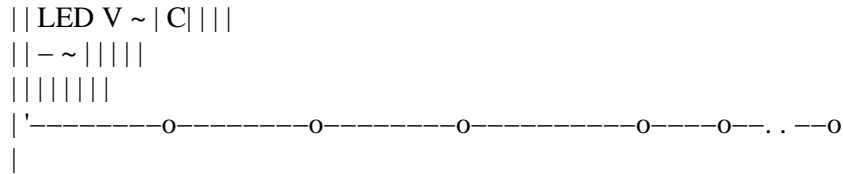


Re: need cap. charge indicator



(created by AACircuit v1.28.5 beta 02/06/05 www.tech-chat.de)

While the relay is guaranteed to pull in at 3.8V, it will probably pull in at around 3V. You should tweak the pot so the relay just turns on when the caps reach the specified voltage (you might want to use a meter for this if you have one). This pull-in voltage will remain fairly stable over time and temp, so you can set the pot, and forget it. And your very simple, reliable indicator circuit will draw less than 10mA from the caps.

The relay will let go by itself when you discharge the caps. Vibration may affect the pull-in of the relay, so be sure to mount the piece of perfboard on something stable.

If you find another 5V relay that has a different coil resistance, just measure it, and use a pot with a higher resistance than the coil. Tweak it to the right pull-in point as above, and be sure to take the extra current draw from the caps into account.

Questions of this type usually find a good response on s.e.b., too.

Good luck
Chris

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