

Re: Not so much electronics, more electrics

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2007-11/msg00744.html>

- *From:* "James Sweet" <jamessweet@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 17 Nov 2007 20:42:28 GMT
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"clifto" <clifto@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:hvn315-eba.ln1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sam Goldwasser wrote:

While the scenario of the bits of the filament shorting is possible with some lamps (usually with long thin filaments, though unlikely with the short filaments of halogen lamps), the more likely cause is the arc resulting when the filament opens. This results in the arc moving towards the filament supports, with a lower resistance than the filament had originally, leading to a high current.

What I never figured out is how the arc is maintained for more than 1/120 of a second when there's no air around the arc to ionize.

There's argon or other inert gas in there, it ionizes just like the arc in a discharge lamp.