



This strobe driver was found to have one or more blown Integrated Circuit chips on its circuit card. The cause for this type of failure is a high voltage spike from the aircraft electrical system. These spikes can be caused by several things, but the most probable is the collapsing magnetic field of the engine starter solenoid. They are easily eliminated with the addition of a “SURGE SUPPRESSOR DIODE” installed on the solenoid. These diodes are often supplied by the starter switch supplier along with installation instructions. They are also available from any electrical parts supply house. A small diode (with a part number 1N4002 or larger) should work just fine.

If you have any doubts that one is installed on your aircraft, refer to the above photo. Find the starter solenoid on your aircraft. It is usually mounted near the engine. It will have the two heavy cables attached, one from the BATTERY and one from the ENGINE STARTER. On that solenoid is a third terminal, this is the POSITIVE ACTIVATION or “S” lead from the starter switch. There should be a diode connected between GROUND and the “S” connection. It must be wired in the direction shown.

The installation of the Surge Suppression Diode should prevent damage to your expensive electrical equipment that is turned on when starting the aircraft engine.