 130-B. Each foil winding 120 has multiple insulated conducting strips arranged around the core to form multiple independent primary windings in a "multi-wire" pattern. Each foil winding can also be referred to as a primary foil winding with a multi-wire pattern.

20 In a preferred exemplary embodiment of the invention, the multiple primary windings and their terminations are formed on a single conducting foil deposited on an insulating foil. The conducting foil is made of some suitable conducting material such as for example copper. Conveniently, the multi-strip foil winding 120 only needs to be wrapped a single turn around the uncut transformer core to form a set of independent (i.e.  
25 insulated from each other) primary windings with end terminals ready for connection. The multiple conducting strips are generally insulated from each other and extend around the core.

The “wires” (conducting strips) are preferably shaped on the conducting foil with a common photo-chemical method, for example by using standard printed circuit board manufacturing techniques.

- 5 In a preferred exemplary embodiment of the invention, with the foil technique, the primary windings and their terminations are shaped on a single conducting foil (deposited on an insulating foil) and the connections are made simply by attaching for example standard multi-pin connectors (e.g. 15 pins). This is another significant advantage offered by the present invention. Although the multi-pin connector  
10 arrangement is highly efficient from a manufacturing point of view, it is indeed possible to use any other commercially available connection arrangement such as conventional terminal blocks soldered to a printed circuit board or soldered into cable.

- Another advantage with the foil winding is that it may easily cover the full length of  
15 the opening of the core with an almost continuous current sheet, which gives a smooth distribution of the electric field. This decreases the inductance and risk for sparking.

- Making the winding(s) of foil eliminates the need to cut the core, because of the ease of insertion of the foil winding(s) onto the core. The work to set up a plurality of  
20 primary windings is significantly reduced. In addition to the elimination of the costs for cutting the core, this also brings the further advantages of reduced DC reset current and reduced risk for electrical shorts. A side effect of the new winding principle is that excessive losses due to potential high frequency AC resistance problems are avoided.

- 25 The secondary winding(s) can be any conventional winding(s), and is/are preferably multi-turn secondary winding(s).

Foil windings as such are known from the prior art [1-4], but for different applications and with a different design principle compared to the invention.

In reference [1] a foil winding in the form of a single-strip foil is wrapped in many layers around a conventional core with suitable interwinding insulation between layers.

Reference [2] relates to a low-voltage foil winding for a high-voltage television line transformer. The foil winding is arranged about a core, and the layers of the winding are  
5 insulated from each other by an insulating tape which is wound simultaneously with a conductive foil. The conductive foil forms an *uninterrupted conductive surface* so that the field lines in the central portion extends parallel to the winding.

10 Reference [3] relates to a power supply conductor from a conductive foil of a foil winding of a power transformer. The power supply conductor is formed as a conductor stack of flag-shaped folded end-pieces at one end of the foil winding, and represents a simple way to provide a narrow stack-formed end terminal from a wider piece of foil.

15 Reference [4] relates to a self lead foil winding for transformers and inductors. The end portion of a conventional multi-layered foil winding is cut into flag shaped portions that are folded or otherwise formed to create stacked self leads. The flag-shaped portions are made sufficiently long so that the resulting stacked self leads will reach a mounting board for efficient mounting of the transformer to the board.

20

Figure 2 illustrates a winding according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. A foil of suitable conducting material (e.g. copper) is deposited on a foil of insulating material (e.g. plastic material), and strips of the conducting foil are formed in a suitable wire pattern, e.g. by using a conventional etching technique. The foil winding  
25 120 illustrated in Figure 2 is especially suitable for multiple primary windings. The separated multiple conducting strips or wires preferably extend all the way along the foil winding. Preferably, the primary foil winding is wrapped a single turn around the transformer core, and one end of the winding is then folded at about 45 degrees (as shown as a dotted line in Figure 2) and the other end is configured with a turn at about  
30 90 degrees so that the conductors for the incoming current (input terminals) can be

arranged very close to the conductors for the outgoing current (output terminals) when the two ends are finally collected together. This decreases leakage fields.

It should be understood that although the primary windings formed from the foil are insulated from each other, two or more of the conducting strips on the foil winding may  
5 be connected in parallel for special types of operation.

Figure 3 is a schematic flow diagram of a method for manufacturing a pulse transformer arrangement according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. The first step (S1) is to provide an uncut pulse transformer core. The next step (S2) is to make  
10 a pulse transformer foil winding with multiple insulated conducting strips ending in foil winding terminals to form a set of confined multiple independent primary windings. For example, the multi-strip foil winding is preferably made by depositing a foil of conducting material on a foil of insulating material, and forming multiple conducting strips in a wire pattern on the conducting foil. Subsequently, the multi-strip foil winding  
15 forming multiple primary windings is wrapped around the uncut transformer core (S3). Optionally, the terminals or end portions of the multiple conducting strips are connected to a multi-pin connector or similar connection arrangement to provide connections for the multiple primary windings.

20 Figure 4 illustrates a winding according to another exemplary embodiment of the invention. This winding structure is especially suitable as a starting point for a secondary winding. The "wire pattern" on the foil is preferably displaced by one strip when the foil is wrapped (normally in a tapered overall shape) around the core and the meeting ends are soldered together to form the winding, as indicated by the dotted  
25 lines. The offset by one strip provides a natural starting end (input) and a terminating end (output) for the winding.

At present, foil with a thickness of more than 0.05 mm is not easily available on the commercial market. This may limit the average power of the transformer, unless  
30 several layers of foil are added in the process of making the windings.

Figure 5 shows a transformer with primary foil windings without secondary winding. Please note that the transformer of Figure 5 has two core legs, and that the primary winding on one of the legs is shown without connector to illustrate the close proximity between input and output conductors due to the smart and effective 45 degree fold, whereas the primary winding on the other leg is attached to a multi-pin connector.

Figures 6A-B show different views of a complete transformer with a novel foil-type primary winding. In this particular realisation the secondary winding is a conventional wire-type winding. There is of course nothing that prevents the secondary winding from being a foil-type winding.

In accordance with preferred embodiments of the invention, at least one of the primary and secondary windings is/are made out of foil of some suitable conducting material such as for example copper deposited on insulating foil wrapped around the yoke.

Should the pulse transformer have more than one transformer core, it is possible to apply the invention with one or more foil windings on each transformer core.

The embodiments described above are merely given as examples, and it should be understood that the present invention is not limited thereto. Further modifications, changes and improvements which retain the basic underlying principles disclosed herein are within the scope of the invention.

"Comprises/comprising" when used in this specification is taken to specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps or components but does not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, components or groups thereof.

**REFERENCES**

- [1] *"Aluminum and Copper Foil Transformers"*, Technical Information, ElectroCube,  
www.electrocube.com, August 2006.
- 5 [2] US Patent 4,086,552
- [3] US Patent 5,805,045
- 10 [4] US Patent 6,930,582

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A pulse transformer arrangement using several primary supplies for transferring pulse energy from a primary side having multiple primary windings to a secondary side, said pulse transformer arrangement including:
  - 5 - an uncut pulse transformer core;
  - multiple independent primary windings formed by a foil winding including multiple insulated conducting strips arranged around said uncut pulse transformer core and ending in foil winding terminals, wherein said multi-strip foil winding is wrapped a single turn around said transformer core and said multiple
  - 10 conducting strips are insulated from each other and extend around the core; and
  - a connection arrangement to which the terminals of said multiple conducting strips are connected to provide connections for said multiple primary windings.
2. The pulse transformer arrangement of claim 1, wherein said multiple
- 15 conducting strips are formed in a wire pattern on a foil of conducting material deposited on a foil of insulating material.
3. The pulse transformer arrangement of claim 1, wherein the terminals of said multiple conducting strips are connected to a multi-pin connector to provide foil winding connections.
- 20 4. The pulse transformer arrangement of claim 3, wherein said multi-strip foil winding is made from a flexible printed circuit board adapted for standard multi-pin connectors.
5. The pulse transformer arrangement of claim 1, wherein said foil winding substantially covers the length of the opening of said transformer core to provide
- 25 a smooth distribution of the electrical field.
6. The pulse transformer arrangement of claim 1, wherein at least a subset of said multiple conducting strips, in operation, are connected in parallel.

7. The pulse transformer arrangement of claim 1, wherein said foil winding is wrapped around the transformer core and one end of said foil winding is folded at about 45 degrees and the other end is configured with a turn of about 90 degrees so that input terminals can be arranged in close proximity to output terminals when the two ends of the foil winding are collected together.
8. The pulse transformer arrangement of claim 1, further including a secondary winding wrapped around the core.
9. A pulse transformer arrangement for transferring pulse energy from a primary side to a secondary side, said pulse transformer arrangement including:
- 10 - an uncut pulse transformer core;
  - multiple independent primary windings formed by a foil winding including multiple insulated conducting strips arranged around said uncut pulse transformer core and ending in foil winding terminals, wherein said multi-strip foil winding is wrapped a single turn around
  - 15 said transformer core and said multiple conducting strips are insulated from each other and extend around the core, and one end of said foil winding is folded at about 45 degrees and the other end is configured with a turn of about 90 degrees so that input terminals can be arranged in close proximity to output terminals when the two ends of the foil winding are collected together; and
  - 20 - a connection arrangement to which the terminals of said multiple conducting strips are connected to provide connections for said multiple primary windings.
10. A pulse transformer arrangement substantially as herein described with reference to any of the embodiments illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

**SCANDINOVA SYSTEMS AB**

WATERMARK PATENT &amp; TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

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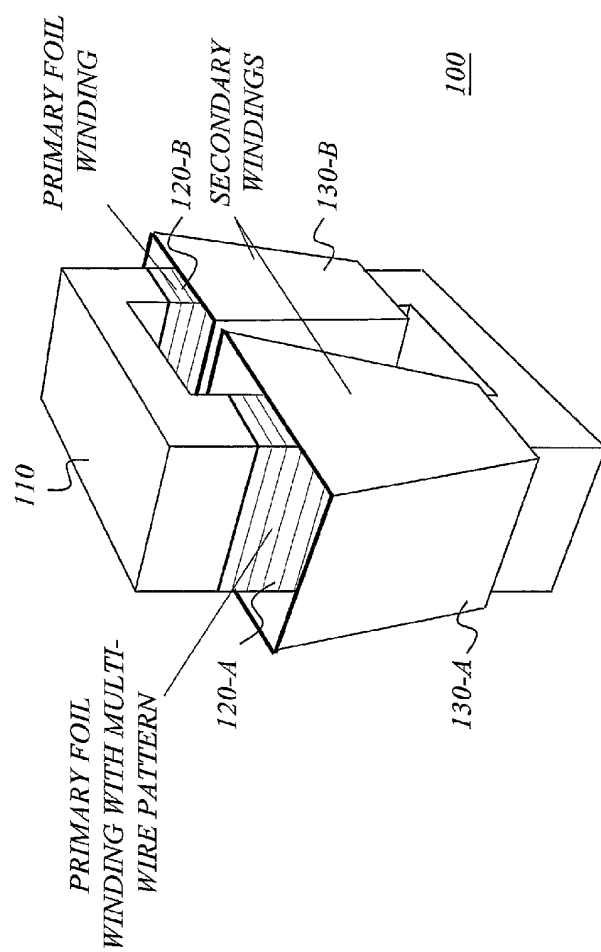
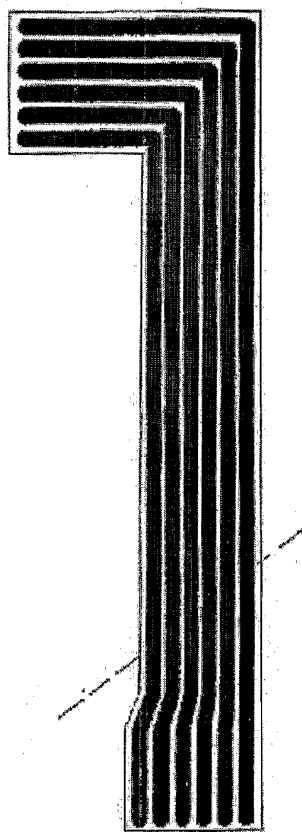


Fig. 1

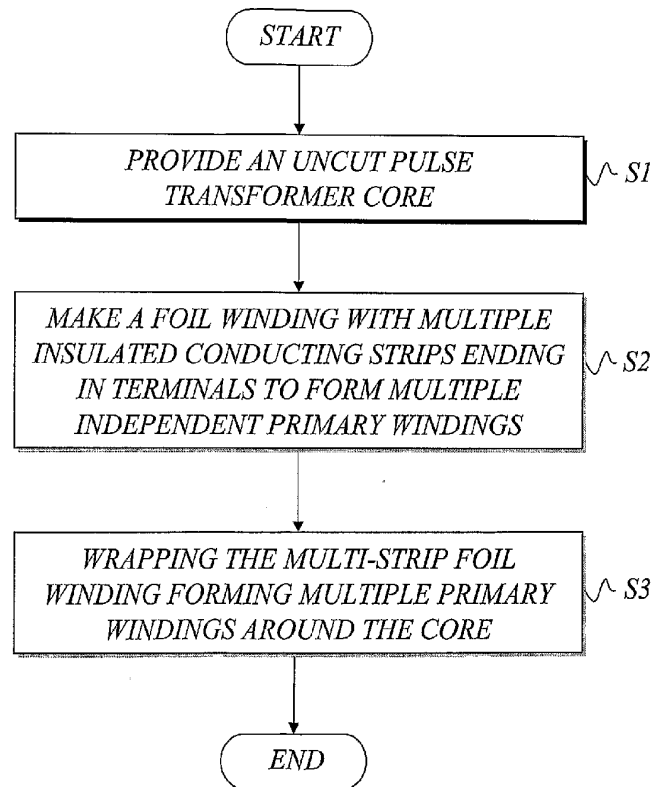
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120

*Fig. 2*

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*Fig. 3*

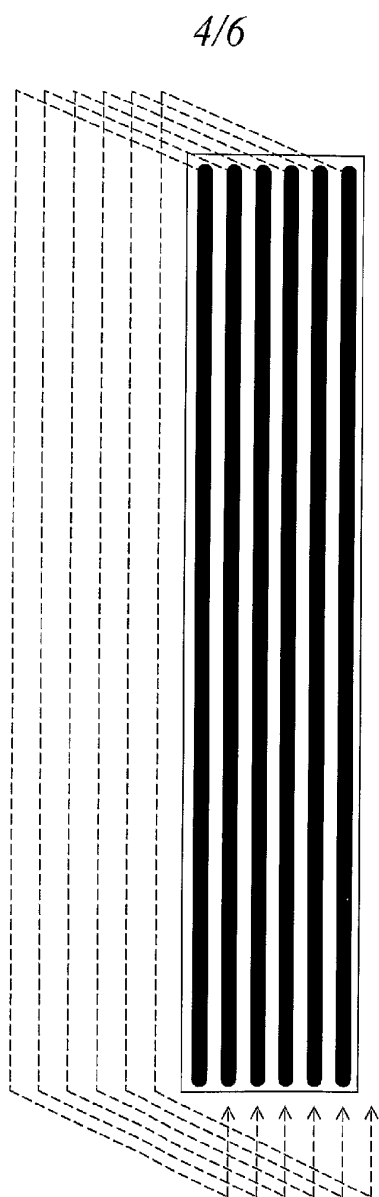


Fig. 4

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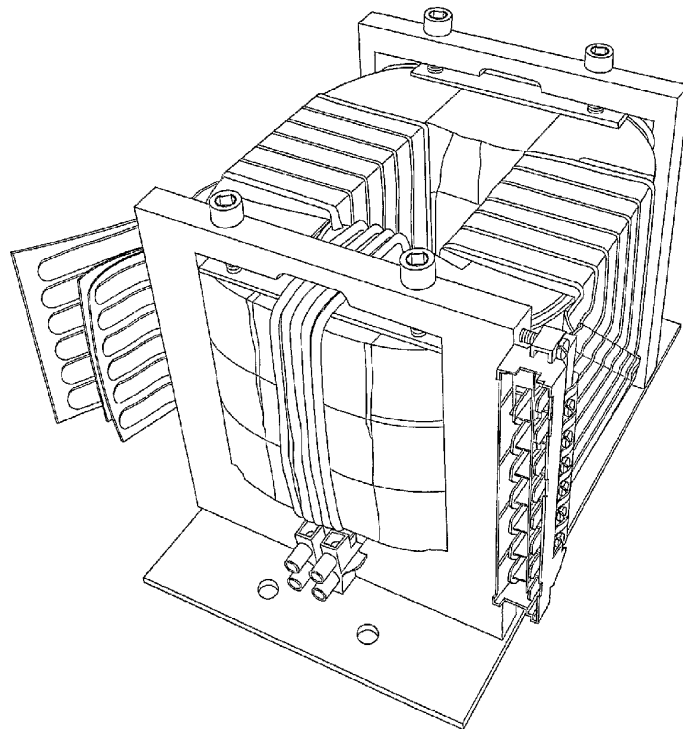


Fig.5

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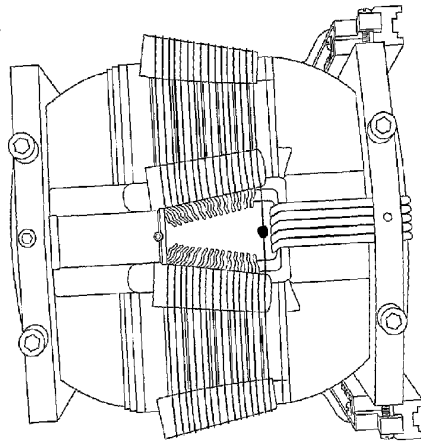


Fig.6A

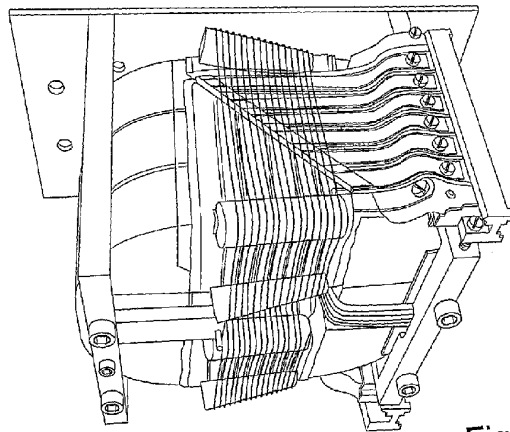


Fig.6B

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