

A Practical Guide to 'Free Energy' Devices

Device Patent No 26: Last updated: 7th May 2007

Author: Patrick J. Kelly

This is a reworded excerpt from this patent which shows a compact, self-powered, combined permanent magnet motor and electrical generator. There is a little extra information at the end of this document.

US Patent 5,625,241

29th April 1997

Inventor: Harold E. Ewing et al.

CAROUSEL ELECTRIC GENERATOR

ABSTRACT

A permanent magnet generator or motor having stationary coils positioned in a circle, a rotor on which are mounted permanent magnets grouped in sectors and positioned to move adjacent to the coils, and a carousel carrying corresponding groups of permanent magnets through the centres of the coils, the carousel moves with the rotor by virtue of its being magnetically coupled to it.

Inventors:

Ewing, Harold E. (Chandler, AZ, US)

Chapman, Russell R. (Mesa, AZ, US)

Porter, David R. (Mesa, AZ, US)

Assignee:

Energy Research Corporation (Mesa, AZ)

US Patent References:

3610974	Oct, 1971	Kenyon	310/49.
4547713	Oct, 1985	Langley et al.	318/254.
5117142	May, 1992	Von Zwegbergk	310/156.
5289072	Feb, 1994	Lange	310/266.
5293093	Mar, 1994	Warner	310/254.
5304883	Apr, 1994	Denk	310/180.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

There are numerous applications for small electric generators in ratings of a few kilowatts or less. Examples include electric power sources for emergency lighting in commercial and residential buildings, power sources for remote locations such as mountain cabins, and portable power sources for motor homes, pleasure boats, etc.

In all of these applications, system reliability is a primary concern. Because the power system is likely to sit idle for long periods of time without the benefit of periodic maintenance, and because the owner-operator is often inexperienced in the maintenance and operation of such equipment, the desired level of reliability can only be achieved through system simplicity and the elimination of such components as batteries or other secondary power sources which are commonly employed for generator field excitation.

Another important feature for such generating equipment is miniaturisation particularly in the case of portable equipment. It is important to be able to produce the required level of power in a relatively small generator.

Both of these requirements are addressed in the present invention through a novel adaptation of the permanent magnet generator or magneto in a design that lends itself to high frequency operation as a means for maximising power output per unit volume.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

Permanent magnet generators or magnetos have been employed widely for many years. Early applications of such generators include the supply of electric current for spark plugs in automobiles and aeroplanes. Early telephones used magnetos to obtain electrical energy for ringing. The Model T Ford automobile also used magnetos to power its electric lights.

The present invention differs from prior art magnetos in terms of its novel physical structure in which a multiplicity of permanent magnets and electrical windings are arranged in a fashion which permits high-speed/high-frequency operation as a means for meeting the miniaturisation requirement. In addition, the design is enhanced through the use of a rotating carousel which carries a multiplicity of field source magnets through the centres of the stationary electric windings in which the generated voltage is thereby induced.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the invention claimed, an improved permanent magnet electric generator is provided with a capability for delivering a relatively high level of output power from a small and compact structure. The incorporation of a rotating carousel for the transport of the primary field magnets through the electrical windings in which induction occurs enhances field strength in the locations critical to generation.

It is, therefore, one object of this invention to provide an improved permanent magnet generator or magneto for the generation of electrical power. Another object of this invention is to provide in such a generator a relatively high level of electrical power from a small and compact structure. A further object of this invention is to achieve such a high level of electrical power by virtue of the high rotational speed and high frequency operation of which the generator of the invention is capable.

A further object of this invention is to provide such a high frequency capability through the use of a novel field structure in which the primary permanent magnets are carried through the centres of the induction windings of the generator by a rotating carousel.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a means for driving the rotating carousel without the aid of mechanical coupling but rather by virtue of magnetic coupling between other mechanically driven magnets and those mounted on the carousel.

A still further object of this invention is to provide an enhanced capability for high speed/high frequency operation through the use of an air bearing as a support for the rotating carousel.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide in such an improved generator a sufficiently high magnetic field density in the locations critical to voltage generation without resort to the use of laminations or other media to channel the magnetic field.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the following description proceeds and the features of novelty which characterise the invention will be pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this specification.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention may be more readily described by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

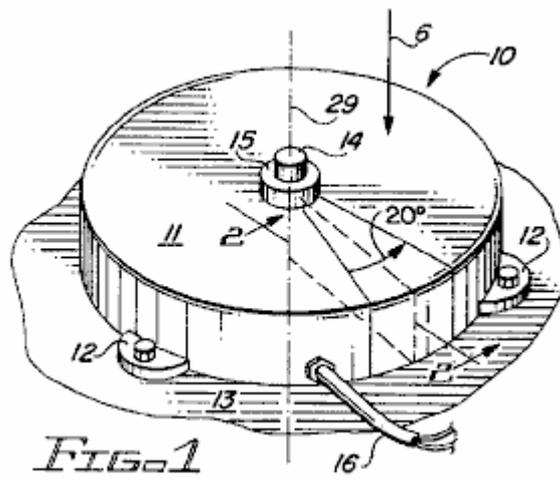


Fig.1 is a simplified perspective view of the carousel electric generator of the invention;

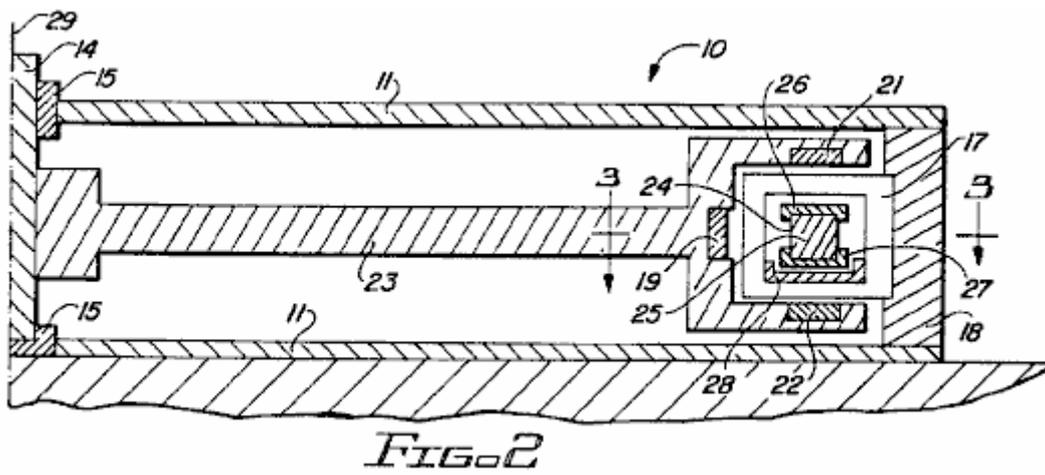


Fig.2 is a cross-sectional view of Fig.1 taken along line 2-2;

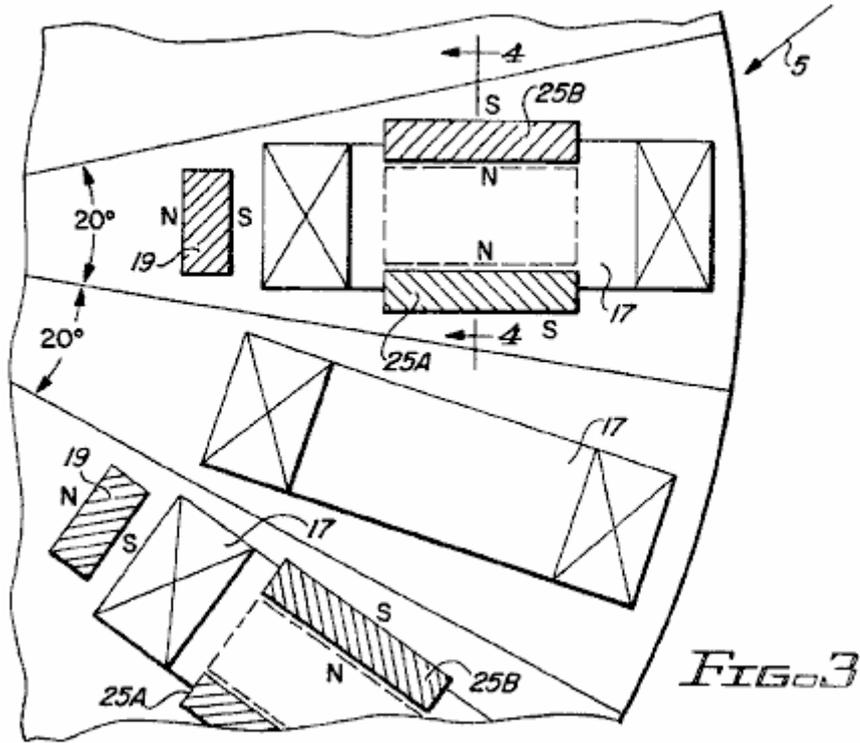


FIG. 3

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the generator of Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 taken along line 3--3 of Fig. 2;

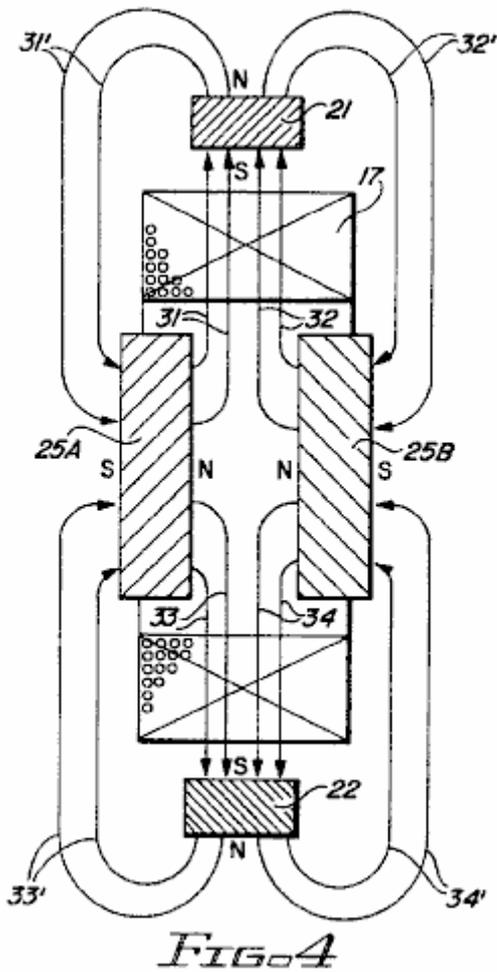


FIG. 4

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view of Fig. 3 taken along line 4--4;

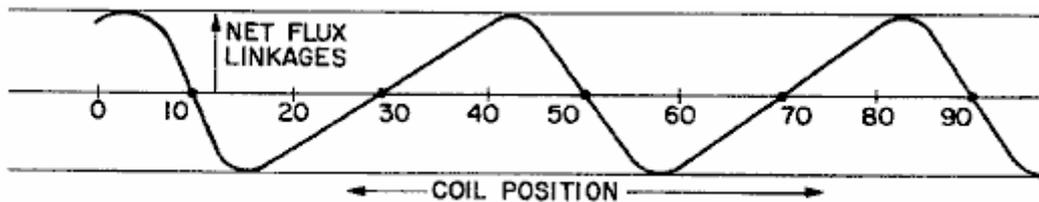


FIG. 7

Fig.7 is a wave form showing flux linkages for a given winding as a function of rotational position of the winding relative to the permanent magnets;

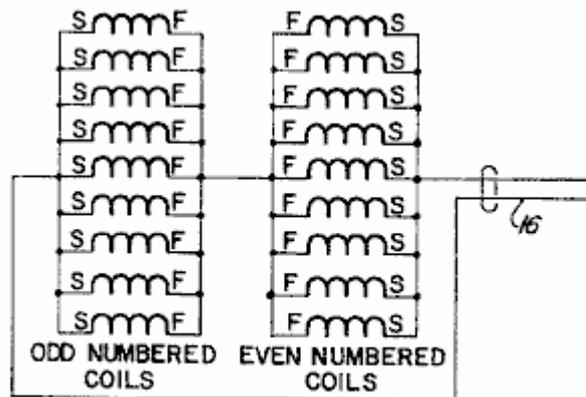


FIG. 8

Fig.8 is a schematic diagram showing the proper connection of the generator windings for a high current low voltage configuration of the generator;

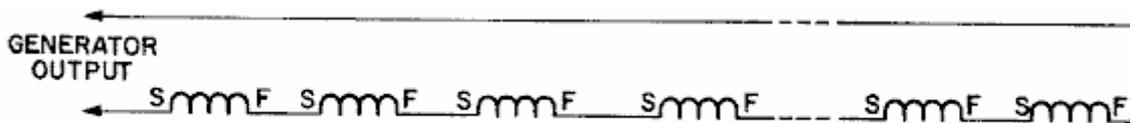


FIG. 9

Fig.9 is a schematic diagram showing a series connection of generator coils for a low current, high voltage configuration;

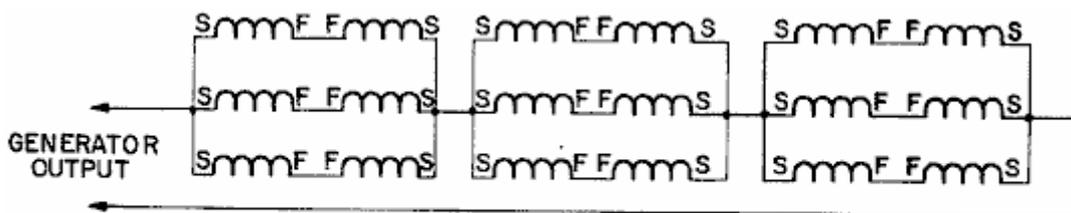


FIG. 10

Fig.10 is a schematic diagram showing a series/parallel connection of generator windings for intermediate current and voltage operation;

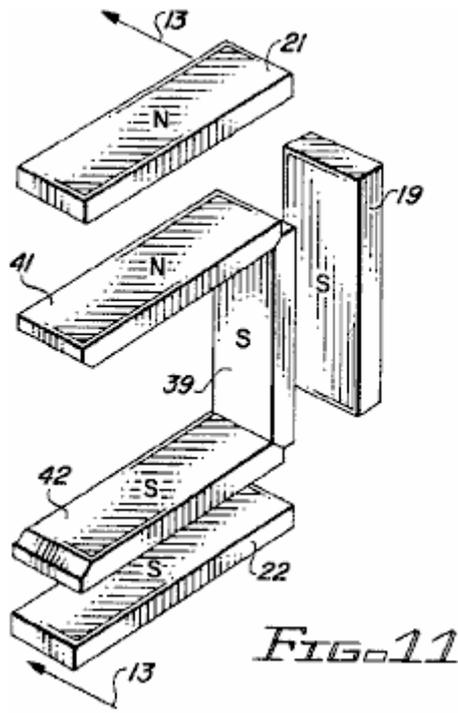


Fig.11 is a perspective presentation of a modified carousel magnet configuration employed in a second embodiment of the invention;

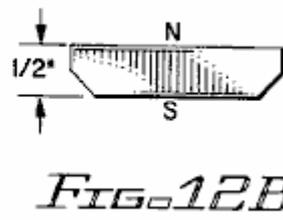
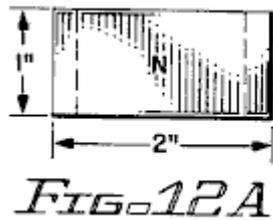


Fig.12A and **Fig.12B** show upper and lower views of the carousel magnets of **Fig.11**;

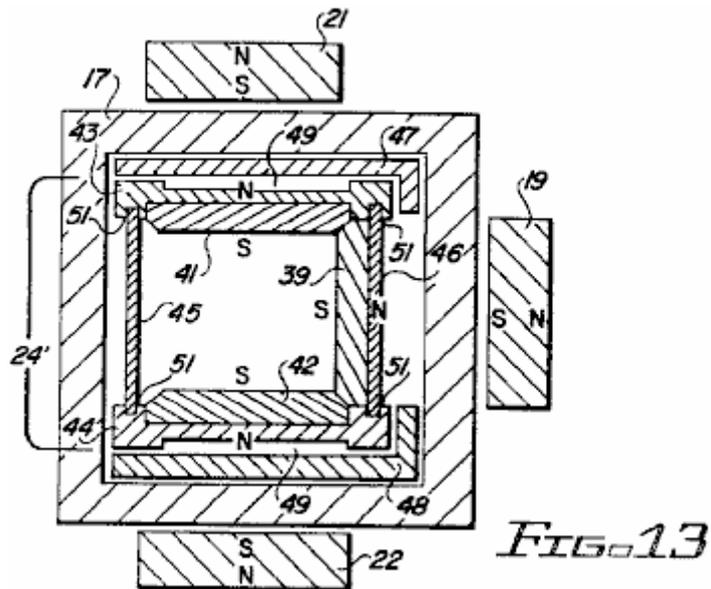


Fig.13 is a cross-sectional view of the modified magnet configuration of **Fig.11** taken along line 13--13 with other features of the modified carousel structure also shown;

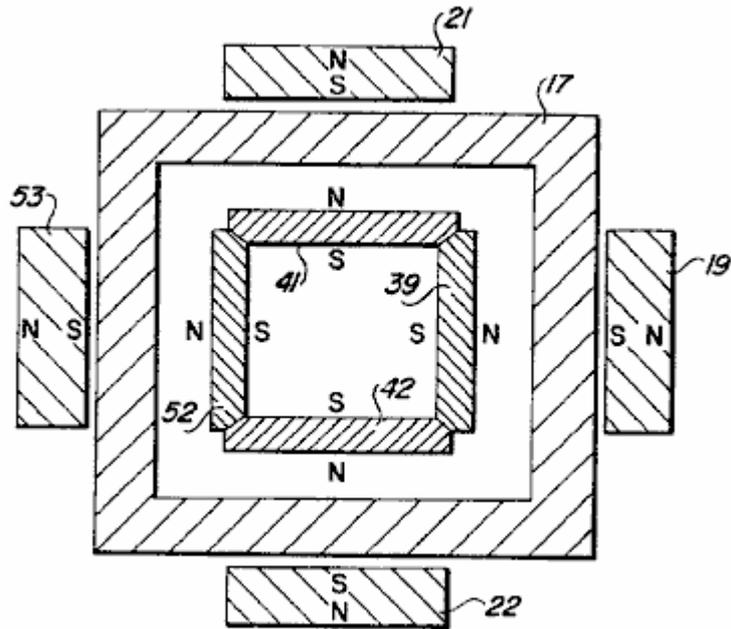


FIG. 14

Fig. 14 is a modification of the carousel structure shown in Figs. 1-13 wherein a fourth carousel magnet is positioned at each station; and

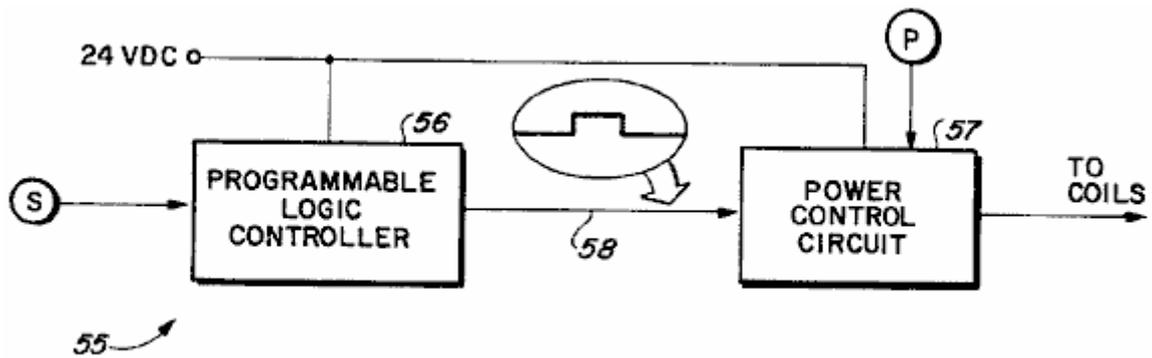
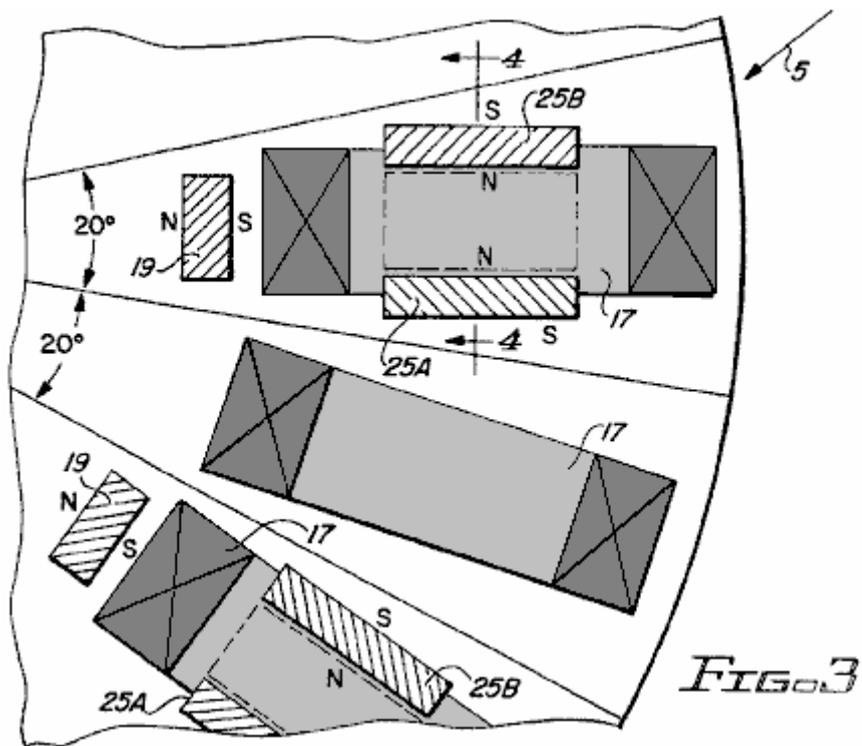


FIG. 15

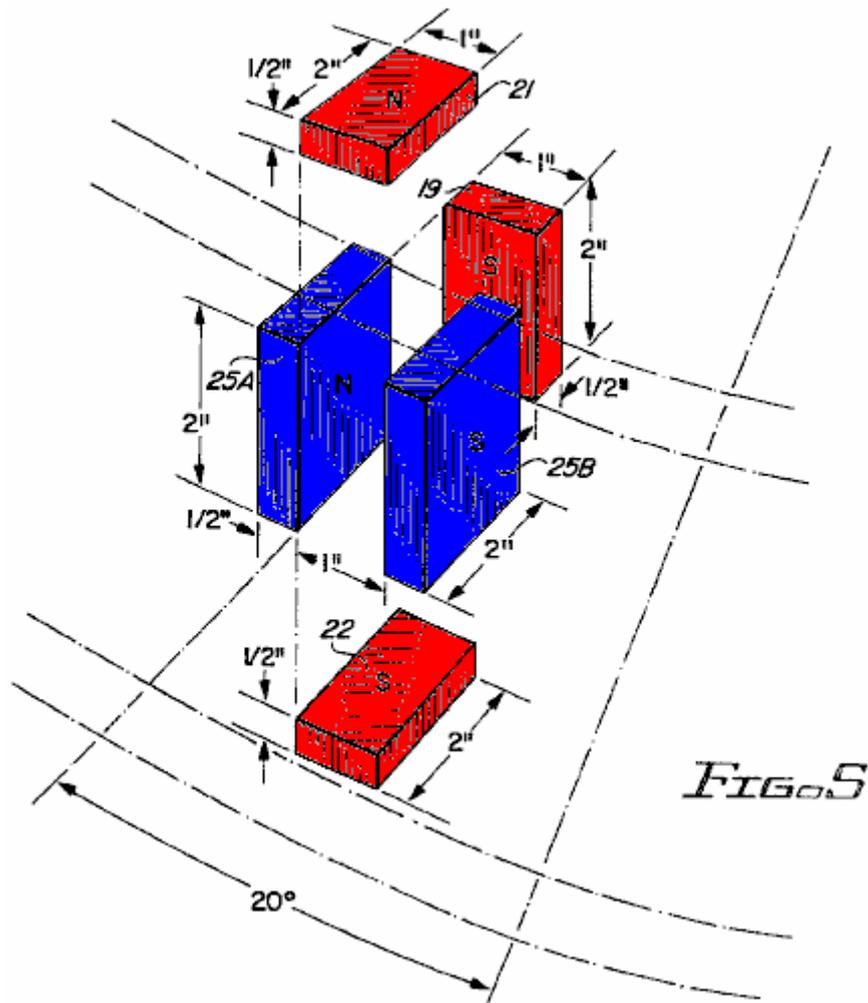
Fig. 15 illustrates the use of the claimed device as a pulsed direct current power source.

passages (not shown) admit air into the space between the lower surface of ring 27 and the upper or inside surface of channel 28. This arrangement comprises an air bearing which permits carousel 24 to rotate freely within the coils 17 about rotational axis 29 of rotor frame 23.

Carousel 24 is also divided into 18 twenty-degree sectors, including nine populated sectors interspersed with nine unpopulated sectors in an alternating sequence. Each of the nine populated sectors incorporates a pair of carousel magnets as described in the preceding paragraph.



The geometrical relationship between the rotor magnets, the carousel magnets and the coils, is further clarified by Fig.3, Fig.4 and Fig.5. In each of the three figures, the centre of each populated rotor sector is shown aligned with the centre of a coil 17. Each populated carousel sector, which is magnetically locked into position with a populated rotor sector, is thus also aligned with a coil 17.



In an early implementation of the invention, the dimensions and spacings of the rotor magnets **19**, **21** and **22** and carousel magnets, **25A** and **25B** of carousel magnet pairs **25** were as shown in **Fig.5**. Each of the rotor magnets **19**, **21** and **22** measured one inch by two inches by one-half inch with north and south poles at opposite one-inch by two-inch faces. Each of the carousel magnets **25A** and **25B** measured two inches by two inches by one-half inch with north and south poles at opposite two-inch by two-inch faces. The magnets were obtained from Magnet Sales and Manufacturing, Culver City, Calif. The carousel magnets were part No.35NE2812832; the rotor magnets were custom parts of equivalent strength (MMF) but half the cross section of the carousel magnets.

Coil supports and other stationary members located within magnetic field patterns are fabricated from Delrin or Teflon plastic or equivalent materials. The use of aluminium or other metals introduce eddy current losses and in some cases excessive friction.

As shown in **Fig.5**, carousel magnets **25A** and **25B** stand on edge, parallel with each other, their north poles facing each other, and spaced one inch apart. When viewed from directly above the carousel magnets, the space between the two magnets **25A** and **25B** appears as a one-inch by two-inch rectangle. When the carousel magnet pair **25** is perfectly locked into position magnetically, upper rotor magnet **21** is directly above this one-inch by two-inch rectangle, lower rotor magnet **22** is directly below it, and their one-inch by two-inch faces are directly aligned with it, the south poles of the two magnets **21** and **22** facing each other.

In like manner, when viewed from the axis of rotation of generator **10**, the space between carousel magnets **25A** and **25B** again appears as a one-inch by two-inch rectangle, and this rectangle is aligned with the one-inch by two-inch face of magnet **19**, the south pole of magnet **19** facing the carousel magnet pair **25**.

Rotor magnets **19**, **21** and **22** are positioned as near as possible to carousel magnets **25A** and **25B** while still allowing passage for coil **17** over and around the carousel magnets and through the space between the carousel magnets and the rotor magnets.

In an electric generator, the voltage induced in the generator windings is proportional to the product of the number of turns in the winding and the rate of change of flux linkages that is produced as the winding is rotated through the

magnetic field. An examination of magnetic field patterns is therefore essential to an understanding of generator operation.

In generator **10**, magnetic flux emanating from the north poles of carousel magnets **25A** and **25B** pass through the rotor magnets and then return to the south poles of the carousel magnets. The total flux field is thus driven by the combined MMF (magnetomotive force) of the carousel and field magnets while the flux patterns are determined by the orientation of the rotor and carousel magnets.

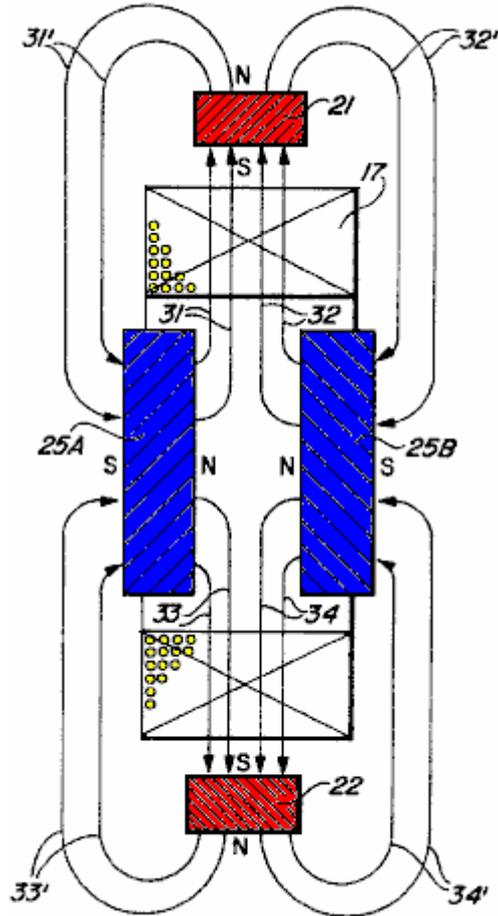


FIG. 4

The flux pattern between carousel magnets **25A** and **25B** and the upper and lower rotor magnets **21** and **22** is illustrated in **Fig. 4**. Magnetic flux lines **31** from the north pole of carousel magnet **25A** extend to the south pole of upper rotor magnet **21**, pass through magnet **21** and return as lines **31'** to the south pole of magnet **25A**. Lines **33**, also from the north pole of magnet **25A** extend to the south pole of lower rotor magnet **22**, pass through magnet **22** and return to the south pole of magnet **25A** as lines **33'**. Similarly, lines **32** and **34** from the north pole of magnet **25B** pass through magnets **21** and **22**, respectively, and return as lines **32'** and **34'** to the south pole of magnet **25B**. Flux linkages produced in coil **17** by lines emanating from carousel magnet **25A** are of opposite sense from those emanating from carousel magnet **25B**. Because induced voltage is a function of the rate of change in net flux linkages, it is important to recognise this difference in sense.

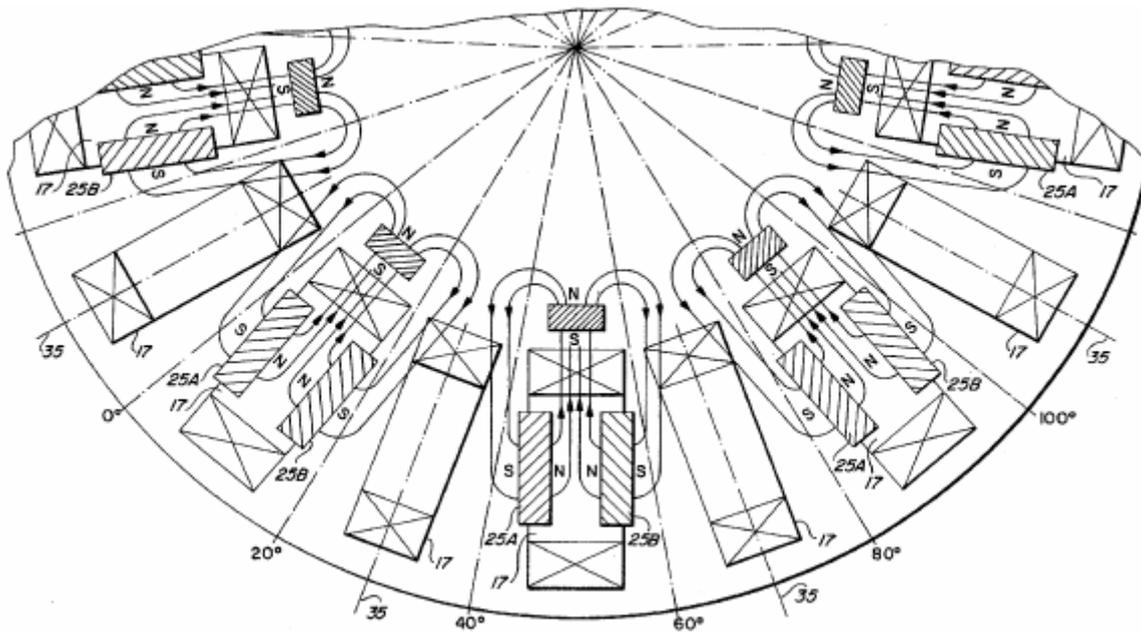


FIG.6

Fig.6 shows a similar flux pattern for flux between carousel magnets **25A** and **25B** and inboard rotor magnet **19**. Again the lines emanating from carousel magnet **25A** and passing through rotor magnet **19** produce flux linkages in coil **17** that are opposite in sense from those produced by lines from magnet **25B**.

The arrangement of the carousel magnets with the north poles facing each other tends to confine and channel the flux into the desired path. This arrangement replaces the function of magnetic yokes or laminations of more conventional generators.

The flux linkages produced by magnets **25A** and **25B** are opposite in sense regardless of the rotational position of coil **17** including the case where coil **17** is aligned with the carousel and rotor magnets as well as for the same coils when they are aligned with an unpopulated rotor sector.

Taking into account the flux patterns of **Fig.4** and **Fig.6** and recognising the opposing sense conditions just described, net flux linkages for a given coil **17** are deduced as shown in **Fig.7**.

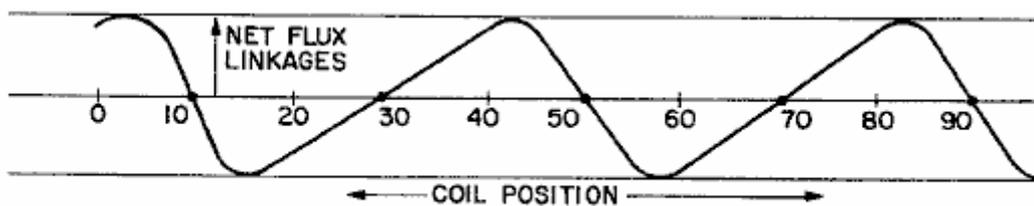


FIG.7

In **Fig.7**, net flux linkages (coil-turns x lines) are plotted as a function of coil position in degrees. Coil position is here defined as the position of the centreline **35** of coil **17** relative to the angular scale shown in degrees in **Fig.6**. (Note that the coil is stationary and the scale is fixed to the rotor. As the rotor turns in a clockwise direction, the relative position of coil **17** progresses from zero to ten to twenty degrees etc.).

At a relative coil position of ten degrees, the coil is centred between magnets **25A** and **25B**. Assuming symmetrical flux patterns for the two magnets, the flux linkages from one magnet exactly cancel the flux linkages from the other so that net flux linkages are zero. As the relative coil position moves to the right, linkages from magnet **25A** decrease and those from magnet **25B** increase so that net flux linkages build up from zero and passes through a maximum negative value at some point between ten and twenty degrees. After reaching the negative maximum, flux linkages decrease, passing through zero at 30 degrees (where coil **17** is at the centre of an unpopulated rotor sector) and then rising to a positive maximum at some point just beyond 60 degrees. This cyclic variation repeats as the coil is subjected successively to fields from populated and unpopulated rotor sectors.

As the rotor is driven rotationally, net flux linkages for all eighteen coils are altered at a rate that is determined by the flux pattern just described in combination with the rotational velocity of the rotor. Instantaneous voltage induced in

coil 17 is a function of the slope of the curve shown in **Fig.7** and rotor velocity, and voltage polarity changes as the slope of the curve alternates between positive and negative.

It is important to note here that a coil positioned at ten degrees is exposed to a negative slope while the adjacent coil is exposed to a positive slope. The polarities of the voltages induced in the two adjacent coils are therefore opposite. For series or parallel connections of odd and even-numbered coils, this polarity discrepancy can be corrected by installing the odd and even numbered coils oppositely (odds rotated end for end relative to evens) or by reversing start and finish connections of odd relative to even numbered coils. Either of these measures will render all coil voltages additive as needed for series or parallel connections. Unless the field patterns for populated and unpopulated sectors are very nearly symmetrical, however, the voltages induced in odd and even numbered coils will have different waveforms. This difference will not be corrected by the coil reversals or reverse connections discussed in the previous paragraph. Unless the voltage waveforms are very nearly the same, circulating currents will flow between even and odd-numbered coils. These circulating currents will reduce generator efficiency.

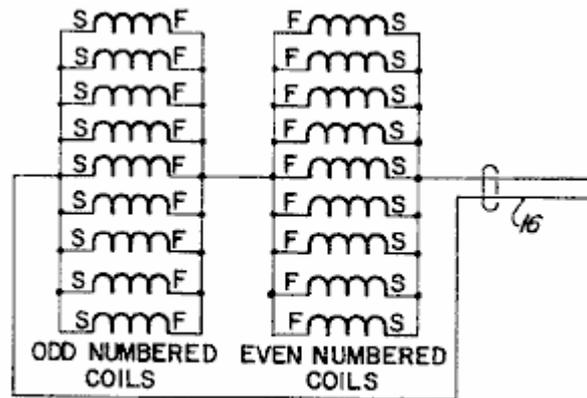


FIG. 8

To prevent such circulating currents and the attendant loss in operating efficiency for non symmetrical field patterns and unmatched voltage waveforms, the series-parallel connections of **Fig.8** may be employed in a high-current, low-voltage configuration of the generator. If the eighteen coils are numbered in sequence from one to eighteen according to position about the stator, all even-numbered coils are connected in parallel, all odd-numbered coils are connected in parallel, and the two parallel coil groups are connected in series as shown with reversed polarity for one group so that voltages will be in phase relative to output cable 16.

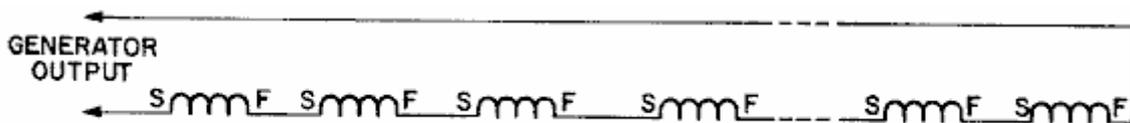


FIG. 9

For a low-current, high voltage configuration, the series connection of all coils may be employed as shown in **Fig.9**. In this case, it is only necessary to correct the polarity difference between even and odd numbered coils. As mentioned earlier, this can be accomplished by means of opposite start and finish connections for odd and even coils or by installing alternate coils reversed, end for end.

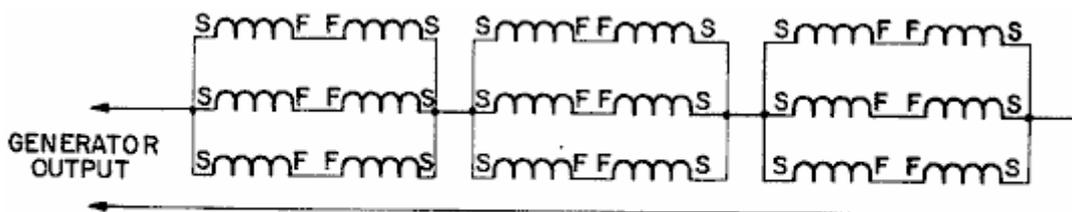
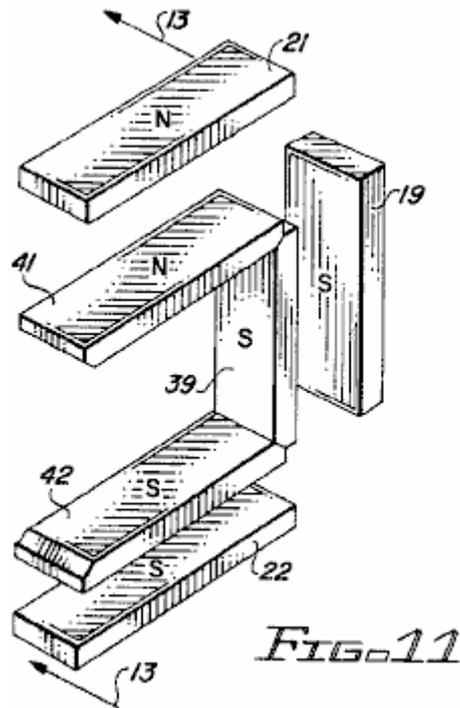


FIG. 10

For intermediate current and voltage configurations, various series-parallel connections may be employed. **Fig.10**, for example, shows three groups of six coils each connected in series. Circulating currents will be avoided so long as even-numbered coils are not connected in parallel with odd-numbered coils. Parallel connection of series-

connected odd/even pairs as shown is permissible because the waveforms of the series pairs should be very neatly matched.



In another embodiment of the invention, the two large (two-inch by two-inch) carousel magnets are replaced by three smaller magnets as shown in **Fig.11**, **Fig.12** and **Fig.13**. The three carousel magnets comprise an inboard carousel magnet **39**, an upper carousel magnet **41** and a lower carousel magnet **42** arranged in a U-shaped configuration that matches the U-shaped configuration of the rotor magnets **19**, **21** and **22**. As in the case of the first embodiment, the rotor and carousel magnets are present only in alternate sectors of the generator.

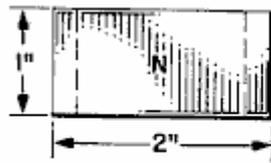


FIG. 12A

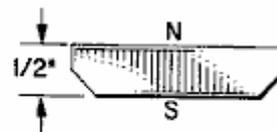
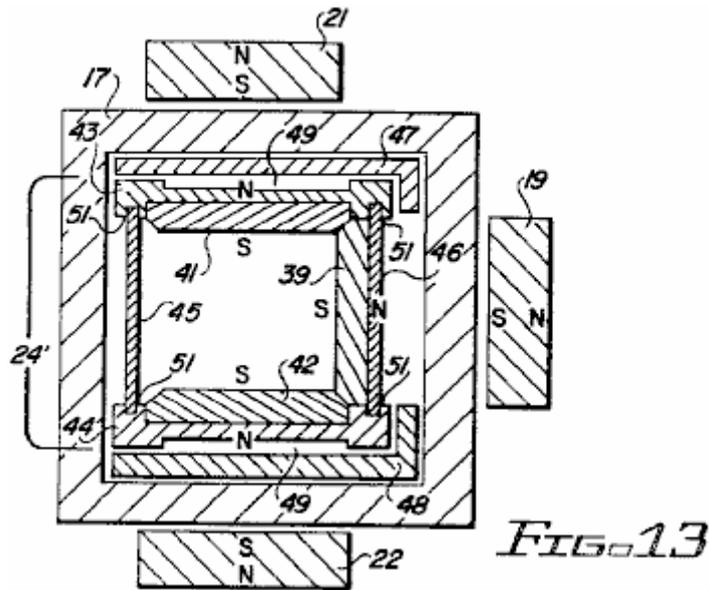


FIG. 12B

The ends of the carousel magnets are bevelled to permit a more compact arrangement of the three magnets. As shown in **Fig.12**, each magnet measures one inch by two inches by one half inch thick. The south pole occupies the bevelled one-inch by two-inch face and the north pole is at the opposite face.



The modified carousel structure 24' as shown in **Fig.13** comprises an upper carousel bearing plate 43, a lower carousel bearing plate 44, an outer cylindrical wall 45 and an inner cylindrical wall 46. The upper and lower bearing plates 43 and 44 mate with the upper and lower bearing members 47 and 48, respectively, which are stationary and secured inside the forms of the coils 17. Bearing plates 43 and 44 are shaped to provide air channels 49 which serve as air bearings for rotational support of the carousel 24'. The bearing plates are also slotted to receive the upper and lower edges 51 of cylindrical walls 45 and 46.

The modified carousel structure 24' offers a number of advantages over the first embodiment. The matched magnet configuration of the carousel and the rotor provides tighter and more secure coupling between the carousel and the rotor. The smaller carousel magnets also provide a significant reduction in carousel weight. This was found beneficial relative to the smooth and efficient rotational support of the carousel.

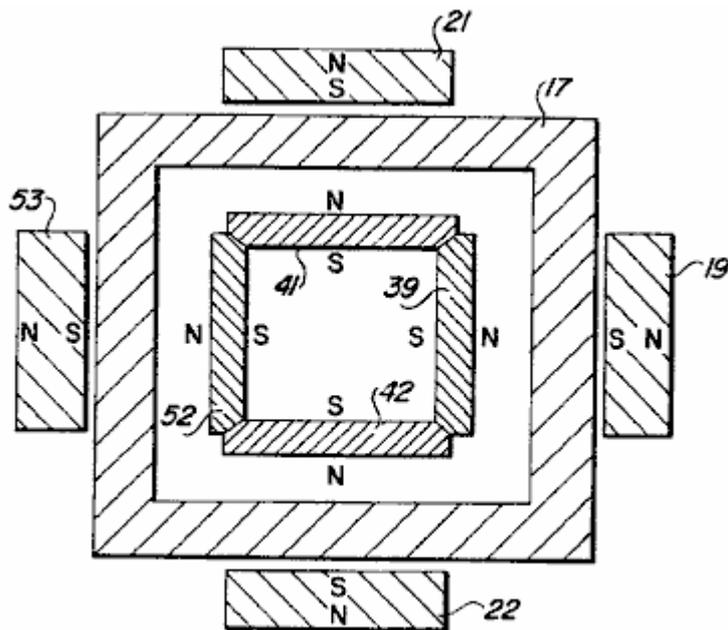


FIG. 14

The modification of the carousel structure as described in the foregoing paragraphs can be taken one step further with the addition of a fourth carousel magnet 52 at each station as shown in **Fig.14**. The four carousel magnets 39, 41, 42 and 52 now form a square frame with each of the magnet faces (north poles) facing a corresponding inside face of the coil 17. Carousel magnets for this modification may again be as shown in **Fig.12**. An additional rotor magnet 53 may also be added as shown, in alignment with carousel magnet 52. These additional modifications further enhance the field pattern and the degree of coupling between the rotor and the carousel.

The carousel electric generator of the invention is particularly well suited to high speed, high frequency operation where the high speed compensates for lower flux densities than might be achieved with a magnetic medium for routing the field through the generator coils. For many applications, such as emergency lighting, the high frequency is also advantageous. Fluorescent lighting, for example, is more efficient in terms of lumens per watt and the ballasts are smaller at high frequencies.

While the present invention has been directed toward the provision of a compact generator for specialised generator applications, it is also possible to operate the device as a motor by applying an appropriate alternating voltage source to cable **16** and coupling drive shaft **14** to a load.

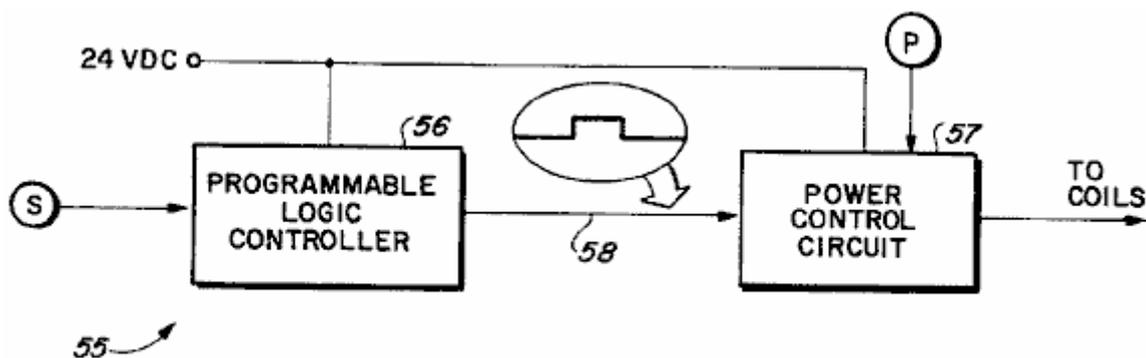


FIG. 15

It is also possible to operate the device of the invention as a motor using a pulsed direct-current power source. A control system **55** for providing such operation is illustrated in **Fig.15**. Incorporated in the control system **55** are a rotor position sensor **S**, a programmable logic controller **56**, a power control circuit **57** and a potentiometer **P**.

Based on signals received from sensor **S**, controller **56** determines the appropriate timing for coil excitation to assure maximum torque and smooth operation. This entails the determination of the optimum positions of the rotor and the carousel at the initiation and at the termination of coil excitation. For smooth operation and maximum torque, the force developed by the interacting fields of the magnets and the excited coils should be unidirectional to the maximum possible extent.

Typically, the coil is excited for only 17.5 degrees or less during each 40 degrees of rotor rotation.

The output signal **58** of controller **56** is a binary signal (high or low) that is interpreted as an ON and OFF command for coil excitation.

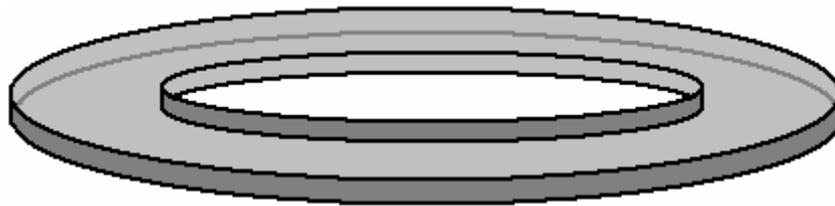
The power control circuit incorporates a solid state switch in the form of a power transistor or a MOSFET. It responds to the control signal **58** by turning the solid state switch ON and OFF to initiate and terminate coil excitation. Instantaneous voltage amplitude supplied to the coils during excitation is controlled by means of potentiometer **P**. Motor speed and torque are thus responsive to potentiometer adjustments.

The device is also adaptable for operation as a motor using a commutator and brushes for control of coil excitation. In this case, the commutator and brushes replace the programmable logic controller and the power control circuit as the means for providing pulsed DC excitation. This approach is less flexible but perhaps more efficient than the programmable control system described earlier.

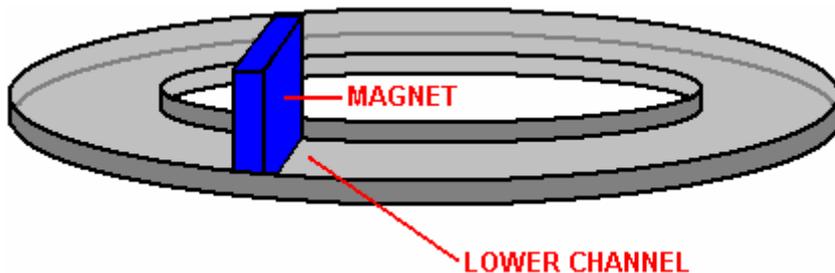
It will now be recognised that a novel and useful generator has been provided in accordance with the stated objects of the invention, and while but a few embodiments of the invention have been illustrated and described it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention or from the scope of the appended claims.

Notes:

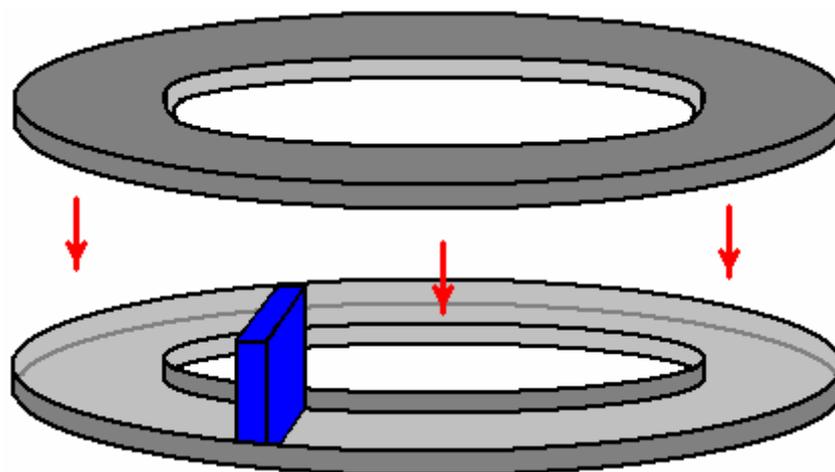
I found it a little difficult to visualise the carousel part, so the following may be helpful for some people. The "carousel" is formed from two circular plastic channels like this:



These channels are placed, one below and one above, nine pairs of carousel magnets (coloured blue in some of the patent diagrams shown above). Each carousel magnet sits in the lower channel:



And these magnets are secured as a unit by an identical plastic channel inverted and placed on top of the magnet set:



And this ring assembly of magnets spins inside the wire coils used to generate the electrical output. The ring spins inside the coils because the nine pairs of magnets in the ring, lock in place opposite the matching nine pairs of magnets in the rotor and the magnetic force and rotor rotation causes the ring to spin inside the coils.

