# An Analysis on the OTC-X1

MagnetoStatic Motor

**ElectroStatic Motor** 

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# Attachment 1 – On a Uniform-Electric-Current Accumulator by Sir William Thomson

VI. On a Uniform-Electric-Current Accumulator. By Sir William Thomson, LL.D., F.R.S.\*

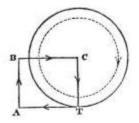
CONCEIVE a closed circuit, CTABC, according to the following description:—One portion of it, TA, tangential to a circular disk of conducting material and somewhat

\* Communicated by the Author, having been read at the Meeting of the British Association, Dundee, September 1867.

#### Uniform-Electric-Current Accumulator.

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longer than the radius; the continuation, AB, at right angles to this in the plane of the wheel, of a length equal to the radius; and the completion of the circuit by a fork, BC, extending to an axle bearing the wheel. If all of the wheel were cut away except a portion, CT, from the axle to the point of contact at the circumference, the circuit would form a simple rect-



angle, CTAB, except the bifurcation of the side BC. Let a fixed magnet be placed so as to give lines of force perpendicular to the wheel, in the parts of it between C the centre and T the point of the circumference touched by the fixed conductor; and let power be applied to cause the wheel to rotate in the direction towards A. According to Faraday's well-known discovery, a current is induced in the circuit in such a direction that the mutual electromagnetic action between it and the fixed magnet resists the motion of the wheel. Now the mutual electromagnetic force between the portions A B and C T of the circuit is repulsive, according to the well-known elementary law of Ampere, and therefore resists the actual motion of the wheel; hence, if the magnet be removed, there will still be electromagnetic induction tending to maintain the current. Let us suppose the velocity of the wheel to have been at first no greater than that practically attained in ordinary experiments with Barlow's electromagnetic disk. As the magnet is gradually withdrawn let the velocity be gradually increased so as to keep the strength of the current constant, and, when the magnet is quite away, to maintain the current solely by electromagnetic induction between the fixed and moveable portions of the circuit. If, when the magnet is away, the wheel be forced to rotate faster than the limiting velocity of our previous supposition, the current will be augmented according to the law of compound interest, and would go on thus increasing without limit were it not that the resistance of the circuit would become greater in virtue of the elevation of temperature produced by the current. The velocity of rotation which gives by induction an electromotive force exactly equal to that required to maintain the current, is clearly independent of the strength of the current. The mathematical deter-mination of it becomes complicated by the necessity of taking into account the diffusion of the current through portions of the disk not in the straight line between C and T; but it is very simple and easy if we prevent this diffusion by cutting the wheel into an infinite number of infinitely thin spokes, a great number of which are to be simultaneously in contact with the fixed conductor at T. The linear velocity of the circumference of the wheel in the limiting case bears to the velocity which measures, in absolute measure, the resistance of the circuit, a ratio (determinable by the solution of the mathematical problem) which depends on the proportions of the rectangle C T A B, and is in-

dependent of its absolute dimensions.

Lastly, suppose the wheel to be kept rotating at any constant velocity, whether above or below the velocity determined by the preceding considerations; and suppose the current to be temporarily excited in any way (for instance, by bringing a magnet into the neighbourhood and then withdrawing it); the strength of this current will diminish towards zero or will increase towards infinity, according as the velocity is below or above the critical velocity. The diminution or augmentation would follow the compound interest law if the resistance in the circuit remained constant. The conclusion presents us with this wonderful result: that if we commence with absolutely no electric current, and give the wheel any velocity of rotation exceeding the critical velocity, the electric equilibrium is unstable: an infinitesimal current in either direction would augment until, by heating the circuit, the electric resistance becomes increased to such an extent that the electromotive force of induction just suffices to keep the current constant.

It will be difficult, perhaps impossible, to realize this result in practice, because of the great velocity required, and the difficulty of maintaining good frictional contact at the circumference, without enormous friction, and consequently frictional generation

of heat.

The electromagnetic augmentation and maintenance of a current discovered by Siemens, and put in practice by him, with the aid of soft iron, and proved by Maxwell to be theoretically possible without soft iron, suggested the subject of this communication to the author, and led him to endeavour to arrive at a similar result with only a single circuit, and no making and breaking of contacts; and it is only these characteristics that constitute the peculiarity of the arrangement which he now describes.

# Attachment 2 – Notes on a Unipolar Dynamo

#### CHAPTER XLL

IMPROVEMENT IN "UNIPOLAR" GENERATORS.

Another interesting class of apparatus to which Mr. Tesla has directed his attention, is that of "unipolar" generators, in which a disc or a cylindrical conductor is mounted between magnetic poles adapted to produce an approximately uniform field. In the disc armature machines the currents induced in the rotating conductor flow from the centre to the periphery, or conversely, according to the direction of rotation or the lines of force as determined by the signs of the magnetic poles, and these currents are taken off usually by connections or brushes applied to the disc at points on its periphery and near its centre. In the case of the cylindrical armature machine, the currents developed in the cylinder are taken off by brushes applied to the sides of the cylinder at its ends.

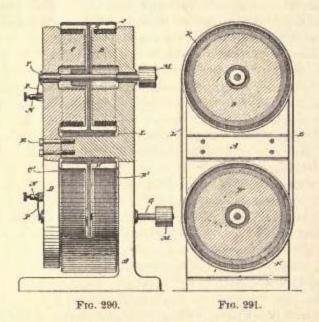
In order to develop economically an electromotive force available for practicable purposes, it is necessary either to rotate the conductor at a very high rate of speed or to use a disc of large diameter or a cylinder of great length; but in either case it becomes difficult to secure and maintain a good electrical connection between the collecting brushes and the conductor, owing to the high peripheral speed.

It has been proposed to couple two or more discs together in series, with the object of obtaining a higher electro-motive force; but with the connections heretofore used and using other conditions of speed and dimension of disc necessary to securing good practicable results, this difficulty is still felt to be a serious obstacle to the use of this kind of generator. These objections Mr. Tesla has sought to avoid by constructing a machine with two fields, each having a rotary conductor mounted between its poles. The same principle is involved in the case of both forms of machine above described, but the description now given is confined to the disc type, which Mr. Tesla is inclined to favor for that machine. The discs are formed with flanges, after the

manner of pulleys, and are connected together by flexible conducting bands or belts.

The machine is built in such manner that the direction of magnetism or order of the poles in one field of force is opposite to that in the other, so that rotation of the discs in the same direction develops a current in one from centre to circumference and in the other from circumference to centre. Contacts applied therefore to the shafts upon which the discs are mounted form the terminals of a circuit the electro-motive force in which is the sum of the electro-motive forces of the two dises.

It will be obvious that if the direction of magnetism in both



fields be the same, the same result as above will be obtained by driving the discs in opposite directions and crossing the connecting belts. In this way the difficulty of securing and maintaining good contact with the peripheries of the discs is avoided and a cheap and durable machine made which is useful for many purposes—such as for an exciter for alternating current generators, for a motor, and for any other purpose for which dynamo machines are used.

Fig. 290 is a side view, partly in section, of this machine.
Fig. 291 is a vertical section of the same at right angles to the shafts.

In order to form a frame with two fields of force, a support, A, is cast with two pole pieces B B' integral with it. To this are joined by bolts E a casting D, with two similar and corresponding pole pieces C C'. The pole pieces B B' are wound and connected to produce a field of force of given polarity, and the pole pieces C C' are wound so as to produce a field of opposite polarity. The driving shafts F G pass through the poles and are journaled in insulating bearings in the casting A D, as shown.

н к are the discs or generating conductors. They are composed of copper, brass, or iron and are keyed or secured to their respective shafts. They are provided with broad peripheral flanges J. It is of course obvious that the discs may be insulated from their shafts, if so desired. A flexible metallic belt L is passed over the flanges of the two discs, and, if desired, may be used to drive one of the discs. It is better, however, to use this belt merely as a conductor, and for this purpose sheet steel, copper, or other suitable metal is used. Each shaft is provided with a driving pulley м, by which power is imparted from a driving shaft.

N N are the terminals. For the sake of clearness they are shown as provided with springs P, that bear upon the ends of the shafts. This machine, if self-exciting, would have copper bands around its poles; or conductors of any kind—such as wires shown in the drawings—may be used.

It is thought appropriate by the compiler to append here some notes on unipolar dynamos, written by Mr. Tesla, on a recent occasion.

#### NOTES ON A UNIPOLAR DYNAMO.1

It is characteristic of fundamental discoveries, of great achievements of intellect, that they retain an undiminished power upon the imagination of the thinker. The memorable experiment of Faraday with a disc rotating between the two poles of a magnet, which has borne such magnificent fruit, has long passed into every-day experience; yet there are certain features about this embryo of the present dynamos and motors which even to-day appear to us striking, and are worthy of the most careful study. Consider, for instance, the case of a disc of iron or other metal

Article by Mr. Tesla, contributed to The Electrical Engineer, N. Y., Sept. 2, 1891.

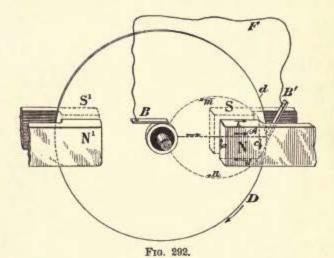
revolving between the two opposite poles of a magnet, and the polar surfaces completely covering both sides of the disc, and assume the current to be taken off or conveyed to the same by contacts uniformly from all points of the periphery of the disc. Take first the case of a motor. In all ordinary motors the operation is dependent upon some shifting or change of the resultant of the magnetic attraction exerted upon the armature, this process being effected either by some mechanical contrivance on the motor or by the action of currents of the proper character. We may explain the operation of such a motor just as we can that of a water-wheel. But in the above example of the disc surrounded completely by the polar surfaces, there is no shifting of the magnetic action, no change whatever, as far as we know, and yet rotation ensues. Here, then, ordinary considerations do not apply; we cannot even give a superficial explanation, as in ordinary motors, and the operation will be clear to us only when we shall have recognized the very nature of the forces concerned, and fathomed the mystery of the invisible connecting mechan-

Considered as a dynamo machine, the disc is an equally interesting object of study. In addition to its peculiarity of giving currents of one direction without the employment of commutating devices, such a machine differs from ordinary dynamos in that there is no reaction between armature and field. The armature current tends to set up a magnetization at right angles to that of the field current, but since the current is taken off uniformly from all points of the periphery, and since, to be exact, the external circuit may also be arranged perfectly symmetrical to the field magnet, no reaction can occur. This, however, is true only as long as the magnets are weakly energized, for when the magnets are more or less saturated, both magnetizations at right angles seemingly interfere with each other.

For the above reason alone it would appear that the output of such a machine should, for the same weight, be much greater than that of any other machine in which the armature current tends to demagnetize the field. The extraordinary output of the Forbes unipolar dynamo and the experience of the writer confirm this view.

Again, the facility with which such a machine may be made to excite itself is striking, but this may be due—besides to the absence of armature reaction—to the perfect smoothness of the current and non-existence of self-induction. If the poles do not cover the disc completely on both sides, then, of course, unless the disc be properly subdivided, the machine will be very inefficient. Again, in this case there are points worthy of notice. If the disc be rotated and the field current interrupted, the current through the armature will continue to flow and the field magnets will lose their strength comparatively slowly. The reason for this will at once appear when we consider the direction of the currents set up in the disc.

Referring to the diagram Fig. 292, d represents the disc with the sliding contacts BB' on the shaft and periphery. N and S represent the two poles of a magnet. If the pole N be above, as indicated in the diagram, the disc being supposed to be in the



plane of the paper, and rotating in the direction of the arrow p, the current set up in the disc will flow from the centre to the periphery, as indicated by the arrow A. Since the magnetic action is more or less confined to the space between the poles N s, the other portions of the disc may be considered inactive. The current set up will therefore not wholly pass through the external circuit F, but will close through the disc itself, and generally, if the disposition be in any way similar to the one illustrated, by far the greater portion of the current generated will not appear externally, as the circuit F is practically short-circuited by the inactive portions of the disc. The direction of the resulting currents in the latter may be assumed to be as indicated by the dotted

lines and arrows m and n; and the direction of the energizing field current being indicated by the arrows abcd, an inspection of the figure shows that one of the two branches of the eddy current, that is, Ab'mb, will tend to demagnetize the field, while the other branch, that is, Ab'mb, will have the opposite effect. Therefore, the branch Ab'mb, that is, the one which is approaching the field, will repel the lines of the same, while branch Ab'mb, that is, the one leaving the field, will gather the lines of force upon itself.

In consequence of this there will be a constant tendency to reduce the current flow in the path A B' m B, while on the other hand no such opposition will exist in path A B' n B, and the effect of the latter branch or path will be more or less preponderating over that of the former. The joint effect of both the assumed branch currents might be represented by that of one single current of the same direction as that energizing the field. In other words, the eddy currents circulating in the disc will energize the field magnet. This is a result quite contrary to what we might be led to suppose at first, for we would naturally expect that the resulting effect of the armature currents would be such as to oppose the field current, as generally occurs when a primary and secondary conductor are placed in inductive relations to each other. But it must be remembered that this results from the peculiar disposition in this case, namely, two paths being afforded to the current, and the latter selecting that path which offers the least opposition to its flow. From this we see that the eddy currents flowing in the disc partly energize the field, and for this reason when the field current is interrupted the currents in the disc will continue to flow, and the field magnet will lose its strength with comparative slowness and may even retain a certain strength as long as the rotation of the disc is continued.

The result will, of course, largely depend on the resistance and geometrical dimensions of the path of the resulting eddy current and on the speed of rotation; these elements, namely, determine the retardation of this current and its position relative to the field. For a certain speed there would be a maximum energizing action; then at higher speeds, it would gradually fall off to zero and finally reverse, that is, the resultant eddy current effect would be to weaken the field. The reaction would be best demonstrated experimentally by arranging the fields N s, N's', freely movable on an axis concentric with the shaft of the

disc. If the latter were rotated as before in the direction of the arrow p, the field would be dragged in the same direction with a torque, which, up to a certain point, would go on increasing with the speed of rotation, then fall off, and, passing through zero, finally become negative; that is, the field would begin to rotate in opposite direction to the disc. In experiments with alternate current motors in which the field was shifted by currents of differing phase, this interesting result was observed. For very low speeds of rotation of the field the motor would show a torque of 900 lbs. or more, measured on a pulley 12 inches in diameter. When the speed of rotation of the poles was increased, the torque would diminish, would finally go down to zero, become negative, and then the armature would begin to rotate in opposite direction to the field.

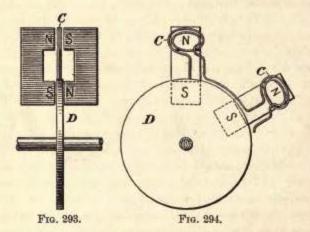
To return to the principal subject; assume the conditions to be such that the eddy currents generated by the rotation of the disc strengthen the field, and suppose the latter gradually removed while the disc is kept rotating at an increased rate. The current, once started, may then be sufficient to maintain itself and even increase in strength, and then we have the case of Sir William Thomson's "current accumulator," But from the above considerations it would seem that for the success of the experiment the employment of a disc not subdivided would be essential, for if there should be a radial subdivision, the eddy currents could not form and the self-exciting action would cease. If such a radially subdivided disc were used it would be necessary to connect the spokes by a conducting rim or in any proper manner so as to form a symmetrical system of closed circuits.

The action of the eddy currents may be utilized to excite a machine of any construction. For instance, in Figs. 293 and 294 an arrangement is shown by which a machine with a disc armature might be excited. Here a number of magnets, N s, N s, are placed radially on each side of a metal disc p carrying on its rim a set of insulated coils, c c. The magnets form two separate fields, an internal and an external one, the solid disc rotating in the

<sup>1.</sup> Mr. Tesla here refers to an interesting article which appeared in July, 1865, in the Phil. Magazine, by Sir W. Thomson, in which Sir William, speaking of his "uniform electric current accumulator," assumes that for self-excitation it is desirable to subdivide the disc into an infinite number of infinitely thin spokes, in order to prevent diffusion of the current. Mr. Tesla shows that diffusion is absolutely necessary for the excitation and that when the disc is subdivided no excitation can occur.

field nearest the axis, and the coils in the field further from it. Assume the magnets slightly energized at the start; they could be strengthened by the action of the eddy currents in the solid disc so as to afford a stronger field for the peripheral coils. Although there is no doubt that under proper conditions a machine might be excited in this or a similar manner, there being sufficient experimental evidence to warrant such an assertion, such a mode of excitation would be wasteful.

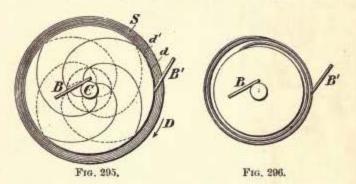
But a unipolar dynamo or motor, such as shown in Fig. 292, may be excited in an efficient manner by simply properly subdividing the disc or cylinder in which the currents are set up, and it is practicable to do away with the field coils which are usually employed. Such a plan is illustrated in Fig. 295. The disc or



cylinder p is supposed to be arranged to rotate between the two poles n and s of a magnet, which completely cover it on both sides, the contours of the disc and poles being represented by the circles d and d¹ respectively, the upper pole being omitted for the sake of clearness. The cores of the magnet are supposed to be hollow, the shaft c of the disc passing through them. If the unmarked pole be below, and the disc be rotated screw fashion, the current will be, as before, from the centre to the periphery, and may be taken off by suitable sliding contacts, B B', on the shaft and periphery respectively. In this arrangement the current flowing through the disc and external circuit will have no appreciable effect on the field magnet.

But let us now suppose the disc to be subdivided spirally, as

indicated by the full or dotted lines, Fig. 295. The difference of potential between a point on the shaft and a point on the periphery will remain unchanged, in sign as well as in amount. The only difference will be that the resistance of the disc will be augmented and that there will be a greater fall of potential from a point on the shaft to a point on the periphery when the same current is traversing the external circuit. But since the current is forced to follow the lines of subdivision, we see that it will tend either to energize or de-energize the field, and this will depend, other things being equal, upon the direction of the lines of subdivision. If the subdivision be as indicated by the full lines in Fig. 295, it is evident that if the current is of the same direction as before, that is, from centre to periphery, its effect will be to strengthen the field magnet; whereas, if the subdivision be as in-



dicated by the dotted lines, the current generated will tend to weaken the magnet. In the former case the machine will be capable of exciting itself when the disc is rotated in the direction of arrow p; in the latter case the direction of rotation must be reversed. Two such discs may be combined, however, as indicated, the two discs rotating in opposite fields, and in the same or opposite direction.

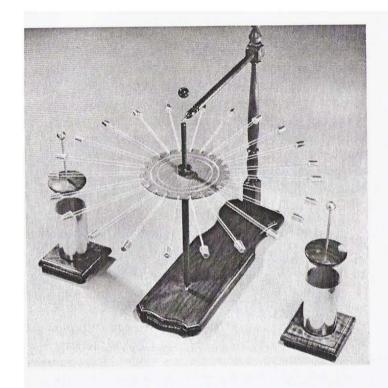
Similar disposition may, of course, be made in a type of machine in which, instead of a disc, a cylinder is rotated. In such unipolar machines, in the manner indicated, the usual field coils and poles may be omitted and the machine may be made to consist only of a cylinder or of two discs enveloped by a metal casting.

Instead of subdividing the disc or cylinder spirally, as indicated in Fig. 295, it is more convenient to interpose one or more turns

between the disc and the contact ring on the periphery, as illustrated in Fig. 296.

A Forbes dynamo may, for instance, be excited in such a manner. In the experience of the writer it has been found that instead of taking the current from two such discs by sliding contacts, as usual, a flexible conducting belt may be employed to advantage. The discs are in such case provided with large flanges, affording a very great contact surface. The belt should be made to bear on the flanges with spring pressure to take up the expansion. Several machines with belt contact were constructed by the writer two years ago, and worked satisfactorily; but for want of time the work in that direction has been temporarily suspended. A number of features pointed out above have also been used by the writer in connection with some types of alternating current motors.

# **Attachment 3 – Benjamin Franklin's Electrostatic Motors**



## PLATE 2

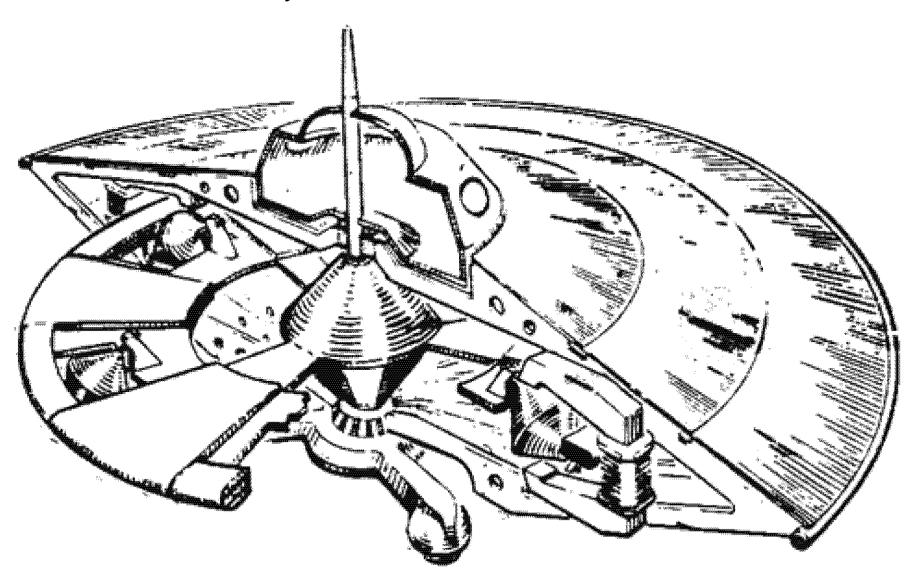
It was Benjamin Franklin who in 1748 constructed the first electrostatic motors. No original drawings or models of his motors are known to exist, but his first motor must have looked very similar to this replica designed by the author for the Electret Scientific Company.



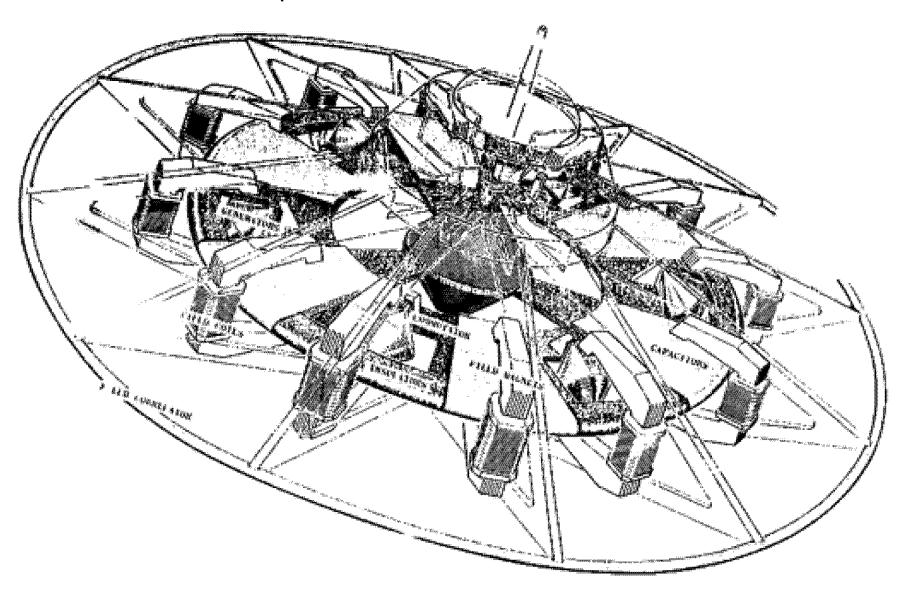
## PLATE 3

Franklin's second motor probably looked very much this replica also designed by the author for the Electret Scientific Company. Whereas the first motor operated from the electricity stored in Leyden jars, this motor operated from the electricity stored in the motor itself.

# Attachment 4 – OTC-X1 Cutaway View



# Attachment 5 – OTC-X1 Transparent View



### Attachment 6 - Water Russell Coils

On September 10, 1961, Walter and Lao Russell reported to their contacts at NORAD, that the coils had worked and that the President of the United States could announce to the world that a "greater, safer power than atomic energy" could be provided for industry and transportation.

The Russells were convinced that they had found and demonstrated a new source of energy and a conversion process for what is now known as the zero point energy.

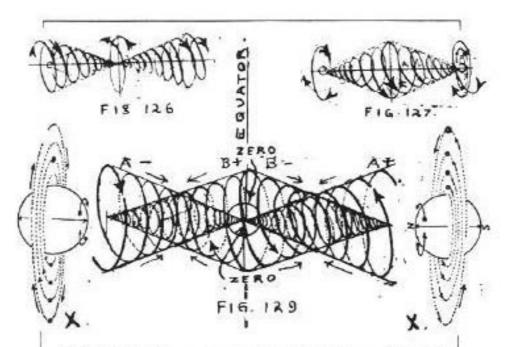
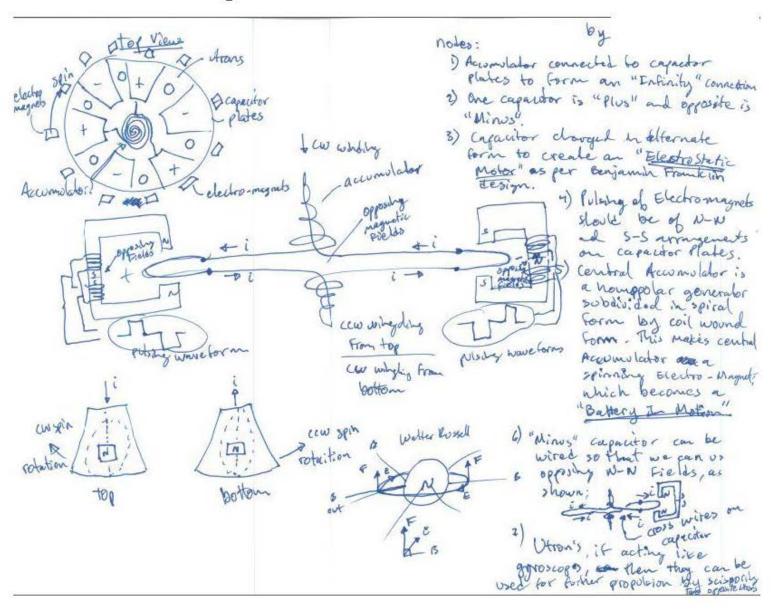


FIGURE 2. The concept behind Russell's Coils. The inner coils are wound from the ends toward the center in opposite directions. The outer coils are wound from the center toward ends in opposite directions.

# Attachment 7 - X1 Notes: MagnetoStatic Motor



## Attachment 8 - X1 Notes: ElectroStatic Motor

