Motor Speed Controller

Here is a simple circuit I use for a pillar drill. It suffers from speed variation due to mains fluctuations. And is only suited for AC/DC (e.g. brush) motors, and must not be used on AC Induction motors!

My drill motor was only 500Watt so...

D1 is 1N5403 (50A peak), D2 is 1N4003 C is a 0.1uF (63v) DIAC any 20v device (higher voltage = less control at low RPM.) 220R is optional depending on the sensitivity of the SCR. SCR is a 3A 400V device (50A peak) it can be a Triac as D1 inhibits wrong way conduction. (mine used to blow up until I added the diode.) Switch shorts out controller for full Power. Multi turn low speed control is a preset pot in my design.

This circuit attempts to put DC out to the motor 50 times a second, every other half cycle (half power). How much DC depends on the preset setting & the motor back emf. Hence the power/torque has some feedback feature unlike just phase control, & enables variable torque loads to be handled much better, without dramatic RPM changes.

The information contained upon this page is supplied in good faith, and to the best of our knowledge is accurate.

However, We accept no responsibility for damage or injury, however caused, due to the use of this data.

This design was originally posted on Packet radio by John G8MNY - Jan 2001.