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(54) **ENERGY CONSERVING (STAND-BY MODE) POWER SAVING DESIGN FOR BATTERY CHARGERS AND POWER SUPPLIES**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system is described that turns off a high power, power supply when a device no longer needs high power. A low power, power supply or a rechargeable battery provides power to determine when the device again needs high power. The low power supply consumes a minimum possible power when the device does not need high power and the power rechargeable battery is not charged. That is, the high power and low power, power supplies are turned on or off based on the real time power consumption of the device and the charged state of the battery. The power need of the device is monitored by a current shunt monitoring circuit.

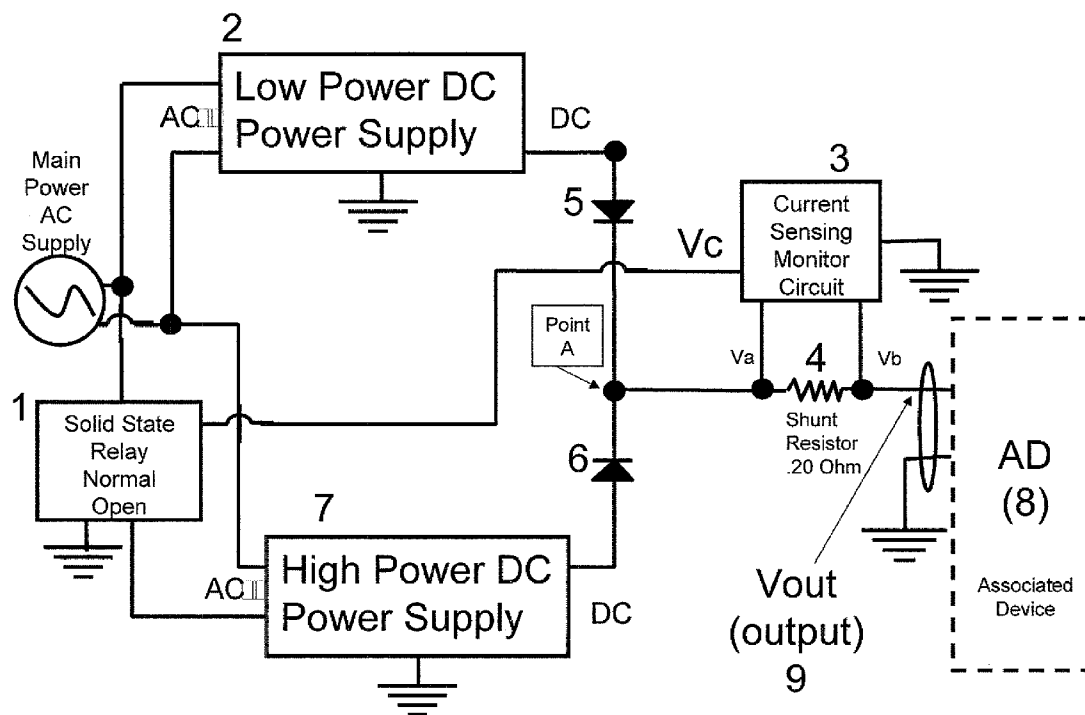
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Embodiment 1



Embodiment 1 Figure 1

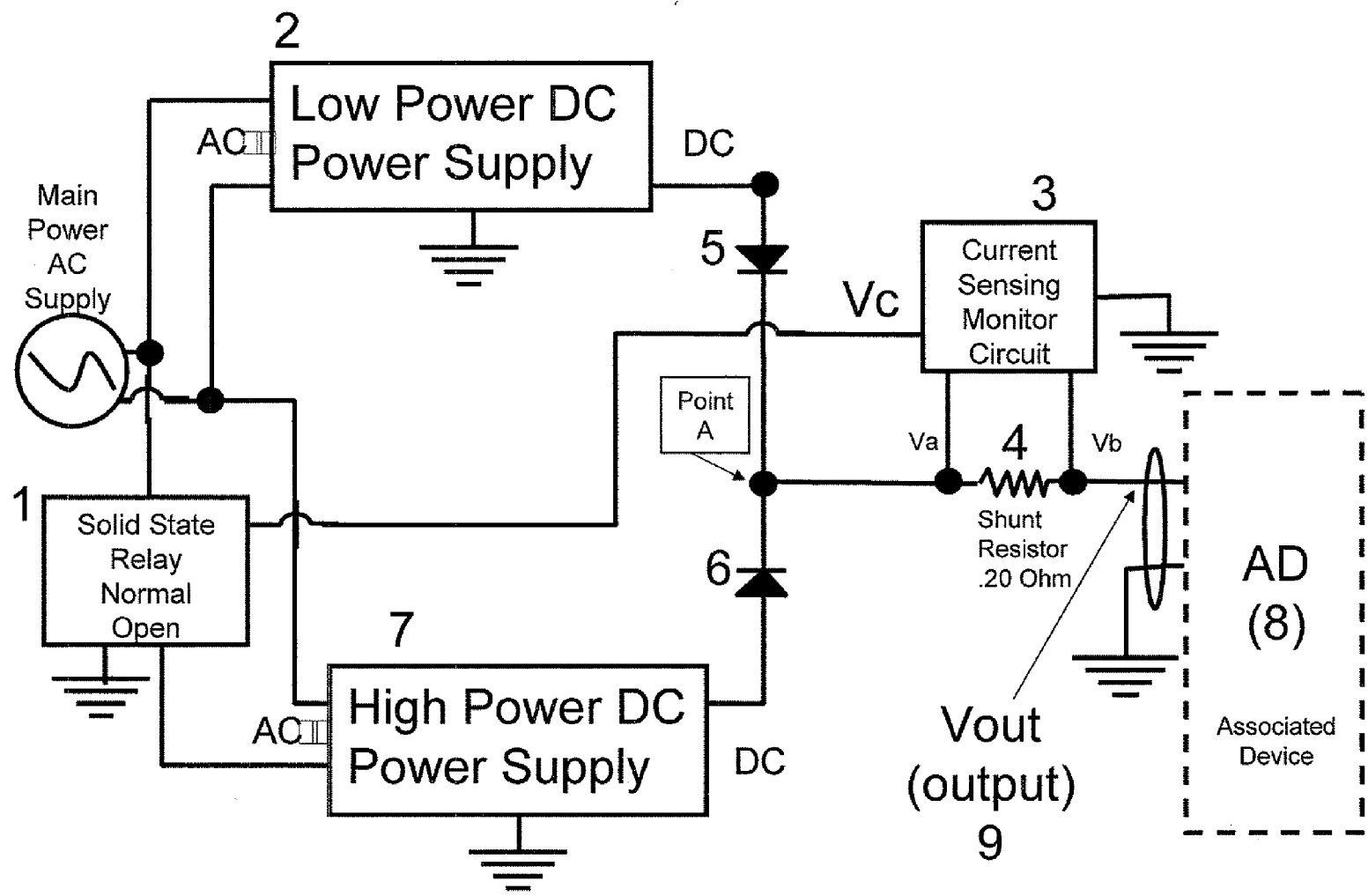
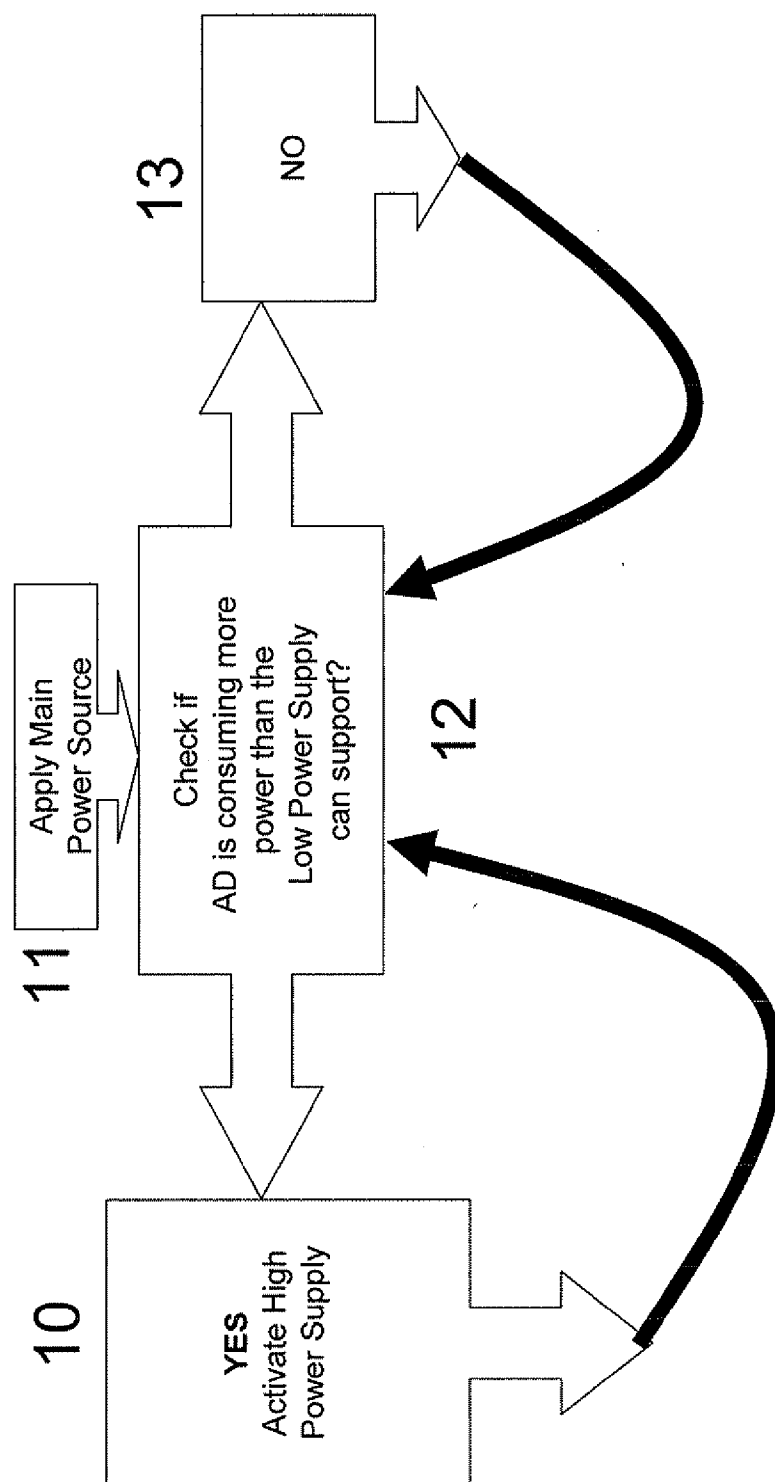
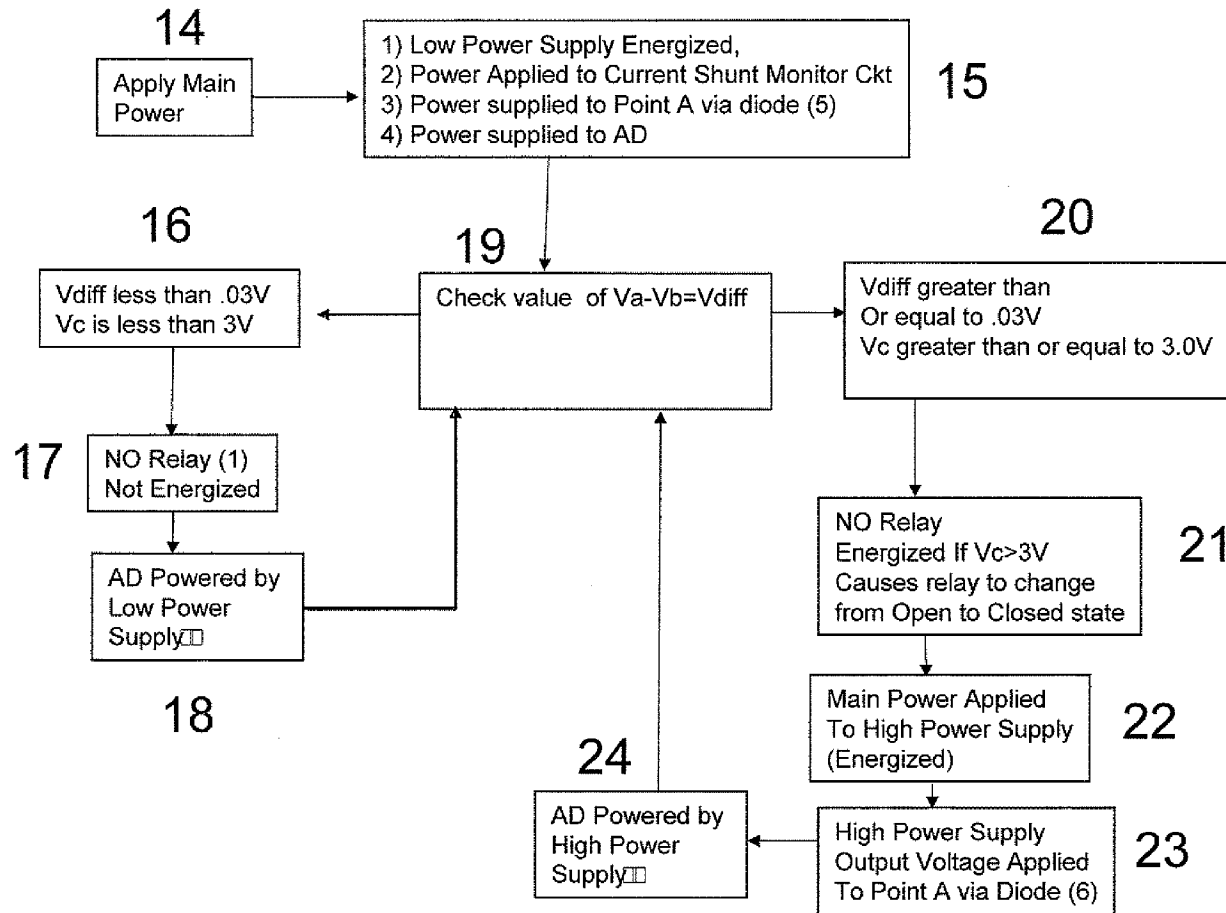


Figure 2
Embodiment 1
High Level Operating Flowchart



Embodiment 1 Detailed Operating Flowchart Figure 3



Embodiment 2

Figure 4

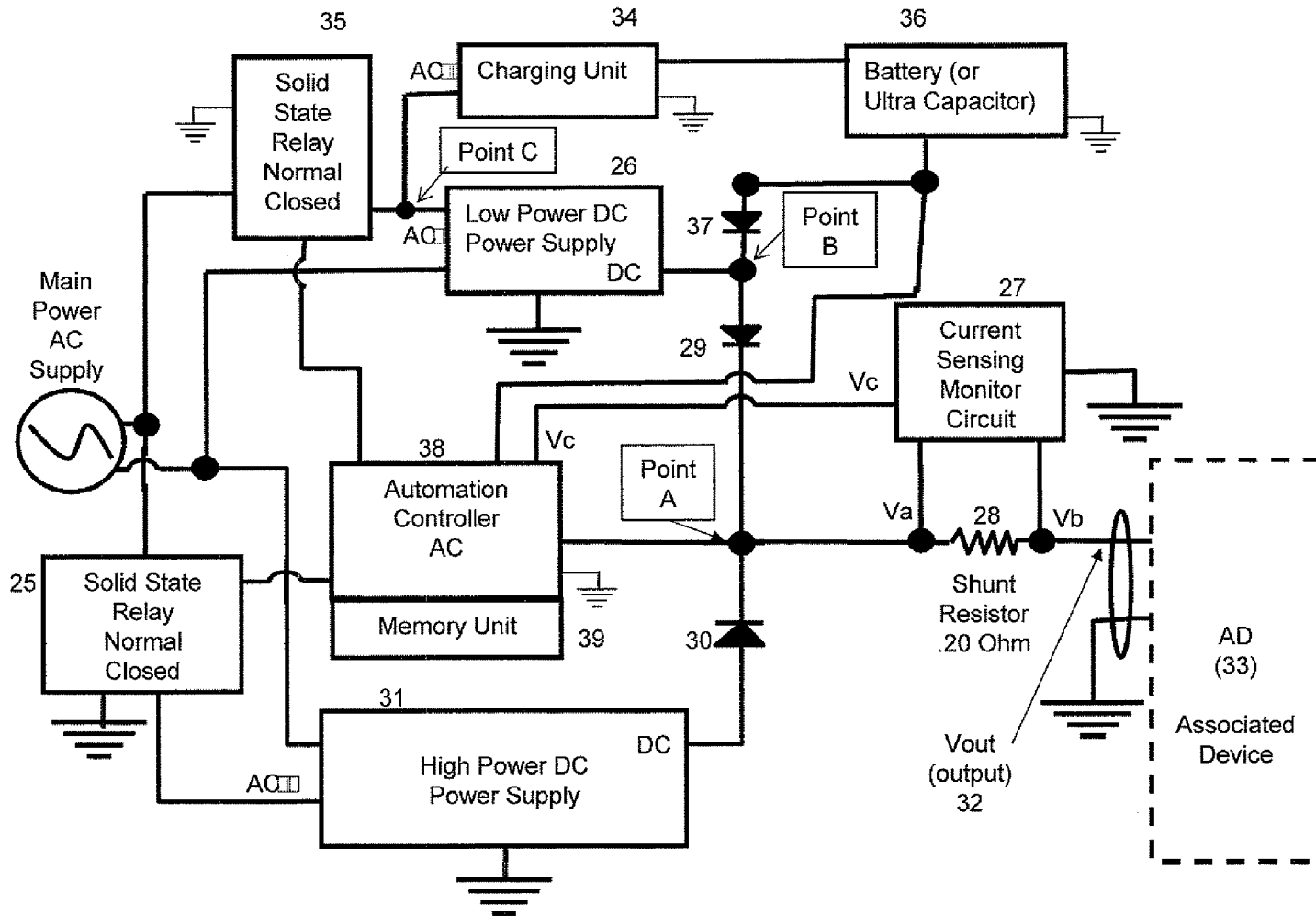
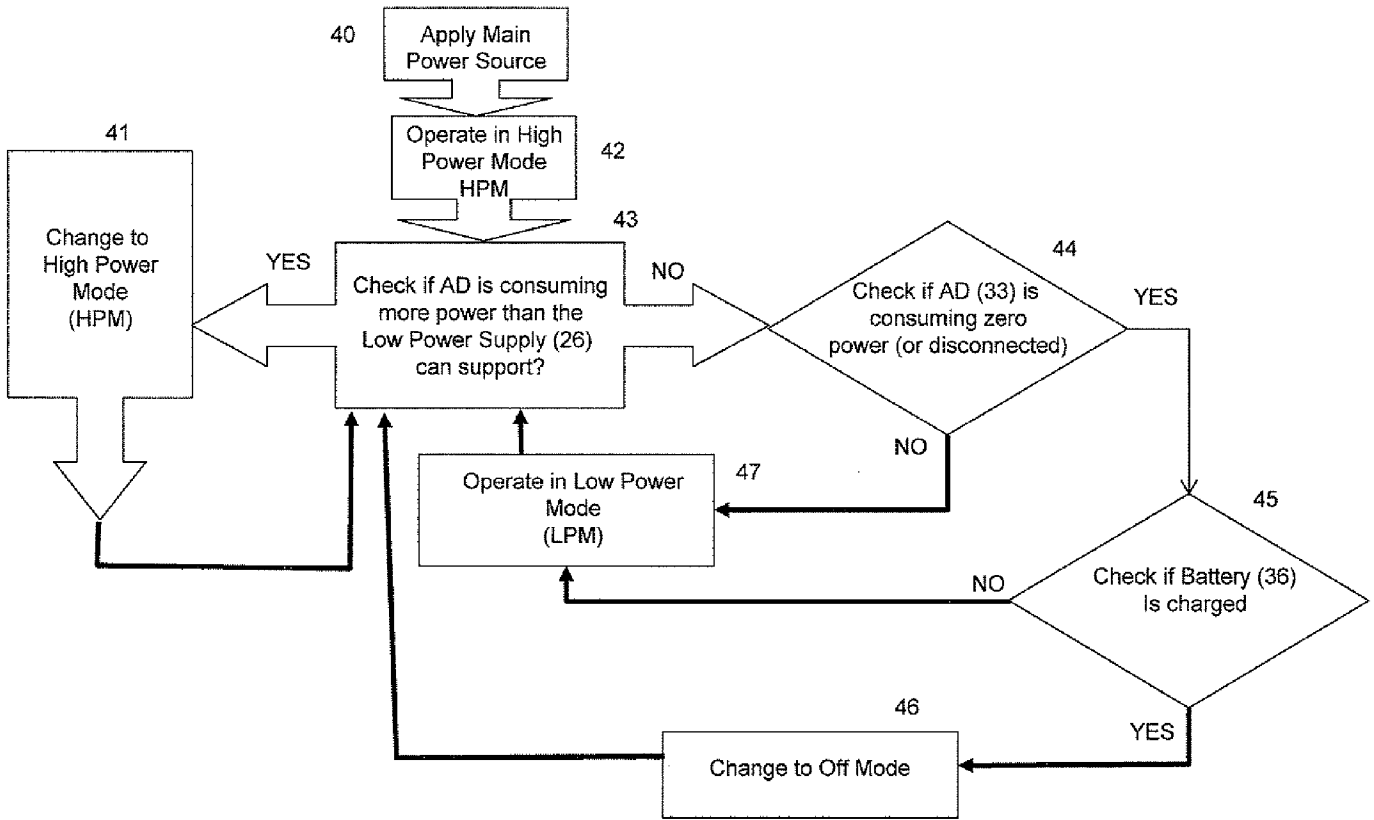


Figure 5

High Level Operating Flowchart



ENERGY CONSERVING (STAND-BY MODE) POWER SAVING DESIGN FOR BATTERY CHARGERS AND POWER SUPPLIES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is related to and claims priority to U.S. provisional application entitled Energy Conserving (Stand-by Mode) Power Saving Design for Battery Chargers and Power Supplies having Ser. No. 61/034,782, by Perper, filed Mar. 7, 2008 and incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND

[0002] 1. Field

[0003] The embodiments discussed herein are directed to electronic systems, and more specifically to the power supplies in electronic systems.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0005] The electronics industry has developed power supply (PS) and battery charger (BC) systems to power associated devices (AD) including portable DVD players, laptops, video games and televisions to home appliances. Many of these devices have an in-use or full power cycle ratio 1% to 50%. The power cycle indicates the percentage of time that the AD requires the full power potential of the power supply. These devices typically operate in two modes, low and high, power consumption. The devices operate in high power mode when on, active or charging a battery. They operate in low power mode when off or in standby mode.

[0006] The power supplies for these devices are designed to provide enough power to supply the maximum power consumption needs (high power mode) of the AD via a single output. The PS/BC is typically connected to the main alternating current (AC) power source (plugged in) 100% of the time. Therefore the power supply or battery charger (these terms are used interchangeably throughout this document) is active and consuming AC power when the AD is turned off, in standby mode, sleep mode or physically disconnected, in other words "downtime". Power consumption during "downtime" is also called phantom and vampire power use. This embodiment reduces the AC power consumption of the PS/BC, based on conventional technology, by up to 100% during downtime. The embodiment disclosed herein provides an upgrade path for manufacturers to meet or exceed the evolving Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Department of Energy, Energy Star program qualifications. The electronic industry as well as society is very interested in improving the power savings of these devices.

SUMMARY

[0007] It is an aspect of the embodiments discussed herein to provide an improved power supply.

[0008] The above aspects can be attained by a system that provides a power supply system including multiple, typically two power supplies, low power and high power. The low power supply is designed to consume the minimum possible power when the AD, is in standby mode. The high power supply is designed to supply the maximum power consumption requirement of the AD. The high power and low power supplies are turned on or off based on the real time power consumption of the AD. The power consumption of the AD is monitored by a current shunt monitoring circuit (CSMC).

[0009] In the following detailed descriptions, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that show, by way of illustration, specific embodiments. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to make and use the embodiments. It is to be understood that the various embodiments, although different, are not necessarily mutually exclusive. For example, a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described herein in connection with one embodiment may be implemented within other embodiments without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure. In addition, it is to be understood that the location or arrangement of individual elements within each disclosed embodiment may be modified without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure. The following detailed descriptions are, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the embodiments is defined only by the appended claims, appropriately interpreted, along with the full range of equivalents to which the claims are entitled. In the drawings, like numerals refer to the same or similar functionality throughout the several views.

[0010] These together with other aspects and advantages which will be subsequently apparent, reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] FIG. 1 shows a power supply in accordance with the embodiment number 1.

[0012] FIG. 2 shows a High Level Flow Chart of the Operational Logic of the embodiment number 1.

[0013] FIG. 3 shows a Detailed Level Flow Chart of the Operational Logic of the embodiment number 1.

[0014] FIG. 4 shows a power supply in accordance with the embodiment number 2.

[0015] FIG. 5 shows a High Level Flow Chart of the Operational Logic of the embodiment number 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

[0016] This system is described in 2 embodiments to illustrate 2 of the possible implementations.

First Embodiment

[0017] The following embodiment, as depicted in FIG. 1, is of a power supply and/or battery charger (PS/BC) system used to power associated devices (8) (AD (8)) with power consumption characteristics that include low power consumption (50% to 99% of the time) and high power consumption (1%-50% of the time). The first embodiment operating flow charts are depicted in FIGS. 2 and 3. This embodiment is a design to power a rechargeable laptop computer. The exact ratio of time the AD (8) requires high power versus low power is not critical.

[0018] The embodiment discussed herein includes a power supply or battery charger (PS/BC) designed to minimize the power consumption of itself during the times the AD (8) is disconnected, in stand-by, sleep mode or off. FIG. 1 shows a power supply or battery charger (PS/BC) in accordance with this embodiment.

[0019] The embodiment switches between a low power (LPM) and high power mode (HPM) depending on the real

time power consumption requirements of the AD (8). The logical determination is identified in FIGS. 2 and 3 as (12) and (19). The power consumption of the AD (8) varies based on the following conditions: stand-by or sleep (reduced power consumption) mode, turned off, battery charging mode, disconnected or normal active mode (on). The following is a description of the embodiment of a laptop power supply. In the description the AD represents a laptop computer.

[0020] This embodiment comprises a high power supply (7) Manufacturer: Dell Model Number: ADP-70EB and a low power supply (2) Manufacturer: CUI Inc., Model Number: ESPS240025-P5P, a normally open solid state power relay (NOR) (1) Teledyne Model Number: SH25D25, a current shunt monitor circuit (CSMC) (3) Analog Devices Model Number: AD8212, a (0.2 Ohm) shunt resistor (4), two diodes (5,6) and a single output (9) Vout. The CSMC (3) controls the state of the NOR (1). The state of the NOR (1) activates or deactivates the high power supply (7). The outputs of the low power supply (2) and the high power supply (7) are connected to each other with two diodes (5,6) in opposing directions at point A. The anode of each diode is connected to its associated power supply and the cathodes of each of the diodes (5,6) are connected at point A. The shunt resistor (4) is connected in series between the diodes (5,6) at point A and the AD (8) via the single output (9). The CSMC (3) monitors the difference in voltage across the shunt resistor (4). The CSMC (3) is connected in parallel to the shunt resistor (4). The high side input of the CSMC (3) is connected to the circuit between point A and the shunt resistor (4). The low side input of the CSMC (3) is connected to the circuit between the shunt resistor (4) and the output of the power supply (9). The output of the CSMC (3), control signal Vc, is equal to approximately 1000 times the difference in voltage across the shunt resistor (4), Vdiff. The output of the CSMC (3) controls the operation of the NOR (1), Vc.

[0021] The embodiment initially operates in low power mode (LPM) when the embodiment is plugged into or attached to the main AC power source (11, 12, 14, 15). The low power supply (2) is active whenever the embodiment is connected or attached to the main AC power source (100% of the time the embodiment is active). In the LPM mode the AD (8) and the CSMC (3) are powered by the low power supply (2). The embodiment operates in LPM whenever the AD (8) is in stand-by or sleep mode, off or disconnected from the embodiment or whenever the AD (8) requires less than or equal to 200 mW. In the LPM mode the high power supply (7) is inactive because it is disconnected from the main AC power source by the NOR (1) in the open state. The power mode is determined (12, 19) by the real time power consumption of the AD (8). The CSMC (3) monitors the power consumption of the AD (8) by monitoring the current through the shunt resistor (4). The CSMC (3) monitors the output current level by measuring the difference in voltage, Vdiff, between the two sides (high and low side) of the shunt resistor (4), $V_{diff} = V_a - V_b$ (19). The value of the shunt resistor (4) is determined by the maximum power capability of the low power supply (2), in this embodiment the value of the shunt resistor (4) is 0.2 ohms. The value of the shunt resistor (4) is determined to be such that the voltage drop, Vdiff, across the resistor (4) is approx 0.0030 Volts when the power consumed by the AD (8) equals 80% of the maximum power capability of the low power supply (2). In this embodiment the maximum power capability of the low power supply (2) is 250 mW. In this embodiment the CSMC (3) chosen provides a

gain of approximate 1000 times the input voltage, Vdiff. In this embodiment the CSMC (3) used is an Analog Devices integrated circuit, part number AD8212. The output voltage of the CSMC (3) (Vc) will be approximately 1000 times the input voltage, Vdiff. Therefore when the power consumption of the AD (8) is zero watts the output of the CSMC, Vc, will be approx. zero volts. Hence when the power consumption of the AD (8) is 200 mW, 80% of the power capability of the low power supply (2), the output of the CSMC (3) (Vc) will be approximately 3.0V. The output of the CSMC (3), Vc, is a direct reflection of the real time power consumption of the AD (8) as function of the current flow through the shunt resistor (4) to the AD (4).

[0022] The output voltage of the CSMC (3) (Vc) is connected to the control input of the NOR (1). In this embodiment the NOR (1) is a solid-state relay with optical isolation, manufactured by Teledyne, model SH24D25. The NOR (1) is a normally open (NO) relay. When Vc is 2.9v or less the NOR (1) is in the open (circuit) mode. When the NOR (1) is in open mode the main AC power source is disconnected from the high power supply (7), deactivated. In this mode (low power mode, LPM) the low power supply (2) is supplying power to the CSMC (3) and the AD (8). When Vc is at or above 3.0V the NOR (1) is in closed (circuit) mode. When the NOR (1) is in closed mode the main AC power source (AC power) is connected to the input of the high power supply (7), via the relay (1), which is closed/energized. In this mode, high power mode (HPM) the high power supply (7) is supplying power to the AD (8), via diode (6) and the shunt resistor (4).

[0023] The low power supply (2) and the high power supply (7) are connected to the shunt resistor (4) at point A via diodes (5,6). The diodes (5,6) protect the power supplies from reverse current damage.

[0024] Therefore this embodiment operates as follows:

[0025] 1) When this embodiment (see FIG. 3) is attached to the main power source (11, 14, 15) the invention operates in LPM low power mode. The low power supply (2) is energized 100% of the time the embodiment is active. The low power supply (2) also supplies power to the AD (8) when the embodiment is in LPM mode.

[0026] 2) The real time power consumption of the AD (8) is monitored by the CSMC (3) via Vdiff. If the power consumption causes Vdiff to exceed 0.0030V the current sensor output Vc, exceeds 3.0V. Vdiff equal to 0.0030V is called the Low Power Threshold.

[0027] 3) If Vc is equal or greater than 3.0V, the NOR (1) is energized, connecting the main AC power source to the high power supply (7). Refer to FIGS. 2 and 3 (12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)

[0028] 4) When the NOR (1) is energized the main AC power source energizes the high power supply (7). When the high power supply (7) is energized it supplies power to the AD (8) via diode (6) and the shunt resistor (4) and Vout (9).

[0029] 5) If the AD (8) reduces its power consumption such that Vdiff goes below 0.0030V, the output of the current sensor (3), VC, goes below 3.0V. When Vc goes below 3.0V the power NOR (1) is de-energized disconnecting the main AC power source from the high power supply (7). When the high power supply (7) is de-energized the low power supply (2) provides power to the current sensor and the AD (8) via the shunt (4) and Vout (9). Refer to FIGS. 2 and 3 (10, 12, 19, 16, 17, 18)

[0030] If the AD (8) is consuming more than 200 mW, then the embodiment is operating in HPM. The high power supply

(7) provides power to the AD (8) via diode (6) and the shunt resistor (4). In HPM mode V_{diff} is greater than or equal to 0.0030V (12, 13, 19, 16, 17, 18). In this mode the CSMC (3) continues to monitor V_{diff} . If the real time power consumed by the AD (8) is reduced below the LPM threshold, V_{diff} becomes less than 0.0030V. This can occur if the AD (8) is disconnected from the embodiment or the AD (8) changes to a stand-by or low power consumption mode. When this occurs the output of the CSMC (3), V_c , drops below 3.0V. When V_c is less than 3.0V the NOR (1) is de-energized. When the NOR (1) is de-energized the main AC power source is disconnected from the high power supply (7) and the output voltage of the high power supply (7) becomes zero. Once the main AC power source is disconnected from the high power supply (7) the embodiment is in low power mode (LPM). In LPM the low power supply (2) provides power to the AD (8) via diode (5) and shunt resistor (4) and provides power to operate the CSMC (3).

[0031] If the AD (8) is disconnected from the embodiment while the embodiment is in HPM mode, the embodiment changes to LPM. When the AD (8) is disconnected from the embodiment no current flows through the shunt resistor (4). When V_{diff} is zero, V_c will be zero, which causes the NOR (1) to be de-energized. When the NOR (1) is de-energized the high power supply (7) is disconnected from the main AC power source. When the main AC power source is disconnected from the high power supply (7) the embodiment is in LPM.

[0032] If the embodiment is unplugged or disconnected from the main AC power source the embodiment will default to LPM when re-connected to the main AC power source (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19). If the AD (8) requires the embodiment to be in HPM when the embodiment is connected to the main AC power source the embodiment initially operates in LPM briefly until the CSMC (3) determines (12, 19) V_{diff} is equal to or greater than 0.003V. Once V_{diff} is greater than or equal to 0.003V the output of the CSMC (3) V_c , is greater or equal to 3.0V. When V_c is greater than or equal to 3.0V the power relay, NOR (1) energizes and the high power supply (7) is activated and the embodiment is in HPM mode.

[0033] The power consumption of an AD (8) varies based on its modes of operations. If the AD (8) is a laptop with a rechargeable battery the power consumption of the AD (8) depends on a number of conditions. These conditions include the real time battery charge level (or percentage), laptop operational mode: on, off, standby or hibernate. Standby and hibernate modes are power consumption modes wherein the laptop reduces or turns-off components, such as display backlight, hard drive, etc. In battery charging mode either partially or completely discharged the laptop (AD (8)) consumes maximum power and the embodiment is in HPM. When the laptop battery is fully charged the laptop will consume less than the maximum power consumption. In that mode the power supply may operate in LPM. As the AD (8) changes modes or battery charge conditions the embodiment changes modes from LPM to HPM or HPM to LPM as the real time power consumptions changes.

[0034] Second Embodiment (Microprocessor Controlled with Battery or Ultra Capacitor)

[0035] This embodiment (see FIG. 4) is a power supply or battery charging system comprising two power supplies, low power and high power. The low power supply is designed to supply the minimum possible power requirement of the AD (33). The high power supply is designed to supply the maxi-

mum power requirement of the AD (33). The high power supply is turned on or off based on the real time power consumption of the AD (33). The power consumption of the AD (33) is monitored by a current shunt monitoring circuit (CSMC) (27) and an Automation Controller (AC) (38). The AC (38) contains a microprocessor or microcontroller, input/output (I/O) interfaces and memory (39) that contains the automation program. The AC (38) provides the control signal to activate the high power supply (31), low power supply (26) and the charging unit (34) depending on the required operating mode.

[0036] The embodiment is of a power supply and/or battery charger (PS/BC) system used to power associated devices AD (33) with power consumption characteristics that include high power consumption (1% to 50% of the time) and low power consumption (50%-99% of the time) or off. This embodiment is a design to power a rechargeable laptop computer. The exact ratio of time the AD (33) requires high power versus low power is not critical.

[0037] The embodiment discussed herein comprises a power supply or battery charger (PS/BC) designed to minimize the power consumption of itself during the times the AD (33) is disconnected, in stand-by, sleep mode or off. FIG. 4 shows a power supply or battery charger (PS/BC) in accordance with the embodiment described below.

[0038] The embodiment switches among 3 modes: off, low power mode (LPM) and high power mode (HPM) depending on the real time power consumption requirements of the AD (33). The power consumption of the AD (33) varies based on the following conditions: stand-by or sleep (reduced power consumption) mode, turned off, battery charging mode, disconnected or normal active mode (on). The following description is of the embodiment of a laptop power supply. In the description the AD (33) represents a laptop computer.

[0039] This embodiment, as depicted in FIG. 4, includes a high power supply (31) Manufacturer: Dell Model Number: ADP-70EB and a low power supply (26) Manufacturer: CUI Inc., Model Number: ESPS240025-P5P, two normally closed, NC, power relays (NCR) (25, 35) Omron Model Number: G6C-2114P-US-DC5, a current shunt monitor circuit (CSMC) (27) Analog Devices Model Number: AD8212, a (0.2 Ohm) shunt resistor (28), three diodes (29, 30, 37), Charging Unit (CU) (34), a battery (or ultra capacitor) (36), an Automation Controller (38) and a single output (32) V_{out} . The Automation Controller, AC (38), controls the state of the relays (25, 35). The state of the NC (normally closed) relay (25) activates or deactivates the high power supply (31). The state of the NCR (35) activates or deactivates the low power supply (26) and the charging unit (34), simultaneously. The embodiment is designed to operate in high power mode if the battery fails. In this embodiment the terms battery {as part of the embodiment} and ultra capacitor are considered interchangeable because they perform the same function. The program/automation instructions are contained in the non-volatile memory unit (39) within the AC (38). The software code of the AC (38) instructions are not included here.

[0040] The outputs of the low power supply (26) and the high power supply (31) are connected to each other with 2 diodes (29, 30) in opposing directions at point A. The anode of each diode (29, 30) is connected to its associated power supply and the cathodes of each of the diodes (29, 30) are connected at point A. The positive terminal of the battery (36) is connected to the circuit at point B via diode (37). The positive terminal of the battery is also connected to the AC

(38). The shunt resistor (28) is connected in series between the diodes (29, 30) at point A and the AD (33) via the single output (32).

[0041] The Charging Unit (34) is connected directly to the battery (or ultra capacitor) (36). Its function is to charge the battery or ultra capacitor. The CU (34) is activated when the NCR (35) is de-energized by the AC (38). This occurs when the AC (38) determines that the battery or ultra capacitor (36) requires re-charging. It also occurs whenever the embodiment is in low power mode (LPM).

[0042] The battery (36) supplies the power to the CSMC (27) and the AC (38) when the power supply is in off mode. When in off mode the embodiment uses power from the main power AC supply (wall) only to re-charge the battery (36) as necessary.

[0043] The normally closed relay (NCR) (35) is controlled by the automation controller, AC (38). One side of the relay is connected to the main power AC supply. The other side of the relay is connected to the CU (34) and the low power supply (26) at point C. The control/energizing input to the normally closed relay, NCR (35) is connected to the AC (38).

[0044] The NCR (25) is controlled by the AC (38). One side of the relay is connected to the main power AC supply. The other side of the relay is connected to the high power supply (31). The control/energizing input to the NCR (25) is connected to the AC (38).

[0045] The CSMC (27) is powered by the low power supply (26) whenever the NCR (35) is de-energized by the AC (38). The CSMC (27) is powered by the battery (36) whenever the relay (35) is energized by the AC (38). The CSMC (27) monitors the difference in voltage, V_{diff} , across the shunt resistor (28). The CSMC (27) is connected in parallel to the shunt resistor (28). The high side input of the CSMC (27) is connected to the circuit between point A and the shunt resistor (28). The low side input of the CSMC (27) is connected to the circuit between the shunt resistor (28) and the output of the power supply (32). The output of the CSMC (27), control signal V_c , is equal to approximately 1000 times the difference in voltage across the shunt resistor (28), V_{diff} . The output of the CSMC (27) is connected to a monitor input of the AC (38).

[0046] The embodiment initially operates in high power mode when the embodiment is plugged into or attached to the main power source (40, 42). When power is initially applied to the embodiment the battery charging begins and the AC (38) determines the proper mode of operation (off, LPM or HPM) (43). In off mode the battery (36) supplies power to the AC (38), if the battery (36) is charged (43, 44, 45, 46)—see FIG. 5. If the battery (36) is discharged below a pre-defined level the AC (38) switches (43, 44, 45, 47) the embodiment into low power mode. In low power mode the low power supply (26) and the charging unit (34) are active. Additionally the embodiment is in LPM whenever the battery (36) needs to be recharged or when the AD (33) is connected and consumes less power than the maximum power supply capability of the low power supply (26). In the LPM mode the AD (33), the AC (38) and the CSMC (27) are powered by the low power supply (26).

[0047] The embodiment operates in off mode when the associated device AD (33) is disconnected from the embodiment or turned off (requires no power). In the off mode the AC (38) is powered by the battery (36). If the battery (36) charge drops below a pre-defined level the AC (38) de-energizes the normally closed relay (NCR) (35) to activate the charging unit (34) and low power DC power supply (26). When the NCR

(35) is de-energized the embodiment is in low power mode (LPM). See FIG. 5 (43, 44, 45, 46, 47).

[0048] The embodiment operates in LPM when the NCR (35) is de-energized. In LPM the charging unit (34) charges the battery (36). In LPM the low power supply (26) supplies power to the AC (38) and the AD (33), if connected, and the AD (33) requires power.

[0049] The embodiment operates in high power mode (HPM) when the NCR (25) is de-energized. The embodiment operates in HPM when the AD (33) requires more power than the low power supply (26) can provide. See FIG. 5 (43, 41).

[0050] The operating instructions for the AC (38) reside in its memory unit (39). The AC (38) monitors the output of the CSMC (27), provides the control signal for the NC relay (25), monitors the voltage of the battery (36) and provides the control signal for the NC relay (35). The AC (38) de-activates relay (25) when the AD (33) is on and requires the high power mode. The AC (38) de-activates the NCR (35) when the battery (36) requires re-charging or the AD (33) requires less than or equal to 200 mW or both the battery (36) requires re-charging and the AD (33) requires less than or equal to 200 mW.

[0051] The embodiment operates in LPM whenever the AD (33) requires less than or equal to 200 mW. In the LPM mode the high power supply (31) is inactive because it is disconnected from the main power source by the relay, NCR (25) in the open state. The power mode is chosen by the AC (38) based on the real time power consumption of the AD (33). The CSMC (27) monitors the power consumption of the AD (33) by monitoring the current through the shunt resistor (28). The CSMC monitors the output current level by measuring the difference in voltage, V_{diff} between the two sides (high and low side) of the shunt resistor (28), $V_{diff} = V_a - V_b$. The value of the shunt resistor (28) is determined by the maximum power capability of the low power supply (26), in this embodiment the value of the shunt resistor is 0.2 Ohms. The value of the shunt resistor (28) is determined to be such that the voltage drop, V_{diff} , across the resistor (28) is approx 0.0030 Volts when the power consumed by the AD (33) equals 80% of the maximum power capability of the low power supply (26). In this embodiment of the invention the maximum power capability of the low power supply (26) is 250 mW. In this embodiment of the invention the CSMC (27) chosen provides a gain of approximate 1000 times the input voltage, V_{diff} . In this embodiment the CSMC (27) used is an Analog Devices integrated circuit, part number AD8212. The output voltage of the CSMC (27) (V_c) will be approximately 1000 times the input voltage, V_{diff} . Therefore when the power consumption of the AD (33) is zero watts the output of the CSMC (27), V_c , will be approx. zero volts. Hence when the power consumption of the AD (33) is 200 mW, 80% of the power capability of the low power supply (26), the output of the CSMC (27) (V_c) will be approx. 3V. The output of the CSMC (27), V_c , is a direct reflection of the real time power consumption of the associated device AD (33) as a function of the current flow through the shunt resistor (28) to the AD (33).

[0052] Therefore this embodiment, as depicted in FIGS. 4 and 5, operates as follows:

[0053] 1) The automation controller (AC) (38) controls the operating mode of the embodiment. The AC (38) determines the operating mode by monitoring the power consumption of the AD (33) utilizing the output voltage of the current sensing monitor circuit (CSMC) (27) as an input signal. The AC (38)

also monitors the battery charge level via a second input. See FIG. 5 for a flowchart of the operation of this embodiment.

[0054] 2) The embodiment operates in high power mode when the embodiment is initially plugged into or attached to the main power source. When power is initially applied to the embodiment the battery (36) charging begins and the AC (38) determines 43, 44, 45 the proper mode of operation (off, LPM or HPM). Since the battery (36) has never been charged the embodiment will activate 47 the low power supply (26) and the charging unit (34), until the battery (36) is charged. The low power supply (26) and the charging unit (34) are activated when the AC (33) de-activates the normally closed relay, NCR (35). If the AD (33) is attached to the embodiment and the AD (33) is off or in an operational mode that consumes power at a level that the low power supply (26) can supply the needed power (in this embodiment 200 mW), the embodiment switches to low power mode, LPM. If the AD (33) is attached to the embodiment and the AD (33) in an operational mode that consumes power at a level that the low power supply (26) cannot supply (greater than 80% of the maximum power rating for the low power supply (26) the embodiment remains 41 in HPM. In low power mode the low power supply (26) and the charging unit (34) are active. In LPM mode the AD (33), the AC (38) and the CSMC (27) are powered by the low power supply (26). In HPM the AD (33) and AC (38) and the CSMC (27) are powered by the high power supply (31).

[0055] Once the battery is initially charged the the embodiment will operate in either of its operating modes, off, LPM or HPM by monitoring the output of the CSMC (27). When the output of the CSMC (27) goes to zero for a pre-defined period (based on the intended use of the embodiment) the AC (38) switches 46 the embodiment to off mode. When the output of the CSMC (27), V_c , is greater than zero volts and less than 3.0V the AC (38) switches 47 the embodiment to low power mode, LPM.

[0056] 3) The real time power consumption of the AD (33) is monitored by the CSMC (27) and the AC (38). When the power consumption of the AD (33) causes V_{diff} to exceed 0.003V the current sensor output V_c , exceeds 3V. V_{diff} equal to 0.003V is called the Low Power Threshold (43).

[0057] 4) If V_c is equal or greater than 3V, the AC (38) de-energizes the normally closed relay (NCR) (25), connecting the main power source to the high power supply (31). When NCR (25) is de-energized the embodiment is in high power mode (HPM). When the NCR (25) is de-energized, the main power source energizes the high power supply (31). When the high power supply (31) is energized it supplies power to the AD (33), CSMC (27) and AC (38) via diode (30). This will occur when the AD (33) consumes more power than 80% of the power rating of the low power supply (26). In this embodiment the power rating of the low power supply (26) is 250 mW.

[0058] In HPM the AC (38) monitors the battery (36) charge level. If the battery (36) is discharged the AC (38) will de-energize the normally closed relay, NCR, (35). When the NCR (35) is de-energized the charging unit, CU (34) and the low power supply (26) are energized. The CU (34) will charge the battery until fully charged 45. Once the battery is fully charged the AC (34) will energize the NCR (35) to de-activate the CU (34) and the low power supply (26), while in HPM.

[0059] 5) If V_c is less than 3V and greater than zero (0) volts, the AC (38) de-energizes (closes) the normally closed relay, NCR (35) placing the embodiment in low power mode, LPM. In LPM the AC (38) energizes NCR (25). When NCR

(25) is energized the high power supply (31) is disconnected from the main power source and is de-activated. When the high power supply is de-energized the low power supply (26) provides power to the CSMC (27), the AC (38) and the AD (33). This will occur if the AD (33) is in stand-by or low power consumption mode.

[0060] 6) If V_c is equal to zero volts, the AC (38) energizes the NCRs (25 and 35), placing the embodiment in off mode 46. When the AD (33) is disconnected from the embodiment or turned off the power consumption becomes zero. When the power consumption of the AD (33) is zero the current through the shunt resistor is zero. When the current through the shunt resistor is zero, V_{diff} will be zero. When V_{diff} is zero, V_c will be zero. If the battery (36) is charged 45 and V_c becomes zero volts while the embodiment is in HPM or LPM mode, the embodiment changes to off mode. If the battery (36) requires charging and V_c becomes zero volts while the embodiment is in HPM mode, the embodiment changes 47 to LPM. If the battery (36) requires charging and V_c becomes zero volts while the embodiment is LPM the embodiment will remain in LPM until the battery is charged. If V_c is zero, when the battery (36) charging is complete the embodiment will change to off mode.

[0061] 7) If the embodiment is unplugged or disconnected from the main power source the embodiment will default to LPM when re-connected to the main power source if the battery is not fully depleted. If the AD (33) requires the embodiment to be in HPM when the embodiment is connected to the main power source the embodiment initially operates in LPM briefly until AC (38) determines V_c is greater than or equal to 3V. When V_c is greater than or equal to 3V the AC (38) energizes NCR (25). When NCR (25) is de-energized the high power supply (31) is activated and the embodiment is in HPM mode.

[0062] 8) The embodiment will operate in either LPM or HPM if the battery fails or becomes fully depleted depending on the power consumption of the AD (33).

[0063] The power consumption of an AD (33) varies based on its modes of operations. If the AD (33) is a laptop with a rechargeable battery the power consumption of the AD (33) depends on a number of conditions. These conditions include the real time battery charge level (or percentage), laptop operational mode: on, off, standby or hibernate. Standby and hibernate modes are power consumption modes wherein the laptop reduces or turns-off components, such as display back-light, hard drive, etc. In battery charging mode, when the laptop battery is either partially or completely discharged, the laptop (AD (33)) consumes maximum power and the embodiment is in HPM. When the laptop battery is fully charged the laptop will consume less than the maximum power consumption. In that mode the embodiment may operate in LPM. As the AD (33) changes modes or battery charge level the embodiment changes modes among off (46), LPM (47) or HPM (41) as the real time power consumption of the laptop (AD (33)) changes.

[0064] In this embodiment the normally closed relay maybe replaced with normally open relays based on the requirements of the intended use.

[0065] The system can also be embodied as a power supply for a flat panel TV. This embodiment is utilized to reduce the power consumption of the TV when turned off. Flat panel TVs consume power when turned off, typically 0.4 to 3 W. This embodiment incorporates the same power supply utilized by the flat panel TV as the high power supply. The

embodiment includes the low power supply (26) and the other components in the same configuration as either of the previous embodiments. In this embodiment the power supply power consumption in off mode is reduced up to 100% from the typical power consumption in off mode.

[0066] The many features and advantages of the embodiments are apparent from the detailed specification and, thus, it is intended by the appended claims to cover all such features and advantages of the embodiments that fall within the true spirit and scope thereof. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the inventive embodiments to the exact construction and operation illustrated and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A power supply apparatus connectable/disconnectable to a DC device at a single output, comprising:

a first AC to DC power supply for supplying power to the device, producing a first power level and having an AC power source input; and

a control circuit for turning the first power supply on and off when the device is disconnected from the apparatus and when the device is recharged said control circuit comprising:

a second AC to DC power supply producing a second power level less than the first power level;

a first diode (anode) connected to the first power supply; a shunt resistor connected between the first diode (cathode) and the output;

a second diode connected between the second power supply (anode side) and both the shunt resistor and the first diode (cathode side), second diode cathode;

a current shunt monitoring circuit connected across the shunt resistor and producing a control signal; and

a solid state normal open relay connected to the AC power source input of the first power supply, connected to the current shunt monitoring circuit and controlled by the control signal.

2. A power supply apparatus connectable/disconnectable to a DC device at a single output, comprising:

a first AC to DC power supply for supplying power to the device, producing a first power level and having an AC power source input; and

a control circuit comprising:

a second AC to DC power supply producing a second power level less than the first power level;

a first diode (anode) connected to the first power supply; a shunt resistor connected between the first diode (cathode) and the output;

a second diode connected between the second power supply (anode side) and both the shunt resistor and the first diode (cathode side), second diode cathode;

a current shunt monitoring circuit connected across the shunt resistor and producing a control signal;

a first solid state normally open relay connected to the AC power source input of the first power supply and connected to the current shunt monitoring circuit;

a second solid state normally open relay connected to the AC power source input of the second AC to DC power supply;

a charging unit connected to the AC power source input of the second AC to DC power supply;

a rechargeable power supply connected to the charging unit;

a third diode connected between the rechargeable power supply and the second diode; and

a controller controlling the first and second solid state normally open relays responsive to a state of the device as determined by the current monitoring circuit and a state of rechargeable power supply.

3. An apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein the rechargeable device comprises an ultra capacitor.

4. A power supply apparatus for a DC device, comprising: an actuatable AC to DC power supply for supplying power to the device; and

a control circuit for turning the power supply on/off when the device is connected/disconnected from the apparatus and when the device is does not need power.

5. An apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein the device is a rechargeable device and the power supply is turned off when the rechargeable device is charged

6. An apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein the control circuit senses current drawn by the device.

7. An apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein the control circuit comprises a solid state AC relay and a current shunt monitoring circuit.

8. An apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein the power supply produces a DC output.

9. An apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein the apparatus has a single output.

10. An apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein a power level of a first value is supplied to the device when the device is discharged and a power level of a second level less than the first level is supplied to the device when device is charged

11. A method of DC power control for a device, comprising:

turning off an AC to DC power supply when the device is charged;

turning on the power supply when the device is partially discharged;

turning off the power supply when the device is disconnected from the power supply; and

turning on the power supply when the device is connected and the device is partially discharged.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein a power level of a first value is supplied to the device when the device is discharged and a power level of a second level less than the first level is supplied to the device when device is charged.

13. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising: charging a rechargeable device for monitoring power supply need; and

turning off the power supply when rechargeable device is charged.

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