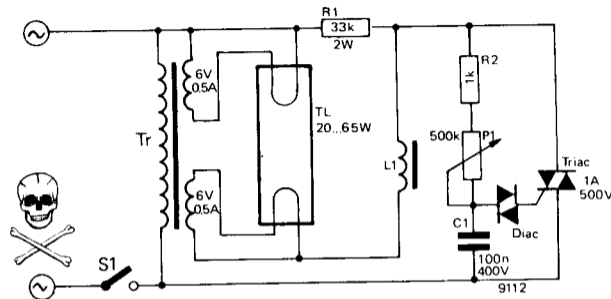


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H. Stell



The luminous intensity of fluorescent lamps cannot be controlled by means of conventional light dimmers, unless certain modifications are carried out. In the circuit described here the heaters of the fluorescent lamp are pre-heated by means of a heater transformer with two separate windings. The starter is

omitted, while the choke (L1) can remain in the circuit.

The (conventional) triac control is connected via the choke with a 33 k/2 W 'bleed' resistor across the tube and choke to supply current to the dimmer whilst the tube is extinguished.

Alternatively, three resistors of 100 k/

## fluorescent lamp dimmer

$\frac{1}{2}$  W can be connected in parallel. Any suppression networks originally in the triac dimmer should be removed; the large self-inductance of L1 will limit the interference caused by the dimmer to a minimum. If the range of control is considered insufficient, it is possible to experiment with the value of capacitor C1.

Standard precautions should, of course, be taken: the circuit must be mounted in an insulating box, P1 should have a plastic spindle, and C1 must be a 400 V type.