



The Super-Secret Transformer Tester

When we open the DC loop, the voltage on all windings will increase until something conducts current. If all of the windings are open (as they should be), the NE-2 lamp will break over and flash when the voltage across it hits 75-90V. But if there is a shorted turn inside the transformer, the iron's stored magnetism will be entirely spent on trying to make the current keep flowing in that turn of wire. The neon light will not flash. Watch the lamp. If it flashes, there is no internal or external short. If it does not flash, there is a short. It's that easy. Caveat: If there is a load on any winding, those loads will eat the inductive kickback and the neon will not light up.