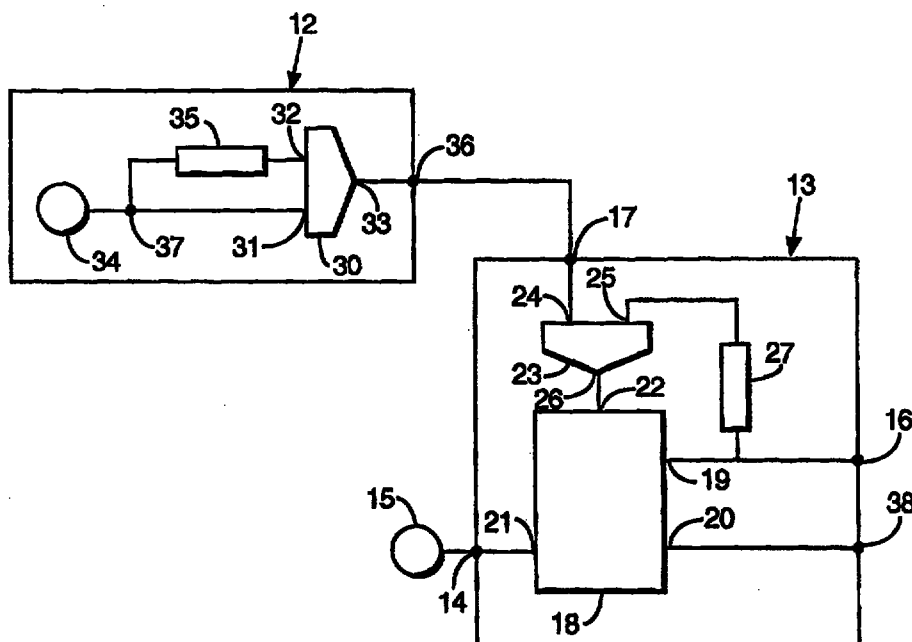




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(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for generating an optical bit slot window in which N bit slots having the same logical state are generated. A switching device is used which is coupled to an optical pulse source which generates optical pulses in successive bit slots, each optical pulse representing a logical state. Switching signals are then applied to a switching input of the switching device so as to selectively switch a connection between the input and an output. Consequently the logical state of the output is controlled to generate the required N bit slot window.