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3 TITLE4
5 INTERNALLY SHIELDED ENERGY CONDITIONER6
7 CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

8 This application claims priority to United States provisional application 60/530,987,
9 filed 12/22/2003, having attorney docket number X2YA0044P-US, and the contents of that
10 application is incorporated herein by reference.

11
12 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

13 This invention relates to electrical technology.

14 More specifically, this invention relates to low inductance devices and energy
15 conditioning.

16
17 DISCUSSION OF THE BACKGROUND

18 The word "terminal" means electrically conductive material at the point at which
19 current enters or leaves an electrical device.

20 The terms "X" capacitor and "line to line capacitor" both mean a two terminal passive
21 lumped circuit element having a capacitance value across the two terminals wherein the two
22 terminals are connected in parallel configuration with a circuit load device. X capacitors are
23 primarily used to prevent electrical droop across loads. That is, X capacitors are typically
24 used to provide a source or sink of electrical energy.

25 The terms "Y" capacitor and "line to ground capacitor" both mean a two terminal
26 passive lumped circuit element having a capacitance value across the two terminals wherein
27 one of the two terminals is connected to a line which is located in a circuit path between a
28 source and a load and the other terminal is connected to an electrically conductive structure
29 that, in lumped circuit diagrams, is usually shown as a ground. However, the voltage
30 potential of the alleged ground may vary depending upon the amount of charge it receives or

1 distributes. In applications, typically, the alleged ground typically is either an earth ground or
2 a chassis ground. However, for purposes of this application, the internal shield structure
3 described below generally is not electrically connected to an external earth or chassis ground.
4 Y capacitors are primarily used to filter noise from signals.

5 One or more lumped circuit elements including X and/or Y capacitors may be
6 fabricated in a single structurally integral electrical device.

7 The term "plate" is used throughout to refer to structure typically formed by layering
8 processes. Use of the term "plate" therefore does not imply structures that are not integrated
9 during their formation. The term "plate" may refer to elements of structures that are
10 integrated during their formation. The term plate as used herein means a structure with at
11 least two relatively large area major surfaces and one or more relatively smaller area edge
12 surfaces. Each major surface may but need not be flat.

13 Energy conditioning means at least one of filtering, decoupling, and transient
14 suppression of electrical energy propagating between a source and a load.

15 Filtering means modifying the frequency spectrum of a signal.

16 Decoupling is a term typically applied to active circuitry. In such circuitry, active
17 devices change their properties, such as trans-conductance, which affects voltage on coupled
18 elements. Decoupling means the minimization of the affects on the voltage of coupled
19 elements due to the changes in the active circuitry.

20 Transients include spikes due to external effects, such as static discharges and
21 parasitics, such as self induction induced in a circuit.

22 A first level interconnect is a structure or device that provides an initial circuit
23 connection to an integrated circuit.

24 An interposer is a structure or device that provides a circuit connection to an
25 integrated circuit.

26 United States Patents (USPs) 6,018,448 and 6,373,673 disclose a variety of devices
27 that provide electrical energy conditioning. The teachings of USPs 6,018,448 and 6,373,673
28 are incorporated herein by reference. PCT application PCT/US2004/000218, now published
29 as publication WO 2004/07095, also disclose a variety of devices that provide electrical
30 energy conditioning. The teachings of PCT/US2004/000218 as published as WO 2004/07095

1 are also incorporated herein by reference.

2 The novel inventions disclosed herein are structures that have certain performance
3 characteristics that significantly improve at least the decoupling aspect of electrical energy
4 conditioning compared to the devices described above.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

6 An object of the invention is to provide a novel structure, a method of making the
7 structure, and a method of using the structure, and related circuit configurations and their use,
8 wherein the structure has a certain capacitance and provides energy conditioning that results
9 in an ultra high insertion loss and improved decoupling.
10

11 Another object of the invention is to provide a circuit or a portion of a circuit
12 including a novel structure of the invention, a method of making the circuit, and a method of
13 using the circuit.

14 Additional objects of the invention are to provide devices, circuits, and methods of
15 using them that provide improved energy conditioning over a wide frequency range.

16 These and other objects of the invention are provided by a novel energy conditioner
17 structure comprising a first electrode including at least a first electrode plate, a second
18 electrode including at least a second electrode plate, and an internal shield structure that is
19 electrically conductive, the shield structure includes a center shield portion between the first
20 electrode plate and the second electrode plate, and the shield structure includes conductive
21 connecting structures including any of conductive vias, holes filled with conductive material,
22 and plates electrically connecting the elements of the shield structure to electrically connect
23 individual layers of the shield structure into a single conductive structure. The shield
24 structure has no or substantially no region forming an external surface of the novel structure.
25 The internally connected shield structures elements have certain geometric values, relative
26 values, relative positions, and shapes, relative to each other and relative to the other elements
27 forming the novel structure.

28 Generally speaking, plates of the an electrode receive electrical energy along any
29 conductive path that connects to that plate to the portion of the electrode forming part of the
30 external surface of the energy conditioner. Each plate may be generally rectangular shaped,

1 having two shorter side edges, and two longer side edges. The electrical connection of that
2 plate to the external surface of its electrode may be via the shorter or the longer side edges of
3 the plate. Similarly, the external surface of each electrode may reside in either a shorter side
4 face or a longer side of the energy conditioner. The inventors have determined that the
5 relative location of the external surface portion and internal connection paths (along shorter
6 or longer sides of generally rectangular energy conditioners) affects device performance.

7 Preferably, substantially all plates of the first electrode have substantially the same
8 shape and are stacked vertically aligned with one another. Preferably, substantially all plates
9 of the second electrode also have substantially the same shape and are stacked substantially
10 vertically aligned with one another. However, plates of the first electrode and the second
11 electrode may have an axis or plane of symmetry and, if so, plates of the second electrode
12 may oriented in the plate of the plates inverted about the axis or plane of symmetry relative to
13 the plates of the first electrode.

14 These and other objects of the invention are provided by a novel structure comprising:
15 a first electrode including (A) a first electrode first plate, said first electrode first plate
16 defining (1) a first electrode first plate an inner surface, (2) a first electrode first plate outer
17 surface, and (3) a first electrode first plate edge surface defined by perimeters of said first
18 electrode first plate inner surface and said first electrode first plate outer surface and (B) a
19 first electrode contact region having a first electrode contact region surface for electrically
20 contacting said first electrode;

21 a second electrode including (A) a second electrode first plate, said second electrode
22 first plate defining (1) a second electrode first plate an inner surface, (2) a second electrode
23 first plate outer surface, and (3) a second electrode first plate edge surface defined by
24 perimeters of said second electrode first plate inner surface and said second electrode first
25 plate outer surface and (B) a second electrode contact region having a second electrode
26 contact region surface for electrically contacting said second electrode;

27 a conductive shield structure including (a) a plurality of conductive shield plates
28 including at least (1) an inner shield plate, (2) a first outer shield plate, (3) a second outer
29 shielding plate, and (b) a shield plate contact structure for electrically contacting to one
30 another said plurality of conductive shield plates;

1 wherein said first electrode first plate inner surface faces said second electrode first
2 plate inner surface;

3 wherein (A) said inner shield plate is between said a first electrode first plate inner
4 surface and said second electrode first plate inner surface, (B) said first outer shield plate is
5 faced by said first electrode first plate outer surface, and (C) said second outer shielding plate
6 is faced by said second electrode first plate outer surface; and

7 said conductive shield structure is designed to be electrically insulated from a circuit.

8 The shield structure has substantially no portion having a surface forming a part of the
9 surface of the novel structure. The surface of the novel structure substantially entirely
10 encloses the conductive shield structure.

11 The elements of said novel structure can have certain geometric values, relative
12 values, relative positions, and shapes.

13 The novel structures may also include, in the stack of conductive layers, also known
14 as conductive plates, additional first conductive layers as part of the first electrode,
15 additional second conductive layer as part of the second electrode, and additional shield
16 layers as part of the shield structure.

17 Unlike other shielded energy conditioners, the shield structure of this invention does
18 not include electrodes for electrical connection to circuit elements. This lack of a
19 requirement for shield electrodes for connection to circuit elements enables the novel
20 structures of the invention to have substantially or entirely all of one side thereof residing on
21 a conductive surface while maintaining the shield structure out of electrical contact with all
22 circuit elements.

23 The energy conditioner novel structures may have some of its surface regions defined
24 by electrically insulating material. The novel energy conditioner structures have surface
25 regions formed by at least one contactable surface of the first electrode and the second
26 electrode. The novel structures may have several electrodes, each of which preferable has
27 layers or plates inside the structure that are substantially shielded from layers of all other
28 electrodes of the structure.

29 The structure preferably has an electrically insulating material between the conductive
30 layers or plates that thereby substantially prevents electrons from moving from one

1 conductive layer through the insulating material to another conductive layer. The insulating
2 material may be any material that has a dielectric constant. Examples of the insulating
3 material are air, which has a dielectric constant of one, and material specified as X7R, which
4 has a dielectric constant of about 4600, silicon, III-V and II-VI semiconductors, and SiN and
5 Diamond semiconductors. Preferably, the dielectric constant is relatively large in order to
6 maximize capacitance per volume. However, the dielectric constant may be set at least in
7 semiconductor applications by dielectric layers compatible with the semiconductor in
8 question.

9 The certain geometric values, relative values, relative positions, and shapes of
10 structures of the invention include shapes of each of the plates in the plane defined by the
11 major surfaces of those plates, the locations and relative extensions of the conductive layer
12 contact regions where electrical energy connects to each plate, the thickness of each plate, the
13 spacing between adjacent plates, and the alignment of plates relative to one another.

14 The energy conditioner structures of the invention may include additional internal
15 structural elements, such as electrically conductive wire lines, conductive via connecting
16 structures, and conductive layer edge interconnection structure. The energy conditioner
17 structures of the invention may include interior surfaces defining apertures in the plates
18 through which electrically conductive lines extend. The apertures may form part of vias or
19 tubular-shaped regions extending between plates or layers in the structure. The vias or
20 tubular regions may be filled with material, electrical or conductive, or remain as apertures,
21 that is, not filled with material. These electrically conducting lines may electrically connect
22 to plates of the same electrode or the shield structure while extending through apertures in
23 plates of other electrodes and remaining insulated from those other electrodes or the shield
24 structure as the case may be. The electrode edge interconnection structure, if it exists, serves
25 to electrically interconnect plates of the same electrode to one another, and electrically
26 connects to an edge of plates of the electrode.

27 The plates of the shield structure are electrically connected to one another. The plates
28 of the shield structure and the conductive structure electrically inter-connecting the plates of
29 the shield structure to one another and substantially enclose the interior plates or layers of the
30 electrodes of the structure of the invention.

1 A structure of the invention may be formed as a discrete component, such as a
2 component suited for connection to a PC board or for connection to a connector.
3 Alternatively, a structure of the invention may be formed into and form part of another
4 structure, such as a PC board, a connector, a first level interconnect, an interposer, or an
5 integrated circuit, including monolithic integrated circuits. In discrete component
6 embodiments of the invention, the first electrode includes a contact region surface that
7 defines a portion of a surface of the structure, the second electrode includes a contact region
8 surface that defines a portion of the surface of the structure, and the energy conditioner
9 structure has no surface defined by a portion of the shield structure.

10 In alternative embodiments, the shield structure may have a surface region defining a
11 recessed portion of the surface of the structure.

12 Discrete component and PC boards that incorporate the novel structures of the
13 invention may be formed by conventional layering and firing techniques. Wire lines may be
14 either formed monolithically, or formed separately and then inserted into the apertures or
15 formed in the apertures.

16 In both PC board and integrated circuit embodiments, certain ones of the electrodes'
17 contact region surfaces in discrete component embodiments that define portions of the surface
18 of the structure do not exist, per se. Instead, the regions where those surfaces would
19 otherwise define termination of a discrete component are formed in contact with electrically
20 conductive material connecting to vias and/or extending from and/or through some portion of
21 the PC board, substrate, first level interconnect, interposer and/or integrated circuit beyond
22 the regions containing the first electrode, the second electrode, and/or the shield structure.

23 Preferably, the inner shield plate extends, in the plane defined by its major surfaces,
24 beyond the edges of adjacent plates of the first and second electrodes such that, with the
25 possible exceptions noted below, any line passing through both of the adjacent plates (i.e., a
26 plate of the first electrode and a plate of the second electrode) also passes through and/or
27 contacts the inner shield plate. An exception exists wherein, in some embodiments, relatively
28 small regions of the plates of each of the first and second electrodes extend beyond the
29 extension of the shield plates where they contact one or more internally positioned conductive
30 layer interconnection structure(s). The internal conductive layer interconnection structure

1 functions to electrically connect substantially all plates of the first electrode to one another
2 and/or substantially all plates of the second electrode to one another. In addition or
3 alternatively, at least a portion of the inner shield plate generally extends a distance beyond
4 the extension of adjacent plates of the first and second electrodes by at least one, preferably at
5 least 5, more preferably at least 10, and most preferably at least 20 times the distance
6 separating the inner shield plate from an adjacent plate.

7 The electrode plate interconnection structure is a structure that electrically contacts
8 portions of all or substantially all of the plates of the electrode, thereby electrically connecting
9 the plates of the electrode to one another. The electrode plate interconnection structure for
10 one electrode does not, inside of the energy conditioner structure, contact the plates of any
11 other electrode or the shield structure. Electrode interconnection structure typically exists
12 within these discrete components.

13 In PC board, connectors and integrated circuit embodiments of structures of the
14 invention, there may be no electrode or shield structure edge interconnection structure.
15 Instead, typically, there will be structure electrically interconnecting all plates of the same
16 electrode or the shield structure which includes electrically conducting wire lines that connect
17 to plates of the same electrode or the shield structure. The electrically conducting wire lines
18 that connect to plates of one electrode do not electrically connect to plates of other electrodes.
19 No wire lines connect to the shield structure. Preferably, the electrically conducting wire
20 lines connected to plates of one electrode pass through apertures in plates of other electrodes
21 and the plates of the shield structure such that those wire lines do not electrically connect to
22 the plates of the other electrodes or the shield structure.

23 In addition, as shown in figures herein, in the energy conditioner, to provide for
24 internally located, common shielding conductive vias are provided thereon is arranged
25 between the first and second electrodes sheets and are utilized to electrically connect the
26 internally located, shielding conductive layers to one another.

27 Conductive coupling or conductive connection is accomplished by one or more
28 via-hole(s) disposed in the respective insulating sheets and coupling to and/or thru each
29 shielding conductive layer as needed. Via structures whether filled or not, are normally found
30 in a non-parallel relationship to the disposed conductive layerings, shielding or non-shielding.

1 Via structures are normally disposed beyond the perimeter of any non-shielding conductive
2 layers, however it is readily contemplated that vias may be disposed thru the non-shielding
3 conductive layers provided that an insulating area is disposed insuring a direct, but
4 non-conductive relationship between via structures and the various non-shielding layers.

5 The inventors also contemplate use of the invention in nano technology fabrication
6 wherein the invention provides reduced parasitics between very closely spaced conditioner
7 electrodes.

8 Parasitic energy that would exist in prior art non shielded capacitors is greatly reduced
9 by containment of each respective electrode within a portion of the conductive shielding
10 structure. The conductive shielding structure may be referred to as a conductive shielding
11 cage-like structure.

12 Fabricating preferred embodiments of bulk devices includes providing insulating
13 sheets having conductive patterns thereon and in some embodiments via-holes there through,
14 laminating and firing. However, any other fabrication method may be used.

15 For example, the insulating sheets may be fired before being laminated. In addition,
16 the composite component of various preferred embodiments of the present invention may be
17 produced by the following method. After an insulating layer including a paste insulating
18 material is provided by printing or other suitable methods, a paste conductive material is
19 applied on a surface of the insulating layer to provide a conductive pattern and a via-hole.
20 Next, the paste insulating material is again applied on the layer to provide another insulating
21 layer. Similarly, by applying the paste insulating material in sequence, a composite
22 component having a multi-layered structure can be produced.

23 24 BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FIGURES

25 FIG 1A shows an exploded perspective view of layers of a first embodiment of a
26 novel energy conditioning structure of the invention;

27 FIG. 1B shows a perspective view of the energy conditioning structure of FIG. 1A;

28 FIG. 1C shows a partial exploded perspective view of some elements of the energy
29 conditioning structure of FIG. 1A illustrating inset distances between certain layers;

30 FIG. 2A is an exploded perspective view of layers of a second embodiment of a novel

1 energy conditioning structure of the invention;

2 FIG 2B is an exploded perspective view of layers of a second embodiment of a novel
3 energy conditioning structure of the invention excluding upper and lower dielectric layers;

4 FIG. 2C is an exploded perspective view of layers of a second embodiment of a novel
5 energy conditioning structure of the invention excluding upper and lower dielectric layers and
6 excluding upper and lower shield structure layers;

7 FIG. 3A shows a filter arrangement including an energy conditioner disposed on
8 surface including a conductive line;

9 FIG 3B shows a filter arrangement including an energy conditioner disposed on a
10 conductive line and having only a single electrode connected;

11 FIG 3C shows a filter arrangement including an energy conditioner disposed on a
12 conductive line;

13 FIG 3D shows a filter arrangement including an energy conditioner disposed on a
14 conductive line;

15 FIG. 4A shows a filter arrangement including an energy conditioner circuit with A and
16 B electrode contacts connected to separate conductive lines;

17 FIG. 4B shows a filter arrangement including an energy conditioner circuit having
18 another an energy conditioner with different geometric ratios of A and B electrode contacts
19 connected to separate conductive lines.

20 FIG. 5A shows a filter arrangement including an energy conditioner disposed
21 transversely on a conductive line over an aperture in the line;

22 FIG. 5B shows a filter arrangement including an energy conditioner disposed
23 longitudinally on a conductive line over an aperture in the line;

24 FIG. 6 is a perspective view that shows a filter arrangement including in perspective
25 view including an energy conditioner disposed over an aperture in a rectangular conductive
26 component;

27 FIG. 7 is a plan view that shows a filter arrangement including a energy conditioner
28 disposed over a circular aperture in a conductive ring shaped component;

29 FIG. 8 is a plan view that shows a filter arrangement including three energy
30 conditioners disposed across an aperture in an elongate generally elliptically shaped

1 conductive piece;

2 FIG. 9 is a plan view of a filter arrangement including two energy conditioners
3 symmetrically arranged off opposite sides of a conductive circuit line;

4 FIG. 10 is a plan view of a circuit portion including a plurality of conductive lines
5 and various arrangements of energy conditioners on and near the lines conditioning energy for
6 each line;

7 FIG. 11 is a plan view of a circuit portion including a plurality of conductive lines and
8 various arrangements of energy conditioners disposed on the lines conditioning energy for
9 each line;

10 FIG. 12 is a plan view of a circuit portion including a plurality of conductive lines and
11 various arrangements of energy conditioners disposed on the lines in which each energy
12 conditioner connects to one or more lines;

13 FIG. 13A is an exploded perspective view of an filter arrangement including an
14 energy conditioner configured to fit into and span an aperture in a ring formed of conductive
15 material;

16 FIG. 13B is a side view of the filter arrangement of FIG. 13A;

17 FIG. 14 is a schematic view of a filter arrangement including an energy conditioner
18 having a single electrode connected;

19 FIG. 15 is a schematic of a complete circuit including a filter arrangement including
20 energy conditioner spanning an aperture in a conductive loop;

21 FIG. 16 is a schematic view of a complete circuit including an energy conditioner and
22 a metal layer capacitively and inductively coupled and conductively isolated from the energy
23 conditioner;

24 FIG. 16 is a schematic view of a complete circuit including an energy conditioner and
25 a capacitively and inductively coupled and conductively isolated metal layer;

26 FIG. 17 is a schematic of a complete circuit including an energy conditioner
27 connected across the source and the load;

28 FIG. 18 is a schematic of an energy conditioner connected across the source and drain
29 electrodes of a Field Effect Transistor (FET);

30 FIG. 19A is a schematic of an energy conditioner having one electrode connected to

1 source or drain of a FET and no other connections to provide a fast charge storage for
2 memory;

3 FIG. 19B is a schematic sectional view of a semiconductor wafer showing in high
4 level connection of the energy conditioner to the FET of FIG. 19A;

5 FIG. 20A is a schematic of an energy conditioner having both electrodes connected to
6 source or drain of a FET and no other connections to provide a fast charge storage for
7 memory;

8 FIG. 20B is a schematic sectional view of a semiconductor wafer showing in high
9 level connection of both terminals of the energy conditioner to the FET of FIG. 20A;

10 FIGS. 21 and 22 are schematics illustrating complete circuits with various filter
11 arrangements including energy conditioners of the invention;

12 FIGS. 23A-C are perspective views that show filter arrangements including another
13 novel energy conditioner;

14 FIG. 24 is a perspective view that shows a filter arrangement including another novel
15 energy conditioner in a circuit arrangement;

16 FIG. 25A is a side schematic view of another novel energy filter;

17 FIG. 25B is side sectional view of the energy filter of FIG. 25A;

18 FIG. 25C is a schematic identifying the internal conductive layers shown in FIG. 25B;

19 FIG. 26A is a side section view of a filter arrangement including the novel energy
20 conditioner illustrated in FIGS. 25A-25C;

21 FIG. 26B is a plan view of the filter arrangement of FIG. 26A; and

22 FIG. 27 is a schematic in plan view of a filter arrangement including a variation of the
23 novel energy filter of FIGS. 25A-25C.

24 25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

26 FIG. 1B shows an energy conditioning structure 1 including a first electrode contact
27 10, a second electrode contact 20, and a central region 30. The central region 30 has surfaces
28 formed from one or more dielectric materials 40. The surfaces of the first electrode contact,
29 the second electrode contact, and the dielectric material preferably define the entirety of the
30 surface of the energy conditioning structure.

FIG. 1A shows a sequence of layers internal to energy conditioning structure 1. FIG 1A shows the sequence of layers from top to bottom being dielectric material layer 50, shield structure first conductive layer 60, dielectric material layer 70, second electrode's internal conductive layer 80, dielectric material layer 90, shield structure's second conductive layer 100, dielectric material layer 110, first electrode's internally connected conductive layer 120, dielectric material layer 130, shield structure's third conductive layer 140, and dielectric material layer 150.

FIG. 1A shows conductive pathways extending between layers enabling electrical connection of the shield structure's layers to one another. These pathways are referred to as vias, and FIG. 1A shows vias 160A, 160B. There should be at least one conductive pathway electrically connecting the layers of the shield structure to one another. Some of these conductive pathways may pass through apertures in the electrodes' internally connected conductive layers, remaining insulated from those layers by a region of dielectric material between the conductive material in the via and the conductive material forming the electrodes' internally connected conductive layers.

Preferably, these conductive pathways 160A, 160B extend along paths outside the planar extent of the electrodes' internally connected conductive layers. Preferably, there are a plurality of conductive pathways like 160A, 160B disposed to ring each one of the electrodes' internal conductive layers. Preferably, there is a sufficient density of conductive pathways like 160A, 160B ringing each one of the electrodes' internal conductive layers and connected to the conductive layers of the shield structure so that the shield structure as a whole provides a Faraday cage type of effect for each internal conductive layer of each electrode. That is, preferably, the shield structure shields electromagnetic field oscillations at relevant frequencies located adjacent each one of the conductive layers of the electrodes from other conductive layers of the conductive electrodes, and shields all of the conductive layers of the electrodes from electromagnetic oscillations originating outside the shield structure.

FIG 1C illustrates inset/offset of edges of the internal layers in energy conditioner 1 from one another. FIG 1C. shows inset distance "A" of the left side of the first electrode's internally connected layer 120 from shield structure's layer 100, and a similar outset distance "A" of the right side of the first electrode's internally connected layer 120 from the right side

1 end of shield structure's layer 100. Layer 80 is similarly offset, but in the opposite direction,
2 relative to the left and right ends of shield structure's layer 100. The offset of the right side
3 end of layer 120 relative to layer 100 enables layer 120 to internally contact the first
4 electrode's contact 10, without also contacting layer 100 to the first electrode. The offset of
5 the left side of the end of layer 80 relative to layer 100 enables layer 80 to internally contact
6 the second electrode's contact 20 without also contacting layer 100 to the second electrode.

7 FIGS. 1A-1C show that the shield structure does not contact the first electrode, does
8 not contact the second electrode, and does not have an electrode for contact to a circuit
9 element. FIGS. 1A-1C show the shield structure embedded inside dielectric material so that
10 the surface of energy conditioner 1 does not include any surface of the shield structure.

11 FIGS 1A-1C are exemplary in that they show only one conductive layer for each one
12 of electrodes A and B.

13 In most applications, each energy conditioner 1 would include a set of more than one
14 conductive layer for each electrode.

15 In some applications, the first electrode and/or the second electrode do not form end
16 caps covering right and/or left (as shown in FIG 1B) ends of energy conditioner 1. Instead,
17 the electrodes form part of a surface of the energy conditioner on any one of the front, back,
18 left and right sides of the structure.

19 In some applications, the first electrode and/or the second electrode do not form end
20 caps covering right and/or left (as shown in FIG 1B) ends of energy conditioner 1, and do not
21 form part of the left, right, front, or back (as shown in FIG. 1B) surfaces. Instead, they form
22 part of the top and/or bottom surfaces of energy conditioner 1, and are connected to their
23 respective internally conductive layers via additional vias (not shown) extending through and
24 be insulated from layers of the shield structure and layers connected to other electrodes.

25 In some applications, each energy conditioner 1 includes more than 2 electrodes. In
26 these embodiments, each electrode contacts at least one conductive layer internal to the
27 energy conditioner, and each such conductive layer has an outset or tab portion extending in
28 the planar direction beyond the extent of the shield structures layers. That tab portion
29 contacts to an electrode having a surface available for electrical contact with other circuit
30 elements. The surface of this electrode may be located on any surface of the energy

1 conditioner; top; bottom front; back,; left; or right side.

2 The FIGS. 1A -1C embodiment shows the shield structure formed from a series of
3 conductive layers which are electrically connected to one another such that each layer of each
4 electrodes is separated from a layer of any other electrode by a layer of the shield structure.
5 Preferably, the shield structure's conductive layers are substantially integral layers. However,
6 regions of the conductive layers of the shield structure may be removed so long as sufficient
7 regions of each conductive layer of the shield structure remain to provide shield structure like
8 device performance, such as decreased internal inductance compared to non-shielded energy
9 conditioner structures. For frequency ranges up to about 10 gigahertz, this requires that the
10 spacing between conductive regions of the same conductive layer of the shield structure be
11 less than one centimeter, preferably less than 5 millimeters, and more preferably less than
12 about one millimeter.

13 While not preferred, each conductive layer of the shield structure may be replaced by
14 a grid work or mesh or array (regular or irregular) of conductive lines having line separations
15 of no more than one centimeter, and preferably no more than one millimeter, line widths and
16 depths greater than 100 Angstroms, more preferably at least 1000 Angstroms in width, and
17 most preferable at least one micron in width.

18 Preferably, the insulating spacing or distance between conductors of any electrode and
19 the conductor forming the shield structure is at least 100 Angstroms, preferably at least 1000
20 Angstroms, more preferably still at least 1 micron, and most preferably at least 100 microns.
21 The minimum spacing is defined in part by the dielectric constant, dielectric strength, and
22 voltage fluctuations of the intended use of the energy conditioner 1.

23 Thus, the FIG. 1A-1B embodiment is exemplary of only one simplified version of the
24 energy conditioner of the invention.

25 FIG. 2A shows a sequence of layers of energy conditioner 200 from top to bottom as
26 dielectric material top layer 210, conductive outer top shield structure layer 220, conductive
27 inner top shield structure layer 230, conductive first electrode layer 240, conductive middle
28 shield structure layer 250, conductive second electrode layer 260, conductive inner bottom
29 shield layer 270, conductive outer bottom shield layer 280, and dielectric material bottom
30 layer 290. Not shown are dielectric layers between each pair of adjacent conductive layers. In

1 plan view, each shield structure layer extends beyond three sides of each electrode layer. In
2 plan view, electrode layer 240 has portion 240a extending beyond the shield structure's layers,
3 and electrode layer 260 has portion 260a extending beyond the shield structure's layers. The
4 portions 260a and 240a are on opposite ends of energy conditioner 200. Structure 200 differs
5 from structure 1 in the existence of the adjacent top shield structure layers 220, 230, which
6 are only separated from one another by dielectric. Structure 200 differs from structure 1 in
7 the existence of the adjacent bottom shield structure layers 270, 280, which are only separated
8 from one another by dielectric.

9 FIG 2A. also shows via structures 300 traversing the shield structure layers 230, 250,
10 270. The vias also travers the intervening dielectric layers, which are not shown. Vias 300
11 do not traverse the dielectric material layers 200 or 290.

12 FIG. 2B shows the layers without the top and bottom dielectric material layers.

13 FIG. 2C shows the layers without the top and bottom dielectric material layers and
14 without the top and outer two shield layers 220, 280. FIG. 2C shows the inset distance B
15 which is the distance, in a plan view, that shield structure layer 250 extends beyond an edge
16 of electrode layer 240.

17 Energy conditioner 200 includes electrode contacts like electrode contacts 10, 20 of
18 energy conditioner 1, which are not shown in FIGs. 2A-2C.

19 In one alternative embodiment, outer shield layers 220, 280 are not electrically
20 connected to the other layers of the shield structure, and outer shield layers are each
21 individually electrically isolated.

22 In another alternative embodiment, outer shield layers 220, 208 are not electrically
23 connected to the other layers of the shield structure, and outer shield layers are each
24 electrically connected to one another via additional vias.

25 In another alternative embodiment, the layered structure including the shield structure
26 or structures shown in FIGS. 1A - 2C are embedded in a monolithic layered structure
27 comprising either a PC board, an interposer, or a semiconductor chip. In these embodiments
28 there may be no electrode contact surface. Instead, there may be an extension of at least one
29 conductive layer of each electrode beyond the planar extent of the cage like shield structures
30 such that the each electrode connects to a line of a circuit.

1 Various relationships between portions of circuits and the energy conditioners of the
2 invention are shown in FIGs. 2-12. These figures illustrate novel geometric
3 inter-relationships between energy conditioners and circuit elements which are within the
4 scope of this invention.

5 Hereinafter, energy conditioners of the invention will be referred to as X2Y'.

6 FIG. 3A shows an X2Y' having its end cap electrodes disposed longitudinally along a
7 conductive line of a circuit. Both end caps are electrically connected to the conductive line of
8 the circuit.

9 Fig. 3B shows an energy conditioner X2Y' having one electrode end in contact with a
10 conductive line of a circuit, and no other electrodes contacting the circuit. In this
11 embodiment, the X2Y' energy conditioner does not require a second electrode contact.
12 Therefore, it may be manufactured with or without the surface contact portion of the second
13 electrode.

14 FIG. 3C shows an X2Y' having dimension less than the width of the conductive line,
15 and its electrode end caps oriented transverse to the direction of extension of the conductive
16 line of a circuit.

17 FIG. 3D shows an X2Y' having dimension less than the width of the conductive line,
18 and its electrode end caps oriented at an angle that is between transverse and longitudinal
19 relative to the direction of extension of the conductive line of a circuit.

20 FIG. 4A shows an X2Y' having each one of its electrode end caps connected to a
21 different one of two side lines that each in turn connect to a different point along a conductive
22 line of a circuit. Alternatively, the two side lines could connect to the same point along the
23 conductive line of the circuit.

24 FIG. 4B shows an alternative to FIG. 4A wherein the length of each end cap of each
25 electrode of the X2Y' is greater than the width of each side line.

26 FIG. 5A shows a conductive line of a circuit having an aperture upon which an X2Y'
27 is disposed. The X2Y' contacts the line of the circuit on opposite sides of the aperture and
28 the end caps of the X2Y' are oriented along the longitudinal direction of the line of the circuit.

29 FIG. 5B shows a conductive line with an aperture and an X2Y' transversely over
30 the aperture such that the X2Y' end caps are along the same point along the length of the line

1 of the circuit.

2 FIG. 6 shows an square shaped metal piece having an aperture and a connection arm,
3 and an X2Y' disposed over the aperture such that the end caps of the X2Y's are in electrical
4 contact with opposite sides of the metal piece. In alternative embodiments the metal piece is
5 oblong, annular, or rectangular, and the X2Y' is oriented at various angles relative to the
6 extension of the arm to provide suitable phase cancellation. The arm connects to a line of a
7 circuit, to provide energy conditioning. Alternatively, the X2y' may fit into a seat or recess in
8 the aperture, or may span a length of the aperture and fit into the aperture and contact
9 opposite surfaces of aperture.

10 FIGs. 7 and 8 show alternative annular shapes and multiple X2Y' filters similar to
11 FIG. 6.

12 FIG. 9 shows a filter arrangement in which side lines extend symmetrically from a
13 circuit line, each side line contacting one or more terminals of an X2Y'. Preferably, each side
14 line forms a pad upon which the X2Y' resides such that both end caps of the X2Y' connect
15 and electrically connect to the pad.

16 Fig. 10 shows portions of four circuit lines on a substrate, such as is often found in
17 digital electronics on semiconductor chips, PC boards, and other substrates. FIG. 10 also
18 shows various filter arrangements incorporating X2Y's connected to the various circuit lines.

19 FIG. 11 show another arrangement of circuit lines on a substrate along with one or
20 more X2Y's in various orientations on each circuit line.

21 FIG. 12 is similar to FIGs. 10 and 11. However, FIG. 12 shows some X2Y's spanning
22 two circuit lines such that the spanning X2Y' has one electrode connected to one circuit line
23 and the other electrode connected to the other circuit line. FIG. 12 also shows X2Y' element
24 C having three electrodes, with one electrode connected to each one of three lines.

25 Alternatively, an X2Y' structure (a structure with an internally floating shield structure), could
26 have more than three electrodes, for example, one electrode for each parallel circuit line. In
27 bus architectures this would enable a single X2Y' device to span a series of bus lines and
28 condition the energy along all of those lines. Such a multi electrode X2Y' device could be
29 disposed as shown in FIG. 12 perpendicular to the extension of the wire lines. Alternatively,
30 the multi electrode X2Y' could be disposed at an angle other than a right angle relative to the

1 extension of the parallel circuit lines as required to register each X2Y' electrode onto each bus
2 line.

3 FIG. 13a shows an X2Y' and apertured conductive piece designed such that the X2Y'
4 has the same dimension as the aperture and can fit into the aperture as shown in FIG. 13B.

5 FIG. 14 shows a circuit line with a side line projecting therefrom and connecting to one
6 electrode of an X2Y'. Since no other electrode of the X2Y's is required, the other external
7 electrode for the X2Y' need not be fabricated.

8 FIG. 15 shows a filter arrangement previously discussed connected to a complete
9 circuit.

10 FIG. 16 shows a complete circuit with an X2Y' across the source and the load. In
11 addition, FIG. 16 shows a metal layer of specified dimensions insulatively spaces by a
12 specified distance from a surface of the X2Y'. The size, shape, and spacing of the metal layer
13 from the X2Y' and other components affects capacitive and inductive coupling to the metal
14 layer. Therefore, the size, shape, and spacing of the metal layer from the X2Y' and other
15 components of the circuit provide for frequency and phase tuning of energy conditioning
16 provided by the X2Y'.

17 FIG. 17 shows a complete circuit with and X2Y' having its two electrodes across the
18 load.

19 FIGs. 18-20 schematically illustrate application of X2Y' structures to FETs and FET
20 based memory. FET meaning Field Effect Transistor. However, the circuit disclosed are
21 equally applicable to bipolar transistors.

22 FIG. 18 represents an X2Y' connected across the source and drain of a FET to provide
23 for example, filtering of high frequency components in the source drain voltage.

24 FIG. 19A shows an X2Y's having one electrode connected to the drain (or to the
25 source) of a FET. This allows capacitive charging of X2Y's's electrodes. X2Y's have very
26 small internal inductance. Therefore, charging time is fast, enabling fast read or write
27 memory of a voltage or charge state. FIG. 19B shows one possible architecture for
28 incorporating the X2Y' structure and a FET structure into a semiconductor chip, in which a
29 conductive line disposed on the surface of the FET's source or drain to a point contacting en
30 electrode layer of the X2Y'.

1 FIGS. 20A and 20B are analogs of FIGS. 19A and 19B showing bulk (A) and
2 integrated (B) formation of a memory having connection to both electrodes of an X2Y'.

3 FIG. 21 shows a complete circuit in which a series of two X2Y's are disposed across
4 the load. Additional X2Y's (3, 4, 5, etc) can be added to the series.

5 FIG. 22 shows a complete circuit in which an X2Y' is disposed across the load and
6 another X2Y' is disposed connected to a side line, to provide energy conditioning at both
7 extreme ends of the frequency spectrum.

8 FIG. 23A shows a filter arrangement portion of a circuit including another novel
9 energy conditioner (X2Y') of the invention. The X2Y' of FIG. 23A is the same as any of the
10 energy conditioners disclosed herein above except that it includes a conductive shell
11 enclosing the A and B electrode structures, the ground shield structure, and the dielectric
12 material. Thus, the FIG. 23A X2Y' includes a floating isolated internal shield structure, an A
13 electrode conductively connected to the conductive shell, and a B electrode structure also
14 conductively connected to the conductive shell. As shown in the filter arrangement of FIG.
15 23A, this X2Y' is disposed on and in conductive contact with a circuit line. The longer side of
16 the X2Y' is parallel to the circuit line.

17 FIG. 23C shows the X2Y' of FIG. 23A alternatively arranged so that a shorter side is
18 parallel to the circuit line.

19 FIG. 23B illustrates an alternative filter arrangement including the X2Y' of FIG. 23A
20 in which the conductive shell of the X2Y' forms the connection between terminals of a
21 circuit line.

22 FIG. 24 shows a circuit arrangement including another novel X2Y' energy conditioner.
23 The X2Y' energy conditioner is internally structurally the same as any of the previously
24 disclosed X2Y' structures. However, it includes externally symmetrically placed conductive
25 connections of the right and left side electrode terminal contacts. The filter arrangement in
26 FIG. 24 shows circuit line portions terminating, and the X2Y' externally symmetrically
27 placed conductive connections completing the conductive path of the circuit line portions.
28 Alternatively, the circuit line may have no break, and this X2Y' structure may be disposed on
29 the circuit line in the same configuration shown in FIG. 24, or in the alternative orientation
30 shown in FIG. 23C. In either orientation, the X2Y's internal electrode structures are both

1 electrically connected to the circuit line path on both sides of the X2Y'.

2 FIG. 25A-25C illustrate another novel energy conditioning structure designed for
3 coupling without electrically contacting a circuit line.

4 FIG. 25A shows a side view of this novel X2Y' structure and schematically illustrates
5 the internal location of capacitive/inductive coupling pads for two electrodes of this X2Y'.

6 FIG. 25B shows a side section of the X2Y' of FIG. 25A including an optional metallic
7 casing on all sides except the bottom side, an A electrode pad recessed from the bottom, a B
8 electrode pad recessed from the bottom, an A electrode plate, a B electrode plate, and shield
9 three structure layers such that two layers of the shield structure sandwich each layer or plate
10 of the A and B electrodes. Dielectric material exists between the conductive layers to fix them
11 in position relative to one another. Preferably, there is a dielectric layer of a well defined and
12 uniform thickness below the A and B electrode pads. As in all previous embodiments, the
13 shield structure electrically floats in potential. Different from all previous embodiments, the
14 A electrode and the B electrode also float; they do not electrically contact any line of a circuit.
15 Preferably, the lower surface is material that will wet with a conductive metal such as
16 conventional solder, indium or indium-tin. In use, the bottom surface of the X2Y' may be
17 soldered using these metals to a conductive line of a circuit. Use of a metal solder connection
18 enables the dielectric spacing defined by the thickness of the dielectric layer below the
19 electrode pads to define distance between the metal of the circuit line and the pads, thereby
20 providing reproducible inductive/capacitive coupling.

21 FIG. 25C shows the sequence of conductive layers within the X2Y' of FIGS. 25A and
22 25B. FIG. 25C also shows the offset of the ends of the layers at the left side of the layers
23 shown in FIG. 25B. However, as with other embodiments, vias may be used so that the
24 shield layers may extend beyond the planar extent of the electrodes' conductive layers.

25 FIG. 26A shows in side partial sectional view a filter arrangement including an X2Y'
26 of FIG. 25A-25C wherein the X2Y's energy conditioner is disposed on a conductive line of a
27 circuit on a substrate. The internal locations of the A electrode pad and the B electrode pad
28 are illustrated by dashed lines.

29 FIG. 26B is a plan view of the filter arrangement of FIG. 26A also showing the
30 perimeters of the A and B electrode pads in dashed lines.

FIG. 27 is a schematic in plan view of a filter arrangement including a variation of the novel energy filter of FIGs. 25A-25C. The X2Y' energy filter of FIG. 27 is similar to the X2Y' of FIGs. 25A-25C in that it includes pads that are capacitively/inductively coupled and not in electrical contact with the circuit line, and the filter arrangement includes this X2Y' disposed on the conductive line. In contrast with the FIGs. 25A-25C X2Y', the X2Y' of FIG. 27 includes more than 2 electrodes. Specifically, it includes three electrodes and three electrode pads. Pads 1 and 2 are oriented transverse to the extension of the circuit line. Pad 3 is oriented longitudinally spaces from pads 1 and 2 relative to the extension of the circuit line. This X2Y' includes the X2Y floating shield structure substantially individually enclosing each of the electrode structure's layers to provide very low inductance and high differential impedance effects between electrodes. If connected to a conductive line such that the pad 1 and pad 2 are coupled to the line as shown, they may experience time dependent transverse voltage differences and filter out those voltage differences. Moreover, the time dependent longitudinal voltage differences on the line should be filtered out by the existence of pad 3 longitudinally disposed relative to pads 1 and 2.

The capacitive/inductive coupling illustrated by the X2Y' energy filter of FIG. 25A to FIG. 27 is compatible with all of the filter arrangements previously disclosed herein. Use of the capacitive/inductively coupled type of X2Y' structure in any of the previously discussed filter arrangements is contemplated.

While FIG. 27 shows only 3 pads and discloses only three corresponding internally shielded electrodes, the inventors contemplate that more contact pads and electrodes may be useful. Specifically, the inventors recognize that high frequency propagation modes along a circuit line may be in various modes defined for example by solutions to boundary value equations defining the dimension of the circuit line and related transmission line characteristics. This suggests that an array of contact pads at various spatial distances from one another may be useful for filtering out high frequency modes from power or signal transmitted along a circuit line. Such arrays may include more than 3, such as from 4 to 500 pads and corresponding internally shielded electrode structures.

The combination of various electrodes and a conductive shielding structure can create a state of effective differential and common mode electromagnetic interference filtering

1 and/or surge protection. Additionally, a circuit arrangement utilizing the invention will
2 comprise of at least one line conditioning circuit component constructed with shaped
3 electrode patterns that are provided on various surfaces of dielectric material with at least a
4 portion of these respective electrode surfaces or edges operable for conductive coupling for
5 electrically coupled energy transmissions to electrical conductors of the circuit.

6 The variously selected electrode patterns, dielectric material employed, and
7 positioning and usage of an intervening, conductive shielding layer or structure create a
8 commonality between paired, but oppositely positioned (relative to one another) electrodes
9 operable for producing a balanced (equal but opposite) circuit arrangement position within
10 the electrical component when it is coupled line-to-line between the electrical conductors and
11 line-to-ground from the individual electrical conductors to internal, conductive shielding layer
12 or structure within the component for circuit energy conditioning operations.

13 The particular electrical effects of the multi-functional energy conditioner are
14 determined by the choice of material between the electrode plates and the use of an internally
15 positioned, conductive shielding layer or structure which effectively house a substantial
16 portion of the electrode layers within one or more Faraday-like, shielding structures.

17 The dielectric material used in conjunction with at least two oppositely positioned
18 electrode plates with a conductive shielding layer or structure spaced in between will combine
19 to create an line-to-line capacitance value that is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the value of the capacitance
20 value of either one of the two line-to-shielding layer capacitors created, when energized.

21 If a metal oxide varistor (MOV) material is used, then the multi-functional energy
22 conditioner will have over current and surge protection characteristics provided by the
23 MOV-type material. The conductive shielding layer or structure in combination with the
24 electrode plates will form at least one line-to-line capacitor and at least two line-to-ground
25 capacitors, and will be operable for providing differential and common mode filtering.

26 During transient voltage conditions, varistor material, which is essentially a non-linear
27 resistor used to suppress high voltage transients, will be operable to limit the transient voltage
28 conditions or over voltage spikes that may appear between the electrical conductors.

29 The inventors contemplate embodiments in which vias or apertures are defined by
30 conductive surfaces such that those conductive surfaces form a conductive pathway that can

1 mechanically and electrically contact to one or more conductive layers or surfaces in the
2 structures.

3 The inventors also contemplate that plates may be irregularly shaped as opposed to
4 square, rectangular, or generally round, depending for example upon desired application.

5 The inventors also contemplate that vias may pass through conductive layers, such as
6 layers forming the non-shielding electrodes, and layers forming the shielding electrode,
7 without electrically contacting those layers in order to electrically connect, for example,
8 layers of one electrode structure to one another without shorting that electrode structure to
9 another electrode's structure.

10 The inventors contemplate modifying the energy conditioner embodiments disclosed
11 in USPs 6,018,448 and 6,373,673 PCT/US2004/000218 (now published as WO 2004/07095)
12 by modifying their conductive shield structure so that is designed to be conductively isolated
13 from a circuit to which the conditioner's electrodes are designed to be conductively or
14 capacitively/inductively connected. Thus, the conductive shield structure of those
15 embodiments may be modified to cover the entire outer surface of the conductive shield
16 structure with dielectric material. Optionally, some portion of the conductive shield structure
17 may be uncovered, but recessed from adjacent surface regions of the structure.

18 The number of plates or the shield structure may be 1, 3, at least 3, at least 5, at least
19 7, at least 9, or at least 21. The ratio of the total surface area of the shield structure to the
20 total surface area of an electrode of the structure may be at least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at
21 least 3, at least 5, or at least 10. The number of electrodes in any structure may be at least 2,
22 at least 3, at least 4, at least 6, at least 10, at least 16, at least 32, or at least 64.

23 Preferably, the electrodes of the novel structures are designed to connect or
24 capacitively/inductively couple to or are formed connected or capacitively/inductively
25 coupled to conductive lines of a circuit, and the conductive shield structure is designed to be
26 conductively insulated from lines of the circuit.

CLAIMS:

1.
(Original) An energy conditioner comprising:
an internally floating shield structure;
a first electrode structure;
a second electrode structure;
wherein said first electrode structure comprises at least one first electrode structure first conductive layer, said second electrode structure comprises at least one second electrode structure first conductive layer;
wherein said internally floating shield structure shields said first electrode structure first conductive layer from said second electrode structure, and said internally floating shield structure shields said second electrode structure first conductive layer from said first electrode structure; and
said first electrode structure includes a first electrode contact region.
2.
(Original) A filter arrangement comprising the energy conditioner of claim 1 and a conductive line segment of a circuit, wherein said first electrode structure contact region is electrically connected to said conductive line segment.
3.
(Original) A capacitively/inductively coupling energy conditioner, comprising:
an internally floating shield structure;
a first electrode structure;
a second electrode structure;
wherein said first electrode structure comprises at least one first electrode structure first conductive layer, said second electrode structure comprises at least one second electrode structure first conductive layer;
wherein said internally floating shield structure shields said first electrode structure first conductive layer from said second electrode structure, and said internally floating shield

1 structure shields said second electrode structure first conductive layer from said first electrode
2 structure; and

3 said first electrode structure includes a first electrode capacitive/inductive coupling
4 pad.

5
6 4. (Original) A filter arrangement comprising the capacitively/inductively coupling
7 energy conditioner of claim 3 and a conductive line segment of a circuit, wherein first
8 electrode capacitive/inductive coupling pad is capacitively/inductively coupled to said
9 conductive line segment.

10
11 5. (Original) An internally shielded capacitor comprising;
12 a shielding conductive layer;
13 a first electrode defining at least a first electrode layer, wherein said first electrode
14 layer is above said shielding conductive layer;
15 a second electrode defining at least a second electrode layer, wherein said second
16 electrode layer is below said shielding conductive layer;
17 wherein said shielding, said first electrode, and said second electrode are electrically
18 isolated from one another; and
19 wherein said first electrode, said second electrode, and said shielding conductive layer
20 are positioned and sized relative to one another such that any straight line passing through
21 said first electrode and said second electrode contacts said shielding conductive layer.

22
23 6. (Original) An energy conditioner comprising;
24 a shielding defining at least (1) upper shielding conductive layer, (2) a center shielding
25 conductive layer, and (3) a lower shielding conductive layer, wherein said upper shielding
26 conductive layer is above said center shielding conductive layer and said center shielding
27 conductive layer is above said lower shielding conductive layer;
28 a first electrode defining at least a first electrode layer, wherein said first electrode
29 layer is below said upper shielding conductive layer and above said center shielding
30 conductive layer;

1 a second electrode defining at least a second electrode layer, wherein said second
2 electrode layer is below said center shielding conductive layer and above said lower shielding
3 conductive layer; and

4 wherein said shielding, said first electrode, and said second electrode are electrically
5 isolated from one another; and

6 wherein said first electrode, said second electrode, and said center shielding
7 conductive layer are positioned and sized relative to one another such that any straight line
8 passing through said first electrode and said second electrode contacts said center shielding
9 conductive layer.

10
11 7. (Original) The conditioner of claim 6, wherein said shielding further comprises at
12 least one conductive aperture operable for conductively coupling together all of said shielding
13 conductive layers to one another.

14
15 8. (Original) The conditioner of claim 6, wherein said shielding further comprises at
16 least one conductive via structure operable for conductively coupling together all of said
17 shielding conductive layers to one another.

18
19 9. (Original) The conditioner of claim 6, wherein said shielding further comprises at
20 least one conductive aperture, wherein said at least one conductive aperture passes through at
21 least said first electrode layer or said second electrode layer; and

22 wherein said at least one conductive aperture is operable for conductively coupling
23 together all of said shielding conductive layers to one another.

24
25 10. (Original) The conditioner of claim 6, wherein said shielding further comprises at
26 least one conductive via structure, wherein said at least one conductive via structure passes
27 through at least said first electrode layer or said second electrode layer; and

28 wherein said at least one conductive via structure is operable for conductively
29 coupling together all of said shielding conductive layers to one another.

1 11. (Original) The energy conditioner of claim 7, wherein said shielding is not
2 operable to be physically coupled to a circuit path.
3

4 12. (Original) The energy conditioner of claim 8, wherein said shielding is not
5 operable to be physically coupled to a circuit path.
6

7 13. (Original) A method of making an energy conditioner comprising:
8 providing an internally floating shield structure;
9 providing a first electrode structure;
10 providing a second electrode structure;
11 wherein said first electrode structure comprises at least one first electrode structure
12 first conductive layer, said second electrode structure comprises at least one second electrode
13 structure first conductive layer;
14 wherein said internally floating shield structure shields said first electrode structure
15 first conductive layer from said second electrode structure, and said internally floating shield
16 structure shields said second electrode structure first conductive layer from said first electrode
17 structure; and
18 said first electrode structure includes a first electrode contact region.
19

20 14. (Original) A method of making filter arrangement comprising (1) an energy
21 conditioner comprising an internally floating shield structure; a first electrode structure; a
22 second electrode structure; wherein said first electrode structure comprises at least one first
23 electrode structure first conductive layer, said second electrode structure comprises at least
24 one second electrode structure first conductive layer; wherein said internally floating shield
25 structure shields said first electrode structure first conductive layer from said second electrode
26 structure, and said internally floating shield structure shields said second electrode structure
27 first conductive layer from said first electrode structure; wherein said first electrode structure
28 includes a first electrode contact region and (2) a conductive line segment of a circuit,
29 wherein said first electrode structure contact region is electrically connected to said
30 conductive line segment, comprising the steps of:

1 providing said energy conditioner;
2 providing said conductive line segment; and
3 electrically connecting said conductive line segment to said energy conditioner.
4

5 15. (Original) A method of making a capacitively/inductively coupling energy
6 conditioner, comprising:

7 providing an internally floating shield structure;
8 providing a first electrode structure;
9 providing a second electrode structure;

10 wherein said first electrode structure comprises at least one first electrode structure
11 first conductive layer, said second electrode structure comprises at least one second electrode
12 structure first conductive layer;

13 wherein said internally floating shield structure shields said first electrode structure
14 first conductive layer from said second electrode structure, and said internally floating shield
15 structure shields said second electrode structure first conductive layer from said first electrode
16 structure; and

17 said first electrode structure includes a first electrode capacitive/inductive coupling
18 pad.
19

20 16. (Original) The method of making a circuit including the method of claim 15, and
21 further comprising capacitively/inductively coupling said energy conditioner to a conductive
22 line segment.
23

24 17. (Original) A method of making an internally shielded capacitor comprising;

25 providing a shielding conductive layer;

26 providing a first electrode defining at least a first electrode layer, wherein said first
27 electrode layer is above said shielding conductive layer;

28 providing a second electrode defining at least a second electrode layer, wherein said
29 second electrode layer is below said shielding conductive layer;

30 wherein said shielding, said first electrode, and said second electrode are electrically

1 isolated from one another; and

2 wherein said first electrode, said second electrode, and said shielding conductive layer
3 are positioned and sized relative to one another such that any straight line passing through
4 said first electrode and said second electrode contacts said shielding conductive layer.

5
6 18. (Original) A method of making an energy conditioner comprising;

7 providing a shielding defining at least (1) upper shielding conductive layer, (2) a
8 center shielding conductive layer, and (3) a lower shielding conductive layer, wherein said
9 upper shielding conductive layer is above said center shielding conductive layer and said
10 center shielding conductive layer is above said lower shielding conductive layer;

11 providing a first electrode defining at least a first electrode layer, wherein said first
12 electrode layer is below said upper shielding conductive layer and above said center shielding
13 conductive layer;

14 providing a second electrode defining at least a second electrode layer, wherein said
15 second electrode layer is below said center shielding conductive layer and above said lower
16 shielding conductive layer; and

17 wherein said shielding, said first electrode, and said second electrode are electrically
18 isolated from one another; and

19 wherein said first electrode, said second electrode, and said center shielding
20 conductive layer are positioned and sized relative to one another such that any straight line
21 passing through said first electrode and said second electrode contacts said center shielding
22 conductive layer.

23
24 19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said shielding further comprises at
25 least one conductive aperture operable for conductively coupling together all of said shielding
26 conductive layers to one another.

27
28 20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said shielding further comprises at
29 least one conductive via structure operable for conductively coupling together all of said
30 shielding conductive layers to one another.

21. (Original) The method claim 18, wherein said shielding further comprises at least one conductive aperture, wherein said at least one conductive aperture passes through at least said first electrode layer or said second electrode layer; and

wherein said at least one conductive aperture is operable for conductively coupling together all of said shielding conductive layers to one another.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said shielding further comprises at least one conductive via structure, wherein said at least one conductive via structure passes through at least said first electrode layer or said second electrode layer; and

wherein said at least one conductive via structure is operable for conductively coupling together all of said shielding conductive layers to one another.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said shielding is designed to be physically isolated from a circuit path.

24. (Original) The energy conditioner of claim 20, wherein said shielding is designed to be physically isolated from a circuit path.

25. (Original) A method of using an energy conditioner, said energy conditioner comprising:

an internally floating shield structure; a first electrode structure; a second electrode structure; wherein said first electrode structure comprises at least one first electrode structure first conductive layer, said second electrode structure comprises at least one second electrode structure first conductive layer; wherein said internally floating shield structure shields said first electrode structure first conductive layer from said second electrode structure, and said internally floating shield structure shields said second electrode structure first conductive layer from said first electrode structure; and said first electrode structure includes a first electrode contact region, said method comprising:

connecting said energy conditioner in an electrical circuit.

1 26. (Original) A method of using a capacitively/inductively coupling energy
2 conditioner, said energy conditioner comprising: an internally floating shield structure; a first
3 electrode structure; a second electrode structure; wherein said first electrode structure
4 comprises at least one first electrode structure first conductive layer, said second electrode
5 structure comprises at least one second electrode structure first conductive layer; wherein said
6 internally floating shield structure shields said first electrode structure first conductive layer
7 from said second electrode structure, and said internally floating shield structure shields said
8 second electrode structure first conductive layer from said first electrode structure; and said
9 first electrode structure includes a first electrode capacitive/inductive coupling pad, said
10 method comprising:

11 connecting said energy conditioner in an electrical circuit.
12

13 27. (Original) A method of using an internally shielded capacitor, said internally
14 shielded capacitor comprising: a shielding conductive layer; a first electrode defining at least
15 a first electrode layer, wherein said first electrode layer is above said shielding conductive
16 layer; a second electrode defining at least a second electrode layer, wherein said second
17 electrode layer is below said shielding conductive layer; wherein said shielding, said first
18 electrode, and said second electrode are electrically isolated from one another; and wherein
19 said first electrode, said second electrode, and said shielding conductive layer are positioned
20 and sized relative to one another such that any straight line passing through said first
21 electrode and said second electrode contacts said shielding conductive layer, said method
22 comprising:

23 connecting said internally shielded capacitor in an electrical circuit.
24

25 28. (Original) A method of using an energy conditioner, said energy conditioner
26 comprising: a shielding defining at least (1) upper shielding conductive layer, (2) a center
27 shielding conductive layer, and (3) a lower shielding conductive layer, wherein said upper
28 shielding conductive layer is above said center shielding conductive layer and said center
29 shielding conductive layer is above said lower shielding conductive layer; a first electrode
30 defining at least a first electrode layer, wherein said first electrode layer is below said upper

1 shielding conductive layer and above said center shielding conductive layer; a second
2 electrode defining at least a second electrode layer, wherein said second electrode layer is
3 below said center shielding conductive layer and above said lower shielding conductive layer;
4 and wherein said shielding, said first electrode, and said second electrode are electrically
5 isolated from one another; and wherein said first electrode, said second electrode, and said
6 center shielding conductive layer are positioned and sized relative to one another such that
7 any straight line passing through said first electrode and said second electrode contacts said
8 center shielding conductive layer, said method comprising:
9 connecting said energy conditioner in an electrical circuit.

10
11 29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said shielding further comprises at
12 least one conductive aperture operable for conductively coupling together all of said shielding
13 conductive layers to one another.

14
15 30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said shielding further comprises at
16 least one conductive via structure operable for conductively coupling together all of said
17 shielding conductive layers to one another.

18
19 31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said shielding further comprises at
20 least one conductive aperture, wherein said at least one conductive aperture passes through at
21 least said first electrode layer or said second electrode layer; and
22 wherein said at least one conductive aperture is operable for conductively coupling
23 together all of said shielding conductive layers to one another.

24
25 32. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said shielding further comprises at
26 least one conductive via structure, wherein said at least one conductive via structure passes
27 through at least said first electrode layer or said second electrode layer; and
28 wherein said at least one conductive via structure is operable for conductively
29 coupling together all of said shielding conductive layers to one another.

1 33. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said shielding is designed to be
2 physically isolated from a circuit path.

3
4 34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said shielding is designed to be
5 physically isolated from a circuit path.

6