

CAPACITIVE CABLE

The present invention relates to a capacitive cable.

5 In WO 2010/026380 there is described, in terms of its abstract and with reference to Figure 1 hereof:

 A charge transfer zero loss power and signal transmission cable comprising, eight lengths of an electric conducting material (18), being layered in alignment, one on top of the other, each of which can be electrically jointed to give any required
10 length. Each of the conductive layers is separated from each other by alternate layers of a dielectric material (19). The conductive layers (10-17) are formed into a charging folded closed loop (20) and a discharging folded closed loop (21) with the apex of the fold (22) of each folded closed loops in opposition to each other, being the ends of the cable, are separated from each other by a dielectric material (19), thereby making
15 capacitive contact and is the means to transfer an electric charge from the said charging loop to the discharging loop, thereby transmitting an alternating current from a power supply to a point of transmission, with substantially zero resistance, by the said two charging and discharging loops, thereby transmitting power from a power supply over a given distance, to a point of transmission with zero power loss.

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 It is surprising that such a capacitive cable is capable of transmitting data and/or power over a long distance with low, if not completely zero loss. Our initial tests have confirmed this.

25 For this cable, the loop formation is taught to be essential. We believe that the loop formation is not essential.

 The object of the present invention is to provide an improved capacitive cable

30 According to one aspect of the invention there is provided a capacitive cable comprising:

- at least two elongate electrode plates of one polarity, these plates being interconnected at one end of the cable;

- at least two elongate electrode plates of another polarity, these plates being:
 - interdigitated with the plates of the one polarity and being
 - interconnected at the other end of the cable; and
- dielectric material between the interdigitated plates.

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To retain the plates close to each other for maintained capacitance, they can be housed between resilient binding members which have a free curvature away from the plates and which are held together along their edges. This flattens them and applies pressure across the area of the plates pressing the plates in towards each other.

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The bound plates can be encased in an outer casing, either individually or collectively where they form a multi-phase cable. The individual cables can be placed flat on top of each other, i.e. being arranged parallel to each other. Alternatively, they can radiate from a central axis. Divergent spacers between them. The spacers can be circular cylindrical in shape, squeezed to divergent shape. Again they can be individual 120° divergent plastics material extrusion or a single 360° extrusion with flat cable slots set at 120°.

The cable can have a central earth wire or preferably an outer casing of helically arranged earth wires.

We also envisage that cables in accordance with WO 2010/026380 could be arranged diverging from a central axis in like manner.

To help understanding of the invention, a specific embodiment thereof will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is Figure 1 of WO 2010/026380,

Figure 2 is a perspective, broken view of the plates at both ends of a capacitive cable of indefinite length in accordance with the invention,

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional side view of one end of the cable of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a plan view of the one end of the cable of Figure 2,

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional end view of the cable of Figure 2 in position to be closed in a sheath comprising a trough and a cover, which are outwardly concave,

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 5, showing the sheath closed,

Figure 7 is a similar cross-sectional view of three cables in a tri-radial carrier
5 having an armoured casing.

Referring to Figures 2 to 4 of the drawings, the cable there shown is comprised of six long, thin and narrow electrode plates or strips 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106. Typically they are 5km long, 10cm wide and 0.5mm thick of aluminium or copper
10 foil. Individual ones of them are separated by 0.25mm thick polypropylene ribbons 107 insulating the individual strips from each other in an insulating manner. The assembly of strips and ribbons is contained within an insulating sheath 108.

At opposite ends 111, 112, the alternate strips are cut off short and the
15 remaining fingers 114, 115 are joined together and to connection wires 116, 117, typically by riveting 118. The wires are insulated and the insulating sheath extends onto the insulation of the wires, whereby the entire cable is insulated for safe contact with foreign objects between the ends.

To maintain the electrode strips in contact with their separation ribbons, the cable, including the insulation sheath is held within an outer sleeve 121 made up of shallow channel-shaped trough 122 with over-hanging rims 123 and a closure tongue 124 with up-standing lips 125. The trough and the tongue of the sleeve are of plastics material extrusions, moulded with outwardly concave curvature. For use, with the
25 cable in the trough, the tongue is pushed into the trough, with both being flattened. The lips 125 engage under the rims, holding the curvature flattened and applying pressure to hold the strips against dielectric ribbons and the capacitance of the cable high.

For a single phase supply, two pairs of cables are required. They can be
30 bound together flat and edge-to-edge within an earth screen. The edge to edge arrangement mitigates against capacitive interference between cables. Alternatively they can be laid against the opposite sides of a hollow square extrusion of dielectric material, again to mitigate interference and again within an earth screen.

For three phases, the arrangement of Figures 7 can be used. A “tri-radial” plastics material extrusion 131 has a small central tube 132, from which radiate three pairs of webs 133, leaving between them radial slots 134 of a size to accommodate a cable within its outer sleeve 121. Circularly shaped flanges 135 extend between neighbouring webs 133 between adjacent slots 134.

With three cable cables accommodated, a wrapping 136 secures them. Around this earthing, armouring of steel wires 137 is wound followed by an external waterproof sheath 138.

We envisage the following typical parameters for our cables:

- Lengths – between 1km and 1000km, usually between 1km and 100km.
- Widths – between 50mm and 150mm
- Combined Thickness (Foil and Dielectric) – up to 10mm
- No of plates – between 8 and 30
- Plate thickness up to 0.1mm
- Plate material – Aluminium or Copper
- Dielectric thickness – up to 0.5mm
- Dielectric material - Polypropylene
- Capacitance - 80microF per km
- Power capacity – 0.5 to 5GVA

The invention is not intended to be restricted to the details of the above described embodiments. For instance:

The first embodiment can in place of the trough 122 and tongue 124 have two concave tongues and two U-shaped extrusions clipped onto the edges of the tongues to urge them against the strip and ribbon assembly;

The second embodiment can have an earth wire may be incorporated in a central tube 130 of the tri-radial moulding, with the armouring of the cable being polymeric. Further the voids between the radial webs 133 may be filled with material to urge the plates into close capacitive contact.

CLAIMS:

1. A capacitive cable comprising:
 - at least two elongate electrode plates of one polarity, these plates being inter-connected at one end of the cable;
 - 5 • at least two elongate electrode plates of another polarity, these plates being:
 - interdigitated with the plates of the one polarity and being
 - interconnected at the other end of the cable; and
 - dielectric material between the interdigitated plates.
2. A capacitive cable as claimed in claim 1, wherein the interdigitated plates are
10 housed between resilient binding members, to retain the plates close to each other for maintained capacitance, the resilient binding members are preferably adapted to be held together along their edges and preferably comprise a trough and tongue each having interengaging formations adapted to hold them together.
3. A capacitive cable as claimed in claim 2, wherein the resilient binding members
15 have a free curvature away from the plates, whereby the binding members are flattened when interengaged and apply pressure across the area of the plates pressing them in towards each other.
4. A capacitive cable as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the plates
20 are encased in an outer casing or sheath, either individually forming a single phase cable or collectively forming a multi-phase cable.
5. A capacitive cable as claimed in claim 4, wherein the individual cables are placed parallel to each other.
6. A capacitive cable as claimed in claim 4, wherein the individual cables are arranged to radiate from a central axis.
- 25 7. A capacitive cable as claimed in claim 6, including divergent spacers between the radiating cables.
8. A capacitive cable as claimed in claim 7, wherein the divergent spacers are circular cylindrical in shape, squeezed to divergent shape when in place.
9. A capacitive cable as claimed in claim 7, wherein the divergent spacers are
30 individual 120° divergent plastics material extrusions or a single 360° extrusion with flat cable slots set at 120°.
10. A capacitive cable as claimed in any preceding claim, including a central earth wire and/or an outer casing of helically arranged earth wires.