A simple circuit for administering electric shock to rats

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A circuit for administering electric shock to rats in acquired drive experiments is described. The circuit approximates the matched impedance shock source.

The shock circuit used in the original acquired drive study (Goldstein, 1960) is shown in Figure 1. The circuit corresponds most closely to the matched impedance shock source described by Campbell and Teghtsoonian (1958). It does not contain a commutator, as did the

circuits described by Wyckoff and Page (1954) and Skinner and Campbell (1947). The circuit is an effective source of electric shock which serves as the UCS in acquired drive, or classically conditioned fear, studies.

Figure 1. Circuit diagram for the shock circuit used in the Goldstein (1960) experiment. (1) Step-up transformer, 0-1,200 V. (2) Voltmeter. (3) Fixed resistor, 250,000 ohms. (4) Grid.

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