

## Re: Electronic dimmer as Variac

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.basics/2004-07/0148.html>

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**From:** Watson A.Name - \ (NOSPAM\_at\_dslextreme.com)

**Date:** 07/06/04

Date: Mon, 5 Jul 2004 19:25:07 -0700

"DaveC" <me@privacy.net> wrote in message  
news:0001HW.BD0EC25600339262F02845B0@news.individual.net...  
> *I want to turn up a switching power supply slowly after repairing it,*  
so as  
> *to see if anything else is damaged. I have no Variac, and I could use*  
the  
> *series light bulb trick, but I already have a light dimmer I'm using*  
as a  
> *variable-temperature control for my soldering iron that could do*  
double-duty  
> *in this application.*  
>  
> *I know that the SMPS, when running correctly, will be a load pulse at*  
75 kHz.  
> *Has anyone tried using a dimmer as an "electronic variac"? Is it*  
feasible?

Read the instructions that came with the dimmer. It probably says that  
you're only supposed to use it with a resistive load such as a light  
bulb. It'll probably burnout if used on a PS.

> *Thanks,*  
> --  
> *DaveC*  
> *me@privacy.net*  
> *This is an invalid return address*  
> *Please reply in the news group*  
>