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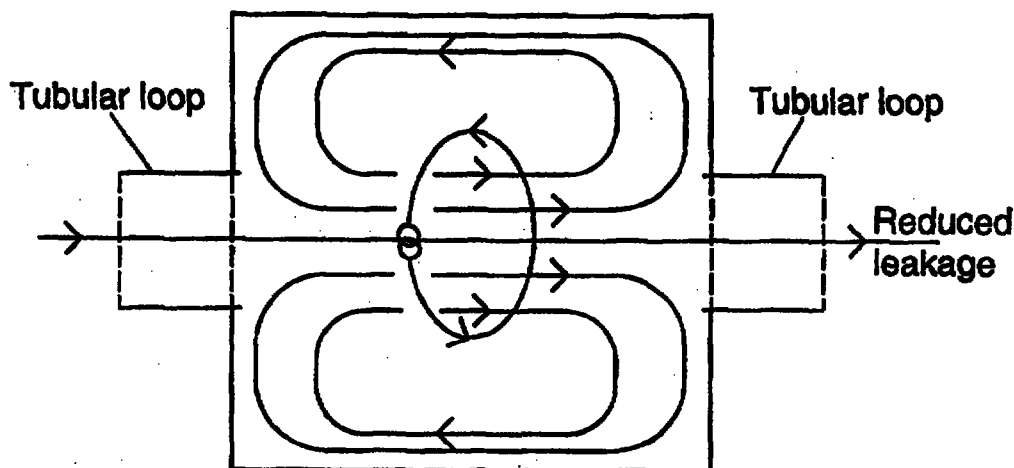
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(57) Abstract

The present invention is applicable to the art of identification, interrogation and communication equipment. The present invention has particular application to equipment used in conjunction with smart cards, tags and like apparatus and including, in one form, an RF based technology, which has found a use in electronic ticketing, monitoring passenger movement and the identification and sorting of airline baggage and/or other items, such as containers or mail items. The present invention, in one form, is predicated on the principle of creating a substantially opposing field, and applying this proximate the interrogator to substantially reduce stray field emissions. The present invention, in another form, combines the physics of conducting tubes and self-cancelling fields and applies them to a tunnel interrogator. The invention thus applies a conducting tube which confines the field and the property of a loop generating a self-cancelling field to an interrogator. This combination may be called a "loop tube". In yet a further invention, the loop tubes are arranged around the perimeter of the shield to suppress tangential field leakage that would normally be immune to the loop tube's suppressing action.