Benefits of variable time-based zero cross (burst firing) devices

This application note describes benefits of using zero cross (burst firing) with a variable time base devices.

What are the benefits of variable time-based burst firing, a feature found on the EZ-ZONE® controllers?

There are three reasons for utilizing variable time-based firing:
1) Reduced initial product costs
2) Reduced operating costs
3) Longer heater life

Variable time base is the preferred method for controlling a resistive load, providing a very short time base for longer heater life. Unlike phase-angle firing, variable-time-base switching does not limit the current and voltage applied to the heater.

With variable time base outputs, the PID algorithm calculates an output between 0 and 100%, but the output is distributed in groupings of three ac line cycles. For each group of three ac line cycles, the controller decides whether the power should be on or off. There is no fixed cycle time since the decision is made for each group of cycles. When used in conjunction with a zero cross (burst fire) device, such as a solid-state power controller, switching is done only at the zero cross of the ac line, which helps reduce electrical noise (RFI).

Variable time base should be used with solid-state power controllers, such as a solid-state relay (SSR) or silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) power controller. Do not use a variable time base output for controlling electromechanical relays, mercury displacement relays, inductive loads or heaters with unusual resistance characteristics.

The combination of variable time base output and a solid-state relay can inexpensively approach the effect of analog, phase-angle fired control.

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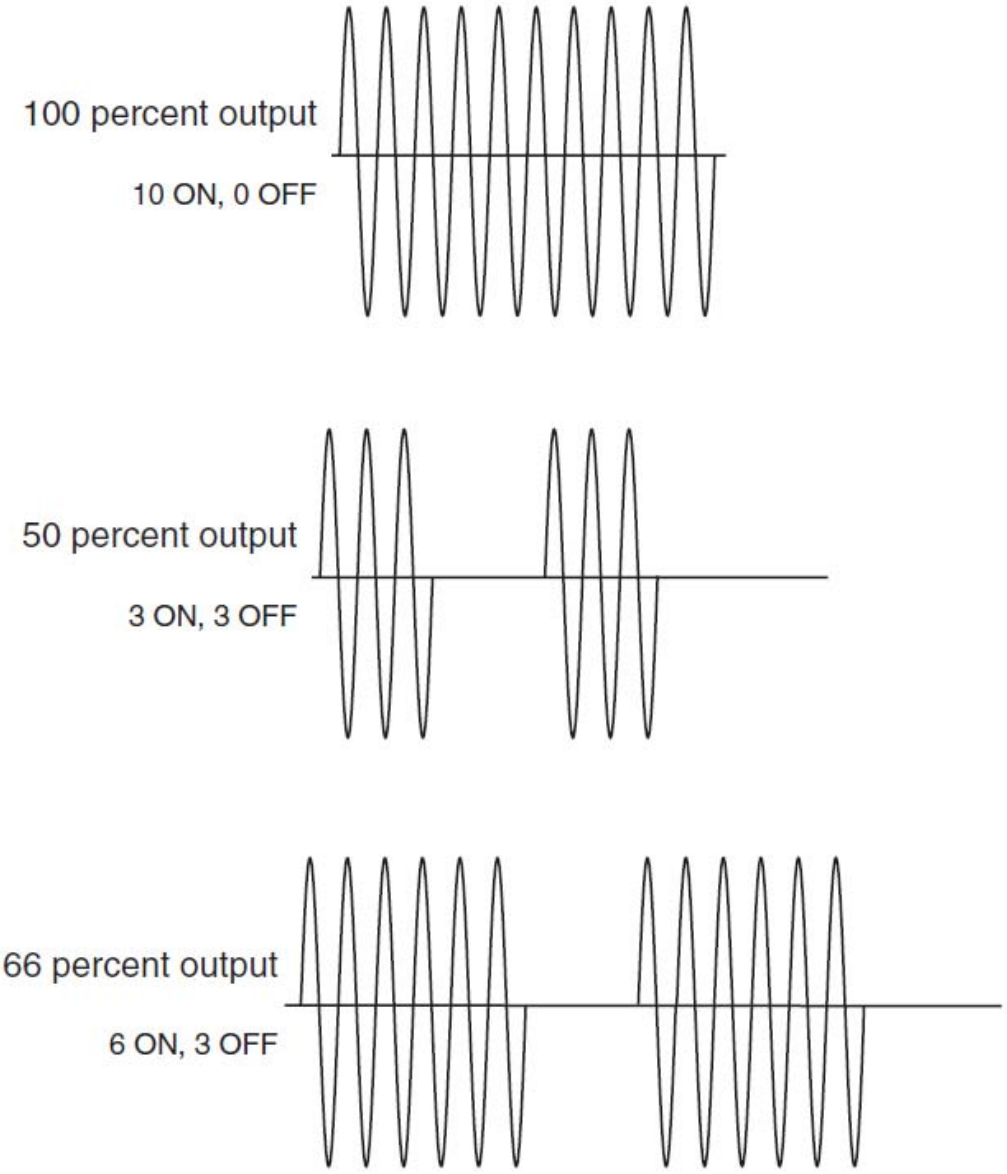
Burst fire output sample waveforms show output percent on and off.



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