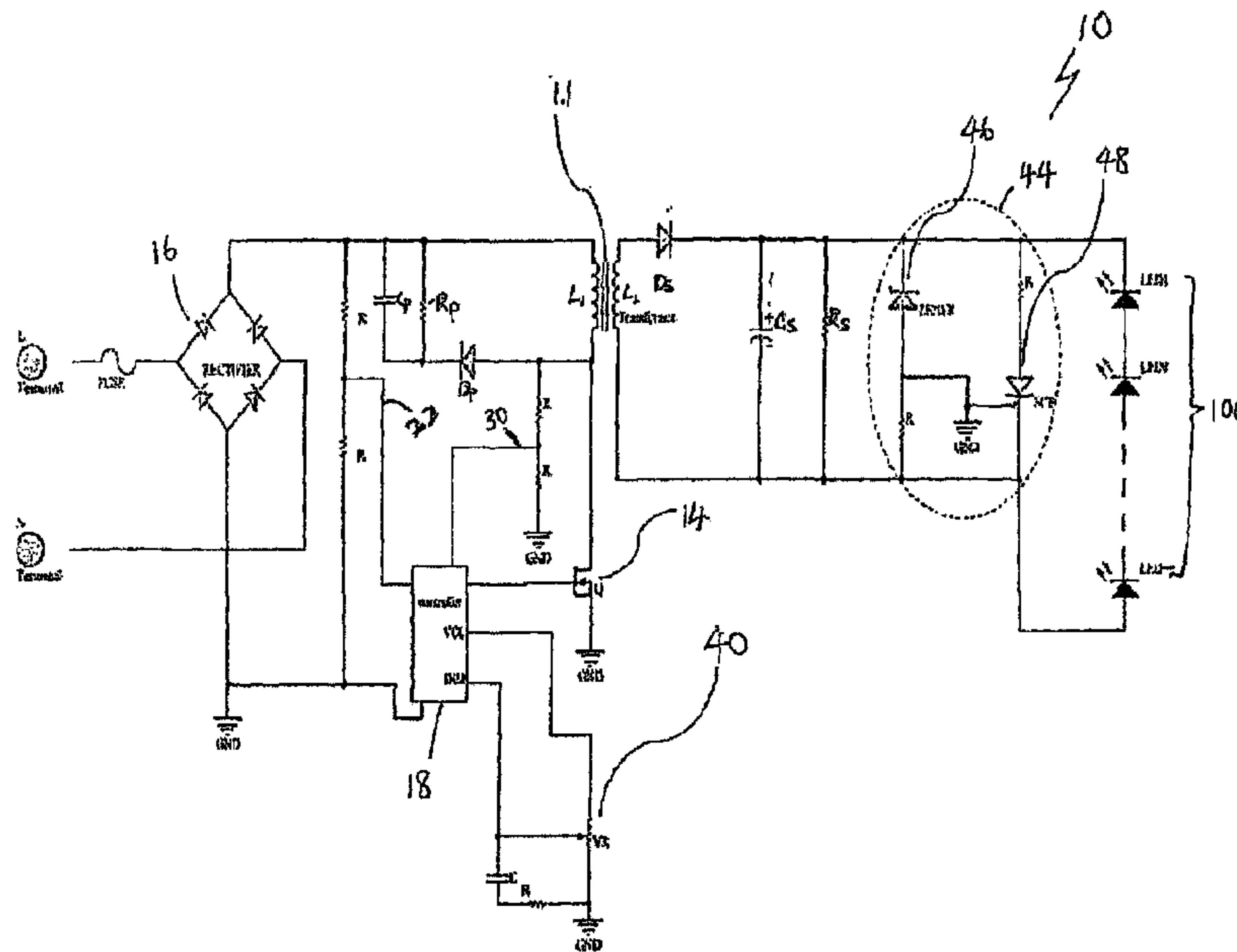




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(54) **Titre : SYSTEME ET DISPOSITIF DE COMMANDE D'UNE PLURALITE D'UNITES DEL HAUTE PUISSANCE**  
 (54) **Title: SYSTEM AND DEVICE FOR DRIVING A PLURALITY OF HIGH POWERED LED UNITS**



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A system for driving a plurality of high powered LED units, the system comprising a single driver for providing ripple free constant direct current to a plurality of high powered LED lamp units, wherein the single driver comprises a digital controller programmable to adjust the ripple free constant direct current at every predetermined time interval based on detection and computation of the duration taken for the energy to be discharged to the LED lamp unit to adjust the ripple free constant direct current. The above system achieves a one driver to many LED lamp units such that it alleviates or eliminates the need to have a driver attached to each LED lamp unit.

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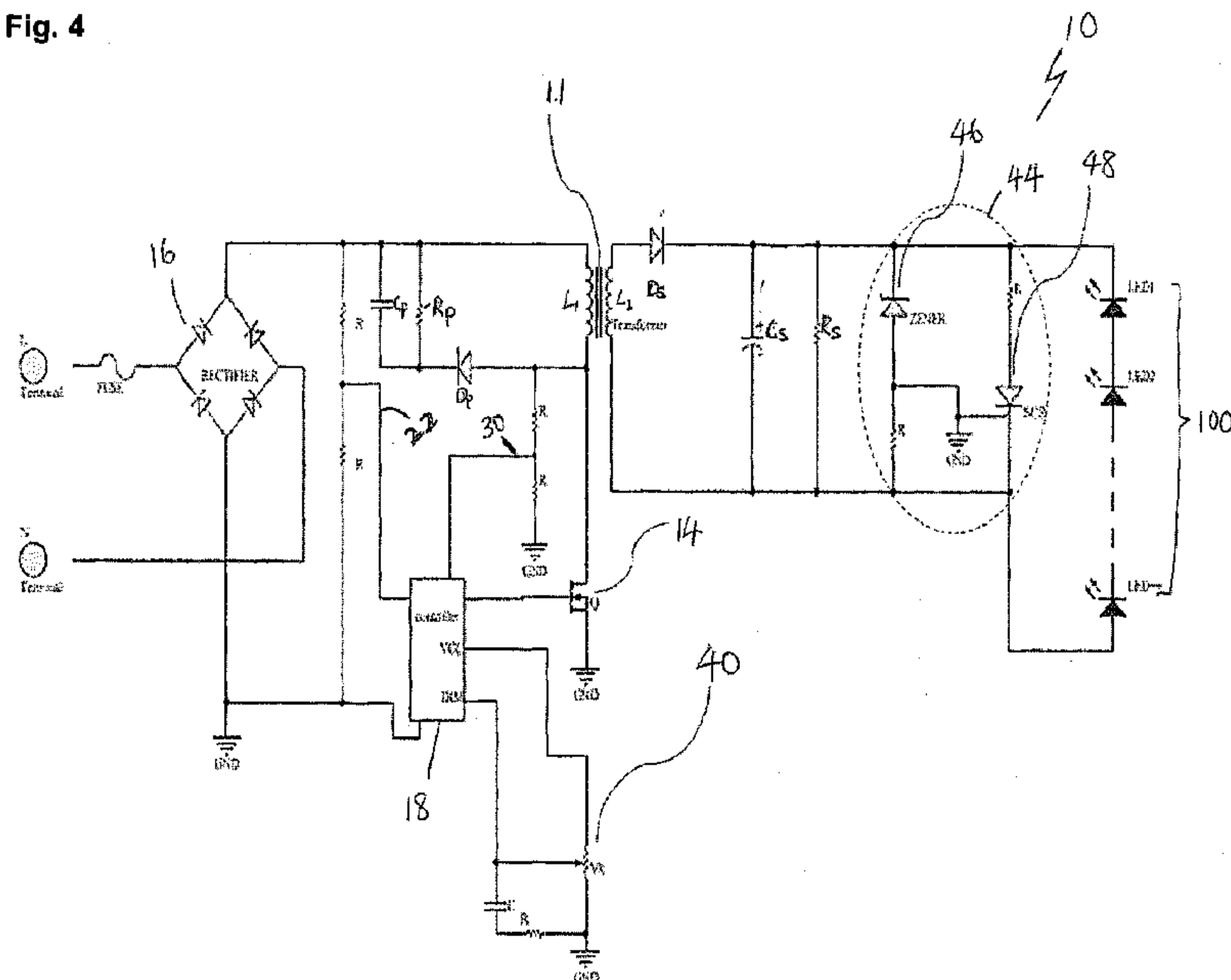
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND DEVICE FOR DRIVING A PLURALITY OF HIGH POWERED LED UNITS

Fig. 4



(57) Abstract: A system for driving a plurality of high powered LED units, the system comprising a single driver for providing ripple free constant direct current to a plurality of high powered LED lamp units, wherein the single driver comprises a digital controller programmable to adjust the ripple free constant direct current at every predetermined time interval based on detection and computation of the duration taken for the energy to be discharged to the LED lamp unit to adjust the ripple free constant direct current. The above system achieves a one driver to many LED lamp units such that it alleviates or eliminates the need to have a driver attached to each LED lamp unit.

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# SYSTEM AND DEVICE FOR DRIVING A PLURALITY OF HIGH POWERED LED UNITS

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a system and device for driving a plurality of high-  
5 powered light emitting diodes (LED) units. The device is particularly suitable, but not  
limited for use in high powered LED light units such as down lights, T5, T8, Light  
Troffer, Hi-Bay lamps and MR16 light bulbs etc.

## BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

The following discussion of the background of the invention is intended to facilitate  
10 an understanding of the present invention. However, it should be appreciated that the  
discussion is not an acknowledgement or admission that any of the material referred  
to was published, known or part of the common general knowledge in any jurisdiction  
as at the priority date of the application.

Conventional lighting systems typically have a configuration where light products  
15 used in the systems are individually driven. For example, a light product such as a  
down light lamp has its own in-built power supply or ballast which converts incoming  
AC electrical supply to higher AC voltage and desired current that is required to  
provide electrical power to for example ignite and excite the gases (referring to CFL  
light) for lighting up of the down light. Examples of such other light products include  
20 T5, T8, Light Troffer, High-Bay lamps, street lamps and flood lamps.

Similarly, when Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) were introduced in lighting systems,  
the configuration adopted for LEDs was based on a similar 'one-ballast (controller)'  
to 'one-lamp' arrangement of conventional lighting systems. Therefore, each LED  
light unit has its own in-built LED driver or controller that converts the incoming AC  
25 supply to DC voltage and current to light up the LED down light. This means that  
each LED light unit that is present in a lighting system has an accompanying  
controller dedicated to that particular LED light unit for converting the incoming AC  
supply to DC voltage and current for lighting up that particular LED light unit, i.e. a

chain of ten LED down lights in a lighting system will require correspondingly ten LED controller circuits. These LED controllers increase the cost and overall form factor of each lamp unit.

A prior art LED light unit and system is illustrated in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 respectively.

5 The LED lamp unit comprises an AC source supply via AC Input Terminal 4, an AC-DC LED driver 3, a LED light/lamp module 1 and heat sink 2.

When connected, AC electrical supply current will flow to the input of the AC-DC LED driver 3. The AC supply current will be rectified via switch mode power supply circuitry in the AC-DC LED driver 3 to supply the desired DC voltage and current to  
10 the LED light module 1. For continuous light-up operation, as heat will be generated by both the AC-DC LED driver 3 and the LEDs on the LED light module 1, introduction of heat sink 2 is important to ensure the heat generated along the light-up operation is drawn from the heat source and dissipated accordingly. The heat sink 2 has to account for heat dissipation from both the LED light module and AC-DC LED  
15 driver. Consequently, if at any time along the light-up operation the heat sink 2 reaches its maximum heat dissipation capability due to the design limitation in size for standard form factor for the particular LED lighting unit fulfillment will lead to the degradation of light performance and product life span.

The above-mentioned configuration has several disadvantages listed as follows:

- 20
- As each LED light unit requires its own in-built controller circuit 3 for lighting up, when the LED light unit is in continuous operation, considerable heat will be generated by both the LED and controller circuit. To moderate the heat, heat sink(s) must be present in each LED light unit for drawing the heat from the heat source and dissipating the heat to the surroundings so as to provide a  
25 thermally cool environment for the LED and controller circuit to operate in. It is important that the LED and controller circuit operate in a thermally cool environment because this will reduce power loss and hence improve efficiency. However, due to standard form factors, there is a limit as to the size of the heat sink in each LED light unit. As there are two heat generating  
30 sources in each LED light unit (i.e. the LED lamp unit and the LED

controller), the heat sink 2 typically reaches its maximum heat dissipation capability during continuous operation where considerable heat is generated. Consequently, this will lead to the degradation of the LED light unit's light performance and product life span.

5

- It is typically costly to manufacture LED light units which have built-in controller circuits and heat sinks 2 as they increase the number of components that are needed for manufacture. Furthermore, the heat sink must also be designed to cope with the dissipation of heat from two heat sources with the constraints on its size due to standard form factors. This further increases the overall cost of producing the LED light units.
- As the AC supply will be converted to DC voltage and current in the LED light units by the controller circuits 3, there will be safety related issues that must be addressed. Hence, the LED light units will have to be designed such that they meet the standard safety requirements and size limitations imposed by standard form factors.

10

15

Therefore, it may be desirable to overcome, or at least alleviate, one or more of the aforementioned problems.

## 20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the present disclosure provides a system and device to alleviate the above problems and to provide a 'one driver-to-many high powered LED lamp units' solution. To achieve the same, the system and device are suited to provide at least a relatively 'ripple free' current of less than 5% from the specified rated current. The specified rated current is typically (but not limited to) around 350 mA to 700 mA per lamp unit.

25

In addition, references to 'current', 'connection(s)' refer to electrical current and connections unless otherwise stated.

30

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention there is a system for driving a plurality of high powered LED units, the system comprising a single driver for providing ripple free direct current to a plurality of high powered LED lamp units, the single driver

arranged to operate in an isolated alternating current fly back configuration having an inductive element as a transformer isolating the plurality of high powered LEDs at a secondary end of the transformer, wherein the single driver further comprises a digital controller having an electronic oscillator for providing a clock cycle, the digital controller programmable to adjust the ripple free direct current at every clock cycle based on detection and computation of a duration taken for an amount of energy to be discharged by the transformer to the plurality of high power LED lamp units.

Preferably, the single driver operates in an isolated alternating current fly back configuration having an inductive element as a transformer isolating the plurality of high powered LEDs at the secondary end of the transformer.

Preferably the digital controller is an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC); the ASIC further operable to detect and compute the duration of the energy discharged by the core of transformer to the plurality of high powered LEDs to regulate and provide the ripple free output DC current. The ASIC is preferably programmed to receive feedback at each clock-cycle based on the duration of the energy discharged by the core of the transformer as an input to determine the amount of ripple free constant DC current at the next clock-cycle. More preferably the ASIC is programmed to provide a voltage waveform to turn an electronic switch on and off at each clock-cycle.

Preferably each of the plurality of high powered LED lamp units is in series with the other high powered LED lamp units.

Preferably the single driver is electrically connected to a dimmer circuitry for adjusting the brightness of the plurality of high powered LED lamp units. The dimmer circuitry preferably comprises a potential meter, infra-red interface, motion sensor or ambient sensor.

Preferably the system comprises a filter capacitor operable to vary its capacitance to maintain a power factor of at least 0.9 when the dimmer is adjusted.

In the case where the dimmer is a potential meter, the potential meter is operable to work within a voltage of 0 to 10V.

5 Preferably in an isolated fly back mode the secondary end of the transformer is electrically connected to a short circuit protection circuit.

10 Preferably, the ASIC is coupled with an active power factor controller. More preferably the active power factor controller comprises at least one voltage follower. In such a case the ASIC is preferably a 14-pin configuration so as to control both the active power factor controller and the adjustment of the ripple-free constant DC current.

Preferably, each high powered LED lamp is provided with a heat sink shaped and configured to dissipate heat away from the high powered LED only.

15 Preferably, the system further comprises an electronic switch, wherein the ripple free constant DC current is achieved by means of voltage control according to the following equation:-

$$V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} \cdot T_{ON}}{T_{OFF}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2}{L_1}}$$

20

Where  $V_{OUT}$  is the voltage across the output;  $V_{IN}$  is the input voltage;  $T_{OFF}$  is the time of the discharge of the core of the isolating transformer;  $T_{ON}$  is the switch on time of the electronic switch;  $L_1$  is the inductance value of the primary windings of the transformer and  $L_2$  is the inductance value of the secondary windings of the transformer.

25

As an alternative to the isolated configuration mode, the single driver may operate in a non-isolated configuration having an inductive element operating in a continuous mode in according to the following equation:-

$$I_{OUT} = (T_{OFF} \cdot I_1 + \frac{I_{MAX} \cdot T_{OFF}}{2}) * \frac{1}{T}$$

where  $T_{OFF}$  is fixed as a constant;  $T_{ON}$  is the switch on time of the electronic switch;  $T$  is the summation of  $T_{ON}$ ,  $T_{OFF}$ , and  $T_{CALC}$  where  $T_{CALC}$  is the time after the discharge time of the inductive element to compute the formula;  $I_1$  is the desired reference current and  $I_{MAX}$  is the peak current. In a hysteretic controller configuration, the value of  $I_{MAX}$  and  $I_1$  may be fixed, and the  $T_{ON}$  and  $T_{OFF}$  timings determined.

In an embodiment, there is provided a system for driving a plurality of high powered LED units, the system comprising a single driver for providing ripple free direct current to a plurality of high powered LED lamp units, wherein the single driver comprises a digital controller having an electronic oscillator for providing a clock cycle; the digital controller programmable to adjust the ripple free direct current at every clock cycle based on determination of a duration taken for an amount of energy to be discharged to the plurality of high powered LED lamp units; the single driver further arranged to operate in a non-isolated configuration having an inductive element operating in a continuous mode in according to the following equation:-

$$I_{OUT} = (T_{OFF} \cdot I_1 + \frac{I_{MAX} \cdot T_{OFF}}{2}) * \frac{1}{T}$$

where  $T_{OFF}$  is fixed as a constant;  $T_{ON}$  is a switch on time of the electronic switch;  $T$  is a summation of  $T_{ON}$ ,  $T_{OFF}$ , and  $T_{CALC}$  where  $T_{CALC}$  is a time after the discharge time of the inductive element to compute the formula;  $I_1$  is a desired reference current and  $I_{MAX}$  is the peak current

In accordance with a second aspect of the invention there is a single driver as described above comprising:

at least one Integrated Circuit (IC), the IC programmable using a hardware description language; a first electronic switch operable to provide a first switching time period to control power factor voltage, the first switching time period programmable by the at least one IC; and a second electronic switch operable to provide a second switching time period to regulate ripple free direct current flowing into at least one high powered LED lamp unit, the second switching time period is programmable by the at least one IC.

Preferably, the first and second electronic switches are power MOSFETs.

10 Preferably, the at least one IC is an ASIC.

In accordance with a third aspect of the invention there is a device having an input port operable to be connected to a single driver disclosed herein, and a plurality of output ports, and comprising a reverse polarity protector arranged to be electrically connected to the input port and each of the plurality of output ports; and a plurality of open circuit protection circuits, each of the plurality of open circuit protector operable to connect to an output port; wherein the reverse polarity protector is operable to negate the polarity requirement in the event where a load is connected with a wrong polarity to any of the output port; and the open circuit protection circuit is operable to form a closed loop series connection in the event where no load is connected to an output port or when a load breaks down.

Preferably the reverse polarity protector is a diode bridge rectifier.

Preferably each output port comprises a corresponding open circuit protector.

25 Preferably the input port is suitable for connection with a LED driver and each of the output port is suitable for connection with a load comprising a high powered LED lamp unit.

In accordance with a fourth aspect of the invention there is a system according to the first aspect wherein the load is in a series connection, further comprising the device according to the second, or third aspect; wherein the input port of the device is operable to be connected to the single driver.

5

In accordance with a fifth aspect of the invention there is a dimmer circuitry for use with a LED driver as disclosed herein, the dimmer circuitry comprising at least a dimming interface operable to connect to at least one dimming controller; and a capacitive element adjustable to maintain a power factor of at least 0.9 within the dimmer circuitry.

10

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The following invention will be described with reference to the following drawings of which:

15

Fig. 1 is a perspective side view of a prior art LED lamp unit with driver and heat sink;

Fig. 2 is a system configuration of the 'one driver one lamp unit' configuration of the prior art LED lamp system;

20

Fig. 3 is a system view of a 'one driver multiple lamp units' or 'string driver' in accordance to an embodiment of the invention;

25

Fig. 4 is a circuit diagram of the LED driver circuit in accordance with an embodiment of the invention for isolated alternating current (AC) application;

Fig. 5a and 5b are circuit diagrams of the LED driver circuit with a power factor converter driven by a 14-pin ASIC in accordance with another embodiment of the invention for isolating alternating current (AC) application;

30

Fig. 6 is a table summarizing the advantages of the invention on a plurality of MR 16 LED lamp as compared to the prior art system;

Fig. 7 illustrates simulation results of the ripple free constant DC current based on a MR16 load;

Fig. 8 illustrates another embodiment with an arrangement of circuit wherein the decoupling transformer operates in a continuous mode;

5 Fig. 9 illustrates electrical current flowing through rectifier circuitry in a continuous mode;

Fig. 10 illustrates a structure of hysteretic controller used for continuous operation of the circuit;

10 Fig. 11 is a PCB arrangement of an intermediary connector between the LED drivers and load in accordance with another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 12 is a possible arrangement of a lighting system illustrating the use of an intermediary connector between the driver and load;

Fig. 13 is another possible arrangement of a lighting system illustrating the use of two intermediary connectors;

15 Fig. 14 shows the circuit diagram of the intermediary connector; and

Fig. 15 shows a general block diagram on the dimmer circuitry.

Other arrangements of the invention are possible and, consequently, the accompanying drawings are not to be understood as superseding the generality of the preceding description of the invention.

## 20 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

In the context of the invention, the mention of 'ripple free' current and approximations to ripple free current refers to allowable ripple of less than (<) 5% from the specified rated current.

25 In the context of the invention, high powered LED lamp units refer to any LED lamp unit requiring a power of at least 5 watts.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention there is a LED driver **10** for driving a plurality of high powered LED lamps **100** as illustrated in Fig. 4. LED driver **10** is particularly suited for an isolated alternating current (AC) application and comprises a primary side and a secondary side. The primary side of the LED driver **10** is decoupled with the secondary side via a decoupling transformer **11**. The primary side comprises an electronic switch **14**, bridge rectifier circuit **16**, and an Integrated Circuit (IC) controller **18**. Although Fig. 4 shows an isolated configuration, it is appreciated by a skilled person that the circuit may be modified for non-isolated configuration where the decoupling transformer **11** may be replaced by other inductive elements.

To satisfy the decoupling function, transformer **11** is an isolation transformer, and may preferably be a planar transformer. Transformer **11** is operable to work in either a continuous or discontinuous mode, although for purpose of illustration Fig. 4, 5a, and 5b illustrates the circuitry suited for transformer **11** working in a discontinuous mode. In continuous mode certain output capacitors may be omitted as illustrated in Fig. 8 or 10. Where transformer **11** is a planer transformer based on printed circuit board technology, the printed circuit board may be FR4 PCB, Polyimide or other thick copper foil (lead frame).

Resistor  $R_P$  and capacitor  $C_P$  are connected in a parallel configuration with the primary end of the transformer **11**. A diode  $D_P$  is connected to the Resistors  $R_P$ , capacitor  $C_P$ , and the transformer **11**. The conducting end of the diode  $D_P$  is connected in a series configuration to the primary end of the transformer **11**. The non-conducting end of the diode  $D_P$  is connected in series configuration to the resistor  $R_P$  and capacitor  $C_P$ .

A capacitor  $C_S$  is connected in parallel to the secondary end of the transformer **11** for filtering the output electrical voltage. A diode  $D_S$  is connected to the secondary end of the transformer **11** and the capacitor  $C_S$ . The conducting end of the diode  $D_S$  is connected to the secondary end of the transformer **11** in a series configuration. The non-conducting end of the diode  $D_S$  is connected to the positive end of capacitor  $C_S$  (where applicable) in a series configuration. The LED load **100** is connected in a parallel configuration to the capacitor  $C_S$ . Each LED load **100** may be connected in

series with the other LED load **100**. The secondary side may optionally include a short circuit protection circuit **44** as will be elaborated later.

Electronic switch **14** is typically a power transistor. In this particular embodiment, electronic switch **14** is more preferably a power MOSFET. In the MOSFET configuration, the drain of the electronic switch **14** is connected to the conducting end of the diode **D<sub>P</sub>** and to the primary end of transformer **11**. The gate of the electronic switch **14** is connected to the output pin of the IC **18**, and the source of the electronic switch **14** is connected to the electrical ground.

It is to be appreciated that the electronic switch **14** may be replaced by other functionally equivalent component.

The IC controller **18** comprises an internal oscillator which is configured to turn on the gate of the electronic switch **14** with a particular turn-on time period  $T_{ON}$  (switching frequency) for each clock cycle as determined by the internal oscillator. IC controller **18** is preferably an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) programmed to sense and calculate the discharge time of the inductive elements  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  as a main input. ASIC **18** is programmed and configured to turn on the gate of the electronic switch **14** having a turn on period of  $T_{ON}$  at each clock cycle based on the following inputs:-

(a.) A reference constant **K** based on the discharge time of the inductive element  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ ;

(b.) Desired output DC ripple free current for LED  $I_{OUT}$ ;

(c.) A digitized voltage value  $V_{DD}$  ( $V_{in}$ ) tapped and digitized from potential divider **22**, the potential divider **22** connected in parallel with the bridge rectifier **16**;

(d.) A time value  $T_{OFF}$  of the discharge of the core of transformer **11** measured through voltage potential divider **30** and compared to a reference voltage; and

(e.) The switching period **T** (i.e. the switching period of the electronic switch **14** as determined by the oscillator).

Using the received five inputs, the IC **18** computes an output  $T_{ON}$  which is the switch on time of the electronic switch **14** mathematically expressed as equation (1).

$$T_{ON} = \frac{I_{out} * T}{K * V_{in} * T_{off}} \quad (1)$$

The reference constant **K** is calculated based on the inductance value of the primary and secondary windings of the transformer **11** as described in formula 2.

$$K = \frac{1}{2 * \sqrt{L_1 * L_2}} \quad (2)$$

where  $L_1$  is the inductance value of the primary windings of the transformer **11** and  $L_2$  is the inductance value of the secondary windings of the transformer **11**. The value of reference **K** may be stored in a memory within the IC **16**. For a non-isolated direct current (DC) fly-back configuration, the reference constant **K** is calculated according to the following mathematical expression:-

$$K = \frac{1}{L_3} \quad (2a)$$

Where  $L_3$  is the inductance value of the inductive element in the fly-back configuration.

Manipulating equation (1) and (2),  $I_{OUT}$  is derived as follows:-

$$I_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} * T_{ON} * T_{OFF}}{2 * \sqrt{L_1 * L_2} * T} \quad (3)$$

The IC controller **18** may further comprises a dimming pin coupled to a variable resistor **40** for performing dimming on the LED load **100**. The dimming pin facilitates the flexibility to perform dimming via various dimming device such as potential meter, motion sensor or Infra-red sensor.

The IC controller **18** described above is typically 8-pin. To fine-tune the level of control of the IC controller **18**, a higher resolution IC controller may be used. In

addition to the fine-tune control of a desired ripple free current  $I_{OUT}$ , active power factor controller (PFC) to improve the performance of the circuit.

A higher resolution IC controller having capabilities to fine-tune the control of desired ripple-free current  $I_{OUT}$  and provide active power factor control is described in  
5 another embodiment below.

Another embodiment of the invention in the form of a LED driver **500** for driving a plurality of high powered LED lamp units **100** is illustrated in Fig. 5a and Fig. 5b (with emphasis on primary side). LED driver **500** comprises a first electronic switch **513**; a second electronic switch **514**; a bridge rectifier circuit **516** and an integrated  
10 circuit controller **518**. LED driver **500** further comprises an active power factor controller (PFC) circuitry **520**. Comparing with the previous embodiment, the active power factor controller (PFC) is operable to form an additional stage of current controller to achieve an improved ripple free constant DC current. The integrated  
15 circuit controller **518** is operable to control the switching frequencies of the first electronic switch **513** and second electric switch **514** to achieve a desired power factor and output ripple free current  $I_{OUT}$ .

Integrated IC controller **518** is similar to the IC controller **18** comprising internal oscillators, built in Analogue to Digital convertor etc. It additionally comprises more pins for further control of the PFC controller. In this embodiment IC controller **518**  
20 comprises 14-pin. The overall resolution is higher (10 bits) thus allowing better adjustment and fine-tuning of the switching frequencies for the electronic switches **513**, **514** and  $I_{OUT}$ .

The bridge rectifier **516** is operable to receive an AC input and produces a rectified voltage output. The rectified voltage output is passed through a capacitor  $C_4$ .  $C_4$  is  
25 operable to function as an input voltage filter to further filter the rectified voltage from the rectifier circuit **516**. Capacitor  $C_4$  is connected parallel to resistors  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  and in series with an inductor  $L_4$ .

Resistors  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  form an input voltage divider. In operation, the voltage between  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  is tapped as an input voltage (denoted as  $V_{inP}$ ) to the ASIC.

The inductor  $L_4$  is connected in series with resistors  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$ . Resistors  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  form a PFC voltage divider, which is used to provide the PFC feedback voltage to the controller **518** via a  $T_{2P}$  pin input for PFC output voltage measurement.

The first electronic switch **513** is connected in series to inductive element  $L_4$  and in parallel to the PFC voltage divider. First electronic switch **513** provides the variable frequency to control the PFC output voltage. Both the first electronic switch **513** and the second electronic switch **514** may be N-channel power MOSFET. The gate of the first electronic switch **513** is activated by the ASIC (**MOSOUT pin**), its drain is connected in series with  $L_4$  and the source is grounded.

10 In operation, the controller **518** drives the first electronic switch **513** to provide the necessary power factor voltage at the drain of the first electronic switch **513**.

It is to be appreciated that the first electronic switch **513** may be replaced by other functionally equivalent component.

15 A power diode  $D_3$  is connected in series with inductive element  $L_4$ . It allows the forward pass of the rectified PFC current; which is moderated by the first electronic switch **513**.

$C_5$  is a capacitive filter for filtering the PFC output voltage.

Inductive element  $L_4$  may be a standard inductor as illustrated in Fig. 5a or a transformer as illustrated in Fig. 5b. For the case where  $L_4$  is a transformer, the transformer comprises  $L_{4p}$  primary inductance and  $L_{4s}$  secondary inductance. As  
20 illustrated in Fig. 5b,  $L_{4p}$  is connected from pin 1 to pin 6;  $L_{4s}$  is connected from pin 1 to pin 7 of the IC controller **518**.

The following equation (4) is applicable to the transformer variant to control the output voltage of the PFC:-

$$25 \quad V_{PFC, OUT} = \sqrt{\frac{L_{4p}}{L_{4s}} \frac{V_{IN} * T_{Q2on}}{T_{Q2off}}} \quad (4)$$

$V_{PFC,OUT}$  is the output voltage of the PFC,  $L_{4p}$  is the PFC transformer primary inductor value,  $L_{4s}$  is the PFC transformer secondary inductor value,  $V_{in}$  is the input voltage,  $T_{Q2on}$  is the switch on time of the first electronic switch **513**, and  $T_{Q2off}$  is the discharge time of the PFC transformer.  $T_{Q2on}$  is controlled via the MOSOUT pin of the controller **518** and  $V_{in}$  and  $T_{Q2off}$  are feedback values used for ensuring and verifying that  $V_{PFC,OUT}$  properly tracks a desired output voltage  $V_{OUT}$ .

Equation (4) is known as a voltage follower, where  $V_{PFC,OUT}$  follows  $V_{OUT}$ ; in the sense that after solving the equation, if  $V_{PFC,OUT}$  is less than expected (within allowable deviation)  $T_{Q2on}$  is increased, otherwise  $T_{Q2on}$  is decreased.

$V_{OUT}$  is determined based on the total number of LED units and the desired current  $I_{OUT}$  to be supplied to the LED units.

For the second electronic switch **514**, the operation and equations for adjusting and calculation  $I_{OUT}$  is identical to that described in equations (1) to (3).

As mentioned above, the secondary side of the LED driver **10, 500** may further comprise a voltage protection circuit **44**. Referring to Fig. 4 for the voltage protection circuit which may be incorporated in the secondary side of the LED driver **500** although not explicitly shown in Fig. 5a and 5b, voltage protection circuit **44** comprises a zener diode **46**, a silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) **48** and a resistor **50**. When a short circuit is detected, the zener diode **46** will conduct electricity thus enabling the SCR **48** and reducing the output voltage to the LEDs **100**.

The LED driver **10, 500** in the context of operation of driving a string of LED light units, will be described in the following example:-

To operate the circuit, the variable resistors are adjusted to produce a voltage value of  $N$  for  $V_R$  (LED driver **10**), or  $V_{inP}$  (for LED driver **500**), where value  $N$  is an adjustment of turn on time period  $T_{ON}$  of the electronic switch **14, 514** corresponding to the generation of the maximum approximately ripple-free constant current to drive a plurality of LED lamp units **100**. The decrement or increment of adjustment  $N$  value will be based on the feedback and cause changes in  $T_{ON}$ ,  $T$  directly, thus varying  $I_{OUT}$

accordingly based on the variable resistor  $V_R$  to dim or brighten the LED lamp units **100**.

For optimization of the equations (1) to (3); the equations of the circuits may be expressed in an alternative form

$$5 \quad A = V_{IN} * T_{ON} * T_{OFF} \quad (5)$$

$$B = 1/K * I_{OUT} * (T_{ON} + T_{OFF} + T_{CALC}) \quad (6)$$

Wherein  $T_{CALC}$  is the time after the discharge time of the inductive element to compute the formula and the switching time period of the electronic switch is the summation of  $T_{ON}$ ,  $T_{OFF}$  and  $T_{CALC}$ ;

10

In each adjustment cycle of  $I_{OUT}$ , the values of A and B are compared.

If A is greater than B, i.e.  $A > B$ , then  $T_{ON}$  is adjusted to  $T_{ON} - N$  for the next time period T.

If A is smaller than B, i.e.  $A < B$ , then  $T_{ON}$  is adjusted to  $T_{ON} + N$ .

15 In the situation where A is equals to B, there is no updating of  $T_{ON}$  and  $T_{ON}$  remains unchanged.

Depending on the number of lamp units **100** and the desired current  $I_{OUT}$ , a user performs design optimization by changing a few critical components as follows:-

Inductance  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  of the transformer **11**;

20 switching frequency,  $V_{DS}$  Drain-Source Voltage and  $I_D$  Drain current of the electronic switches **14, 514**;

values of Capacitor  $C_S$  and Diode  $D_S$ . Care must be taken to ensure that voltage across capacitor  $C_S$  voltage should be higher than the voltage of the LED load **100**.

The diode's forward current  $I_F$  and repetitive peak reverse voltage  $V_{RRM}$  are parameters to consider for the choice of a suitable diode  $D_S$ .

Once the above components are tuned to the load specification, the IC controllers **18**, **518** detects and computes the duration of the energy discharged to the load via the core of transformer **11** (or inductive element for a non-isolated fly-back configuration) to the LED loads **100** to regulate the constant output current. Therefore, the controller **18**, **518** can work on a wide range of load voltage and constant current for high powered LED lights **100**.

The described embodiment provides for an approximately ripple free constant DC current to the plurality of high powered LED lamp units **100**. The described configuration of one driver to multiple lamps is termed by the applicant as 'string configuration'.

As an optional feature, the IC controller **18**, **518** may further comprise a multipoint control unit (MCU) to enable communication with intelligent control means such as power line, Digital Addressable Lighting Interface (DALI), wireless protocol for total lighting control system.

The described embodiments are based on the concept of a single LED driver **10**, **500** to drive many high powered LED lamp units **100**, each high powered LED lamp unit provided with a heat sink shaped and configured to dissipate heat away from the high powered LED only and the single driver configured to provide approximately ripple free constant DC current to the plurality of high powered LED lamp units has been compared with a prior art MR 16 system where one LED driver **3** is required for each LED lamp unit **4**. This standard ASIC driver design solution drive in constant current and offer a wide range of flexibility to drive a series of any numbers of LEDs within the entire lighting system, the advantages of which are summarized in Fig. 6.

Fig. 7 illustrates an  $I_{OUT}$  measured from a high powered LED load **100** illustrating the extent of ripple free constant DC current.

The above embodiments illustrated in Fig. 4, 5a, and 5b have described the IC controller implementation as current controllers (i.e. manipulating  $I_{OUT}$ ); and the transformer 11, 511 working in a discontinuous mode. Due to the flexibility of programming the ASIC based controller 18, 518, four different combination and/or  
5 modes may be achievable as follows:-

A. Voltage control instead of current control;

B. Discontinuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of  $T_{OFF}$  based feedback (or monitoring);

C. Continuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of  $T_{OFF}$  based  
10 feedback (or monitoring); and

D. Continuous mode for hysteretic controller.

A. Voltage control instead of current control

For using voltage control instead of current control, equation (3) may be re-written as:-

$$V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} * T_{ON}}{T_{OFF}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2}{L_1}} \quad (5)$$

15 where  $V_{OUT}$  is the output voltage. Where  $L_1$  is equals to  $L_2$ , the equation is modified as:-

$$V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} * T_{ON}}{T_{OFF}} \quad (5a)$$

B. Discontinuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of  $T_{OFF}$  based feedback (or monitoring)

20 For Discontinuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of  $T_{OFF}$  based feedback (or monitoring), the relationship between the peak current  $I_{MAX}$ , input voltage  $V_{IN}$ , and the inductive element  $L$  is expressed mathematically as:-

$$I_{MAX} = \frac{V_{IN} * T_{ON}}{L} \quad (6)$$

Substituting equation (6) into equation (3) results in:-

$$I_{OUT} = \frac{I_{MAX} * T_{OFF}}{2T} \quad (7)$$

in the case where the inductive element  $L$  is a single inductor used in cases for example in an non-isolated configuration; and

$$5 \quad I_{OUT} = \frac{I_{MAX} * T_{OFF}}{2T} \sqrt{\frac{L_1}{L_2}} \quad (8)$$

in the case where the inductive element  $L$  is a transformer and  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  denotes the primary and secondary inductances respectively.

For application of equations (7) or (8), the circuit illustrated in Fig. 4, 5a and 5b may be modified such that the primary current may be read by the ASIC controller through  
10 a resistor from the source of the electronic switch **14**, **514** to ground or using a current transformer in series to the electronic switch **14**, **514** or, in case of forward structure, the filter inductor.

C. Continuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of  $T_{OFF}$  based feedback (or monitoring)

15 For the case of continuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of  $T_{OFF}$  based feedback (or monitoring), it is appreciated that the current flowing through the rectifier diode series to the LED is the same as the current on the LED.

The waveform of the electrical current in continuous mode is illustrated in Fig. 9. For a given switch on timing  $T_{ON}$ , if the  $T_{OFF}$  is fixed, the current across the diodes could  
20 be computed as:-

$$I_D = I_{OUT} = (T_{OFF} * I_1 + \frac{I_{MAX} * T_{OFF}}{2}) * \frac{1}{T} \quad (9)$$

Where  $T = T_{ON} + T_{OFF} + T_{CALC}$ ;  $T_{CALC}$  is the discharge timing of the transformer or inductor element.

All the above information may be obtained from the primary inductive element L. In particular, the circuit arrangement shown in Fig. 8 comprises:-

- 5 i. a resistor in series with the electronic switch;
- ii. a current transformer in series with the electronic switch; and
- iii. a filter inductor.

The circuit arrangement shown in Fig. 8 comprises a first transformer **811** to isolate the load. A filter inductor **820** is used in the same way as the inductor in the hysteretic controller.

The output current  $I_{OUT}$  is controlled via the feedback from the resistor **822** connected to the source of the electronic switch.

Resistor **822** is used for protection purpose not for controlling purpose. A reset circuit **812** comprising an inductor **823** and a diode **824** is used in the forward structure to completely discharge the transformer core from the residual energy. This serves to prevent the core from saturation after a certain working time.

#### D. Continuous mode for hysteretic controller

The structure of a hysteretic controller is as shown in Fig. 10. For implementation, the value of  $I_{MAX}$  and  $I_I$  may be fixed according to Equation (9), and the  $T_{ON}$  and  $T_{OFF}$  timings determined. The current  $I_{OUT}$  will however be the area under the figure.

It is to be appreciated that the continuous mode described above is particularly suited for non-isolated fly-back or feed-forward configurations only. However, it reduces the minimum number of components required and is able to provide ripple free current without the need for load capacitors. Cost savings may thus be achieved.

In the described embodiments, the dimmer **40** may be used as a means for SSL lighting dimming control for energy saving instead of conventional triac dimmer. The dimmer **40** is arranged and operable to use energy only when light is required; otherwise the light is dimmed automatically to a low intensity or completely switched  
5 off (both saving electricity as compared to full switching on of light).

As illustrated in Fig. 4, 5a and 5b; the IC controller is connected to the dimmer **40** for better dimming performance and energy saving, such as at a low dimming level, a light output of less than 10% of total light, the power factor is maintained at more than or equals to 0.9 to meet the objective of the energy saving. Although the dimmer **40**  
10 is illustrated in Fig. 4, 5a and 5b, it is easily appreciated by a skilled person that the dimmer **40** may easily be incorporated in circuits as illustrated in both isolated/non-isolated configurations as well as continuous or discontinuous mode.

Further description relating to the operation of the dimmer **40** for purpose of meeting the above objectives of energy saving and maintenance of high power factor is  
15 elaborated with reference to Fig. 15 which forms another embodiment comprising a dimmer circuitry for use with a LED driver, the dimmer circuitry comprising at least an dimming interface operable to connect to at least one dimming controller; and a capacitive element adjustable to maintain a power factor of at least 0.9 within the dimmer circuitry.

20

As illustrated in Fig. 15, dimmer **40** may include a variety of devices capable of interfacing with a dimming interface **1670**, the interfacing including the IC controller **18, 518** pin for lighting dimming control.

25 When electricity supply is switched on, current flows to rectifier **1516**, which then turns on the switching power supply **1600** comprising ASIC controller **18, 518**. An isolated or non-isolated supply of ripple-free constant DC output current **1610** is provided. The switching power supply **1600** may be isolated or non-isolated, and depending on the configuration, inductive element **1511** may be an isolating  
30 transformer. The output of inductive element **1511** provides a isolated or non-isolated ripple free constant DC output current **1610** to the LED load **1700** to turn on the light.

By default, the LED load **1700** consumes 100% energy to turning on the light, unless electrical power is switched off.

The dimmer **40** may be a 0-10V dimmer **1708**. When the dimmer set to 10V, DC  
5 output current **1610** will set the light output to 100%, when dimmer set to 5V, DC  
output current **1610** will set the light output to 50% of total light. At 0V, no light is  
provided.

An infra-red (IR) remote control **1711** may also be used for remote lighting control.  
10 Such configuration requires the dimming interface to have a suitable IR receiver such  
that when the IR transmitter transmits the signal, the IR receiver will decode the  
signal and generate a PWM duty cycle accordingly from range 0-100% for dimming  
control. When duty cycle set to 100%, DC output current **1610** will then set the light  
output 100%, while IR transmitter sends 50% duty cycle, DC output current **1610** will  
15 sends 50% of total light output. If IR transmitter sends 0% duty cycle PWM signal, no  
light will be provided.

Another type of dimmer may be embodied as a motion sensor **1712**. When there is no  
movement detected by motion sensor **1712**, DC output current **1610** will turn the  
20 output current from 100% to 20% for dimming purpose, or even switched off the  
output current. This means that energy is only being used when the motion sensor  
**1712** detects movement.

Another option is to use an ambient sensor **1714** to detect environmental conditions,  
25 for example when dawn is approaching; DC output current **1610** will switch off the  
output current and turn lights **1700** off. When ambient sensor **1714** detects  
environment turning to dusk, DC output current **1610** will switch on the output  
current to 100%.

30 It is to be appreciated that any other devices designed with PWM output duty cycle  
from 0-100% may connect to the dimmer interface for LED lighting dimming control.  
Dimmer interface is a circuitry comprising one or more micro-controller device for  
detection of dimming signal from various dimmers (IR remote, motion, ambient,..etc),

and convert input dimming signal to analog voltage to the ASIC controller for dimming control. It may also be incorporated within the ASIC controller mentioned in other embodiments. In terms of implementation, the 'Dimmer Interface' may be a small module board mounted on power supply PCB or integrate into power supply  
5 circuitry PCB.

Capacitor **1630** is a component that would affect power factor. When dimming circuit is activated, the switching power supply **1600** will automatically charge the  
10 capacitance of **1630** to maintain power factor  $\geq 0.9$ , such that no matter how low the dimming level goes, power factor always stay at  $\geq 0.9$ .

The dimmer design from the various embodiments enable the user to dim their LED lighting unit to as low as 1 ~ 2% of the original driving current without any flickering  
15 phenomena.

In accordance with another embodiment of the invention there is provided a device **1100** for use with any of the LED driver **10, 500** described in the previous embodiment(s). As illustrated in Fig. 11, the device **1100** is an intermediary connector between the LED drivers **10, 500** and LED load **100**. The intermediary  
20 connector is hereinafter referred to as 'junction box'.

Fig. 11 shows a PCBA design of the junction box **1100**. The junction box **1100** comprises an input connector **1120** and a plurality of output connectors **1140** arranged to achieve the following:-

- a. Ease of installation of the high powered LED lamps load **100**;
- 25 b. Advantageous for a plurality of LED lamps **100** connected in series, and alleviates the problem of a system wide open circuit in the event where a high powered LED lamp **100** breaks down;
- c. Reduce or completely eliminate common errors during installation, in particular errors relating to reversal in electrical polarities.

On point (b.) above, series connection of LED lighting units **100** ensures that each lamp unit **100** would be driven with exactly the same driving current hence each LED lighting unit **100** will produce the same brightness. For lighting systems where uniform brightness is important series connection would be advantageous over  
5 parallel connection.

To achieve the above, the junction box comprises a reverse polarity protector **1160** and an open circuit protector **1180**. Reverse polarity protector is preferably a rectifier **1160**.

As illustrated in Fig. 11, there are nine output connectors **1140**. The input connector  
10 **1120** is arranged to interface with the driver output connector; and the junction box output connector **1140** is arranged to interface with the LED load **100** which comprises the SSL driverless lighting unit strip end cable.

The input connector **1120** is typically a header type connector for coupling with LED driver **10, 500** output connector which is typically a cable entry plug-in type. The  
15 output connector **1140** is typically of a cable entry type so that the electrical connector for LED lamp **100**, for example those of a strip end SSL driverless cable type can be inserted to it to produce a close electrical loop.

Fig. 12 illustrates the lamp system comprising the single LED driver **10, 500**, a single junction box **1100** and the SSL driverless light unit/load **100**.

20 LED Driver **10, 500** with cable plug in type connector **1100** will be connected to the input connector **1120** and the SSL driverless with strip end cable will be inserted into the output connector **1140** in order to create a complete networking lighting system for lighting purposes once electrical power is switched on.

Fig. 13 illustrates another possible arrangement with two junction boxes **1100**,  
25 wherein the entire system comprises the single string driver **10, 500**, dual junction boxes **1100** and SSL driverless light unit **100**.

The desired driver output voltage as predetermined by a qualified personnel will determine the total number of SSL driverless lighting units **100** or numbers of

junction box **1100** that should be used for the entire lighting network in order for all the SSL driverless lighting units **100** to be driven with expected designed ripple free constant current.

As a simplified example, if the designed driver **10, 500** has a maximum output voltage rating of 170V DC and only single junction box **1100** exists in the lighting system, then each SSL driverless lighting unit forward voltage is limited to 18.8 VDC /unit (170VDC divided by 9 units) . If two junction boxes **1100** are used, then SSL driverless lighting unit forward voltage is limited to 10 VDC per unit (170VDC divided by 17 units).

Fig. 14 shows the circuitry diagram between the input and output connectors and the arrangement of the rectifier **1160** and the open circuit protection circuit **1180**. Bridge rectifier **1160** acts as a reverse polarity protection so that there will be no polarity concern between driver **10, 500** and junction box **1100** during installation. If an installer makes a mistake and connects a lamp unit **100** in reverse polarity, the reverse polarity protector in the form of a bridge rectifier **1160** protects the driver **10, 500** and junction box **1100** from damaging. The Open load protection circuit **1180** preferably comprises a Zener Diode **1220**; Silicon Controller Rectifier (SCR) **1240** and Resistor **1260** at each output port **1140**.

Additional rectifiers may also be added to the lighting units **100**. This addresses the following problem:-

Although rectifiers **1160** provide reverse polarity protection between driver **10, 500** and the junction box **1100**, a particular lighting load **100** must be connected in the correct polarity in order for that particular to work correctly. If lighting **100** is connected in reverse polarity the system wouldn't not work , so to overcome this the lighting units also must having a rectifier to provide reverse polarity protection .

When any open circuit occurs at any of the output connector **1140**, and/or when the voltage exceed the specified reverse breakdown voltage of the Zener Diode **1220**; hence causing the Zener Diode **1220** to be operated in reverse bias mode, the Silicon Controller Rectifier (SCR) **1240** will be triggered at the gate terminal to enable current to flow through the Silicon Controller Rectifier (SCR) **1240** thereby

maintaining a close loop for the entire lighting system so that the other connected lighting 100 within the networking continue to operate regularly. Resistor 1260 is used a current limiter for the Zener Diode 1220 so as to prevent too large a current flowing through Zener Diode 1220. Another resistor 1280 may be connected in parallel with the open circuit protection circuit and in parallel with the output connector 1140.

As an alternative or addition to the open load protector 1180, it is appreciated that a resistor 1280 may be deployed to act as a jumper/bypass resistor for deployment to specific output connector(s) 1140 which has (have) no load 100 connected to the same so as to maintain a close loop of the entire lighting system. Where specific output connector(s) 1140 is (are) permanently not supposed to be connected any load, the open circuit protector(s) connected to these output connector(s) may be removed.

Thus, junction box 1100 has been designed and will be implemented together with string driver to overcome the above described weaknesses arising from series connection.

#### Examples of operating technical specification

The recommended operating technical specification for the LED driver 10, 8-pin (lower resolution) configuration is listed as follows:-

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Operating Voltage:         | 100 to 120 VAC for US; 220 to 240 VAC for EU                    |
| 20 Operating frequency:    | 50/60 Hertz (Hz)  |
| AC current:                | 0.2 Amperes (A) for US; 0.1 A for EU                            |
| Inrush current:            | maximum allowable at 4A for US; maximum allowable at 12A for EU |
| Leakage current:           | less than (<) 0.7 milli-A                                       |
| 25 Efficiency (full load): | more than (>) 83%   |

Power factor (full load): more than (>) 0.98

The output specification (8-pin configuration) based on 120 VAC (US) / 230VAC (EU) input; rated load and 25 degrees Celsius ambient temperature are listed as follows:

5 Output channel: 1

Output voltage range: 12 to 36 VDC

Output current: 600 or 700mA

Current tolerance:  $\pm 5\%$

Current adjust range: Not adjustable

10 Rated Power:  $21.6W_{MAX}$  (at 600 mA) and  $25.2W_{MAX}$  (at 700mA)

The recommended operating input specification for the LED driver 10, 500, 14-pin configuration is listed as follows:-

Operating Voltage: 100 to 120 VAC for US; 220 to 240 VAC for EU

Operating frequency: 50/60 Hertz (Hz)

15 AC current: 1.3 Amperes (A) for US; 0.6 A for EU

Inrush current: maximum allowable at 7A for US; maximum allowable at 30A for EU

Leakage current: less than (<) 0.7 milli-A

Efficiency (full load): more than (>) 86%

20 Power factor (full load): more than (>) 0.96

The output specification for the LED driver 10, 500 14-pin configuration based on 120 VAC (US) / 230VAC (EU) input; rated load and 25 degrees Celsius ambient temperature having two output channels are listed as follows:

Output channel: 2

5 Output voltage range: 35 to 85 VDC (single channel) Total of 70 to 170 VDC

Output current: 600 or 700mA

Current tolerance:  $\pm 5\%$

Current adjust range: Not adjustable

Rated Power: 102W<sub>MAX</sub> (at 600 mA) and 119W<sub>MAX</sub> (at 700mA)

10 The LED driver 10, 500 are especially suitable for LED downlights, Troffer LED lighting and MR 16, particularly at a temperature range of 0 degree Celsius to 40 degrees Celsius.

In addition, the following advantages are also apparent:-

a. Safer Methodology for LED Lighting Unit

15 As the LED driver 10, 500 are isolated DC configuration and only work with DC driven LED lighting Unit, there will be no safety related issue associated with AC currents for the LED lighting units 100 which are at the secondary side and isolated from the mains. As the LED driver 10, 500 will be isolated from the LED lighting unit  
20 the LED driver 10, 500 can be designed in accordance to safety requirement.

b. High Electrical Efficiency

The LED Driver 10, 500; termed 'string driver' operates in thermally cooler environment because it is isolated from the LED load units 100 and not affected by the heat dissipated by the LEDs unit 100 during the continuous operation. This  
25 reduces thermal loss on the LED driver 10, 500 hence less power is consumed during

operation to improve efficiency. Compared to the prior art, where each LED lamp comprises its own driver which is directly connected to the AC mains, power efficiency will be significantly improved compared to AC driver lighting unit in a complete lighting system because total power losses only apply to the particular single driver whereas AC driven lighting unit will having higher total power loss due to losses on each lighting.

c. High Efficacy (lumens/watt)

As an associated advantage, the string configuration offer cooler operating environment which resulted lower optical loss for the LEDs device hence higher luminous flux exhibited by the LED devices eventually improved the efficacy (lumens/watt) for the entire lighting system.

d. Longer Lifetimes

The LED driver 10, 500 using ASIC control, eliminates the use of short lifetimes components such as Aluminum Electrolytic Capacitor where this is extended the lifetimes of the LED driver 10, 500. As for the LEDs lamp units 100, the thermally cooler and operation with approximately ripple free constant current improves the performance and reliability of LED devices significantly and slow down the entire degradation progress on the LED device 100 eventually prolong the lifespan for the entire LED lighting unit.

e. Wide Range Application Options

The flexibility design for the single LED driver 10, 500 is applicable for any type of DC driven LED lighting unit and theoretically is able to drive unlimited numbers of LEDs in the entire lighting system by minor fine tuning of specific components as described earlier.

f. Cost Effective Solution

String driver configuration is a cost effective solution since single the LED Driver 10, 500 is capable to drive a series of DC driven LED lighting units whereas the prior art

configuration require one driver for each LED lighting. Further, the solution also offer more competitive manufacturing cost as well as design part cost especially for heat sink.

g. Ease of Maintenance

5 Since the single LED Driver 10, 500 is isolated from the LED lighting unit 100, if any failure occurred within the lighting system that due to a faulty LED driver 10, 500, the user just need to replace the faulty LED driver instead of dismantling the entire LED lighting (Build-in concept) . Such maintenance process is simple and may be completed within a relatively short period.

10 h. Miniature in Form Factor

The heat sink for the lighting luminaries will be smaller in size where the heat sink just to design to dissipate heat generated by the LED lighting unit 100 where not heat generated from the AC-DC LED driver because of isolating between them. Also the single driver can be design in such an optimized size due to less components count  
15 require for the entire system compare to integral concept and thus less material used and the introduction of planar transformer will further enhance the slim look of the driver solution instead of conventional transformer that is in bulky form factor.

It is further apparent that the LED Driver 10, 500 requires less components count and less repetition of components compared to prior art systems where each LED lamp  
20 unit requires its own AC to DC driver. The driver solution form factor is thus reduced. Besides that, manufacturing process will be simplified such that production throughput and yield rate will be improved.

It is further apparent that the heat sink form factor for each LED lighting unit 100 will be reduced in the string configuration because the each heat sink will be required to  
25 only handle the heat distributed by the LED lighting unit 100. This is because the LED driver 10, 500 is isolated from the LED lighting unit 100. This will beneficial on part cost due to less material utilization. Furthermore, the entire design cycle will be further shorten since both LED lighting unit 100 and LED driver 10, 500 design

activity can be carried out simultaneously that leads to improve product time to market.

The junction box **1100** further provides additional advantages to the string driver concept as follows:-

5 a. Error Free Installation

The Junction Box **1100** is designed with “fool proof “concept so that to provide an error free installation experience to the end user. Polarity is a concern during installation to ensure the entire lighting system work as expected. With the bridge rectifier at each junction box providing an interface with the driver **10, 500** and the  
10 SSL driverless lighting unit **100**, accidental reverse polarity connection is negated during the installation. The lighting units **100** within the lighting system will operate normally as long as continuity exist between driver **10, 500** and SSL driverless lighting unit **100** regardless of polarity consideration. Further, header and plug in connector design exist on the interface between driver output and junction box input  
15 where this will totally eliminate the possibility to connect the driver output to any of the junction box output connector.

b. Ease of Installation

The junction box **1100** comprises connector design for interfacing purposes with driver **10, 500** and driverless SSL lighting units **100**. A user will thus find it easy to  
20 plug in or inserting the strip end cable to the correct or dedicated connector. In addition, due to the simplification of the installation, shorter time and thus lower cost is expended for installation and system set-up.

c. Safer Installation

As only DC supply exists on the junction box **1100** a safety environment is created for  
25 installation.

d. Flexibility of Installation

Since the string driver concept do not have a wire length constraint during installation, users have the flexibility to position the SSL driverless lighting units according to their preference design and/or needs. A user may lengthen the electrical wire of the SSL driverless lighting unit **100** easily to their desire length so as to meet the application with the specific wire specification, example American wire gauge (AWG) 16 ~ 24 to have a perfect match to the junction box input/output connectors **1120, 1140**. Furthermore, the junction box is also designed to support dual (or possibly larger number of junction boxes linkage) which will provide additional flexibility on the installation.

10 e. Ease of Maintenance

The special design feature of the junction box as described in the embodiment enables a user/installer to identify the failure unit easily and to carry out the necessary maintenance as what they experienced in conventional practice even though the string driver is running in series connection

15 f. Reliable Connection

The described input/output connectors **1120, 1140** used for the connections within the lighting system is either wire entry or latch lock type which gives a good connection compared to conventional screw tightening method widely used on the market.

It is to be understood that the above embodiments have been provided only by way of exemplification of this invention, and that further modifications and improvements thereto, as would be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art, are deemed to fall within the broad scope and ambit of the present invention described. Furthermore although individual embodiments of the invention may have been described it is intended that the invention also covers various combinations of the embodiments discussed.

**CLAIMS**

1. A system for driving a plurality of high powered LED units, the system comprising a single driver for providing ripple free direct current to a plurality of high powered LED lamp units,  
  
the single driver arranged to operate in an isolated alternating current fly back configuration having an inductive element as a transformer isolating the plurality of high powered LEDs at a secondary end of the transformer,  
  
wherein the single driver further comprises a digital controller having an electronic oscillator for providing a clock cycle, the digital controller programmable to adjust the ripple free direct current at every clock cycle based on detection and computation of a duration taken for an amount of energy to be discharged by the transformer to the plurality of high power LED lamp units.
2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the digital controller is an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC); the ASIC further operable to detect and compute the duration of the energy discharged by the core of transformer to the plurality of high powered LEDs to regulate and provide the ripple free output DC current.
3. A system according to claim 2, wherein the ASIC is programmed to receive feedback at each clock cycle based on the duration of the energy discharged by the transformer as an input to determine the amount of ripple free direct current at the next clock cycle.
4. A system according to claim 3, wherein the ASIC is programmed to provide a voltage waveform to turn an electronic switch on and off at each clock cycle.
5. A system according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of high powered LED lamp units is in series with the other high powered LED lamp units.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein the single driver is electrically connected to a dimmer circuitry for adjusting the brightness of the plurality of high powered LED lamp units.
7. A system according to claim 6, wherein the dimmer circuitry comprises a potentiometer, infra-red interface, motion sensor or ambient sensor.
8. A system according to claim 6, wherein the system comprises a capacitive element, the capacitive element adjustable to maintain a power factor of at least 0.9 within the dimmer circuitry.
9. A system according to claim 7, wherein the potentiometer is operable to work within a voltage of 0 to 10V.
10. A system according to claim 1, wherein the secondary end of the transformer is electrically connected to a short circuit protection circuit.
11. A system according to claim 2, wherein the ASIC is coupled with an active power factor controller.
12. A system according to claim 11, wherein the active power factor controller comprises at least one voltage follower.
13. A system according to claim 2, wherein the ASIC is of a 14-pin configuration.
14. A system according to claim 1, wherein each high powered LED lamp is provided with a heat sink shaped and configured to dissipate heat away from the high powered LED only.
15. A system according to claim 2, the system further comprising an electronic switch, wherein the ripple free direct current is achieved by means of voltage control according to the following equation:-

$$V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} * T_{ON}}{T_{OFF}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2}{L_1}}$$

Where  $V_{OUT}$  is the voltage across the output;  $V_{IN}$  is the input voltage;  $T_{OFF}$  is the time of the discharge of the core of the isolating transformer;  $T_{ON}$  is the switch on time of the electronic switch;  $L_1$  is the inductance value of the primary windings of the transformer and  $L_2$  is the inductance value of the secondary windings of the transformer.

16. A system for driving a plurality of high powered LED units, the system comprising

a single driver for providing ripple free direct current to a plurality of high powered LED lamp units,

wherein the single driver comprises a digital controller having an electronic oscillator for providing a clock cycle; the digital controller programmable to adjust the ripple free direct current at every clock cycle based on determination of a duration taken for an amount of energy to be discharged to the plurality of high powered LED lamp units; the single driver further arranged to operate in a non-isolated configuration having an inductive element operating in a continuous mode in according to the following equation:-

$$I_{OUT} = (T_{OFF} * I_1 + \frac{I_{MAX} * T_{OFF}}{2}) * \frac{1}{T}$$

where  $T_{OFF}$  is fixed as a constant;  $T_{ON}$  is a switch on time of the electronic switch;  $T$  is a summation of  $T_{ON}$ ,  $T_{OFF}$ , and  $T_{CALC}$  where  $T_{CALC}$  is a time after the discharge time of the inductive element to compute the formula;  $I_1$  is a desired reference current and  $I_{MAX}$  is the peak current.

17. A system according to claim 16, wherein for a hysteretic controller configuration, the value of  $I_{MAX}$  and  $I_1$  are fixed,

$T_{OFF}$  determined by detecting and computing a time of the discharge of the transformer, and

$T_{ON}$  determined according to the following mathematical equations:-

$$T_{ON} = \frac{I_{out} * T}{K * V_{in} * T_{off}}$$

whereby the reference constant **K** is calculated based on a inductance value of the primary and secondary windings of the transformer,

$$K = \frac{1}{2 * \sqrt{L_1 * L_2}}$$

where  $L_1$  is an inductance value of the primary windings of the transformer and  $L_2$  is an inductance value of the secondary windings of the transformer. For a non-isolated direct current (DC) fly-back configuration, the reference constant **K** is calculated according to the following mathematical expression:-

$$K = \frac{1}{L_3}$$

where  $L_3$  is an inductance value of the inductive element in the fly-back configuration.

18. A single driver of claim 1 or claim 16 comprising:

at least one Integrated Circuit (IC), the IC programmable using a hardware description language;

a first electronic switch operable to provide a first switching time period to control power factor voltage, the first switching time period programmable by the at least one IC; and

a second electronic switch operable to provide a second switching time period to regulate ripple free direct current flowing into at least one high powered LED lamp unit, the second switching time period is programmable by the at least one IC.

19. A single driver according to claim 18, wherein the first and second electronic switches are power MOSFETs.

20. A single driver according to claim 18, wherein the at least one IC is an ASIC.

21. A device having an input port and a plurality of output ports, the input port operable to be connected to a single driver of claim 1 or claim 16, comprising

a reverse polarity protector arranged to be electrically connected to the input port and each of the plurality of output ports; and

a plurality of open circuit protection circuits, each of the plurality of open circuit protector operable to connect to an output port;

wherein the reverse polarity protector is operable to negate the polarity requirement in the event where a load is connected with a wrong polarity to any of the output port; and the open circuit protection circuit is operable to form a closed loop series connection in the event where no load is connected to an output port or when a load breaks down.

22. A device according to claim 21, wherein the reverse polarity protector is a diode bridge rectifier.

23. A device according to claim 21, wherein each output port comprises a corresponding open circuit protector.

24. A device according to claim 21, wherein each of the output port is suitable for connection with a load comprising a high powered LED lamp unit.

25. A system according to claim 5 further comprising the device according to claim 21 to 24; wherein the input port of the device of claim 21 to 24 is operable to be connected to the single driver.

26. A dimmer circuitry for use with a LED driver of claim 1 or claim 16, the dimmer circuitry comprising at least a dimming interface operable to connect to at least one dimming controller; and a capacitive element adjustable to maintain a power factor of at least 0.9 within the dimmer circuitry.

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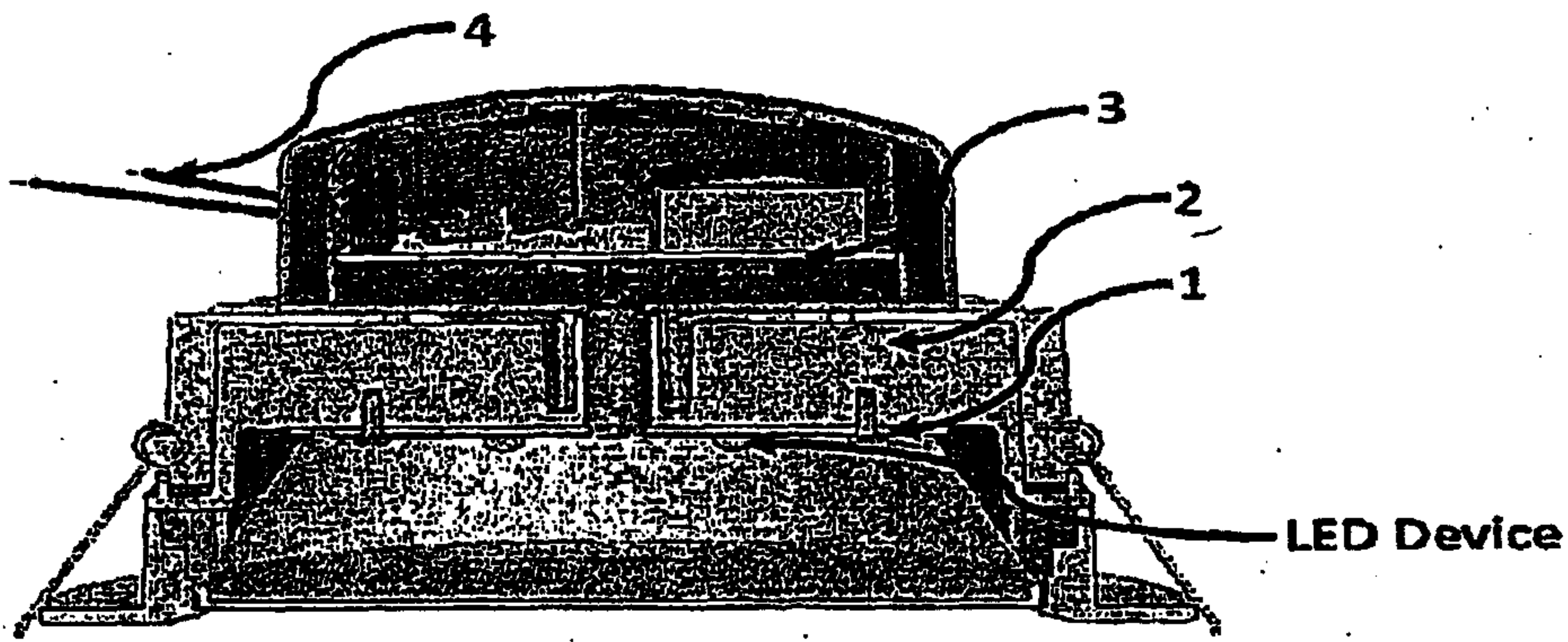


Fig. 1

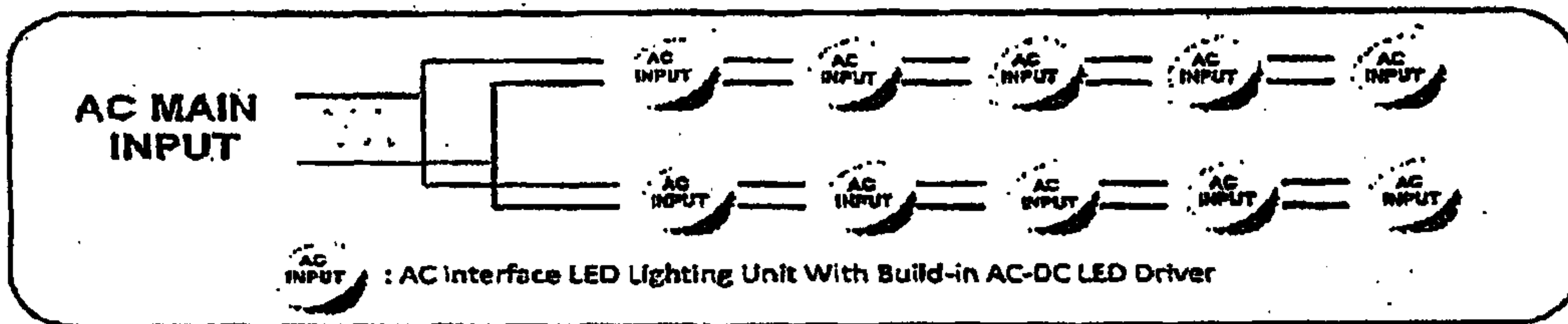


Fig. 2

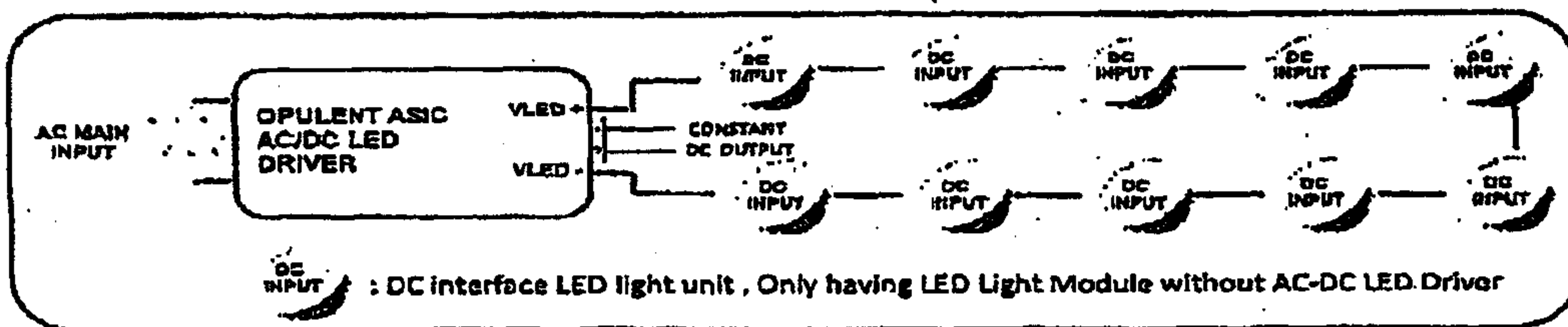


Fig. 3





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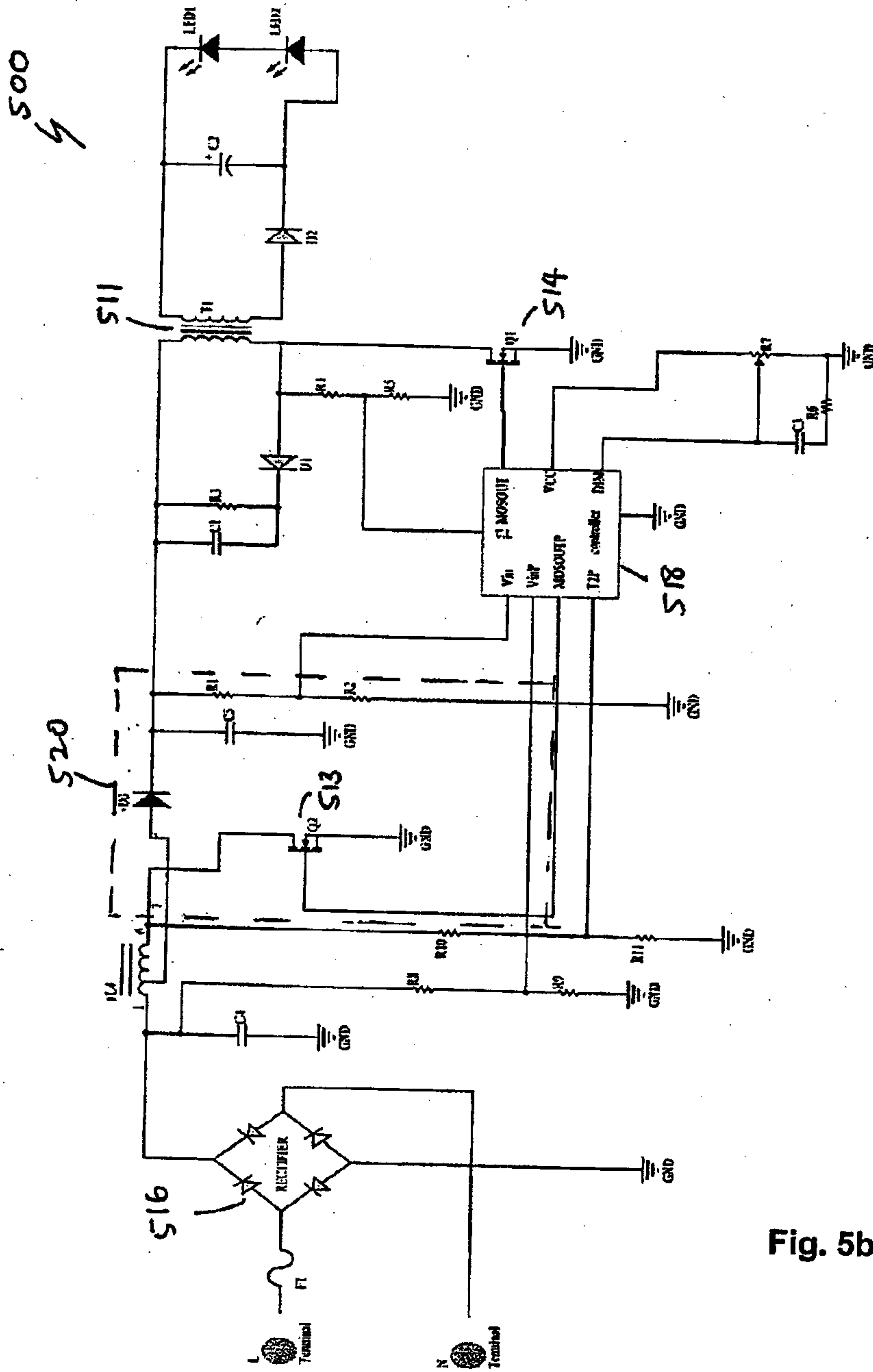


Fig. 5b

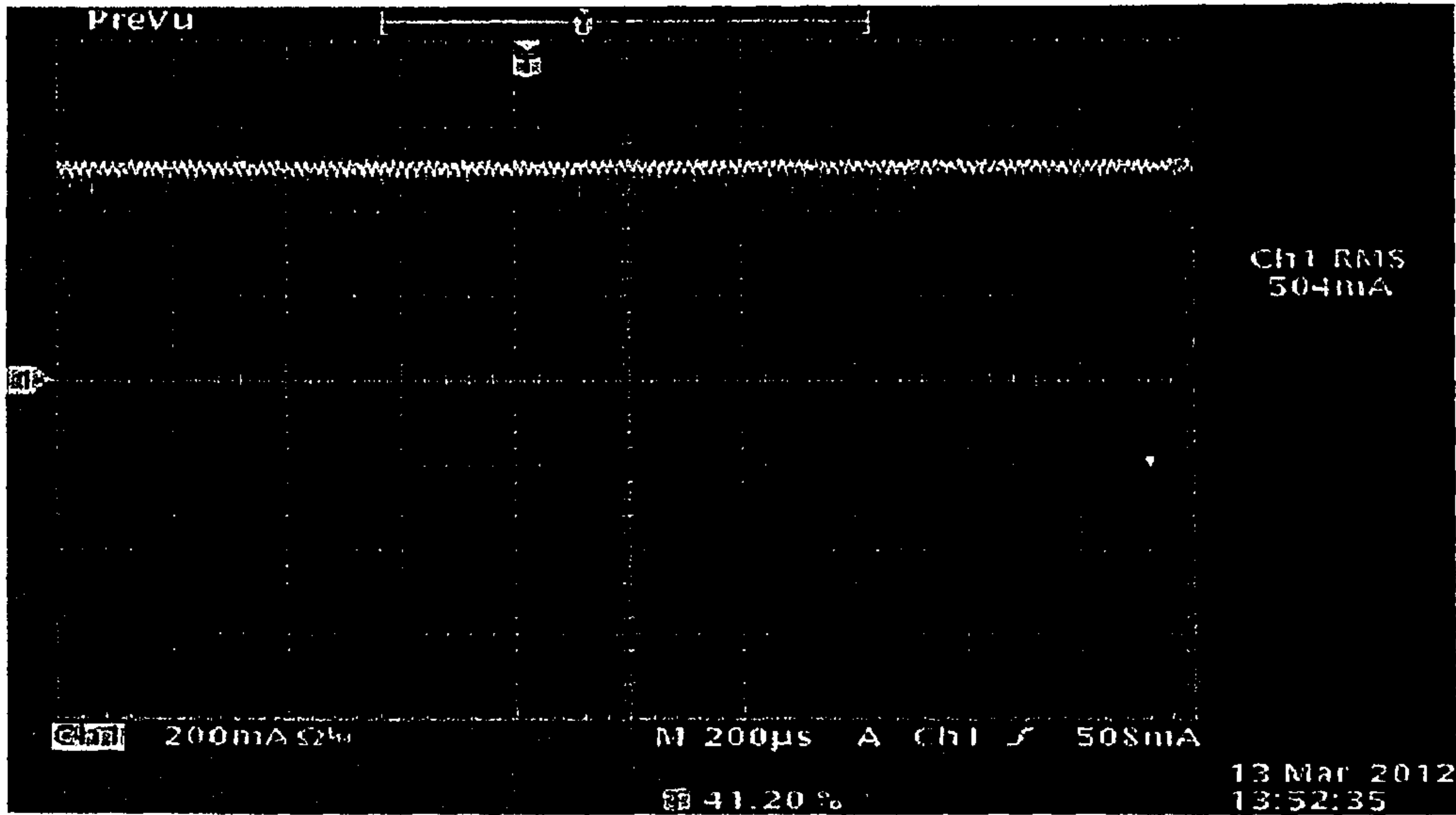
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|                         | Electronic Ballast + In Build Driver MR16 (1 : 1 option)   | String Driver + Driverless MR16 ( 1 - Multiple Option)   |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Constant Current Driven | Different among each MR16 because design tolerance of each in build driver + Electronic Ballast behavior           | All MR16 will having identical current due to driven by single driver and in series connection |
| Light Output Uniformity | Different among each other due to each in build driver having different driving current                            | Very uniform among each other because of single driver and with constant current driven        |
| Power Factor            | Low because in build output load not meeting Electronic Ballast minimum load requirement                           | High because string driver been designed for the Driverless purpose                            |
| Efficiency              | Low since Electronics Ballast not compatible with in-build LED MR16 and causing output current drop when connected | High due to the string driver been designed to tailor the output load range requirement        |
| Dimming                 | Flickering as the in build driver design not fulfilling Triac Dimming Minimum holding current requirement          | Dim perfectly with Potential Meter , Motion/Ambient Sensor and Infra-Red Sensor                |
| Wire Connection length  | Drop in output driving current when the connection length exceed the allowable specification (in general < 2meter) | Output driving current not affected by wire connection length                                  |

Fig. 6

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Constant current @504mA



Ripple of 20mA (3.9% of 504mA)

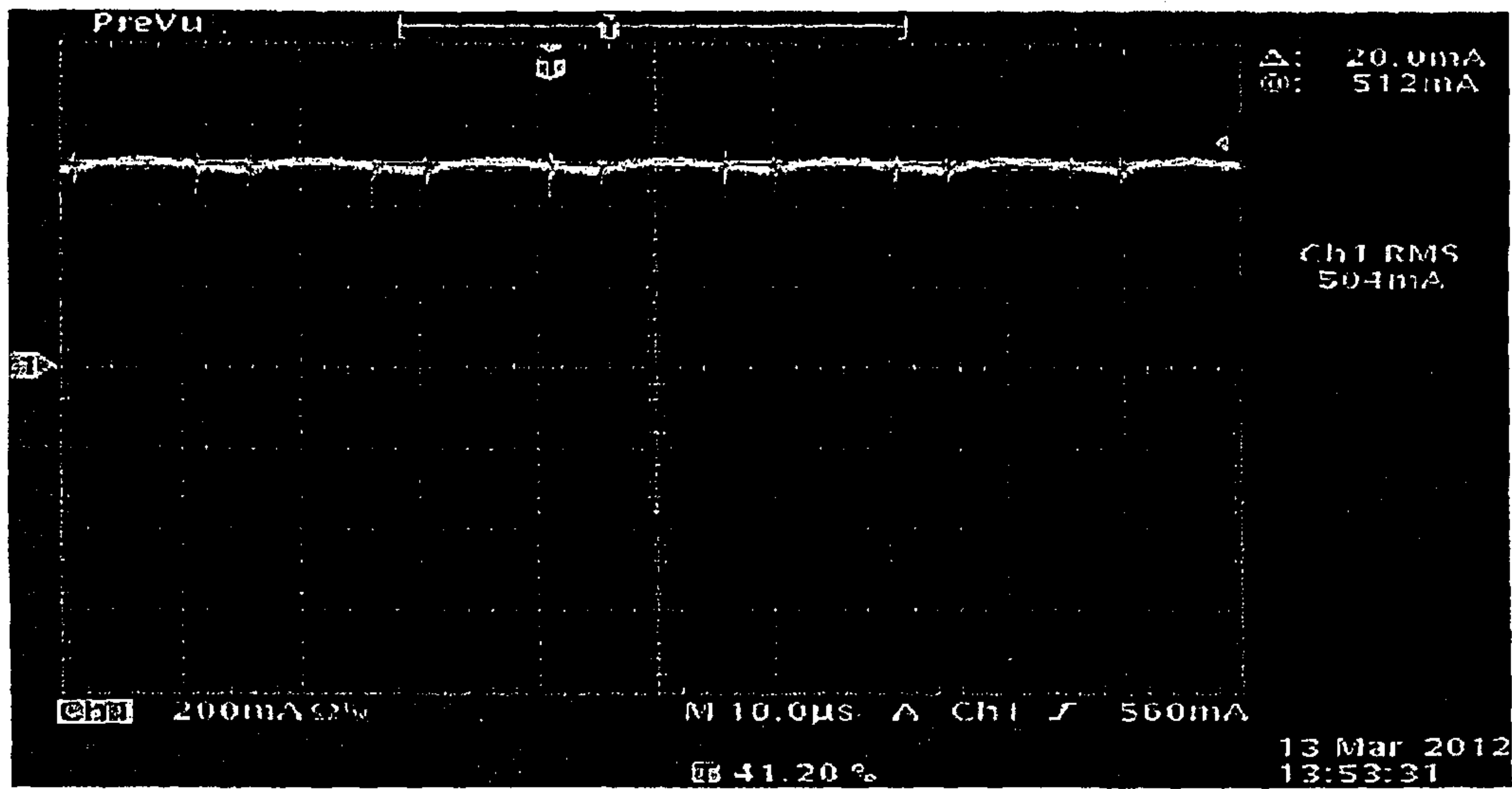


Fig. 7

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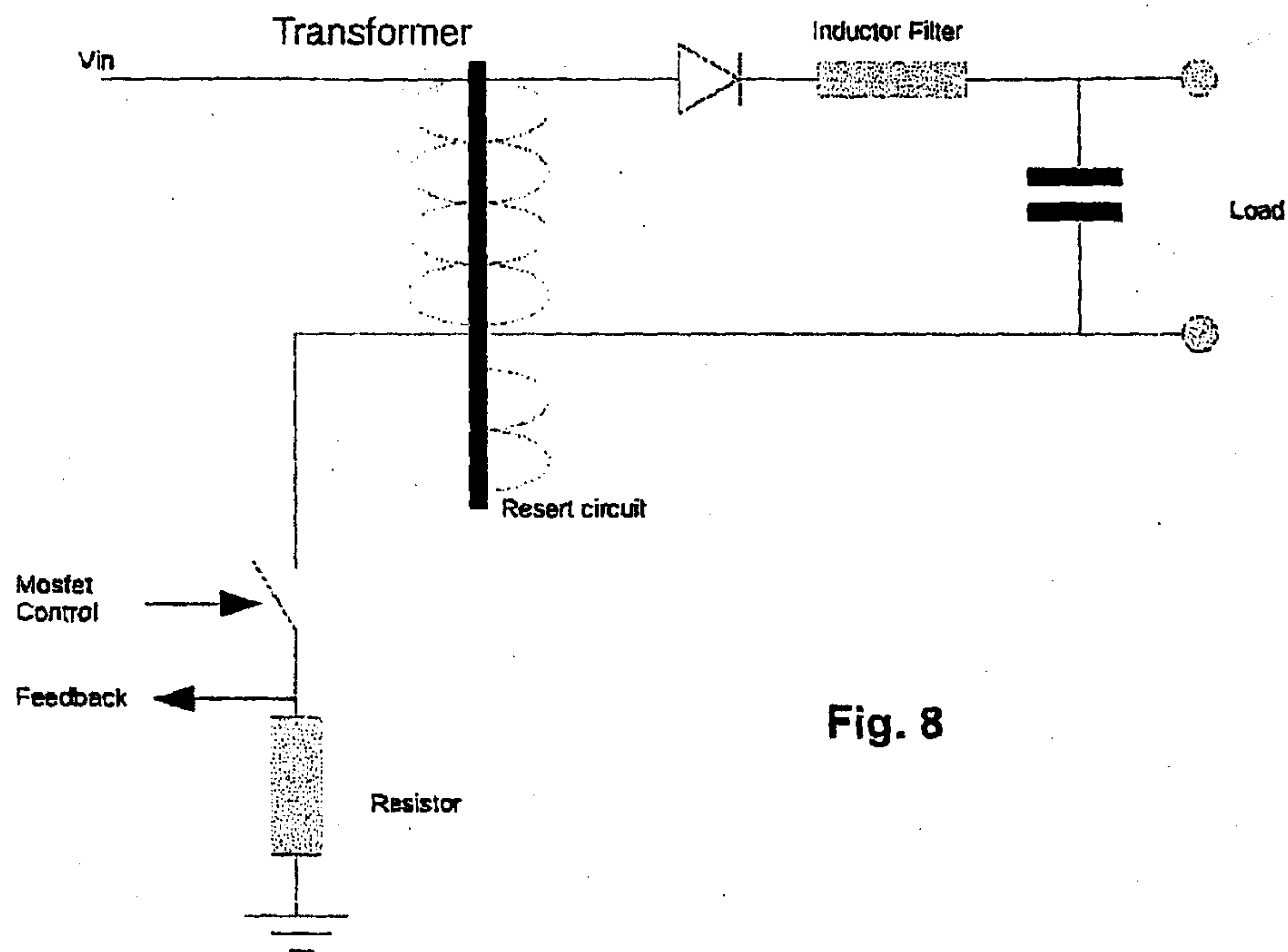


Fig. 8

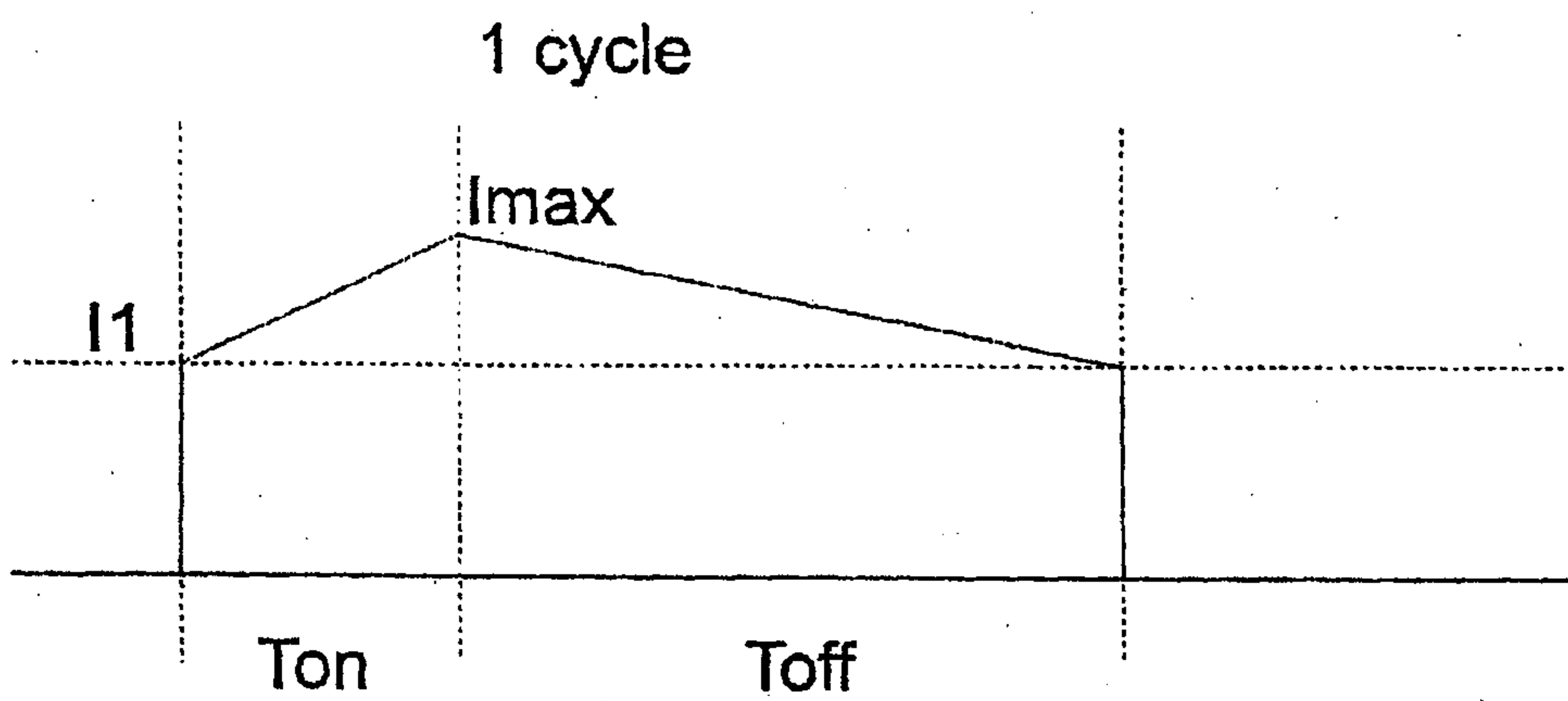


Fig. 9

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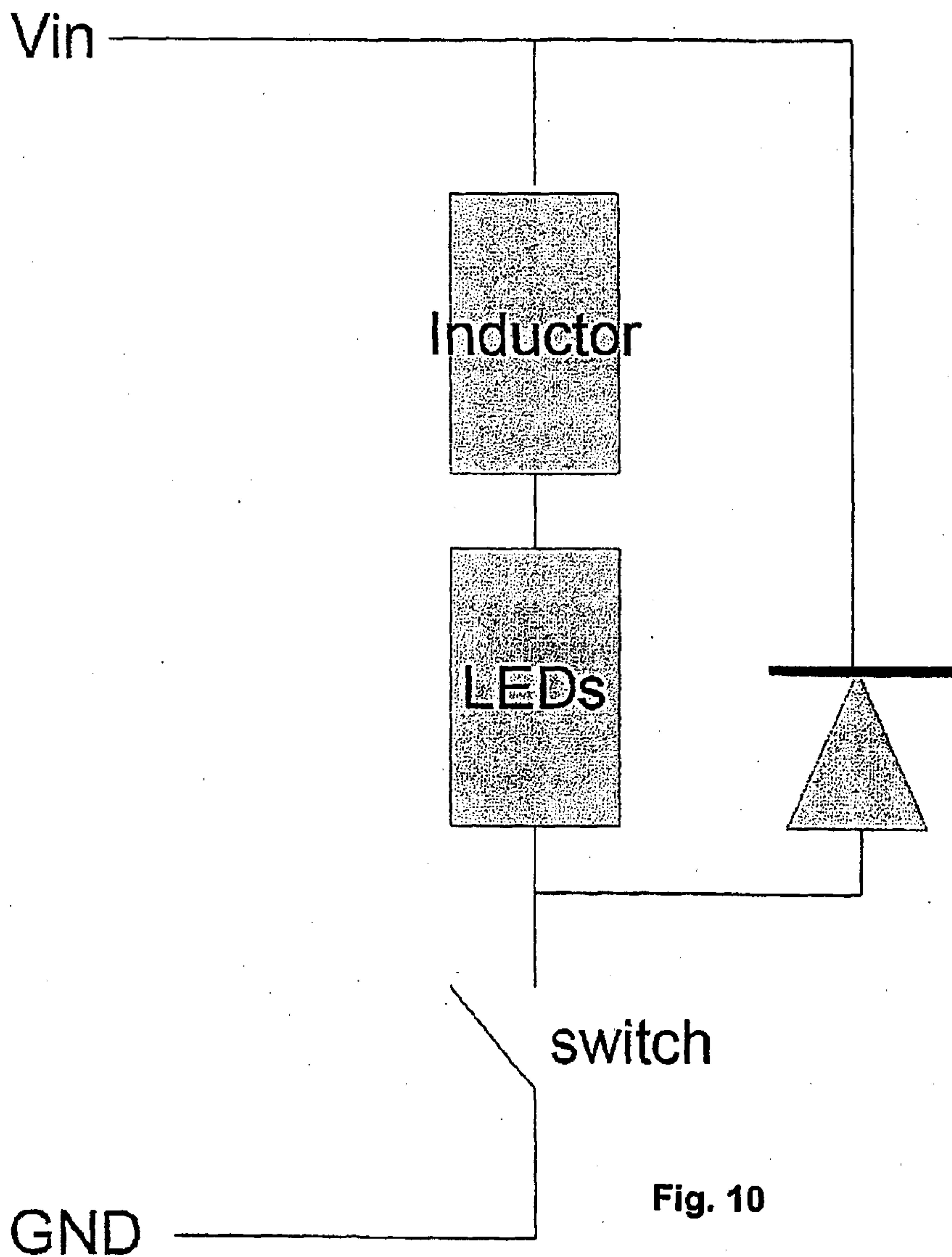


Fig. 10

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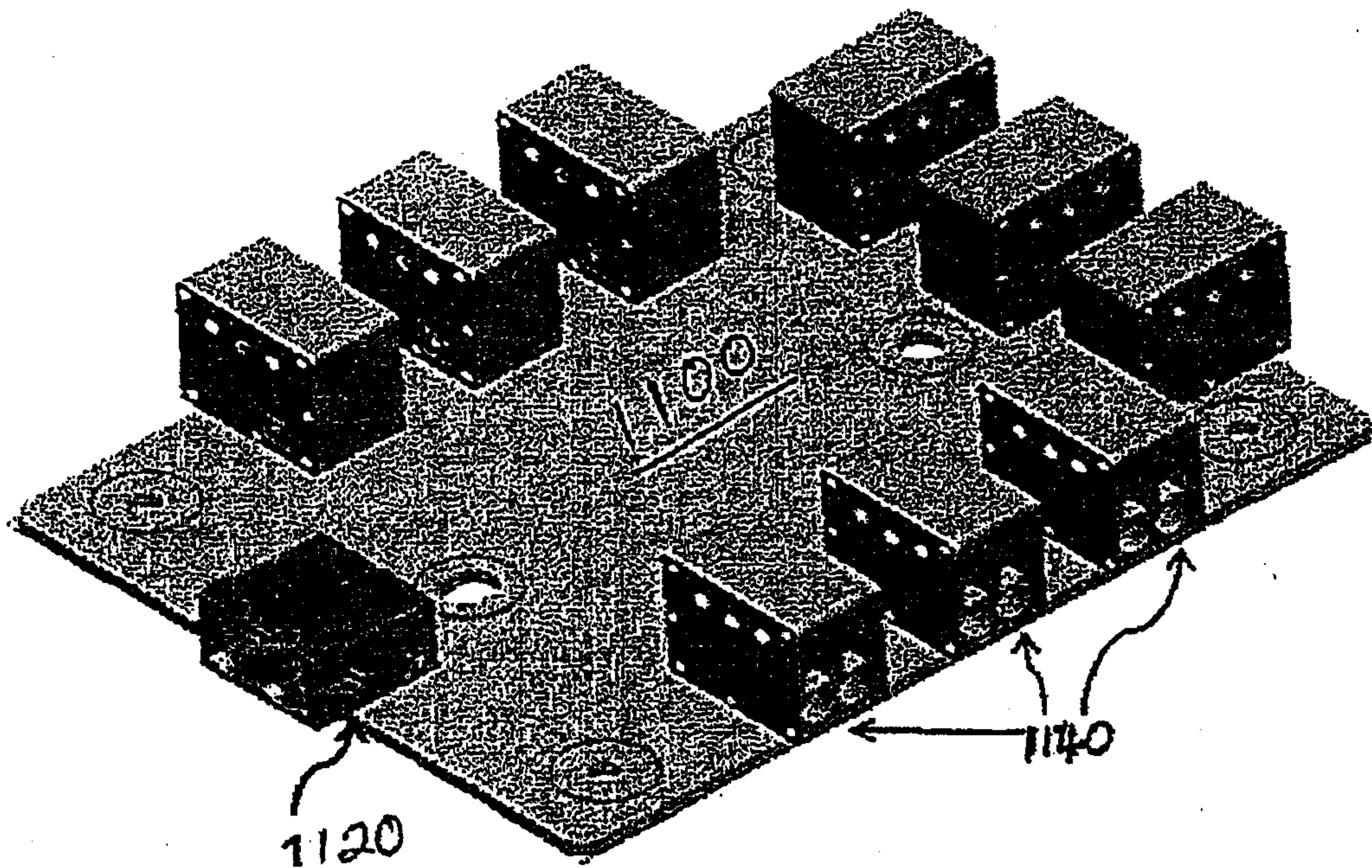


Fig. 11

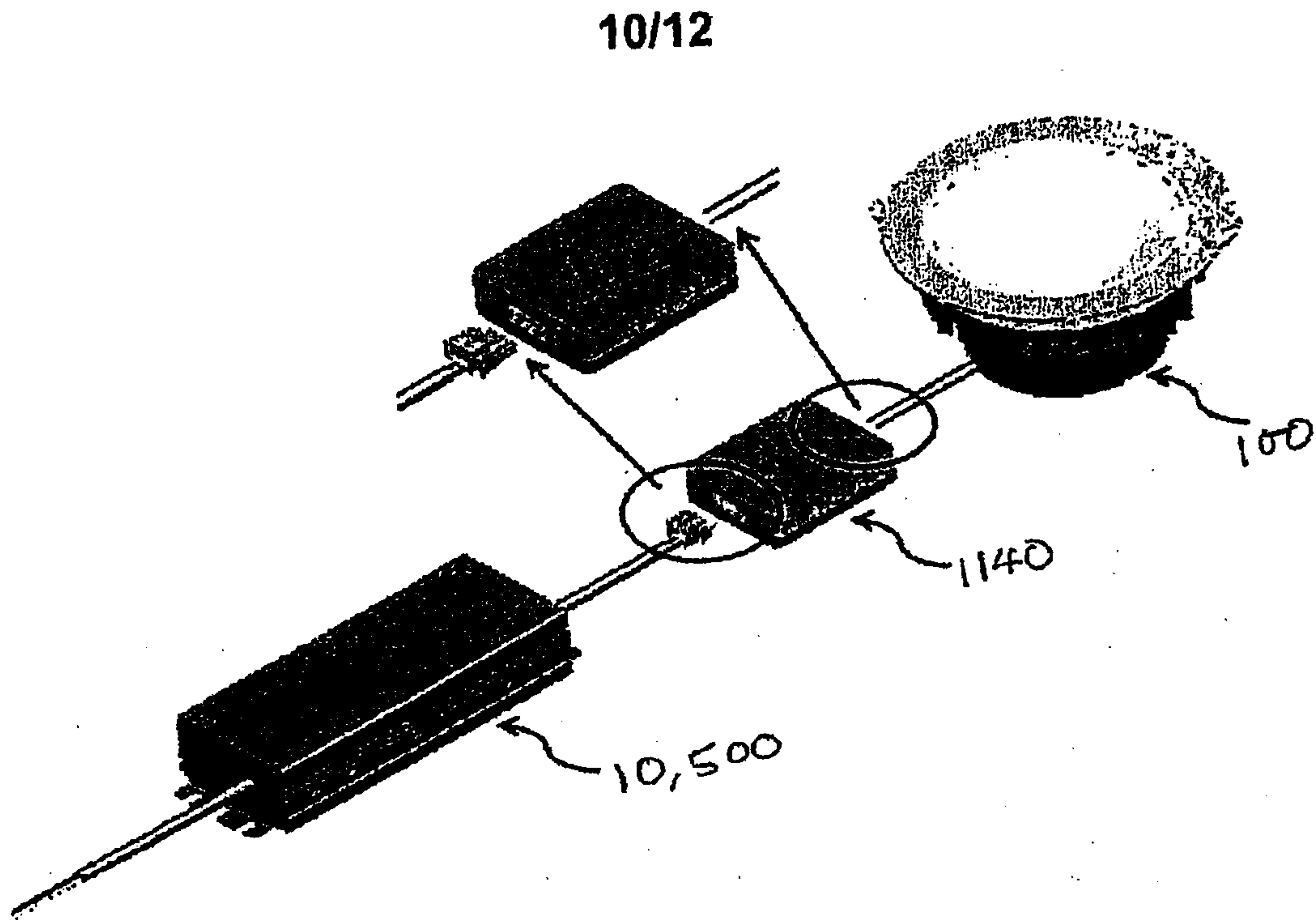


Fig. 12

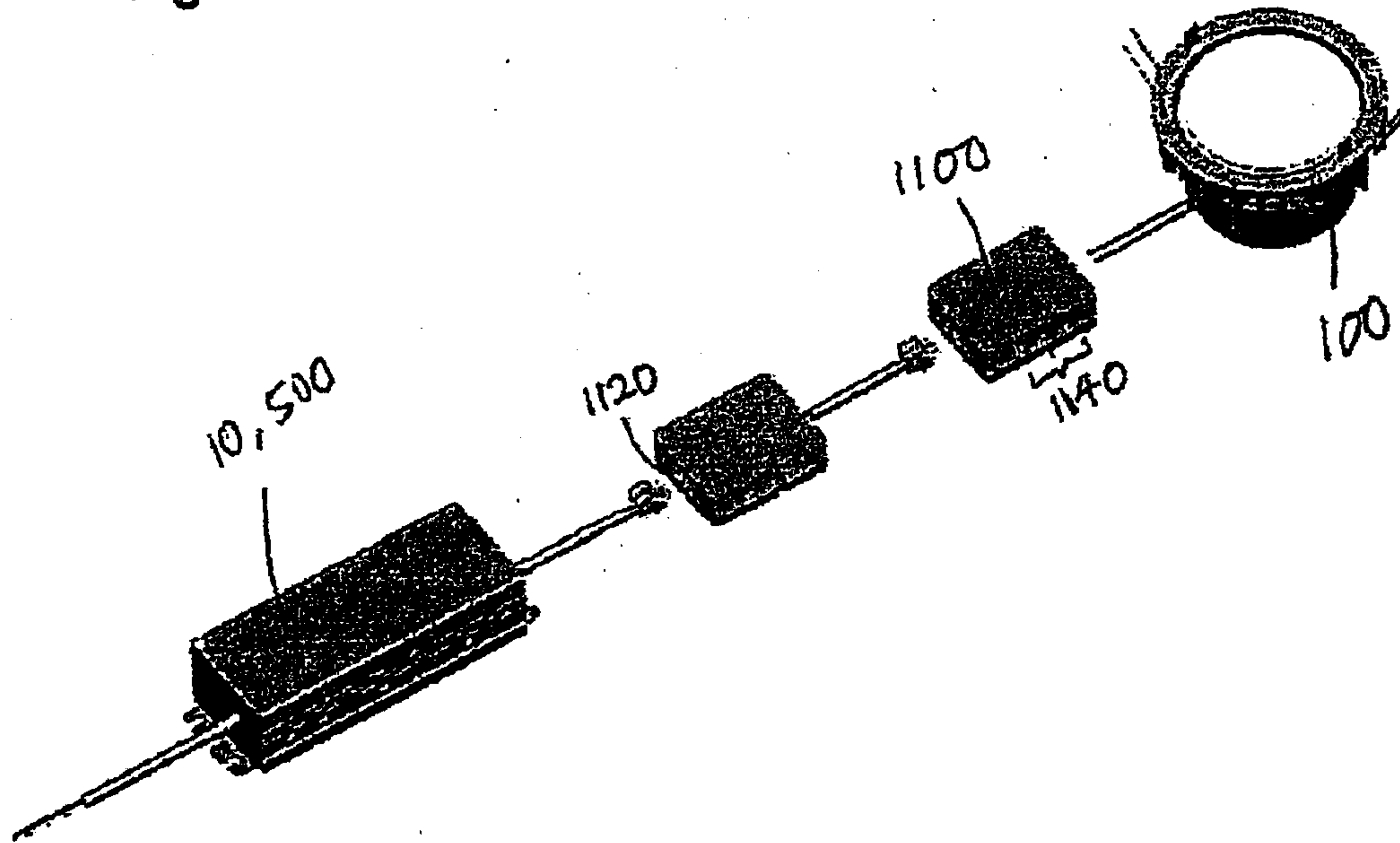


Fig. 13

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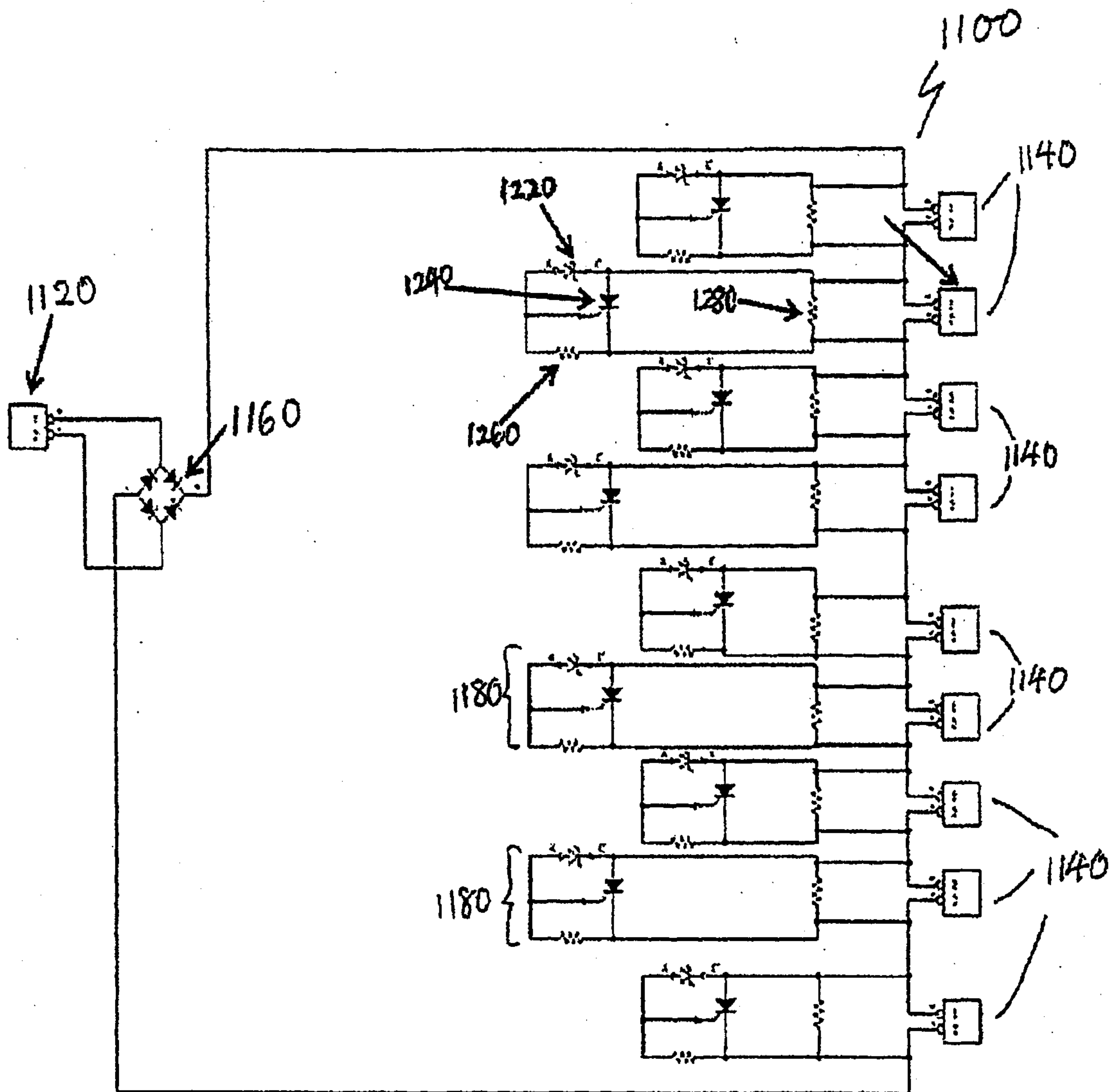


Fig. 14

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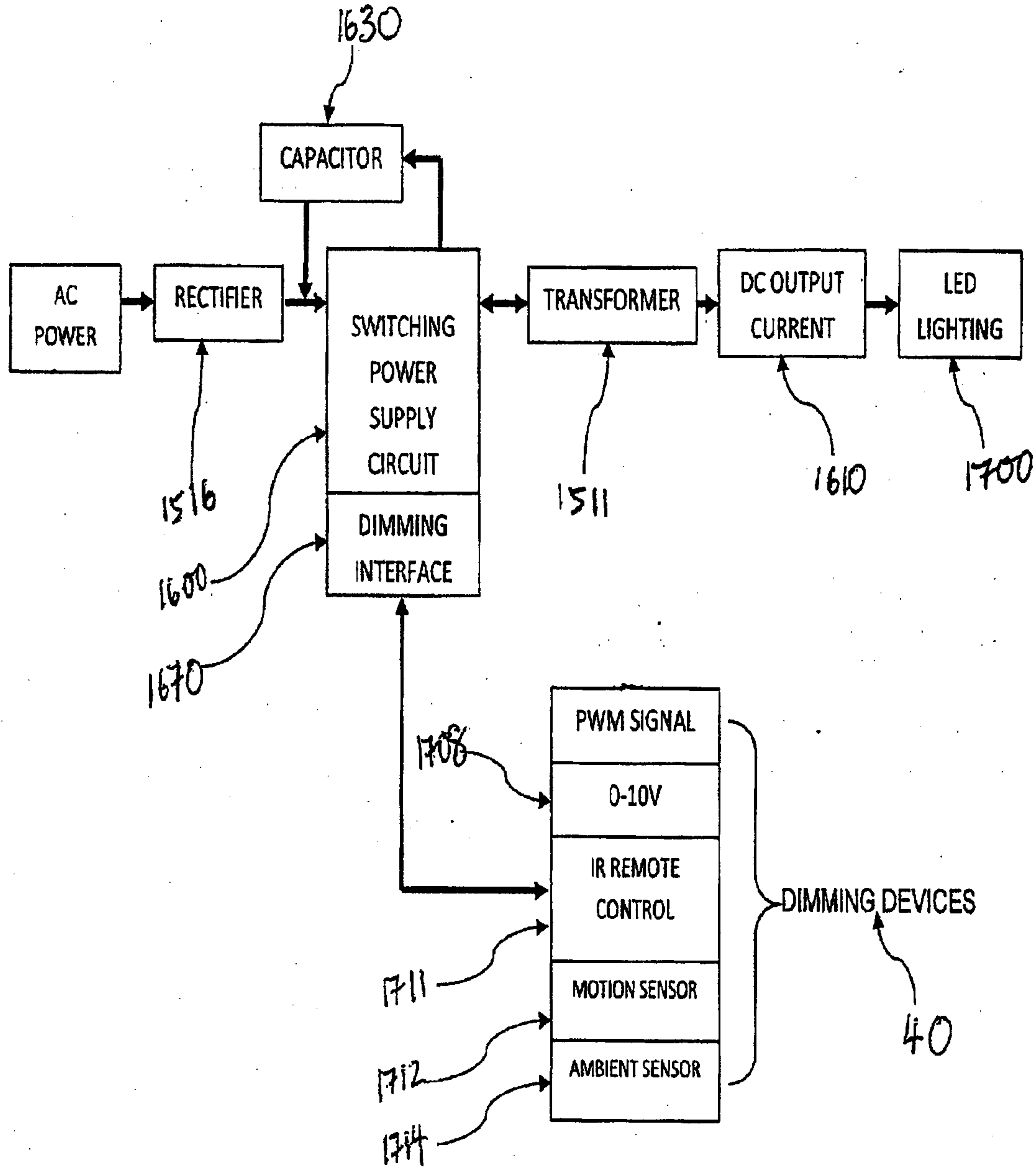


Fig. 15

