Title: BALL JOINT WITH DUAL TAPERED CONNECTION

Abstract: An apparatus comprises a first suspension member (12), and a second suspension member (14) having a through hole (24) with a first tapered surface (32) defining a first end of the through hole and a second tapered surface (34) defining a second end of the through hole. A socket (40) is connected with the first suspension member (12). A stub (50) has a first end portion (52) and a second end portion (60). The socket (40) supports the first end portion (52) of the stud (50) in the socket (40) for pivotal movement relative to the socket. The second end portion (60) of the stud (50) has a tapered outer surface (66) in engagement with the first tapered surface (32) of the second suspension member (14). A fastener (90) on the second end portion (60) of the stud (50) has a tapered outer surface (96) in engagement with the second tapered surface (36) of the second suspension member (14).
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
   IPC(7) : B60G 7/00; F16C 33/74; F16C 11/00
   US CL : 403/13, 14, 131, 135, 253
   According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

   Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
   U.S. : 403/13, 14, 131, 135, 253

   Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

   Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,257,795 B1 (Strob) 10 July 2001 (10.07.2001), claims 3, 4, 8, 9</td>
<td>1-7</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>US 1,153,986 A (Whitney) 21 September 1915 (21.09.1915), col. 2, lines 109-112.</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,505,989 B1 (Paidirek) 14 January 2003 (14.01.2003), Figure 2.</td>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search
13 March 2003 (13.03.2003)

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