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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for the following designation CN

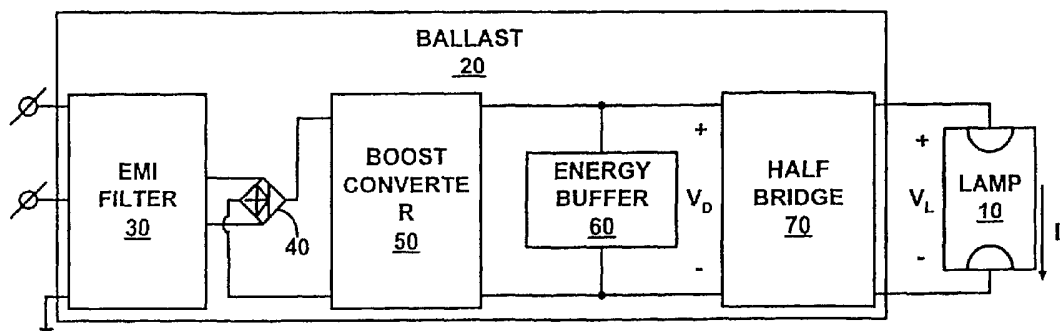
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10 June 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: MODULATED HIGH-FREQUENCY ELECTRONIC BALLAST



(57) Abstract: An improved high frequency ballast is disclosed. The high frequency ballast establishes a lamp current (I_L) for a gas discharge lamp (10) during a starting operation of the gas discharge lamp (10) wherein an operating ampere level of the lamp current (I_L) facilitates a substantial achievement by the gas discharge lamp (10) of a color specification associated with the gas discharge lamp (10). Thereafter, during a stable operation of the gas discharge lamp (10), the high frequency ballast applies a frequency modulation to an operating frequency of the lamp current (I_L) and/or an amplitude modulation of the lamp current (I_L).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/00046

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H05B41/00

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 7 H05B

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

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

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 313 143 A (MELIS JANOS ET AL) 17 May 1994 (1994-05-17) column 1, line 45 -column 5, line 68 ---	1-3,9-11
A	WO 97 22232 A (PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV ;PHILIPS NORDEN AB (SE)) 19 June 1997 (1997-06-19) page 9, line 1 -page 11, line 1 ---	1-3,9-11
A	US 5 229 927 A (MELIS JANOS ET AL) 20 July 1993 (1993-07-20) column 1, line 56 -column 4, line 26 ---	1-3,9-11
A	US 5 180 950 A (NILSSEN OLE K) 19 January 1993 (1993-01-19) column 3, line 48 -column 5, line 48 --- -/--	1-3,9-11



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "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

31 March 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

18.07.03

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/00046

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 103 139 A (NILSSEN OLE K) 7 April 1992 (1992-04-07) column 4, line 3 -column 6, line 25 -----	1-3,9-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/00046

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-3, 9-11

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-3, 9-11

Method and device operating a half bridge to establish an operating frequency of a lamp current above all acoustic resonances and applying F/A modulation to the frequency.

2. Claims: 4-8, 12

Method and device operating a half bridge to provide a start-up lamp current at an operating level equal to or greater than a minimum run-up level to impede back-arcing whereby the lamp achieves a lamp colour specification.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/00046

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