

# **Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies**

## **Introduction to Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies**

**By**

**WA8KKN**

## **Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies**

- **Purpose of this talk**
- **Overview Basic AC to DC power supplies**
- **Comparison between A Linear DC Power Supply and a Switch Mode Power Supply (SMPS)**
- **Linear Power Supply**
- **Switch Mode Power Supply (SMPS)**
- **Questions & Answers**

# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

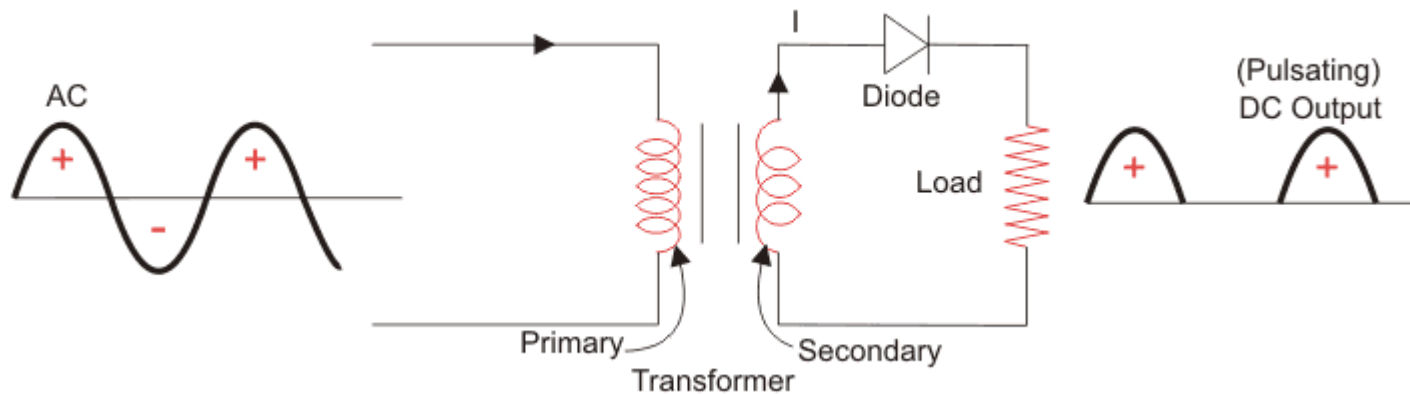
## Purpose of this talk

- Introduction to Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies For The Ham
- Block diagrams of various power supplies
- Prerequisites
  - Ohms Law ( $I = E/R$ )
  - Power = ( $I \times E$ ,  $I^2 \times R$ , or  $E^2/R$ )
- Where to go for more information
  - Search Engines (Google, DuckDuckGo, etc...)
  - Repeater Builders Web Site
  - Manufacturer's site
- BTW: The power supply is the most overlooked component in a system

# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

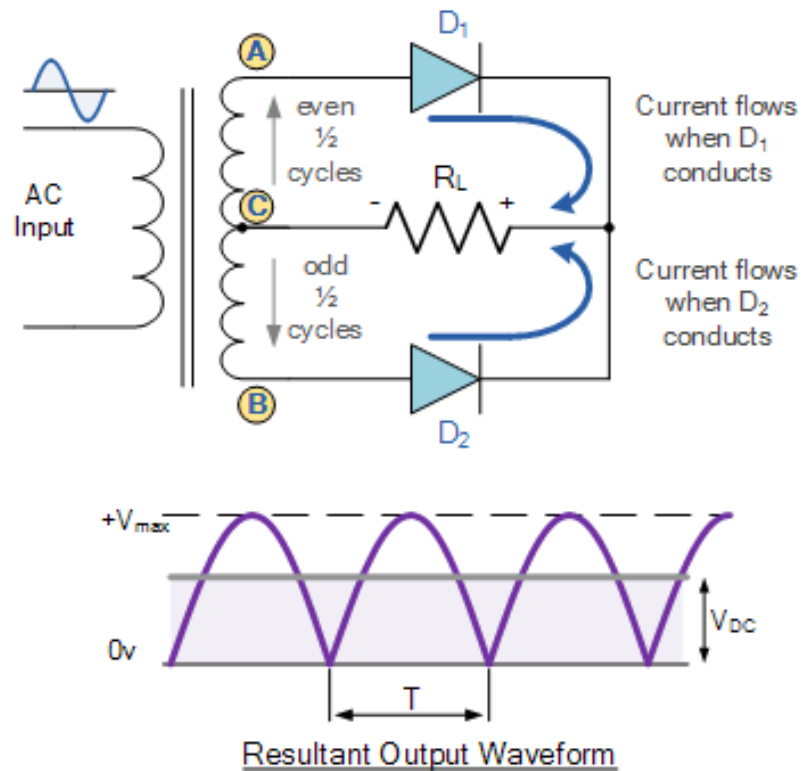
## An Overview of Power Supply Basics

### Half Wave Rectifier Circuit



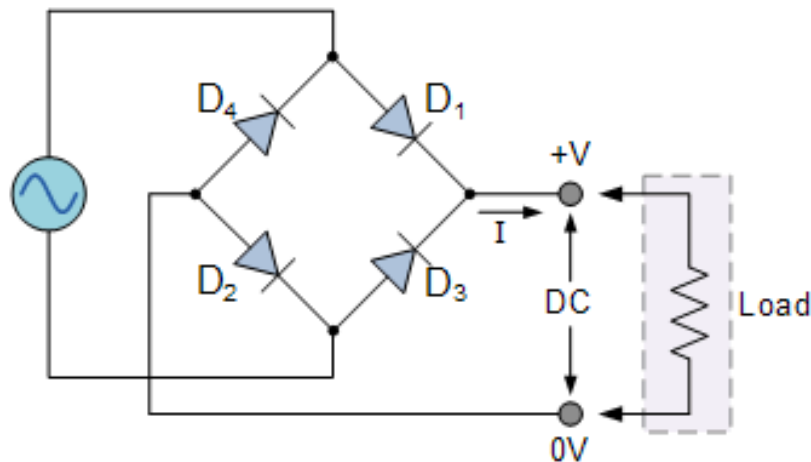
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## Full Wave Rectifier Circuit



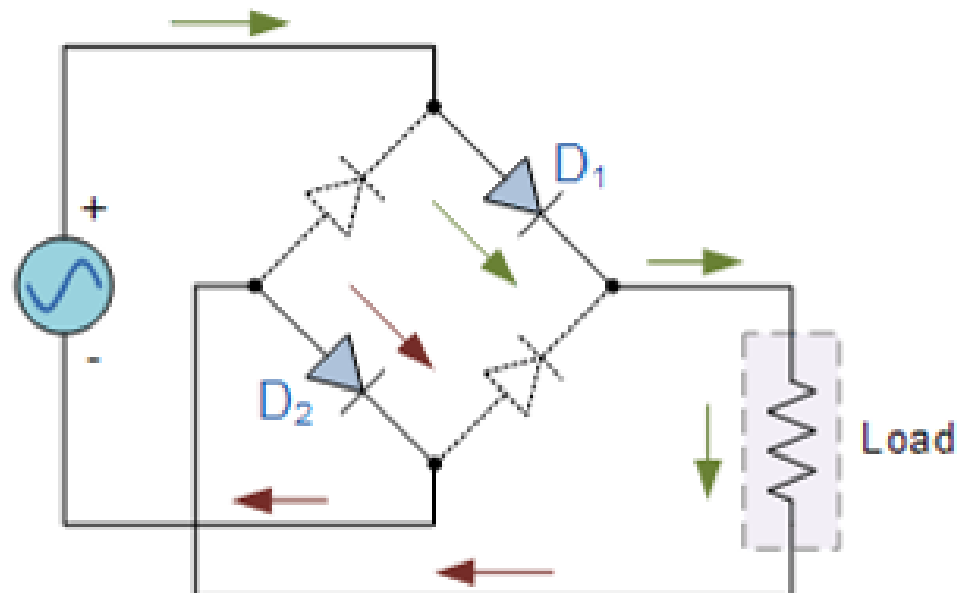
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## The Diode Bridge Rectifier



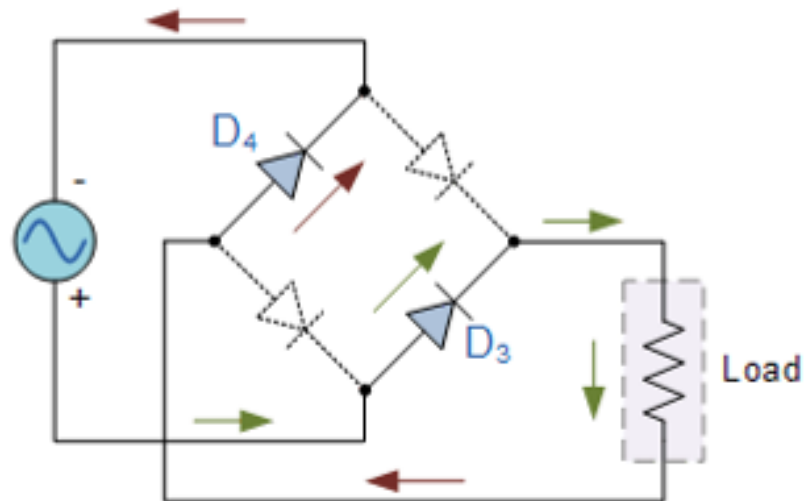
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### The Positive Half-cycle



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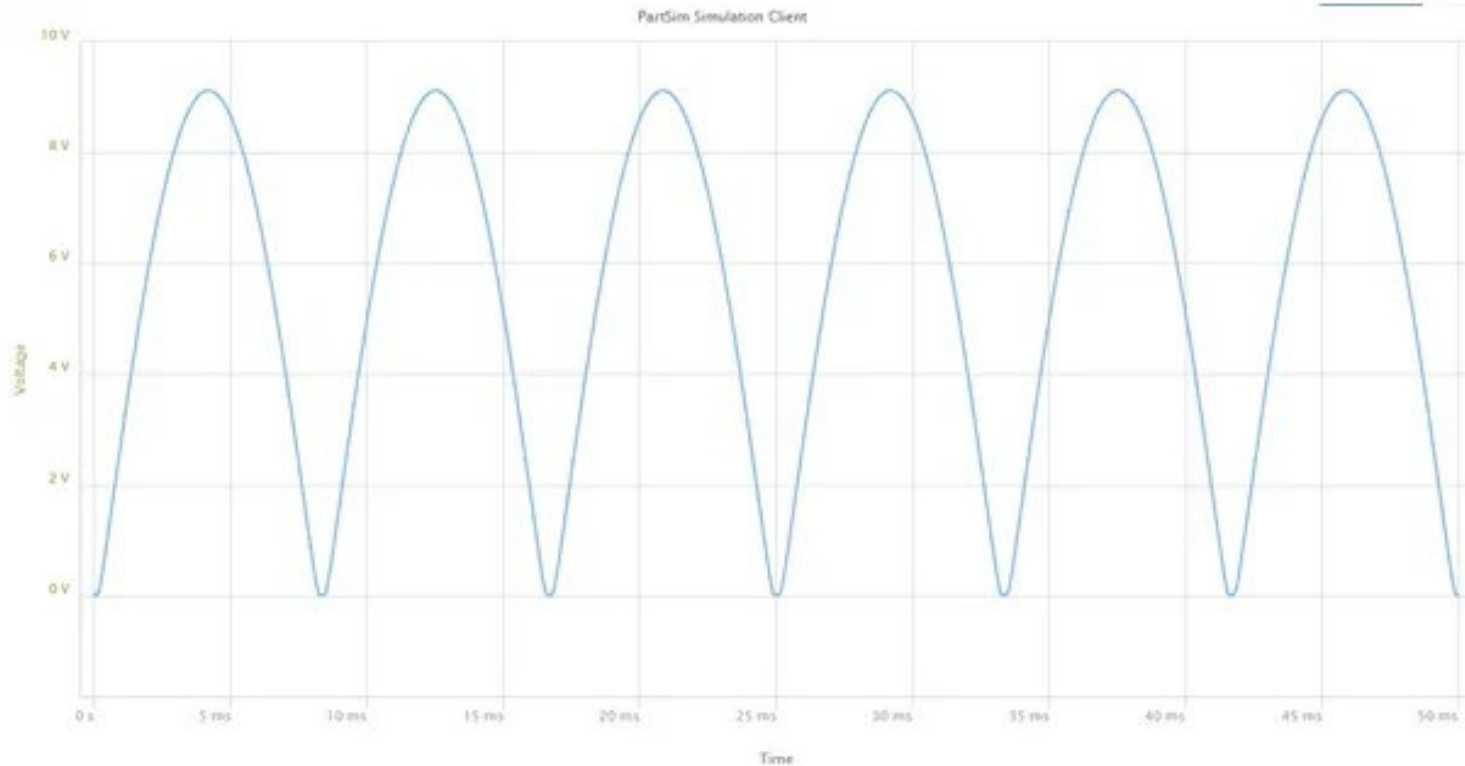
### The Negative Half-cycle





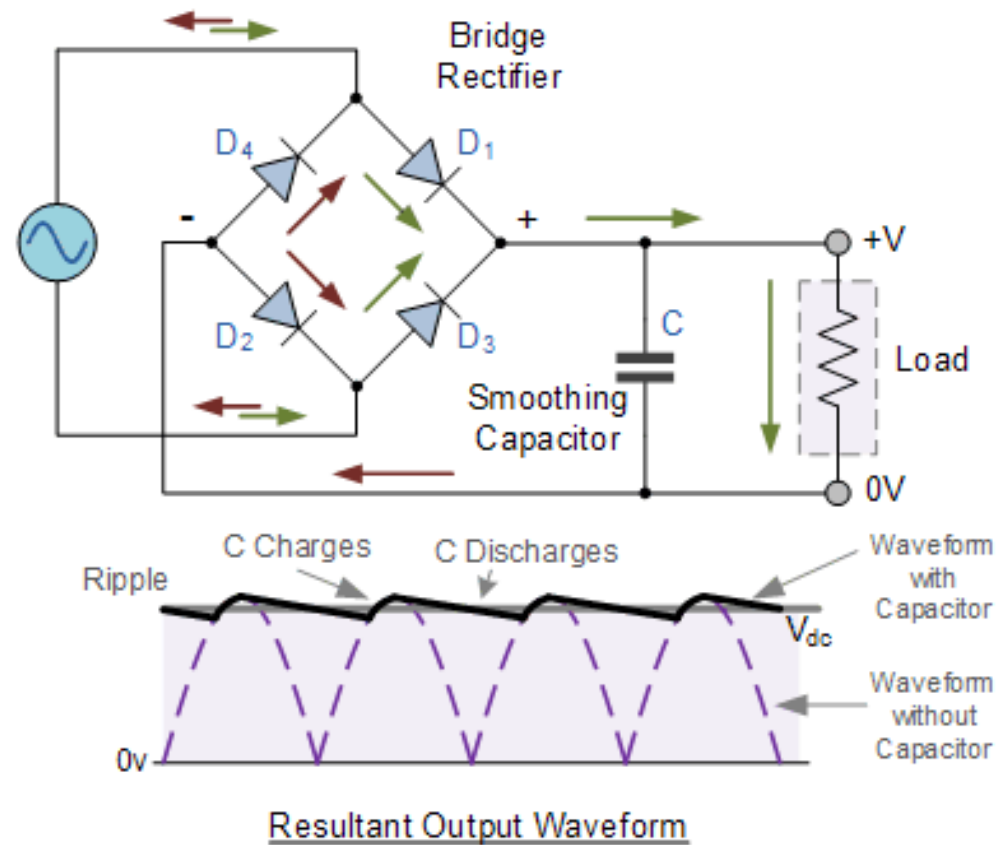
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## Full-wave Rectifier Output Waveform

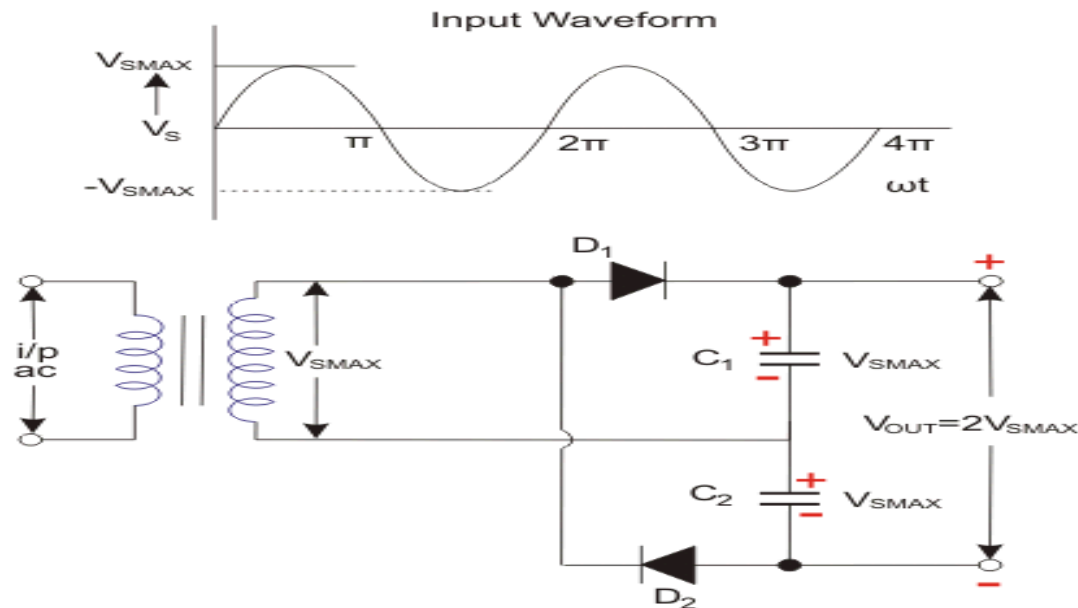


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### Full Wave Rectifier with Smoothing Capacitor



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In this doubler, right through the positive cycle of input AC voltage, the first diode ( $D_1$ ) is in the conducting state.

That is a forward biased state, and it will charge the connected capacitor ( $C_1$ ) equal to the peak value of AC secondary voltage of transformer ( $V_{S\text{MAX}}$ ).

At this time,  $D_2$  will be in reverse biased condition or non-conducting state. Throughout the negative cycle of input AC voltage, the second diode ( $D_2$ ) will be in forwarding biased state, and the second capacitor ( $C_2$ ) gets charged.

In the no-load condition, the entire voltages of two capacitors  $V_{C1} + V_{C2} = 2V_{S\text{MAX}}$  are delivered as the output voltage.

When a load is connected across the output terminals, the output voltage ( $V_{\text{out}}$ ) may be less than  $2V_{S\text{MAX}}$ .

# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

## Comparison between A Linear DC Power Supply And a Switch Mode Power Supply (SMPS)

Understanding Linear Power Supplies

### Advantages and disadvantages of linear power supplies

| Advantages  | Disadvantages  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inexpensive</li><li>• Simple / durable</li><li>• Clean output</li><li>• Low levels of emissions</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large</li><li>• Heavy</li><li>• Inflexible</li><li>• Inefficient</li></ul> |

Switching mode power supplies (SMPS) address many of these disadvantages

7:04 / 8:38 • Advantages Disadvantages of linear power supplies

ROHDE & SCHWARZ

**Linear Power Supplies are usually RFI free.**

# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

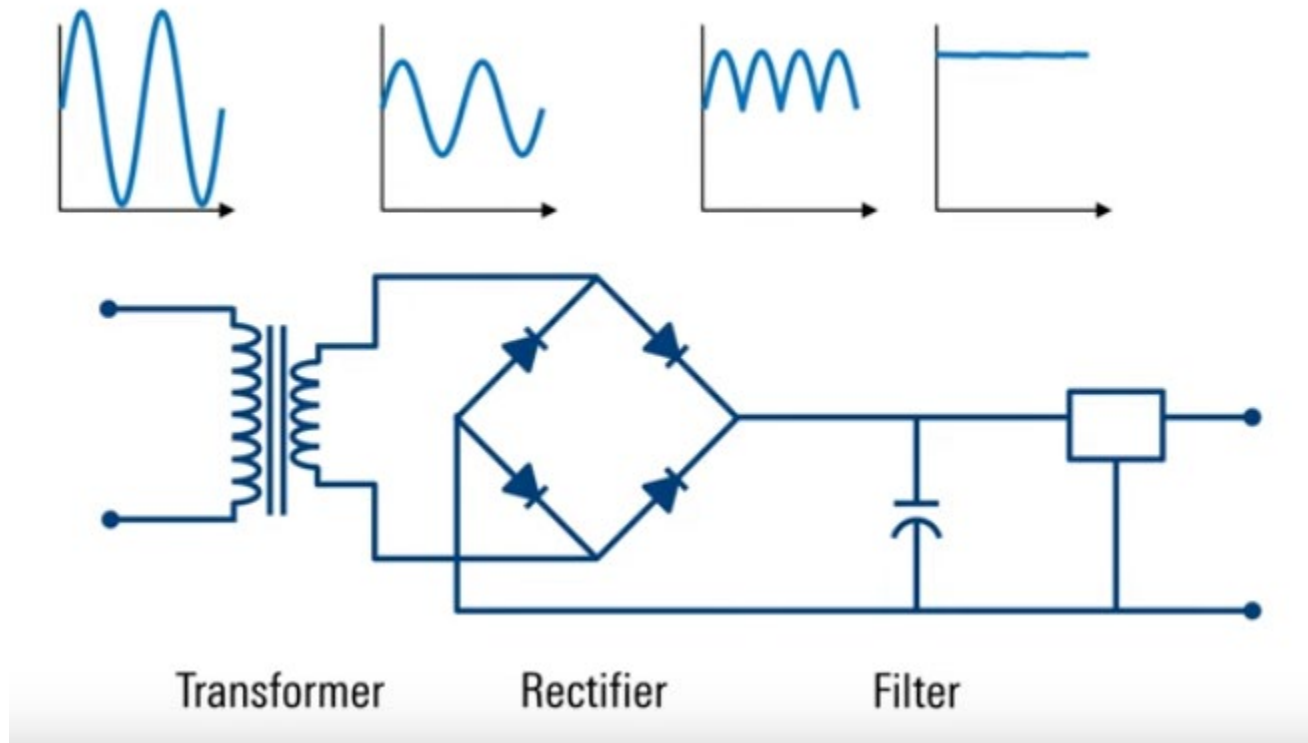
## Linear Power Supply and. Switching Power Supply Basic Overview

| Feature                 | Switch Mode Power Supply (SMPS)   | Linear Power Supply  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Operating Principle     | Power transistor switches rapidly between on and off states, converting input DC voltage to high-frequency AC, then to the desired output voltage | Transforms input AC voltage to a lower level, rectifies it to DC, and regulates voltage in a linear mode by heat dissipation |
| Efficiency              | High (about 80% or higher) due to switching states  | Lower (about 60%), as it continuously dissipates power as heat   |
| Size and Weight         | Smaller and lighter   | Larger and heavier due to heat sinks   |
| Heat Generation         | <a href="#">Generates less heat due to higher efficiency</a>  | More heat due to lower efficiency requires <a href="#">heat sinks to dissipate this energy</a>                               |
| Complexity and Cost     | More complex in design, with higher initial costs offset by efficiency and component size   | Simpler and potentially more cost-effective in design and manufacturing  |
| Output Noise and Ripple | More electrical noise and ripple, requiring additional filtering for sensitive electronics  | Produces cleaner output with less noise and ripple, preferred in sensitive audio and analog applications                     |
| Applications            | Preferred for applications requiring high efficiency, compact size, and a wide input voltage range  | Favored in applications requiring minimal noise and less sensitivity to size and efficiency                                  |

# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

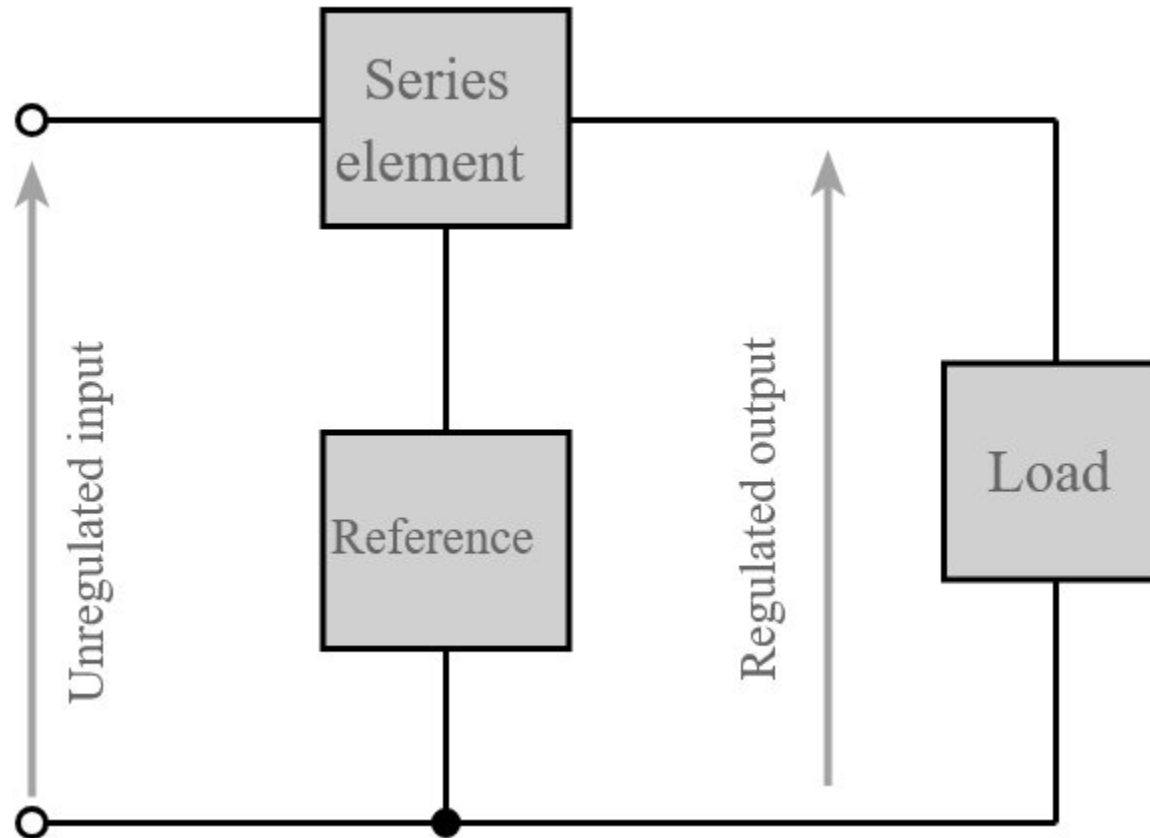
## Linear Power Supplies

### Typical AC to DC Analog Linear Power Supply



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wlh20roJiZU>

## Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

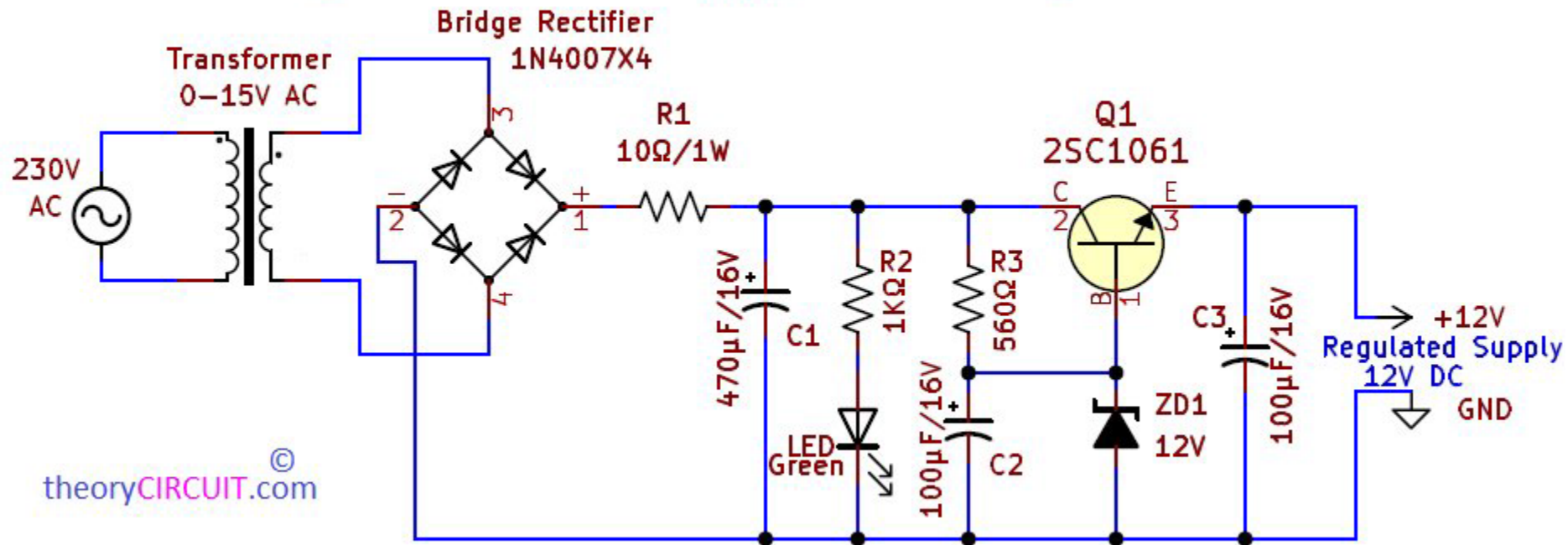


**“This is simplistic block diagram of a linear power supply.”**

**The series element acts as a variable resistor while keeping the voltage across the load constant. The series element generates a lot of heat.**

## Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

### 12V Regulated Power Supply Circuit using Zener Diode





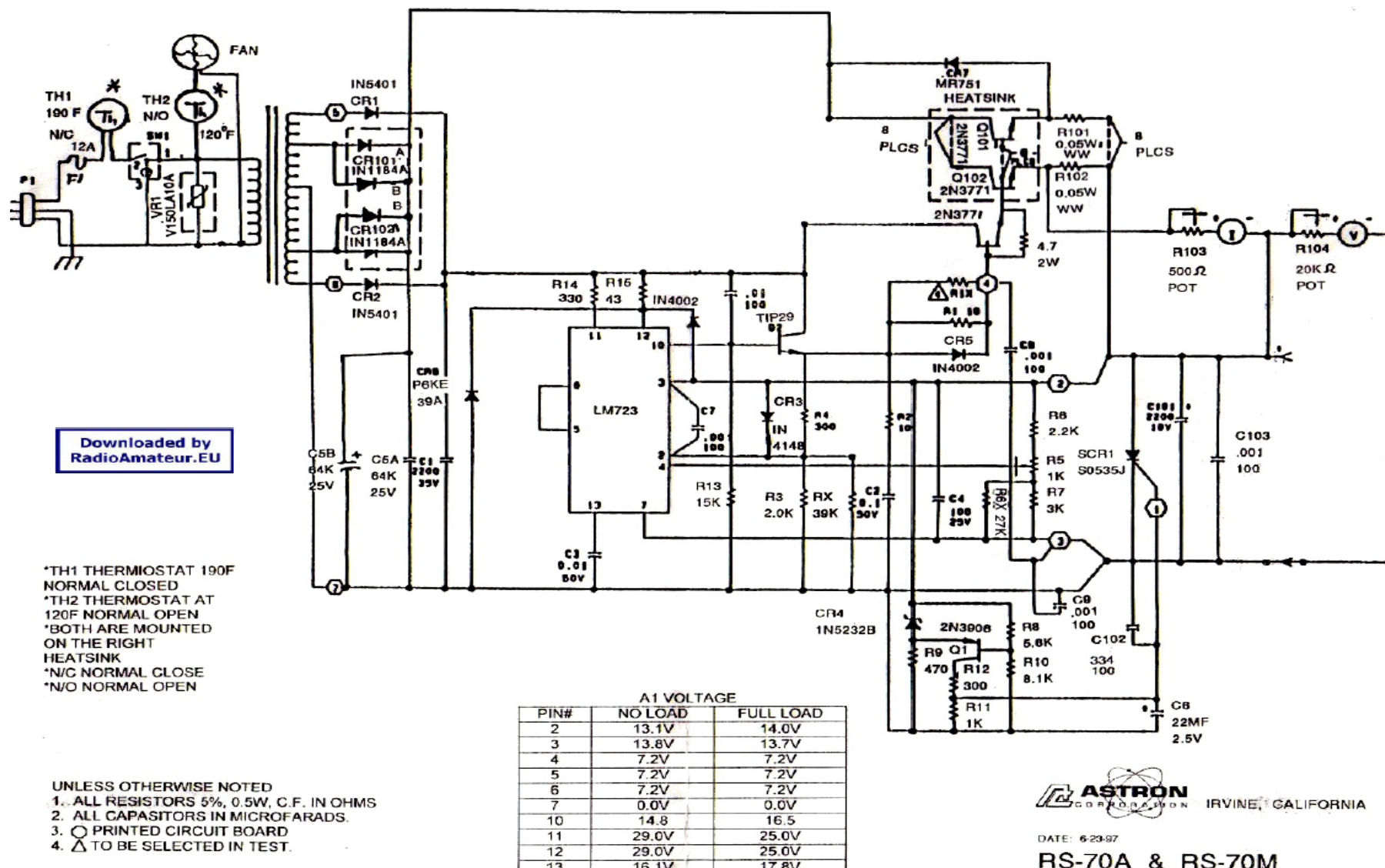
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### Linear Power Supply (Astron RS-35M)



### Linear Power Supply (Astron)

# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies



## **Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies**

### **Crowbar**



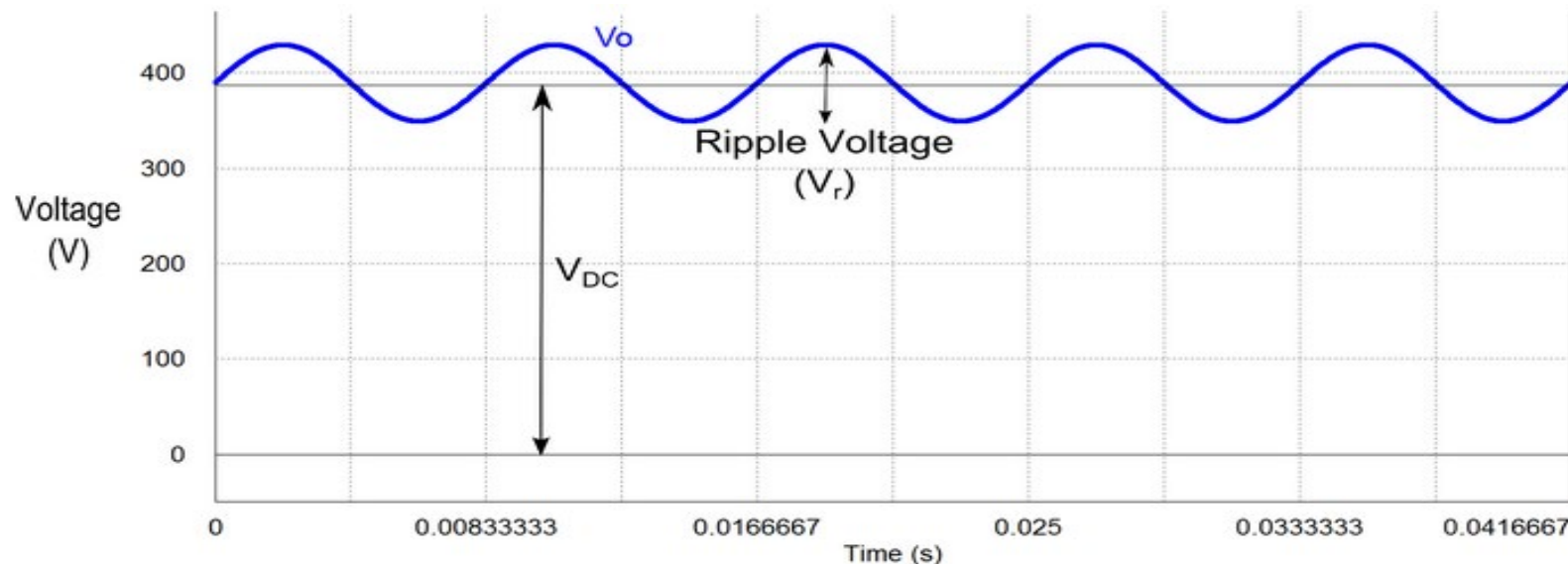
**This device Is Used in the Astron Linear Supply**  
**(See previous page)**

## Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

### Typical AC Ripple of A Linear Power Supply

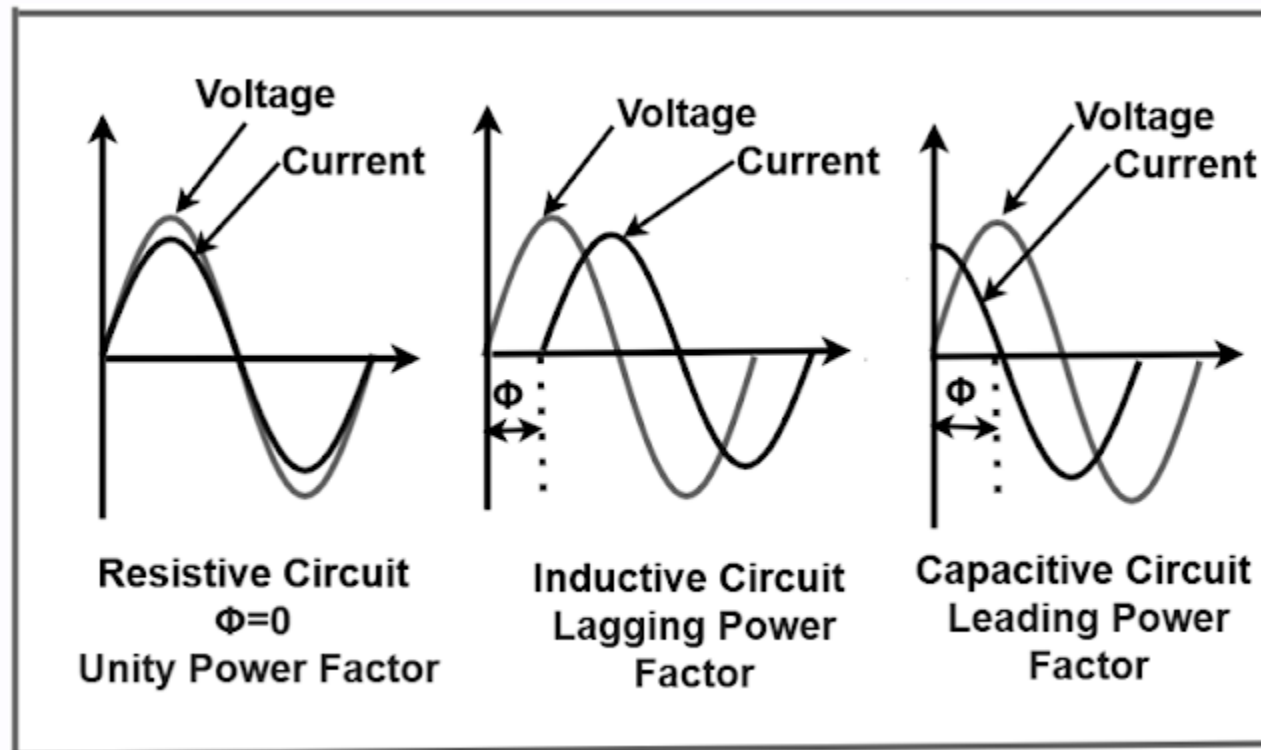
#### What is AC Ripple?

AC ripple refers to the unwanted fluctuations in the direct current (DC) output of a power supply that arise from the alternating current (AC) input. These fluctuations occur due to incomplete suppression of the AC waveform during the rectification process. Ripple manifests as periodic variations superimposed on the DC voltage, which can lead to instability in electronic circuits.

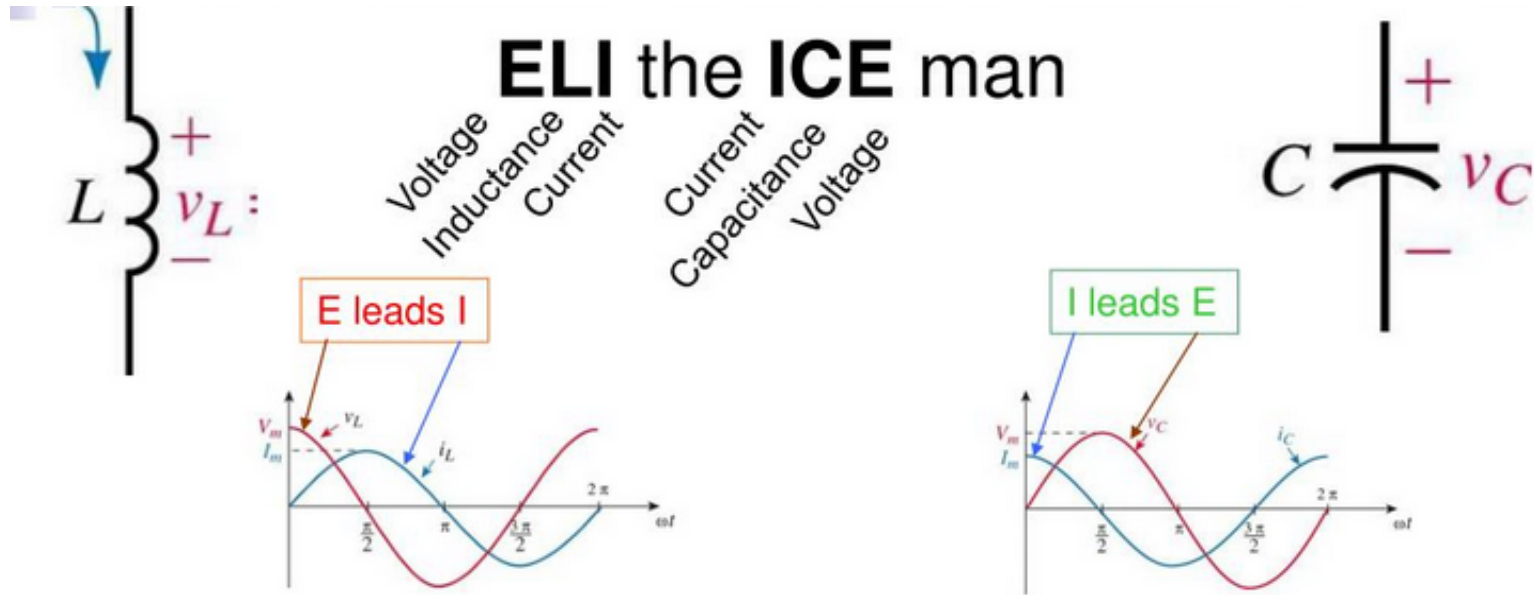


## Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

### AC Input Sinusoidal Components of a Linear Supply



# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies



When voltage is applied to an inductor, it resists the change of current. The current builds up more slowly, lagging in time and phase.

Since the voltage on a capacitor is directly proportional to the charge on it, the current must lead the voltage in time and phase to conduct charge to the capacitor plate and raise the voltage

## **Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies**

### **Switched Mode Power Supplies**

#### **Benefits of a Switching Power Supply**

- Transformers are smaller due to operating at a high frequency 30 KHz or greater
- Smaller Capacitors due to smaller Higher Frequency RC time constants
- Internal circuitry wire sizes are smaller due to Higher Voltages lower current

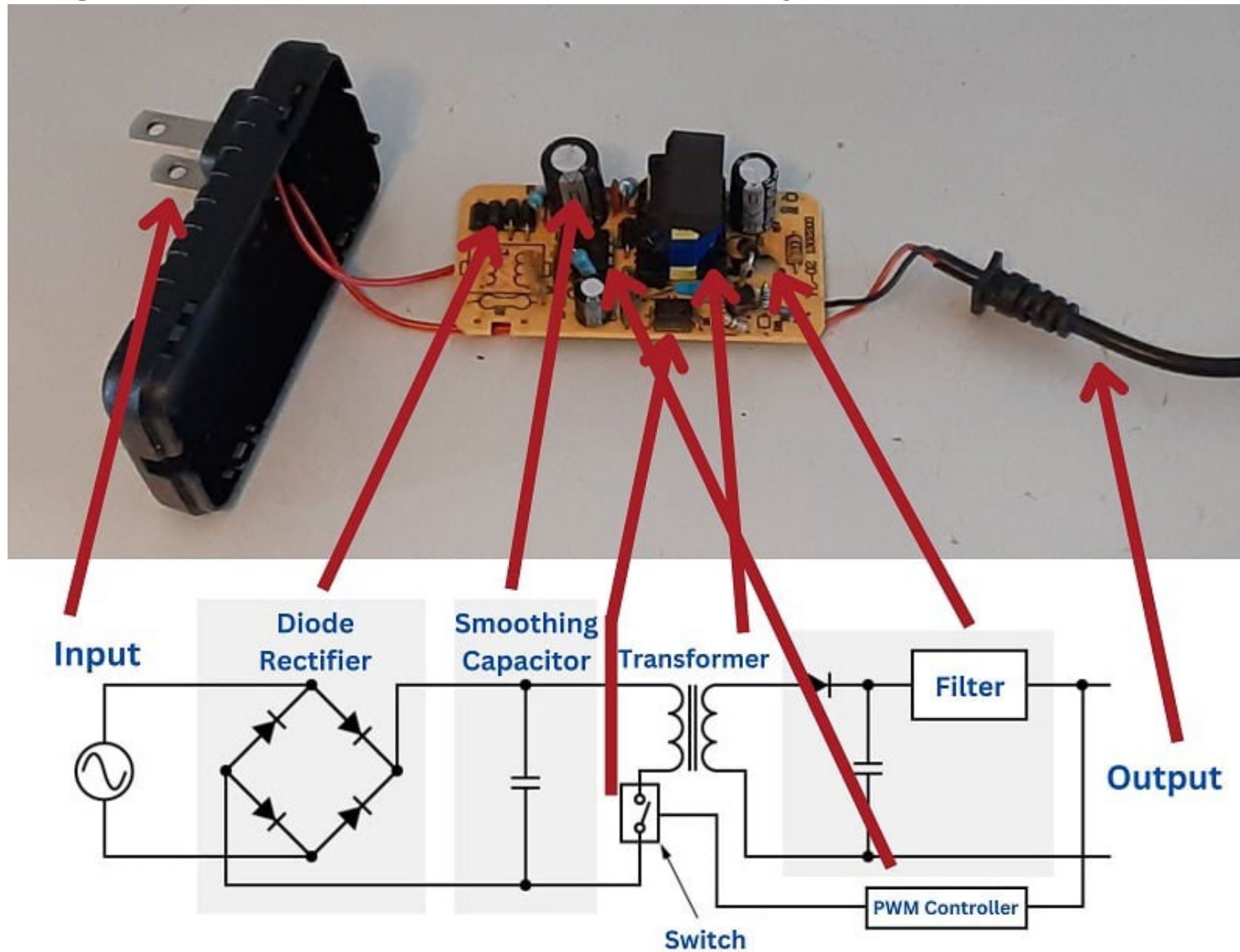
#### **NON benefits of a Switching Power Supply**

- Higher “Noise” on the DC output (AC Ripple & Switching Noise)
- Poor Transient Response filtering
- RF Noise generated throughout the 1 MHz to 450 MHz spectrum



# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

## Stages in a Switched Mode Power Supply



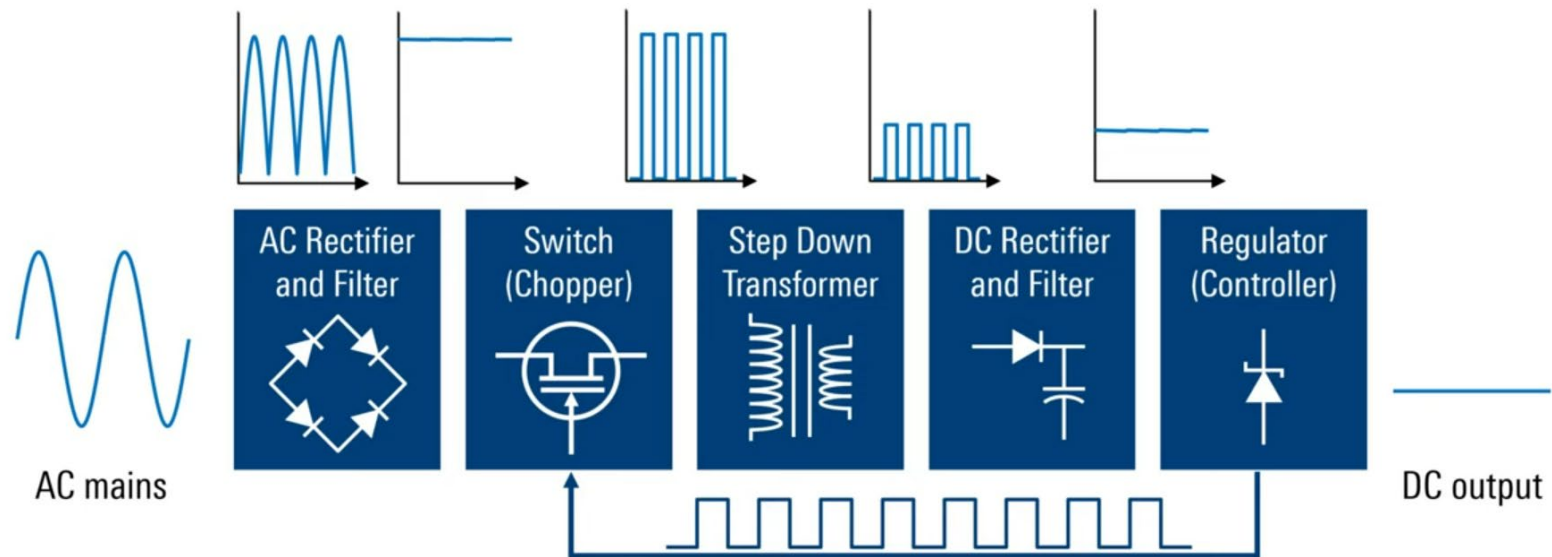


# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

Understanding Switching Mode Power Supplies



## Basic AC-DC SMPS block diagram



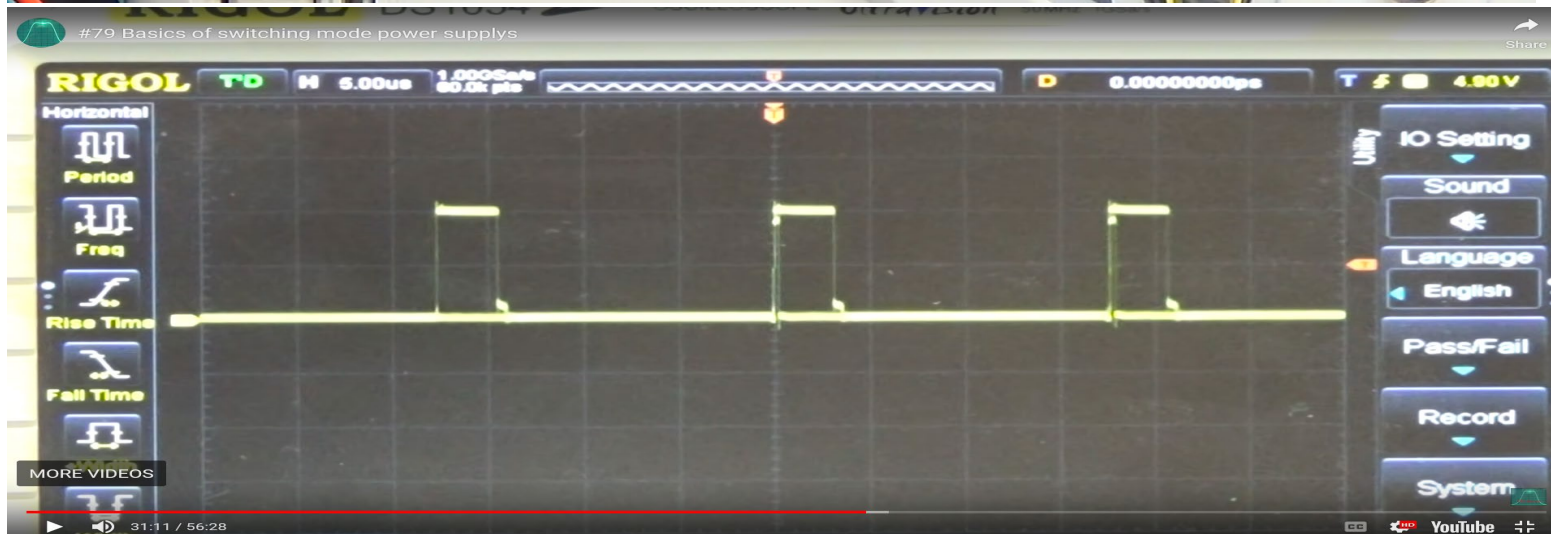
3:48 / 11:38 • AC rectifier and filter > Understanding SMPS

Scroll for details



# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

## Switched Mode Power Supply Pulses (Not Loaded & Loaded)



## Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

### Typical Switched Mode Power Supply (Astron SS-25M)





# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

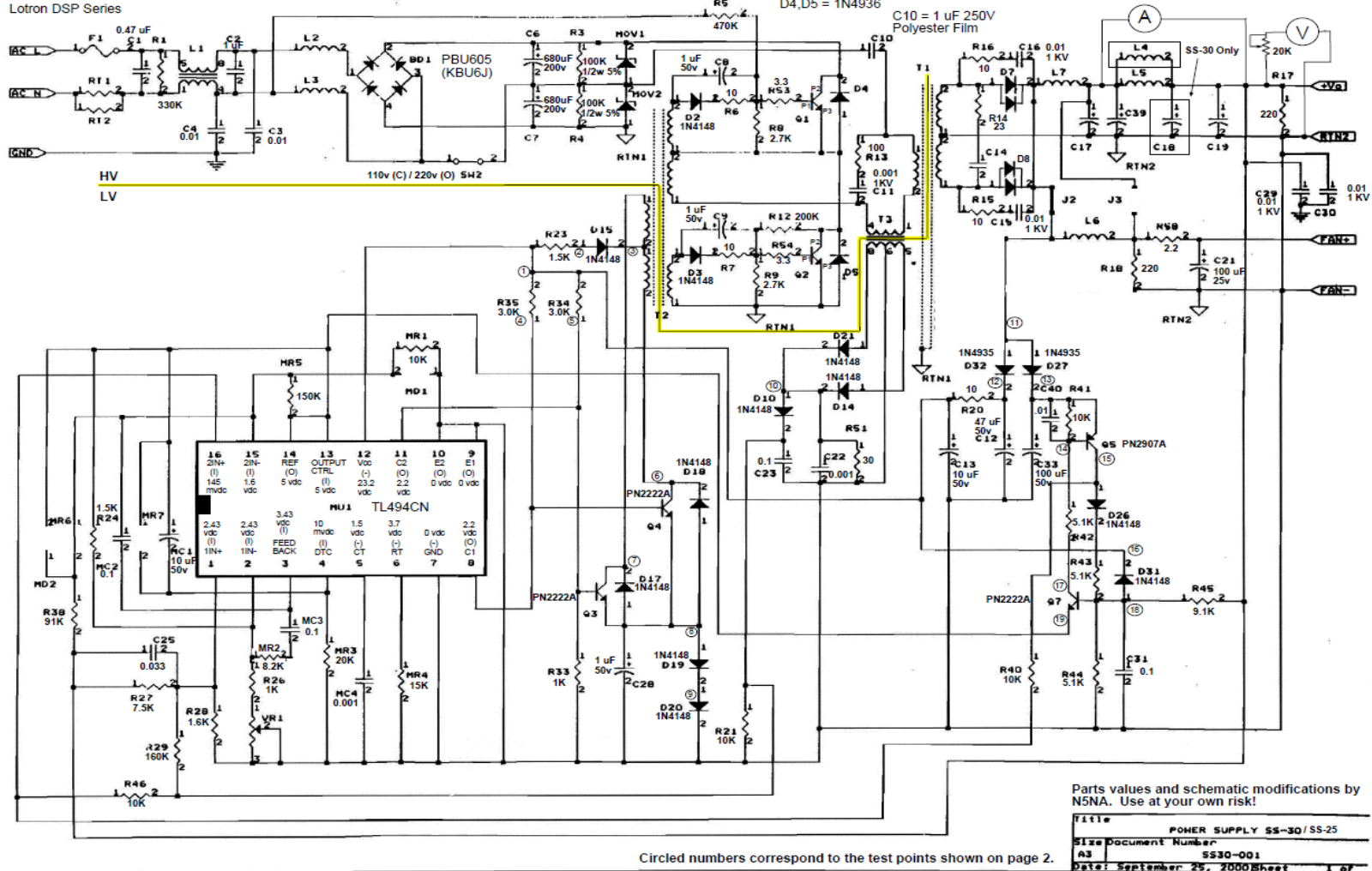
## Typical Switched Mode Power Supply (Astron SS-25M)

RT1 & RT2 = 5 ohm 4 amp NTC  
Thermistor Inrush Current Limiter  
Lotron DSP Series

MOV1, MOV2 = Z151-03UL

Q1, Q2 = 2SC2625  
D4, D5 = 1N4936

D7, D8 = FEP30DP  
C17, C18, C19, C39 = 3300uF, 16v



Circled numbers correspond to the test points shown on page 2.

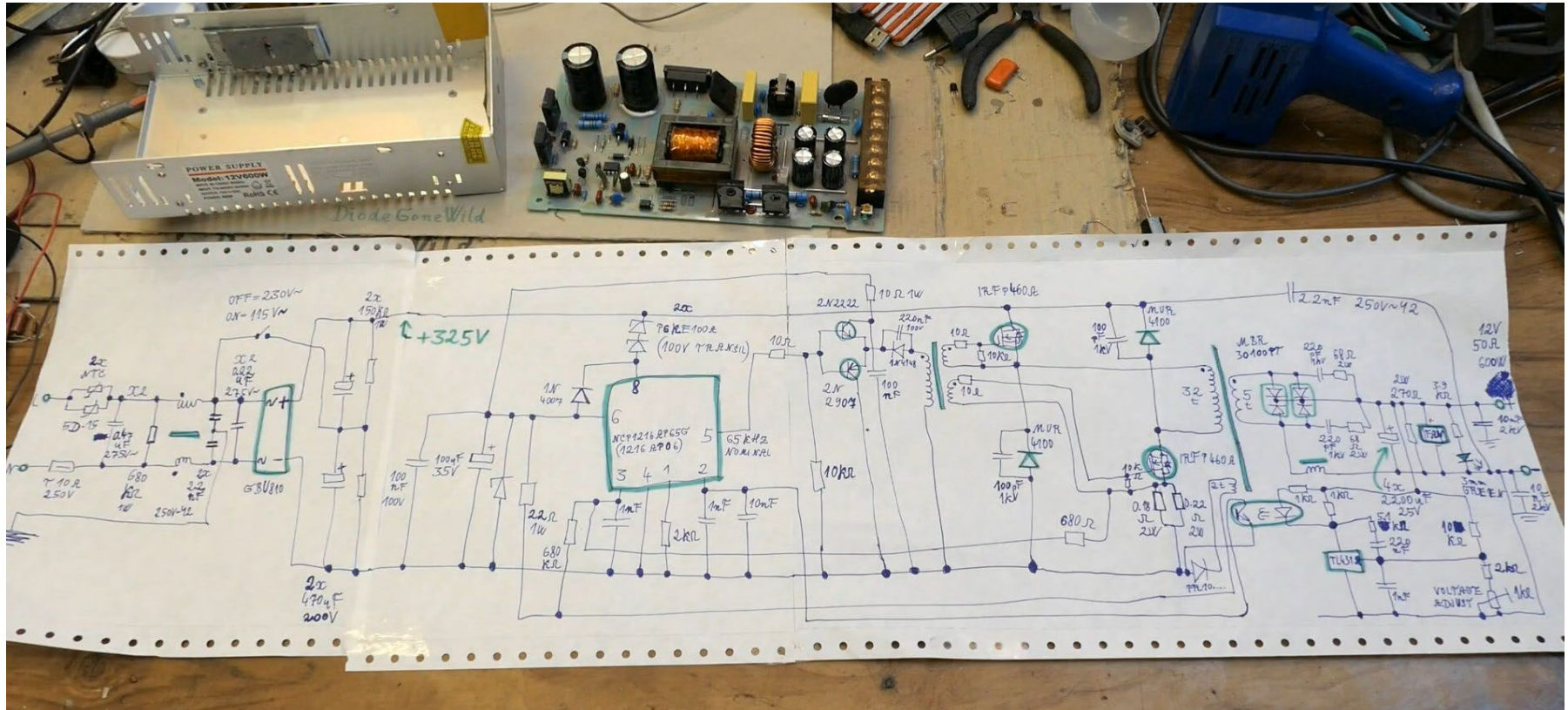
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## Cheap Chinese Switch Mode Power Supply (SMPS)



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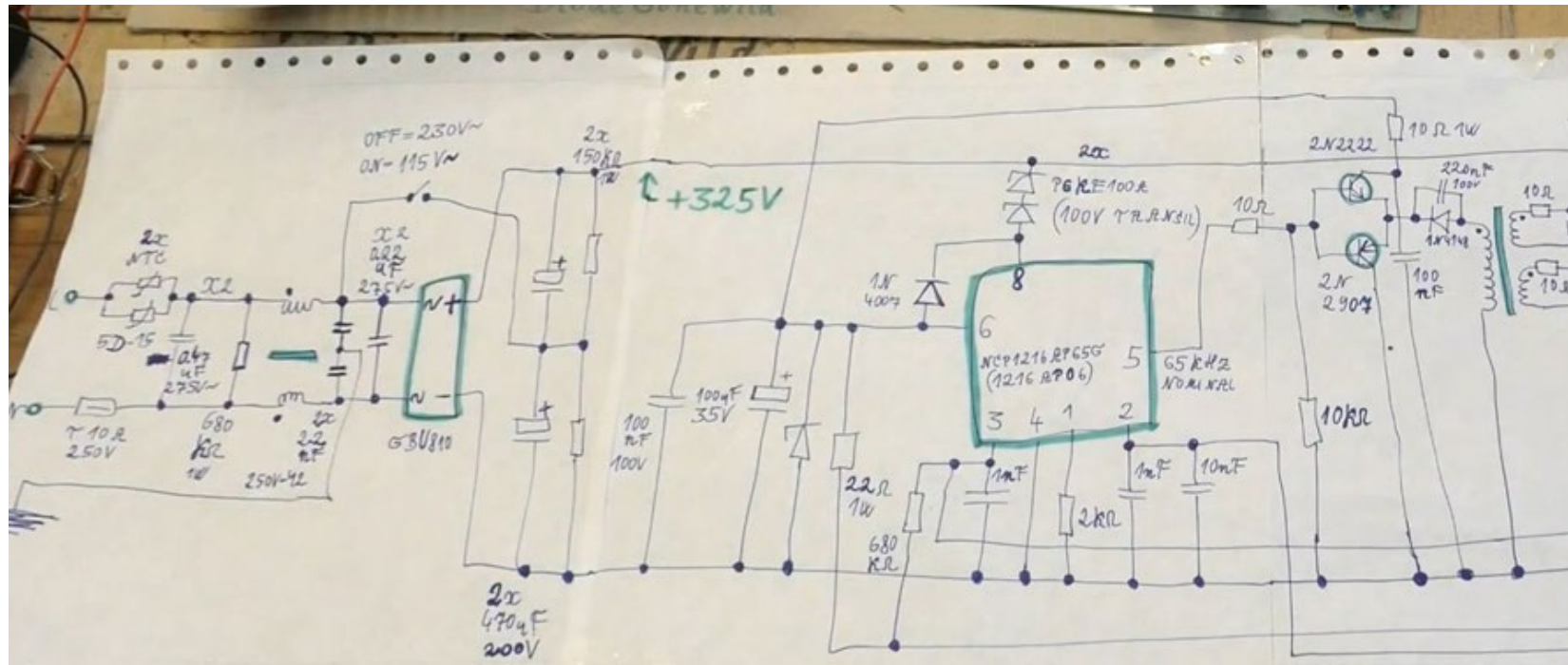
## Schematic of a Cheap Chinese SMPS





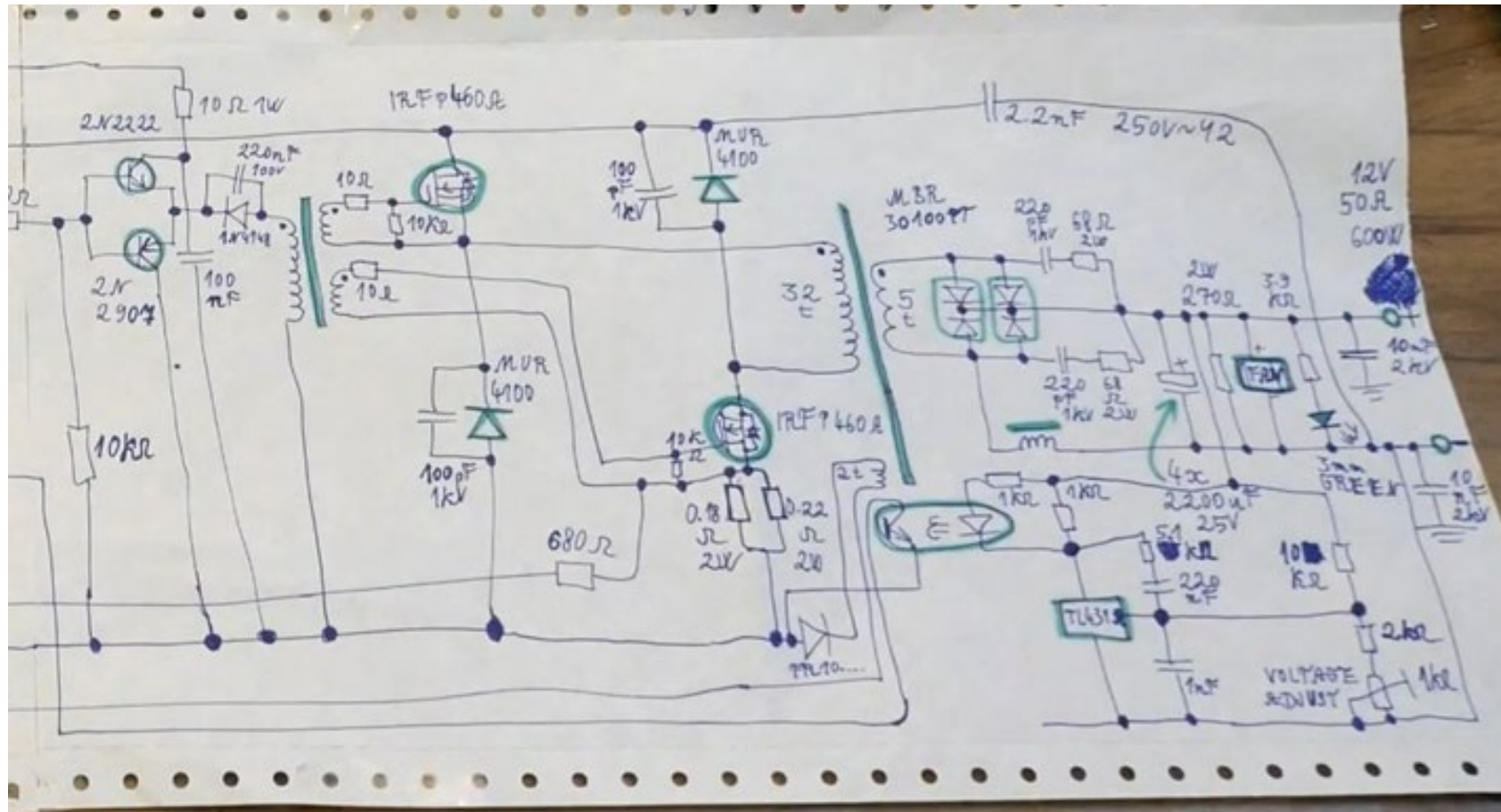
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## Left Side



# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

## Right Side





# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

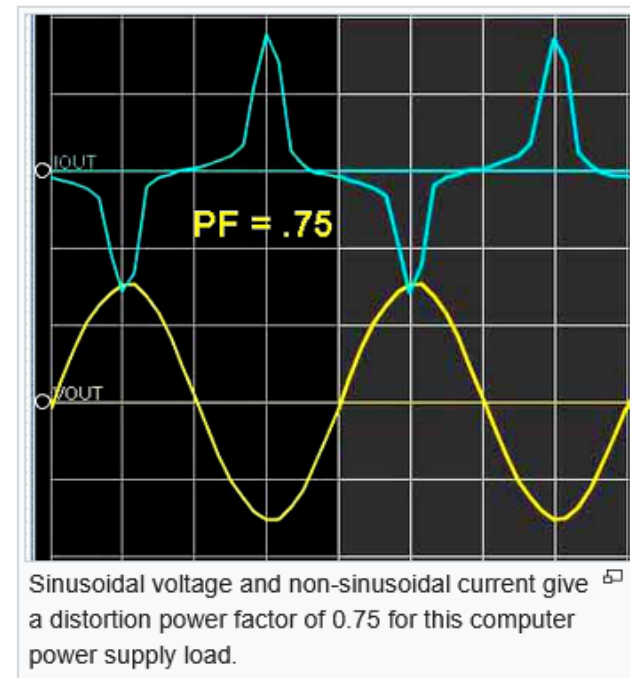
## AC Input of Power Supply

### Non-sinusoidal components [\[edit\]](#)

In linear circuits having only sinusoidal currents and voltages of one frequency, the power factor arises only from the difference in phase between the current and voltage. This is *displacement power factor*.<sup>[11]</sup>

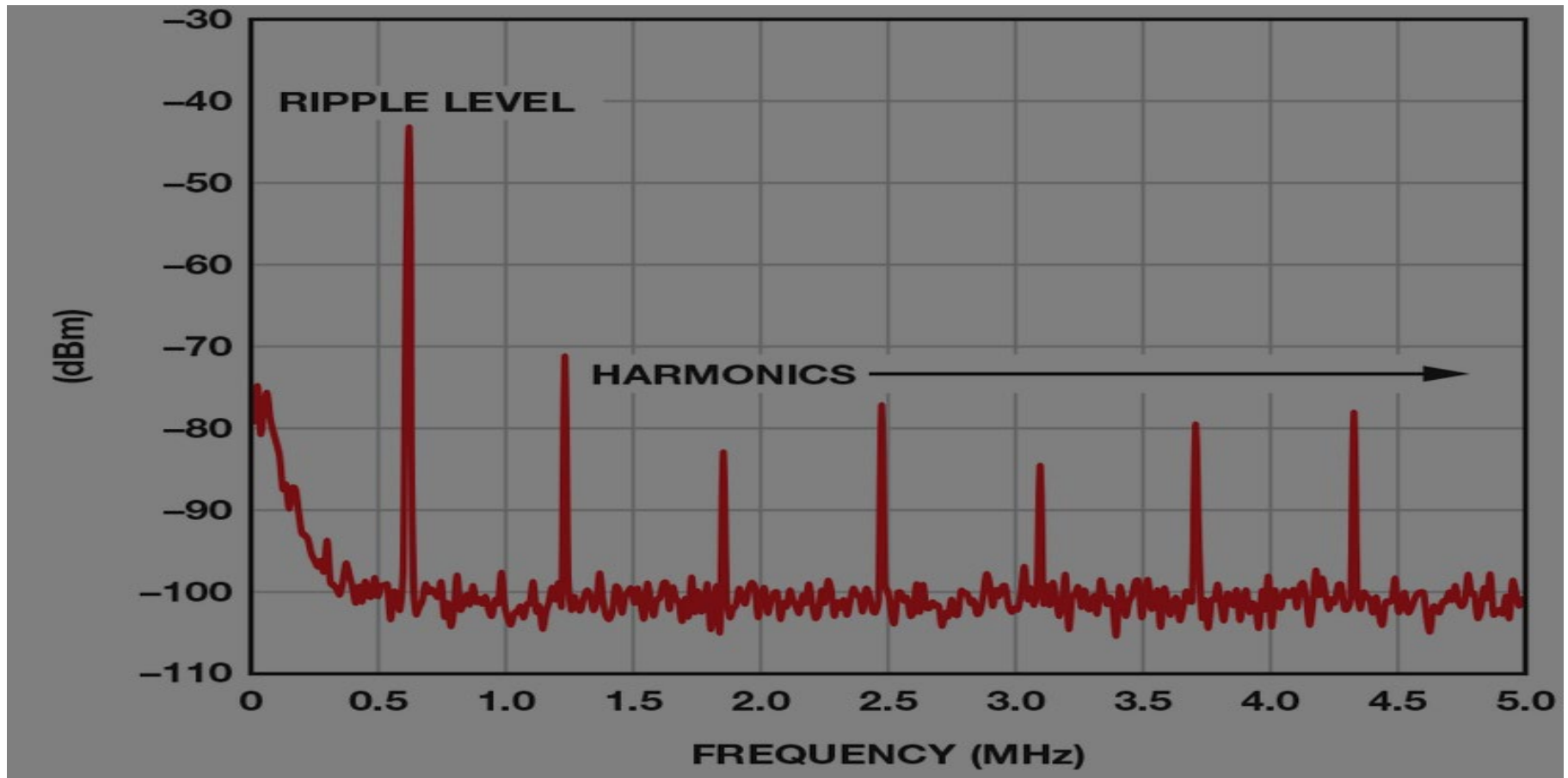
Non-linear loads change the shape of the current waveform from a [sine wave](#) to some other form. Non-linear loads create [harmonic](#) currents in addition to the original (fundamental frequency) AC current. This is of importance in practical power systems that contain [non-linear](#) loads such as [rectifiers](#), some forms of electric lighting, [electric arc furnaces](#), welding equipment, [switched-mode power supplies](#), variable speed drives and other devices. Filters consisting of linear capacitors and inductors can prevent harmonic currents from entering the supplying system.

To measure the real power or reactive power, a [wattmeter](#) designed to work properly with non-sinusoidal currents must be used.



## Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

### A poorly designed SMPS - Ripple and Noise



# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

## Power Supply Specifications:

### Linear (Astron RS-70A)

- SOLID STATE ELECTRONICALLY REGULATED
- FOLD BACK CURRENT LIMITING Protects Power Supply from excessive current and continuous shorted output
- CROWBAR OVER VOLTAGE PROTECTION ON ALL MODELS
- MAINTAIN REGULATION AND LOW RIPPLE at low line input Voltage
- THREE CONDUCTOR POWER CORD
- HEAVY DUTY HEAT SINK
- INPUT VOLTAGE: **105-125VAC**
- OUTPUT VOLTAGE: **13.8VDC  $\pm 0.05$  volts**
- INTERNALLY ADJUSTABLE VOLTAGE (11-15VDC)
- RIPPLE: LESS THAN 5MV PEAK TO PEAK (full load and low line)
- LOAD REGULATION: **0.08%** from 0 to Full Continuous Load
- EFFICIENCY: **77%**
- OPERATING TEMP: **-10 to 55°C**
- 220V MODELS AVAILABLE BY SPECIAL ORDER

# Power Supplies -- Linear and Switched Mode Power Supplies

## Astron SS-50 (SMPS) Specifications

| Specifications            |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • <b>INPUT VOLTAGE:</b>   | 120 to 230 VAC, 50/60Hz (Nominal Automatic Wide-Range selected)                  |
| • <b>OUTPUT VOLTAGES:</b> | 13.8 VDC (User manual adjustable $\pm 1$ V)<br>2 USB ports: 5.2V, 1.5A per port  |
| • <b>OUTPUT CURRENT</b>   | 50A peak current - ICS Intermittent Communication Service (*)                    |
| • <b>TEMPERATURE</b>      | 0 to +50°C Operating, -20 to +85°C Storage<br>120°C max over-temperature setting |
| • <b>HUMIDITY</b>         | 5 to 90% RH Operating, 5 to 95% RH Storage (Non-condensing)                      |

| Model No.     | Voltage Input                                      | Voltage Output  | Continuous Amps | ICS (*) Current |
|---------------|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>SS-50M</b> | Nominal Auto Selected<br>120 to 230 VAC<br>50/60Hz | User Manual Adjust $\pm 1$ V<br>12.4 to 14.4 VDC<br>$\pm 2\%$ | 40 A max        | 50 A peak max   |



| Case Size (H x W x D)   | Weight (Approx) |
|---|-----------------|
| 2 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 7 x 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in<br>67.5 x 7 x 207.5 mm | 5 lbs<br>2.3 kg |

(\*) Intermittent Communication Service. Peak current limited to 33% max Duty Cycle, 5 minutes max ON time.