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CIRCUIT FOR PROVIDING A FILTERED DC POTENTIAL AND AN ACTUATING PULSE FOR AN ELECTROMAGNETIC DEVICE

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FIG. 1

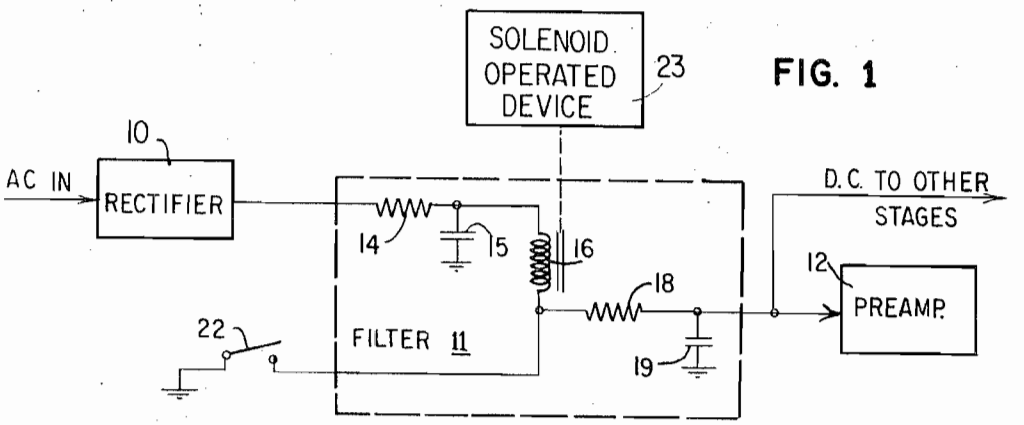


FIG. 2

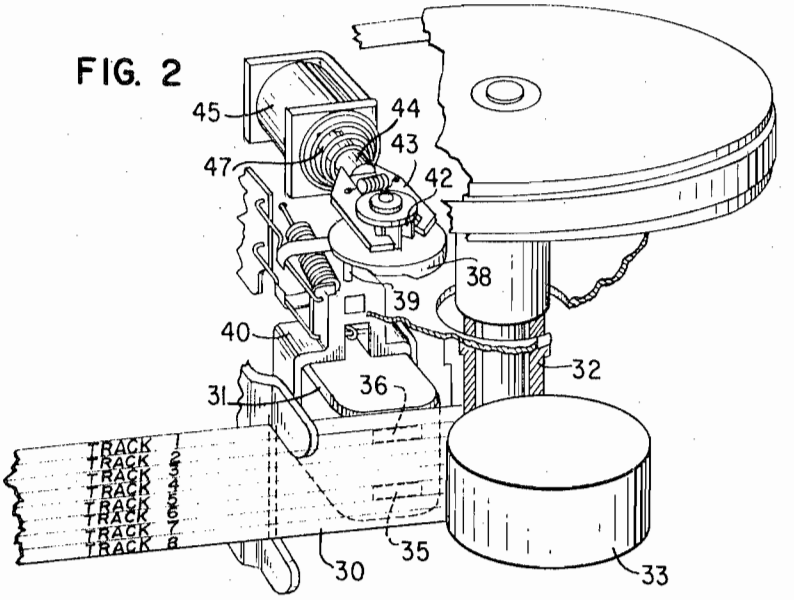
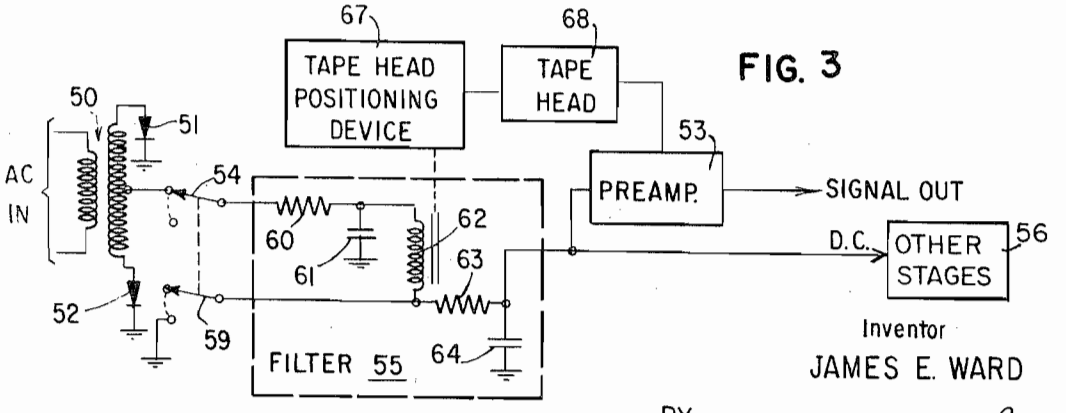


FIG. 3



Inventor

JAMES E. WARD

BY Mueller, Aichele and Rauner

Attys.

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CIRCUIT FOR PROVIDING A FILTERED DC POTENTIAL AND AN ACTUATING PULSE FOR AN ELECTROMAGNETIC DEVICE

James E. Ward, Downers Grove, Ill., assignor to Motorola, Inc., Franklin Park, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A filter circuit for filtering the output of a rectifier incorporates an energizing coil, used to operate an electromagnetic device, and a capacitor as filter elements. A switch connects the capacitor across the energizing coil to provide a pulse of energy to actuate the coil.

Background of the invention

In certain electronic apparatus one or more portions require a limited amount of power continuously and other portions require a large amount of power intermittently. An example of such a device may be a tape player which uses a multi-track stereo tape cartridge. During most of the operating cycle of such a tape player the power consumption is low. However, when it is necessary to position the tape head adjacent different tracks on the tape an electromagnetic device, which requires a large amount of power, is actuated for a short duration of time. Since the power supply must be capable of producing the maximum power required, the power supply is much larger and more expensive than would be required for operation of the tape player when it is only reproducing the signals stored on the tape.

A smaller power supply can be used if an energy storing circuit is provided which can receive energy during the low power operating periods of device and which can deliver the stored energy to the electromagnetic device as required. However, an energy storage circuit increases the expense and size of the electronic device and requires extra components.

Summary of the invention

It is, therefore, an object of this invention to provide an improved energy storage circuit which provides a high power actuating pulse for an electromagnetic device.

Another object of this invention is to provide an energy storage circuit which provides a high power actuating pulse for an electromagnetic device and which also provides filtering for the DC potential from the power supply.

In practicing this invention a circuit is provided for filtering the DC output of a rectifier circuit to deliver substantially pure direct current to utilization stages. The filtering circuit includes an energizing coil for an electromagnetic device, such as a solenoid, and a capacitor for storing energy. The capacitor and the energizing coil form a filter network for reducing the ripple voltage on the DC potential. A switch is provided for connecting the capacitor across the energizing coil as desired. With the capacitor connected across the energizing coil the energy stored in the capacitor is sufficient to operate the electromagnetic device.

The invention is shown in the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a partial schematic and partial block diagram of a circuit incorporating the features of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a view of the tape player mechanism; and

FIG. 3 is a partial schematic and partial block diagram of another embodiment of the circuit shown in FIG. 1.

Description of the invention

Referring to FIG. 1, a rectifier circuit **10** receives AC power which is rectified to form a DC potential having a ripple voltage thereon. Filter circuit **11** couples the DC potential to pre-amplifier **12** and to other electronic stages as desired. Filter **11** acts to reduce the ripple voltage as required by the stages using the DC potential.

Filter **11** includes a filter stage consisting of resistor **14**, capacitor **15** and inductance **16**. Inductance **16** can be the energizing coil for a solenoid operated device **23**. Additional filtering, provided by resistor **18** and capacitor **19**, may be included as required.

FIG. 2 shows a tape drive and head positioning mechanism for use in a stereo tape player and which incorporates the solenoid operated device **23** of FIG. 1. A tape **30**, which may be contained in a tape cartridge, (not shown) is drawn past tape head **31** by means of capstan shaft **32** and pressure roller **33**. For example, music may be recorded on the tape on a plurality of parallel tracks in order to make optimum use of the recording capabilities of the tape. In the example shown the tape has eight tracks and since the system is a stereo system, the music on two tracks is played back simultaneously to produce the stereo effect.

The tape head **31** contains a pair of magnetic pickups **35** and **36** which are positioned opposite different tracks. In this example magnetic pickup **35** is positioned opposite track **6** and magnetic pickup **36** is positioned opposite track **2**.

In order to play back the music recorded on the other tracks of tape **30** it is necessary to position tape head **31** so that magnetic pickups **35** and **36** are opposite different tracks, for example, track **1** and track **5** or track **3** and track **7**. To do this tape head **31** is moved up and down by means of head positioning cam **38** which moves transfer pin **39** up and down. Transfer pin **39** is fastened to the tape head supporting structure **40** so that the upward and downward movement of transfer pin **39** acts to move the tape head **31** up and down.

Head positioning cam **38** includes ratchet **42** driven by a pawl **43**. Pawl **43** is connected to a solenoid plunger **44** positioned within solenoid coil **45**. Energization of solenoid coil **45** centers plunger **44** within coil **45** causing pawl **43** to move ratchet **42** and head positioning cam **39** and also to compress return spring **47**. De-energization of solenoid **45** permits return spring **47** to return pawl **43** to its normal position causing a further movement of ratchet **42** and head positioning cam **39**.

Solenoid **45** is actuated automatically at the end of each track to reposition magnetic pickups **35** and **36** to the next track. Solenoid **45** can also be actuated manually to change the position of the magnetic pickups with respect to the tracks as desired. The power required for actuation of solenoid **45** is greater than that required for normal operation of the tape player mechanism including the electronic circuits. Thus the tape player power supply must be large enough to provide the extra power needed by solenoid **45** or some storage means must be provided for storing the extra power needed for actuation of this solenoid.

Referring again to FIG. 1, in normal operation filter circuit **11** provides a filtered DC current to preamplifier **12** through coil **16**. However, the current flow through energizing coil **16** is not sufficient to operate solenoid **23**. Also during normal operation, the filtering action of filter **11** causes energy to be stored in capacitor **15**. Switch **22** can be actuated to connect capacitor **15** across energizing coil **16** to apply the energy stored in capacitor **15** to the energizing coil. The additional current flow through en-

ergizing coil **16**, provided by the energy stored in capacitor **15**, is sufficient to operate slenoid **23** to perform the mechanical operations required.

In FIG. 3 there is shown another embodiment of this circuit. An AC potential supplied to transformer **50** is coupled to rectifiers **51** and **52** to provide a DC output potential having a ripple voltage thereon. DC output potential is coupled to a preamplifier **53** by filter **55** and switch **54**. A tape head **68** may be provided for reading magnetic signals stored on a tape and converting the same to electrical signals for amplification by preamplifier **53**. Th DC potential from filter **55** may also be supplied to other stages **56** of the tape player as required.

In order to play a multi-track tape, tape head **68** must be positioned opposite the desired track. This is accomplished by tape head positioning mechanism **67** which is operated by solenoid energizing coil **62**. Energizing coil **62** together with capacitor **61** and resistor **60** form a part of filter circuit **55**. Additional filtering provided by resistor **63** and capacitor **64** may be used as required. Thus the DC potential from transformer **50** and rectifiers **51** and **52** is filtered by filter **35** to provide a filtered DC current for preamplifier **53**.

In normal operation the DC current flowing through energizing coil **62** is not sufficient to actuate the tape head positioning mechanism. During the filtering action of filter **55** energy is stored in capacitor **61**. When it is desired to actuate tape head positioning mechanism **67**, switches **54** and **59**, mechanically coupled together, are moved to the second position. In the second position transformer **50** is disconnected from filter **55** by switch **54** and capacitor **61** is connected across energizing coil **62** by switch **59**. The energy stored in capacitor **61** is sufficient to energize the tape head transfer mechanism **67** to position tape head **68** is desired. With switches **54** and **59** returned to position one filter **55** again supplies current to the preamplifier **53** and other stages and through the filtering action of filter **55**, energy is again stored in capacitor **61**. In circuits of this type which have been constructed it has been found that sufficient energy to energize coil **62** can be stored in capacitor **61** in ¾ of a second. However, the invention is not limited to a circuit having this time constant.

Thus a circuit has been shown which provides both a filtered DC potential and an actuating pulse for an electro-magnetic device. By combining the two functions the number of components and the cost of the circuit is reduced. Further a smaller, more efficient and less expensive power supply can be used.

I claim:

1. A circuit for providing a filtered DC potential from an AC potential and an actuating pulse for an electromagnetic device, including in combination, rectifying means adapted to receive the AC potential and providing therefrom a DC potential having a ripple voltage thereon, the electromagnetic device having an energizing coil with an output terminal adapted to be coupled to utilization means and an input terminal, first resistance means coupling said input terminal to said rectifying means, and first capacitor means coupled to one of said input and output terminals, said energizing coil, said first resistance means and said first capacitor means forming a first filter network for reducing the magnitude of said ripple voltage at said output terminal whereby energy is stored in said first capacitor means, switch means coupled to said first capacitor means and the other of said input and output terminals, actuation of said switch means acting to couple said first capacitor means across said energizing coil whereby said energy stored in said first capacitor means actuates said energizing coil.

2. The circuit of claim **1** and further including utilization means, circuit means coupling said output terminal to said utilization means, said circuit means including second resistance means and second capacitor means coupled to form a second filter network for further reducing the magnitude of said ripple voltage.

3. The circuit of claim **2** wherein, said electromagnetic device is a solenoid with said energizing coil forming a portion of said solenoid.

4. In a tape player adapted to be powered from an AC potential and having a multi-track stereo tape and a stereo tape head with an electromagnetically actuated cam mechanism mechanically coupled to the tape head for locating the tape head opposite desired tracks on the tape, the combination including, rectifying means adapted to receive the AC potential and providing therefrom a DC potential having a ripple voltage thereon, the electromagnetically actuated cam mechanism including an energizing coil with an output terminal and an input terminal, first resistance means coupling said input terminal to said rectifying means, and first capacitor means coupled to said input terminal, utilization means, circuit means coupling said output terminal to said utilization means for applying said DC potential thereto, said energizing coil, said first resistance means and said first capacitor means forming a filter network for reducing the magnitude of said ripple voltage, whereby energy is stored in said first capacitor means, switch means coupled to said first capacitor means and said output terminal, actuation of said switch means acting to couple said first capacitor means across said energizing coil whereby said energy stored in said first capacitor means actuates said energizing coil.

5. The circuit of claim **4** wherein, said circuit means includes second resistance means and second capacitance means for further reducing the magnitude of said ripple voltage.

6. The circuit of claim **5** wherein, said electromagnetically actuated cam mechanism includes a solenoid for operating the cam mechanism with said energizing coil forming a portion of said solenoid.

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BERNARD KONICK, *Primary Examiner.*

J. P. MULLINS, *Assistant Examiner.*

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