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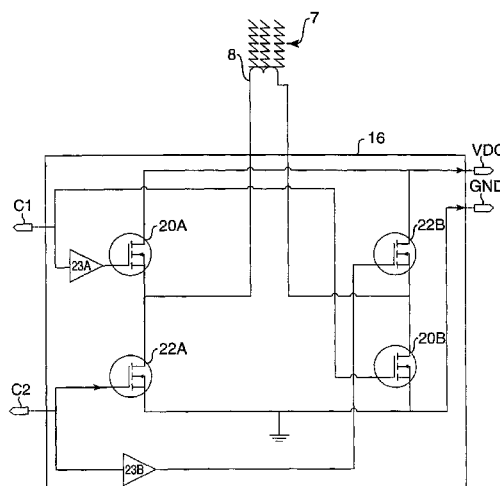
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(54) Title: FIELD CREATION IN A MAGNETIC ELECTRONIC ARTICLE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: In general, the invention is directed to techniques for creating and controlling a magnetic field for use with electronic article surveillance (EAS) markers. In particular, the techniques make use of current switching devices to generate a signal having one or more current pulses for creating the magnetic field. An electronic article surveillance (EAS) system includes a coil to create a magnetic field for changing a status of an EAS marker and a drive unit to output a signal having one or more current pulses for energizing the coil. A programmable processor within the EAS system controls the drive unit to generate the output signal according to a desired profile. By selectively activating and deactivating current switching devices within the drive unit, the processor can direct the drive unit to generate the output signal according to a desired profile having a number of current pulses of different amplitudes and direction.



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