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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

DISCHARGE GAP APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 This invention relates to a discharge gap apparatus favorably adopted in a power receiving section for receiving power particularly from a commercial AC power supply in a printed circuit board used in TV sets, videotape recorders, and electronic
10 equipment such as communications equipment.

2. Description of the Related Art

 In a printed circuit board of prior art electronic equipment, a power receiving section includes a lightning-stroke protection circuit. This circuit aims
15 at releasing a lightning voltage guided to an external antenna and supplying the resultant lightning voltage toward an external commercial AC power supply. This technique is disclosed in Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2000-69666.

20 The lightning-stroke protection circuit includes a discharge gap circuit, and a discharge gap is discharged when lightning strikes. Paying attention to the discharge gap circuit, it is preferable to reduce the discharge gap and drop a lightning surge discharge
25 start voltage in order to smoothly discharge the discharge gap when lightning strikes. Individual countries set their respective standards for safety for

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the discharge gap circuit. In other words, a distance between the primary and secondary parts (conductors) of the circuit is defined. Because of the standards for safety, the gap cannot be decreased carelessly. The distance between the primary and secondary conductors, which conforms to the standards for safety, contradicts with a reduction in the discharge gap to lower the lightning surge discharge start voltage.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is accordingly an object of the example embodiments to provide a discharge gap apparatus that is capable of decreasing a lightning surge discharge start voltage without reducing an interval between primary and secondary terminals.

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a discharge gap apparatus comprising: a discharge gap section including first and second conductive patterns arranged on an insulating substrate at regular intervals and a third conductive pattern arranged thereon close to the first and second conductive patterns, a first gap being formed between the first and third conductive patterns, and a second gap being formed between the second and third conductive patterns; connecting terminal sections provided in the second and third conductive patterns, respectively and located away from the second gap, an interval between the connecting terminal sections being

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greater than the second gap; and a capacitor connected between the connecting terminal sections.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a discharge gap apparatus comprising: a primary terminal having a first discharge section; a secondary terminal having a second discharge section and arranged at a given distance from the primary terminal; a third terminal provided close to the first discharge section and the second discharge section and having third and fourth discharge sections opposed to the first and second discharge sections, respectively, a first gap being formed between the first and third discharge sections, and a second gap being formed between the second and fourth discharge sections; connecting terminal sections provided in the secondary and third terminals, respectively and located away from the second gap, an interval between the connecting terminal sections being greater than the second gap; and a capacitor connected between the connecting terminal sections.

In accordance with a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a discharge gap apparatus comprising: a primary terminal having a first discharge section; a secondary terminal arranged at a given distance from the primary terminal and having a second discharge section opposed to the first discharge section; a floating-point terminal arranged between the first and second discharge sections and having third and

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fourth discharge sections opposed to the first and second discharge sections, respectively, a first gap being formed between the first and third discharge sections and a second gap being formed between the second and fourth discharge sections; connecting terminals provided in the secondary terminal and the floating-point terminal, respectively and located away from the second gap, an interval between the connecting terminals being greater than the second gap; and a capacitor connected between the connecting terminals.

In accordance with a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a discharge gap apparatus formed on a printed wiring board, comprising: a first primary pattern including a first discharge section having a plurality of pointed projections; a second primary pattern including a second discharge section having a plurality of pointed projections and formed at a given distance from the first primary pattern; a secondary pattern formed at a distance from the first and second primary patterns and including a pair of third discharge sections opposed to the first and second discharge sections; a floating-point pattern arranged between the primary patterns and the secondary pattern, and including a pair of fourth discharge sections opposed to the first and second discharge sections, respectively and a pair of fifth discharge sections opposed to the third discharge sections, respectively, a first gap being formed between the first and second discharge sections and the fourth discharge sections,

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and a second gap being formed between the third discharge sections and the fifth discharge sections; connecting terminals provided in the secondary pattern and the floating-point pattern, respectively and located away from the second gap, an interval between the connecting terminals being greater than the second gap; and a discharge-including capacitor connected between the connecting terminals.

With the above structure, an interval between the primary and secondary terminals may satisfy the standards for safety. Even under the circumstances, the capacitor may fulfill a function of inducing discharge. The discharge start voltage may thus be lowered to obtain smooth discharge.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a basic structure of a discharge gap apparatus according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

5 FIG. 2 is a diagram of a charge gap apparatus according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a diagram of a charge gap apparatus according to a third embodiment of the present
10 invention;

FIG. 4 is a circuit diagram of a power receiving section to which the present invention is applied; and

FIGS. 5A to 5E are diagrams each showing another example of the present invention.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 illustrates a basic structure of a discharge gap apparatus according to a first embodiment
20 of the present invention. In FIG. 1, reference numeral 100 indicates a printed wiring board. Primary and secondary terminals 11 and 22 are printed by patterning on the printed wiring board 100. The primary terminal 11 includes a primary discharge section 1 for discharge,
25 while the secondary terminal 22 includes a secondary discharge section 2 for discharge.

A floating-point terminal 33 is printed by

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patterning between the primary and secondary terminals 11 and 22. This terminal 33 has first and second floating-point discharge sections 31 and 32 on a line connecting the primary and secondary discharge sections 1 and 2. These sections 31 and 32 are integrated as one component.

A capacitor 44 for connecting the floating-point terminal 33 and the secondary terminal 22 is provided away from the line connecting the sections 1 and 2. The capacitor 44 is located in a space having a distance L_3 (e.g., 7.5 mm) that is greater than the shortest distance between the terminals 22 and 33. The terminals 22 and 33 have their extended terminal portions 24 and 34, respectively.

The foregoing discharge gap apparatus has a two-stage discharge gap structure. In this structure, a first discharge gap is formed between the primary discharge section 1 and the first floating-point discharge section 31 and a second discharge gap is formed between the second floating-point discharge sections 32 and the secondary discharge section 2. As described above, the capacitor 44 (which satisfies a standard for withstand voltages) is connected between the secondary terminal 22 and the floating-point terminal 33 to lower a lightning surge discharge start voltage.

The fact that the circuit arrangement of the above

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discharge gap apparatus satisfies a design standard will now be described. The total of the first discharge gap L1 (e.g., 3.5 mm) and the second discharge gap L2 (e.g., 3 mm) is 6 mm or more. This value satisfies standards for safety (IEC, UL, CSA, and the Electrical Appliance and Material Control Law) that define a gap between the primary and secondary conductors.

In the normal operation, the UL, CSA and Electrical Appliance and Material Control Law require that no discharge occur when a withstand voltage between the primary and secondary terminals 11 and 22 is not higher than 1.0 kV (r.m.s. value) $\rightarrow 1 \text{ kV} \times \sqrt{2} = 1.41 \text{ kV}$ (0-peak) or no electrical breakdown be produced. The IEC-65 requires that no discharge occur when the withstand voltage is not higher than 3.0 kV (r.m.s. value) $\rightarrow 3 \text{ kV} \times \sqrt{2} = 4.4 \text{ kV}$ (0-peak). In order to meet the requirements, a given gap should be set between the primary and secondary terminals.

The capacitor 44 is connected between the secondary terminal 22 and the floating-point terminal 33 which are separated from each other with a gap of 3 mm therebetween. The capacitor 44 conforms to the standards for safety and satisfies an insulating function under the standards. As the capacitor 44, a line bypass capacitor (popularly called a Y capacitor) is adopted to satisfy the standards for safety in each

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country. Under the IEC standard, the capacitor is classified as IEC 384-14, second edition, class II. Under the UL and CSA standards, it is classified as IEC 348-14, second edition, class I (or class II). Under the Electrical Appliance and Material Control Law, it is classified as IEC 348-14, second edition, class I or class II. The design standard is therefore satisfied even though the capacitor 44 is provided.

A function of the two-stage discharge gap, which is carried out when a lightning surge occurs, will now be described.

Since the capacitor 44 is connected between the floating-point terminal 33 and the secondary terminal 22, these terminals are insulated from each other at the same potential in the early stage. If a lightning voltage is guided, discharge (a short circuit) is caused between the primary discharge section 1 of the primary terminal 11 and the first floating-point discharge section 31 of the floating-point terminal 33 and then between the second floating-point discharge section 32 of the floating-point terminal 33 and the secondary discharge section 2 of the secondary terminal 22. Consequently, the primary and secondary terminals are discharged.

In the apparatus of the present invention, the capacitor 44 allows a lightning surge discharge start voltage to drop when lightning strikes. The reason for

this is as follows. Assuming now that the impedance of the capacitor 44 is Z_c , the following equation is given:

$$Z_c = (1/\omega C) = (1/2\pi f \cdot C) = (1/2\pi C) \times (1/f)$$

5 where f is frequency and C is capacitance of the capacitor 44.

Since the lightning voltage has a high frequency, the capacitor 44 is considered to be short-circuited when lightning strikes. This situation is equal to the application of a lightning voltage only between the primary terminal 11 and the floating-point terminal 33. The narrower the gap, the lower the discharge start voltage. Thus, the discharge start voltage in the above apparatus is lower than that in an apparatus having no capacitors.

Discharge means that an insulator is punctured and short-circuited. The short-circuited portion is located between the primary discharge section 1 and the first floating-point discharge section 31 and between the second floating-point discharge section 32 and the secondary discharge section 2. Discharge current flows through the short-circuited portion and not through the capacitor 44. This phenomenon depends upon the connecting position of the capacitor 44. In other words, the capacitor 44 is located at a distance from the line connecting the primary and secondary discharge sections 1 and 2, and connects the secondary discharge

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section 2 and the second floating-point discharge section 32 in a space whose width $L3$ is greater than the shortest distance $L2$.

5 The advantages of the present invention are summarized as follows:

(1) The lightning surge discharge start voltage between the primary and secondary terminals can be lowered without narrowing a gap between these terminals (the lightning surge discharge start voltage can be
10 lowered though the gap is the same as a common one-stage discharge gap).

(2) The discharge gap apparatus of the present invention can be manufactured at low cost because it can be achieved by adding pattern design (floating-point terminal) and one capacitor to a conventional
15 discharge gap apparatus.

(3) The capacitor in use conforms to the standards for safety. No special parts are required. The standards for safety can thus easily be obtained for
20 the discharge gap apparatus of the present invention.

(4) Since no parts are connected between the primary and secondary terminals, no leakage current increases, no capacitance increases, no noise propagates, no power-supply radiation varies, or no
25 polarities exist.

(5) Since discharge is caused by only the discharge gap, a component (provided on the substrate)

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whose lightning surge discharge withstand voltage is low can be used. When an interval between the primary and secondary terminals is determined in the substrate pattern, the lower limit (small value) of standards for safety can be selected and the area of the substrate can be reduced.

(6) Since no lightning surge discharge current flows through the capacitor, the capacitor increases in lightning discharge withstand voltage and in lifetime and improves in durability.

(7) Even though a discharge section for A-pole and B-pole of a commercial AC power supply is provided at the primary terminal, one capacitor has only to be used, as will be described later.

(8) The discharge gap circuit can be conformed to the standards for safety of individual countries by adjusting the gap lengths L_1 and L_2 .

(9) As will be described later, an opening is formed in the board in the locations of the primary and secondary discharge gaps. Therefore, no carbon is adhered to gap portions during the discharge, and the same discharge start voltage as that in the early stage of the next discharge can stably be generated.

FIG. 2 illustrates a charge gap apparatus according to a second embodiment of the present invention. The constituting elements of the apparatus, which correspond to those of the first embodiment, will

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be described with the same reference numerals assigned thereto. In FIG. 2, reference numeral 100 indicates a printed wiring board on which terminals (described below) are printed by patterning.

5 Reference numeral 51 denotes a plug connected to a commercial AC power supply. One line (A pole) of the plug is connected to an A-pole primary terminal 11a and the other line (B pole) thereof is connected to a B-pole primary terminal 11b. The A-pole primary terminal 11a includes a primary discharge section 1a for
10 discharge, while a secondary terminal 22 includes a secondary discharge section 2a for discharge. The B-pole primary terminal 11b includes a primary discharge section 1b for discharge, while the secondary terminal
15 22 includes a secondary discharge section 2b for discharge.

 The primary terminals 11a and 11b are arranged in parallel with and independently of each other. A floating-point terminal 33 is printed by patterning
20 between the primary terminals 11a and 11b and the secondary terminal 22. The terminal 33 includes a first floating-point discharge section 31a and a second floating-point discharge section 32a on a line connecting the primary and secondary discharge sections
25 1a and 2a. The discharge sections 31a and 32a are integrated as one component. The terminal 33 also includes a first floating-point discharge section 31b

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and a second floating-point discharge section 32b on a line connecting the primary and secondary discharge sections 1b and 2b. The discharge sections 31b and 32b are integrated as one component.

5 A capacitor 44 for connecting the secondary terminal 22 and the floating-point terminal 33 is provided at a distance from the primary discharge sections 1a and 1b and the secondary discharge sections 2a and 2b. The capacitor 44 is located in a space
10 having a distance L3 (e.g., 7.5 mm) that is greater than the shortest distance between the terminals 22 and 33. Thus, the terminals 22 and 33 have their extended terminal portions 24 and 34, respectively.

 The secondary terminal 22 has a notch 253 such
15 that a portion 251 of the terminal 22, which is connected to the capacitor 44, separates from an edge 252 of the secondary terminal 22 through which a discharge current is easy to flow. The notch 253 is effective in preventing a discharge current from
20 flowing into the capacitor 44 when lightning strikes.

 The board 100 has a slit-like opening 55. The discharge sections 1a, 1b, 31a, 32a, 31b, 32b, 2a and 2b each have a pair of pointed projections toward a discharge gap. The second embodiment fulfills the same
25 function as that of the first embodiment described above.

 Even though two discharge sections are provided at

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the primary terminal for A- and B-poles of a commercial AC power supply, one capacitor has only to be used.

Since the opening 55 is formed in the board in the locations of the primary and secondary discharge gaps,

5 no carbon is adhered to the gap portions during the discharge, with the result that the same discharge start voltage as that in the early stage of the next discharge can stably be generated. Since, moreover, each discharge section has a pair of pointed
10 projections, discharge can be caused from one of the projections even though the other projection is broken. Distance L4 between the A-pole and B-pole primary terminals 11a and 11b is, for example, 3.5 mm or more so as to satisfy the standard of an AC input section.

15 FIG. 3 depicts a charge gap apparatus according to a third embodiment of the present invention. The constituting elements of the apparatus, which correspond to those of the second embodiment, will be described with the same reference numerals assigned
20 thereto. In the third embodiment, an A-pole line of a plug 51 is connected to a primary terminal 11a via a printed pattern 61, while a B-pole line thereof is connected to another primary terminal 11b via a printed pattern 62, a fuse 63, a printed pattern 64, and a
25 jumper wire 65. The other elements are almost the same as those of the apparatus shown in FIG. 2. Each of discharge sections 1a, 1b, 31a, 32a, 31b, 32b, 2a and

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2b are thickened because solder is attached thereto. Thus, the discharge sections can maintain their durability even though they are cut by discharge. While the thickness of a printed wiring pattern is 35
5 microns, that of the thickest solder portion of each discharge section is about 0.5 mm.

FIG. 4 is a circuit diagram simply showing a power receiving section to which the present invention is applied. The constituents corresponding to those of
10 the above embodiments are denoted by the same reference numerals. In the power receiving section, an A-pole of a power line is connected to a printed pattern 61 and a B-pole thereof is connected to another printed pattern 62. A capacitor 71 is an insulating capacitor
15 connected between A-pole and B-pole lines. Diodes 72 and 73 are connected in series between these lines as protection circuits. Numeral 74 indicates a transformer for transforming an input voltage. It is
20 discharge sections 75 and 76 that the present invention is applied to.

The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiments. According to the embodiments, the discharge gap apparatus is provided on a printed wiring board having a power receiving section and a
25 secondary terminal integrally as one component. However, it is needless to say that the elements as shown in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3 can be constituted as a

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single component.

Let us explain distance W between the primary and secondary terminals 11 and 22 each constituting a discharge section under the standards of the Electrical Appliance and Material Control Law, UL, CSA and IEC-65. The distance W is 2.0 mm or longer under the standard of the Electrical Appliance and Material Control Law, 3.2 mm or longer under the UL standard, 3.0 mm or longer under the CSA standard, and 6.0 mm or longer under the IEC-65 standard. Providing a floating-point terminal 33 as in the present invention, its position has to be determined so as to satisfy the distance W. In other words, distance W1 should be set between the discharge sections 1 and 31 and so should be distance W2 between the discharge sections 32 and 2.

The following are allowable values of the distances W1 and W2. Under the standard of the Electrical Appliance and Material Control Law, distance W1 is 1.0 mm to 2.8 mm (preferably 2.0 mm) and distance W2 is 1.0 mm to 2.1 mm (preferably 1.5 mm). The standard of the Electrical Appliance and Material Control Law is therefore satisfied when distance W is 2 mm or longer. Under the UL standard, distance W1 is 1.0 mm to 3.5 mm (preferably 2.0 mm) and distance W2 is 1.0 mm to 2.0 mm (preferably 1.5 mm). The UL standard is therefore satisfied when distance W is 3.2 mm to 4.0 mm. Under the CSA standard, distance W1 is 1.0 mm

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to 3.3 mm (preferably 2.0 mm) and distance W2 is 1.0 mm to 2.0 mm (preferably 1.5 mm). The CSA standard is therefore satisfied when distance W is 3.0 mm to 4.0 mm. Under the IEC-65 standard, distance W1 is 3.0 mm to 4.5 mm (preferably 3.5 mm) and distance W2 is 2.0 mm to 4.5 mm (preferably 3.0 mm). The IEC-65 standard is therefore satisfied when distance W is 6.0 mm to 8.0 mm.

The pattern of the discharge gap apparatus of the present invention is not limited to those shown in FIGS. 1 to 3. The apparatus can be constituted in the patterns as illustrated in FIGS. 5A to 5E.

In the pattern depicted in FIG. 5A, the primary terminal 11, secondary terminal 22 and floating-point terminal 33 are arranged linearly. Terminal portions 24 and 34 are located at a distance from a gap formed between discharge sections 2 and 32. The interval between the terminal portions 24 and 34 is greater than the gap.

In the pattern depicted in FIG. 5B, the secondary terminal 22 and the floating-point terminal 33 are arranged in parallel with a given gap therebetween. The terminal portions 24 and 34 are located at a distance from a gap formed between the discharge sections 2 and 32. The interval between the terminal portions 24 and 34 is greater than the gap.

In the pattern depicted in FIG. 5C, a gap between the discharge sections 1 and 31 and a gap between the

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discharge sections 2 and 32 are displaced up and down from each other. The terminal portions 24 and 34 are located at a distance from the gap formed between the discharge sections 2 and 32. The interval between the terminal portions 24 and 34 is greater than the gap.

In the pattern depicted in FIG. 5D, a terminal portion 14 is provided at the primary terminal 11 and a capacitor 44 is connected between the terminal portion 14 and the terminal portion 34 of the floating-point terminal 33. The terminal portions 14 and 34 are located at a distance from a gap formed between the discharge sections 1 and 31. The interval between the terminal portions 14 and 34 is greater than the gap.

In the pattern depicted in FIG. 5E, the primary and secondary terminals 11 and 22 are arranged up and down, and a floating-point terminal 33 is provided opposite to the discharge sections 1 and 2. Discharge sections 31 and 32 are formed at the terminal 33 so as to face the discharge sections 1 and 2. In this pattern, too, the terminal portions 24 and 34 are located a distance from a gap formed between the discharge sections 2 and 32, and the interval between the terminal portions 24 and 34 is greater than the gap.

Various modifications to the above-described patterns can be made.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A discharge gap apparatus comprising:

a discharge gap section including first and second
conductive patterns arranged on an insulating substrate
at regular intervals and a third conductive pattern
arranged thereon close to the first and second
conductive patterns, a first gap being formed between
the first and third conductive patterns, and a second
gap being formed between the second and third
conductive patterns;

connecting terminal sections provided in the
second and third conductive patterns, respectively and
located away from the second gap, an interval between
the connecting terminal sections being greater than the
second gap; and

a capacitor connected between the connecting
terminal sections.

2. The discharge gap apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein a total of the first gap and the
second gap is set to satisfy an insulation standard.

3. The discharge gap apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the first conductive pattern is
connected to a commercial AC power supply constituting
a primary circuit and the second conductive pattern is
connected to a connection point of a secondary circuit.

4. The discharge gap apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the third conductive pattern is

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provided between the first conductive pattern and the second conductive pattern.

5 5. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first gap and the second gap are arranged linearly.

6. A discharge gap apparatus comprising:
a primary terminal having a first discharge section;

10 a secondary terminal having a second discharge section and arranged at a given distance from the primary terminal;

15 a third terminal provided close to the first discharge section and the second discharge section and having third and fourth discharge sections opposed to the first and second discharge sections, respectively, a first gap being formed between the first and third discharge sections, and a second gap being formed between the second and fourth discharge sections;

20 connecting terminal sections provided in the secondary and third terminals, respectively and located away from the second gap, an interval between the connecting terminal sections being greater than the second gap; and

25 a capacitor connected between the connecting terminal sections.

7. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the primary terminal, the secondary

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terminal and the third terminal are printed on a printed wiring board.

8. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a total of the first gap and the second gap is set to satisfy an insulation standard.

9. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the primary terminal is connected to a commercial AC power supply constituting a primary circuit and the secondary terminal is connected to a connection point of a secondary circuit.

10. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 6, wherein solder is attached to the first, second, third and fourth discharge sections.

11. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the discharge sections opposed to each other each have a plurality of pointed projections.

12. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a slit is formed in a lower part of at least one of the first and second gaps.

13. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the first gap is $W1$ and the second gap is $W2$, $W1 = 3.0$ mm to 4.5 mm (preferably 3.5 mm), $W2 = 2.0$ mm to 4.5 mm (preferably 3.0 mm), and $W1 + W2 = 6.0$ mm to 8.0 mm.

14. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the first gap is $W1$ and the second gap is $W2$, $W1 = 1.0$ mm to 2.8 mm (preferably

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2.0 mm), $W2 = 1.0$ mm to 2.1 mm (preferably 1.5 mm), and
 $W1 + W2 = 2.0$ mm or more.

15 15. The discharge gap apparatus according to
claim 6, wherein when the first gap is $W1$ and the
second gap is $W2$, $W1 = 1.0$ mm to 3.5 mm (preferably
2.0 mm), $W2 = 1.0$ mm to 2.0 mm (preferably 1.5 mm), and
 $W1 + W2 = 3.2$ mm to 4.0 mm.

10 16. The discharge gap apparatus according to
claim 6, wherein when the first gap is $W1$ and the
second gap is $W2$, $W1 = 1.0$ mm to 3.3 mm (preferably
2.0 mm), $W2 = 1.0$ mm to 2.0 mm (preferably 1.5 mm), and
 $W1 + W2 = 3.0$ mm to 4.0 mm.

15 17. The discharge gap apparatus according to
claim 6, wherein the primary terminal includes a pair
of terminals each having a primary discharge section,
the secondary terminal includes a pair of second
discharge sections, and the third terminal includes
pairs of third and fourth discharge sections.

20 18. The discharge gap apparatus according to
claim 17, wherein an interval between the terminals of
the primary terminal is set at 3 mm or more.

19. A discharge gap apparatus comprising:

a primary terminal having a first discharge
section;

25 a secondary terminal arranged at a given distance
from the primary terminal and having a second discharge
section opposed to the first discharge section;

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a floating-point terminal arranged between the first and second discharge sections and having third and fourth discharge sections opposed to the first and second discharge sections, respectively, a first gap
5 being formed between the first and third discharge sections and a second gap being formed between the second and fourth discharge sections;

connecting terminals provided in the secondary terminal and the floating-point terminal, respectively
10 and located away from the second gap, an interval between the connecting terminals being greater than the second gap; and

a capacitor connected between the connecting terminals.

15 20. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the first gap and the second gap are arranged linearly.

21. A discharge gap apparatus formed on a printed wiring board, comprising:

20 a first primary pattern including a first discharge section having a plurality of pointed projections;

a second primary pattern including a second discharge section having a plurality of pointed
25 projections and formed at a given distance from the first primary pattern;

a secondary pattern formed at a distance from the

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first and second primary patterns and including a pair of third discharge sections opposed to the first and second discharge sections;

5 a floating-point pattern arranged between the primary patterns and the secondary pattern, and including a pair of fourth discharge sections opposed to the first and second discharge sections, respectively and a pair of fifth discharge sections opposed to the third discharge sections, respectively,
10 a first gap being formed between the first and second discharge sections and the fourth discharge sections, and a second gap being formed between the third discharge sections and the fifth discharge sections;

connecting terminals provided in the secondary
15 pattern and the floating-point pattern, respectively and located away from the second gap, an interval between the connecting terminals being greater than the second gap; and

20 a discharge-inducing capacitor connected between the connecting terminals.

22. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a slit is formed in the board where at least one of the first gap and the second gap is located.

25 23. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a total of the first gap and the second gap is set to satisfy an insulation standard.

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24. The discharge gap apparatus according to claim 21, wherein solder is attached to the first, second, third, fourth and fifth discharge sections.