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(54) Title: METHOD OF OPERATING AT LEAST ONE FLUORESCENT LAMP WITH ELECTRONIC BALLAST, AND BALLAST THEREFOR

(54) Bezeichnung: VERFAHREN ZUM BETREIBEN MINDESTENS EINER LEUCHTSTOFFLAMPE MIT EINEM ELEKTRONISCHEN VORSCHALTGERÄT SOWIE VORSCHALTGERÄT DAFÜR

(57) Abstract

The invention concerns a method of operating at least one fluorescent lamp (FL) by means of electronic ballast and the ballast itself. A rectifier bridge (GL) at a.c. supply voltage (L, N), a connected high-value regulator (L1, D1, V1), a half-bridge circuit (V2, V3) and a control and regulating circuit (IC) are provided for continuously monitoring the lamp current with a regulated control circuit (CCO, SEL, HSD, LSD) for the power transistors (V2, V3) which maintains the bulb current constant during normal operation. As a master control system, a time-value emitting device (PST, IT, CT), which is activated in a specific manner whenever the lamp is activated or a fault is detected, generates a time base for a monitoring circuit (MON) which evaluates the lamp current at any particular moment at predetermined reference levels (Mp, Mi and Mo) which differ in individual time sections (Δt_1 , Δt_2 , Δt_3 , Δt_4) and which, via the regulated control circuit (CCO, IST, SEL, HSD, LSD), controls the lamp current as a function of time if the lamp starts normally and triggers automatic switching-off of the electronic ballast in the event of a fault.

