

Touch Lamp RFI Cured and ...And Again

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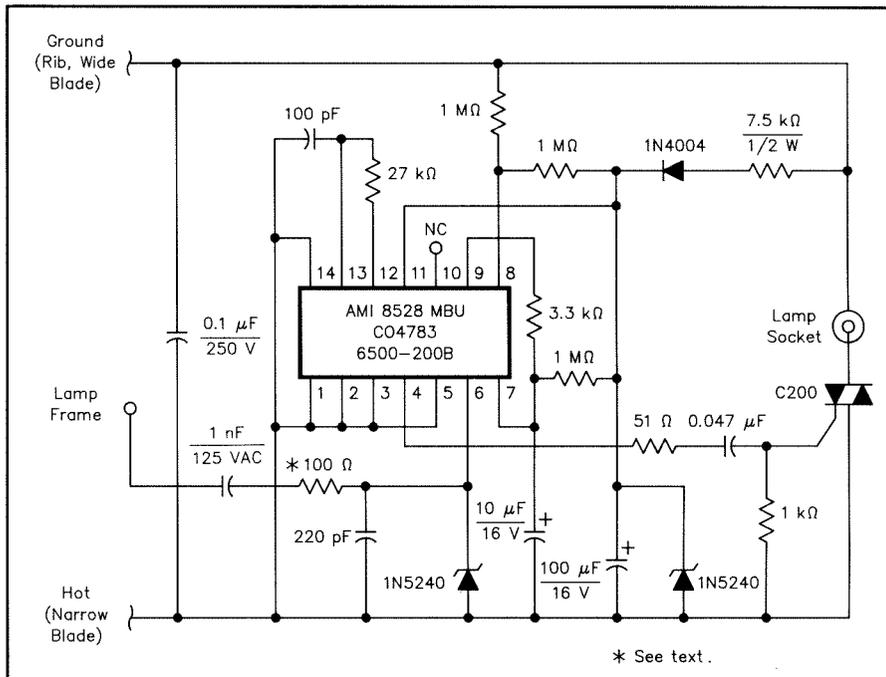


Fig 2—The reverse-engineered touch-lamp schematic provided by Dave Hallock.

TOUCH LAMP RFI CURED

◇ KL7CC's article on tracking down "creepy crawlers" generated by touch lamps⁴ brought to mind a similar situation in my home. We have two touch-controlled lamps that copied 3.5-MHz CW (150-watt level), made rotten ac crawlers on 3.5 MHz and sometimes even oscillated—with one lamp turning on the other and vice versa! Consumer junk!

The lamps we own have no manufacturer's name on them, but do have a PC board that contains the sensing and lamp-control circuit. Not being bashful, I reverse engineered a schematic and found that replacing a 100-Ω resistor on the board with a 2.7-mH choke cured these problems (see Fig 2). There are probably many types of lamp controllers on the market, but if a particular lamp uses the circuit shown in

Fig 2, the 2.7-mH fix should be effective.

By the way, one of the lamps had the lamp-socket shell connected to the hot side of the ac line! I fixed that!—*Dave Hallock, WØSS, 605 Grand Ave, Marion, IA 52302*

...AND AGAIN!

◇ That Technical Correspondence article on touch-control lamp RFI (see Note 4) helped me. I had two of those lamps in my neighborhood that drove me crazy for a year or so.

I hope the FCC is aware of the potential these things have for creating RFI havoc. —*Thomas ("Mike") Greenway, K4PI, 4055 Kings Highway, Douglasville, GA 30135*

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⁴J. Wiley, "Touch-Control-Lamp RFI," Technical Correspondence, *QST*, Feb 1993, pp 53-54.