

(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

(54) Title

Protective mesh in particular for rockfall protection or for slope stabilisation

(51)⁶ International Patent Classification(s)

B21D 11/07 (2006.01) 20060101ALI2005100

B21F 27/02 (2006.01) ^{8BMEP} **E01F**

E01F 7/04 (2006.01) 7/04

E02D 17/20 (2006.01) 20060101ALI2005100

B21D 11/07 ^{8BMEP} **E02D**

20060101AFI2005100 17/20

^{8BMEP} **B21F** 20060101ALI2005100

27/02 ^{8BMEP}

PCT/EP2005/005542

(21) Application No: 2005251879

(22) Application Date: 2005 .05 .23

(87) WIPO No: W005/120744

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number	(32) Date	(33) Country
00 974/04	2004 .06 .08	CH

(43) Publication Date : 2005 .12 .22

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(56) Related Art

EP 1302595

US 5996972

US 6279858

(12) NACH DEM VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES PATENTWESENS (PCT) VERÖFFENTLICHTE INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG

(19) Weltorganisation für geistiges Eigentum
Internationales Büro



(43) Internationales Veröffentlichungsdatum
22. Dezember 2005 (22.12.2005)

PCT

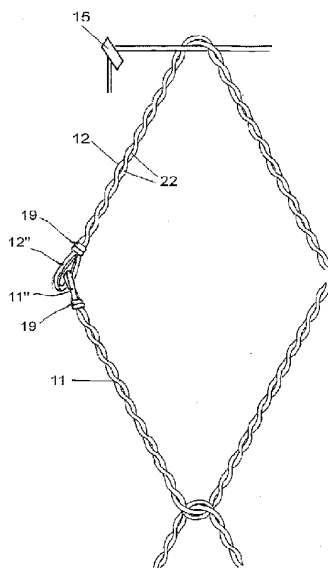
(10) Internationale Veröffentlichungsnummer
WO 2005/120744 A1

- (51) Internationale Patentklassifikation⁷: **B21F 27/02**,
B21D 11/07, E01F 7/04, F02D 17/20
- (21) Internationales Aktenzeichen: PCT/EP2005/005542
- (22) Internationales Anmeldedatum:
23. Mai 2005 (23.05.2005)
- (25) Einreichungssprache: Deutsch
- (26) Veröffentlichungssprache: Deutsch
- (30) Angaben zur Priorität:
00 974/04 8. Juni 2004 (08.06.2004) CH
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- (81) Bestimmungsstaaten (soweit nicht anders angegeben, für jede verfügbare nationale Schutzrechtsart): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GI, GM, GR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL.

[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

(54) Title: PROTECTIVE MESH IN PARTICULAR FOR ROCKFALL PROTECTION OR FOR SLOPE STABILISATION

(54) Bezeichnung: SCHUTZNETZ, INSBESONDERE FÜR EINEN STEINSCHLAGSCHUTZ ODER FÜR EINE BÖSCHUNGSSICHERUNG



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a protective mesh, in particular, for a rockfall protection or for a slope stabilisation, comprising a diagonal plaid (10), formed by a three-dimensional mattress-like structure. The above is braided from individual helically-bent wire strands, wire bundles, wire cables (11,12,13,14), or similar, comprising two or more wires (22), or wire strands made from steel. The wire strands, wire cables or wire bundles are advantageously made from high-strength steel and the protective mesh can thus be assembled with a high strength.

(57) Zusammenfassung: Ein Schutznetz, insbesondere für einen Steinschlagschutz oder für eine Böschungssicherung, mit einem Diagonalgeflecht (10) ist durch eine drei-dimensionale matratzenartige Struktur gebildet. Es ist dabei aus einzelnen wendelförmig gebogenen Drahtlitzen, Drahtbündeln, Drahtseilen (11,12,13,14) oder ähnlichem geflochten, welche zwei oder mehrere Drähte (22) oder Drahtlitzen aus Stahl umfassen. Sehr vorteilhaft sind die Drahtlitzen, Drahtseile oder Drahtbündel oder ähnlichem zumeist teilweise aus einem hochfesten Stahl hergestellt und die Schutznetze können dadurch mit einer sehr hohen Festigkeit verbaut werden.

WO 2005/120744 A1



SM, SY, TI, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC,
VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI,
CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(84) Bestimmungsstaaten (soweit nicht anders angegeben, für jede verfügbare regionale Schutzrechtsart): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), caucasisches (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), europäisches (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL,

Veröffentlicht:
mit internationalem Recherchenbericht

Zur Erklärung der Zweibuchstaben-Codes und der anderen Abkürzungen wird auf die Erklärungen ("Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations") am Anfang jeder regulären Ausgabe der PCT-Gazette verwiesen.

Protective mesh, in particular for rockfall protection or for slope stabilisation

The invention concerns a protective net, especially for rockfall protection or verge securing.

5 A protective net of this type is known from EP-B-0 979 329. The protective net is designed as a diagonal weave with rhomboid-shaped loops and a three-dimensional mattress-like structure which is woven from individual, spiral-shaped bent wires made of high tensile steel. The wires have a very high tensile strength, so that the weave will retain its three-dimensional mattress-like structure even under stretched conditions and can serve to cover an
10 earth surface as a retainer or stabiliser of vegetation layers. The wire weave can be folded and takes up little space during storage or transport. Thanks to the high bend resistance of the wires the risk of a ladder forming when a wire breaks is reduced.

It is desirable for the present invention to provide a protective net of the type mentioned above and to further improve the same in order to substantially reduce the risk of breakage.

15 Protective net of this invention, being woven from individual, spiral-shaped bent wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles preferably incorporating two or more wires (or wire strands) made of high tensile steel creates a protective net of great firmness permit practically no deformation under load, and which does not require loop fixing elements (for example cross clamps).

20 According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a protective net, especially for rockfall protection or for verge securing, which is formed by means of a diagonal weave produced from wires and forming a three-dimensional, mattress-like structure, wherein the diagonal weave is woven from wire bundles, or from wire cables, each of the wire bundles or wire cables incorporating two or more wires or wire strands made of steel.

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According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for producing a protective net according to the above, wherein a wire strand, a wire bundle or a wire cable is introduced at a defined angle of inclination at least up to a spike of a means and bent around said spike in a defined length (L) by approximately 180°, and wherein the wire strand, the wire bundle or the wire cable is advanced by the defined length L several times 5 around its longitudinal axis in relation to the spike and bent around the spike by 180° each time until this wire strand, wire bundle, or wire cable has taken on a spiral-shaped form.

The diagonal weave of this invention made of wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles can be produced practically "infinitely" on rolls, whereby the longitudinal roll sides preferably incorporate very firm edge knots in the form of loops formed from wire strand, wire cable, or wire bundle ends.

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the drawings, whereby:

Fig. 1 shows an overview of a loop of a protective net of this invention;

Fig. 2 shows a partial overview of a protective net;

Fig. 3 shows a partial side view of the net according to Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 shows a schematic view of a protective net system forming verge securing on a slope.

Figs. 1 and 2 show respectively a protective net for securing an earth surface layer such as for example for verge securing or securing of a rock wall along a road or suchlike, which here takes the form of a square diagonal weave 10 with four- or multi-cornered loops 17 as an example. The diagonal weave 10 is woven from a number of spiral-shaped bent wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles 11, 12, 13, 14, which each incorporate two or more wires 22 made of a high tensile steel. These can consist of wires wound from two or more wire strands, or wires wound from two or more wire bundles, or wire strands turned into a wire cable, or a combination of these elements.

The wires have a nominal strength of between 100 and 2200 N/mm² according to DIN Standard 2078, for example one of 1770 N/mm². It is however also possible to use spring wire steel according to DIN Standard 17223. The thickness of the wire will depend on the necessary tensile strength and can for example be 3mm.

These wires 22 are normally galvanised and equipped with a coating of zinc/aluminium and/or a plastic coating or a chrome alloy in order to provide the required corrosion resistance.

For this a zinc coating with an area weight of between 100 and 250 g/m² can for example be envisaged.

On the side ends of the weave 10 the wire strands, i.e. wire cables, i.e. wire bundles 11, 12, 13, 14 are flexibly connected with one another in pairs via loops 11'', 12'', whereby these loops 11'', 12'' are formed by the wire strands, i.e. wire cables, i.e. wire bundles 11, 12, 13, 14 themselves that are bent at their ends. The wire strands, i.e. wire cables, i.e. wire bundles 11, 12, 13, 14 are preferably additionally equipped with several loops 19 wound around their own circumference after having been bent to form loops, which will guarantee sufficient security against an opening up of the same due to the tensile load applied to these loops in a stretched condition.

The diagonal weave 10 is held on the earth surface at a defined tension by fitting elements 15 sunk into the earth. Preferably one wire or rope 21 each of the spiral-shaped bent edge wire cable, i.e. edge wire strand, i.e. edge wire bundle 11 located at the upper and lower ends of the weave 10 is inserted back into the same, the same being tensioned by the fitting elements 15 against the floor or suchlike. In principle it is also possible that the fitting elements 15 hold the loops 11' directly.

The individual spiral-shaped bent wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles 11, 12, 13, 14 incorporate an angle of incline α as well as a length L between two bends which determine the form and size of the loops 17 of the diagonal weave 10. It is of advantage for the angle of inclination α if an angle value of approximately 20 to 35° can be selected. The individual loops 17 each form a rhomboid, whereby the loop width can be 77 x 143 mm for example. This offers the advantage that the weave 10 will not stretch significantly when the same is laid out on the earth surface and tensioned by means of the ropes 21 in a longitudinal direction. In addition the individual loops 17 form a rhomboid with an elongated opening in this way. This has the advantage of a reduced permeability to earth material.

The individual wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles 11, 12, 13, 14 are flexibly held in their woven condition with the result that the diagonal weave 10 can be folded like a mat, i.e. rolled up. Accordingly very little space is required for storage and transport of such weaves.

According to Fig. 3 the weave 10 incorporates a three-dimensional mattress-like structure which is made possible by the use of the high tensile steel wire. The individual wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles 11, 12, 13, 14 are spiral-shaped and bent for this purpose, and then interwoven with one another, so that the weave 10 resulting from this forms an almost rectangular circumference when viewed in cross-section. The wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles therefore consist of bent sections 11' and straight sections 91. This elongated rectangle has a thickness 10' of several wire cable, i.e. wire strand thicknesses. This means that this wire weave 10 is three-dimensional even in a pre-tensioned condition. This results in an increased springiness of the weave for one, as the wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles can be stretched in a longitudinal direction with increasing tension and will give this mesh weave an increased elasticity. On the other hand this three-dimensional design provides additional support or stability of the vegetation layers covered by this weave or after coating of earth surfaces, for example verges.

The fact that the protective net of this invention is woven from individual spiral-shaped bent wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles incorporating two or more wires made from high tensile steel turned to form a wire strand or a wire bundle, or two or more wire strands made from high tensile steel turned to form a wire cable, means that a very firm protective net is created which permits practically no deformation under load, and which does not require loop fixing elements (for example cross clamps).

The diagonal weave of this invention made from wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles can be produced practically "infinitely" on rolls, whereby the longitudinal roll sides

preferably incorporate very firm edge knots in the form of loops formed from wire strand, wire cable, or wire bundle ends.

Basically the protective nets can however also consist of wire strands, wire bundles, spiral cables with thinner or thicker wires that are not, or only partly made from high tensile steel.

Fig. 4 shows a protective net system 10 according to this invention, which is here used for verge securing 40, for example of a verge 45 located on a steep slope which forms the earth surface layer that is to be secured.

This verge securing 40 consists of the wire weave 10 laid out across a desired verge area and the fitting elements 15 sunk into the ground with which the weave 10 is secured on the earth surface, i.e. claw plates or suchlike. For the fitting elements 15 known ground or rock nails are required, which are preferably affixed at regular intervals into the verge 45. At the upper and lower end of the weave 10 a rope 21 is envisaged with which the weave 10 can be stretched and tensioned.

With such a protective net system it is possible to optimally secure a slope. It is also possible with the net design of this invention to absorb large advancing forces caused by stones or rocks falling into the verge without problem.

With a method according to this invention for producing a protective net 10 a wire strand, a wire bundle, a wire cable 11, 12, 13, 14 or suchlike is introduced at a defined angle of inclination α during a first step at least as far as a spike of a means not illustrated in detail here and bent around the spike in a defined length L by approximately 180° . During further steps the wire strand, the wire bundle, the wire cable 11, 12, 13, 14 or suchlike is advanced by the defined length L several times around its longitudinal axis in relation to the spike 66 and bent around the spike by 180° each time until this wire strand, wire bundle, wire cable 11, 12, 13, 14 or suchlike has taken on a spiral-shaped form. Once these spiral-shaped bent wire strands, wire bundles, wire cables 11, 12, 13, 14 or suchlike have been created the same are woven together

with a second spiral-shaped bent wire strand, wire bundle, wire cable or suchlike, then the second with a third, and repeated until the wire weave has reached the desired size.

It is preferred that high tensile wires are used at least in part for these wire strands, wire bundles, or wire cables. It is however also possible to use wires with less firmness. The fact that thicker wire bundles can be used as opposed to individual wires results in an increased overall firmness.

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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Protective net, especially for rockfall protection or for verge securing, which is formed by means of a diagonal weave produced from wires and forming a three-dimensional, mattress-like structure, wherein the diagonal weave is woven from wire bundles, or from wire cables, each of the wire bundles or wire cables incorporating two or more wires or wire strands made of steel.
2. Protective net according to Claim 1, wherein the wires, wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles are made at least in part from high tensile steel.
3. Protective net according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the wires, wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles are flexibly connected with one another at their ends in pairs via loops.
4. Protective net according to Claim 3, wherein the wires, wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles are additionally equipped with at least one loop wound around their own circumference following their bending into loops.
5. Protective net according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the wires or wire strands forming the wire cables or wire bundles are corrosion resistant.
6. Protective net according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the wires or wire strands forming the wire cables or wire bundles have a nominal strength within a range of 1000 to 2200 N/mm².

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7. Protective net according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the spiral-shaped, bent wires, wire strands, wire cables, or wire bundles forming the diagonal weave have an angle of inclination of preferably between 25° to 35°.
- 5 8. Protective net according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein a verge securing incorporates the wire weave, fitting elements that can be sunk into the ground with claw plates or other means for holding the weave to the earth surface, and at least one rope on the surface, holding and stretching the weave.
- .0 9. Method for producing a protective net according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein a wire strand, a wire bundle or a wire cable is introduced at a defined angle of inclination at least up to a spike of a means and bent around said spike in a defined length (L) by approximately 180°, and wherein the wire strand, the wire bundle or the wire cable is advanced by the defined length L several times around its longitudinal axis in relation to the spike and bent around the spike by 180° each time until this wire strand, wire bundle or wire cable has taken on a spiral-shaped form.
- .5
10. Method according to Claim 9, wherein a spiral-shaped bent wire, wire strand, a wire bundle or a wire cable is woven together with a second spiral-shaped bent wire, wire strand, a wire bundle or a wire cable, the second with a third, and repeated until the wire weave has reached the desired size.
- 20
11. Protective net substantially according to claim 1 and any one of the embodiments herein described with reference to the accompanying figures.

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12. Method for producing a protective net according to claim 9 and any one of the
embodiments herein described with reference to the accompanying figures.

FATZER AG

5 WATERMARK PATENT AND TRADE MARKS ATTORNEYS

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Fig. 1

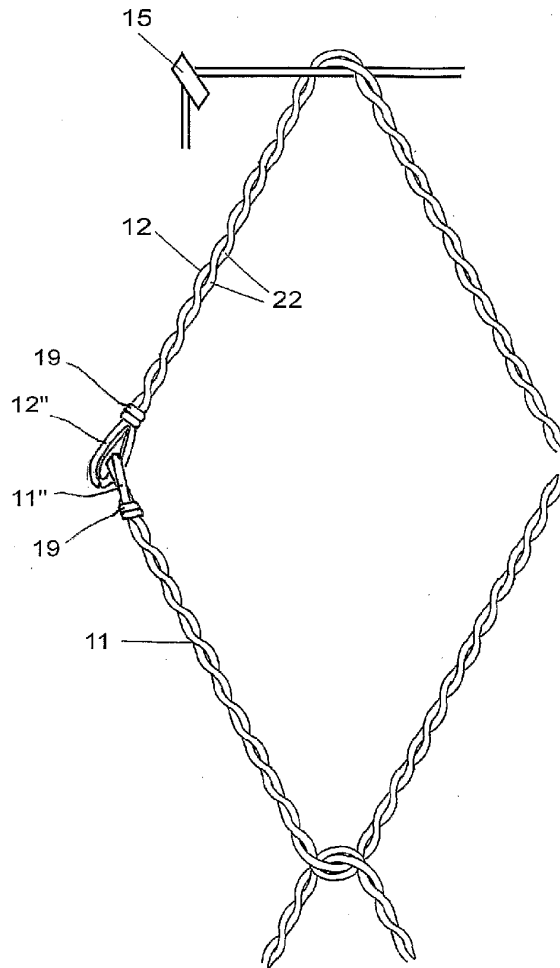
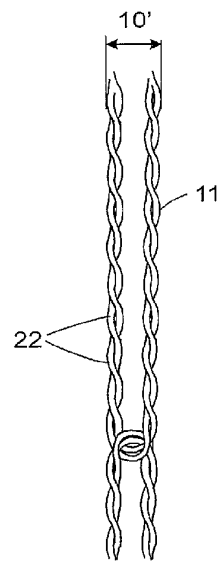


Fig. 3



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Fig.2

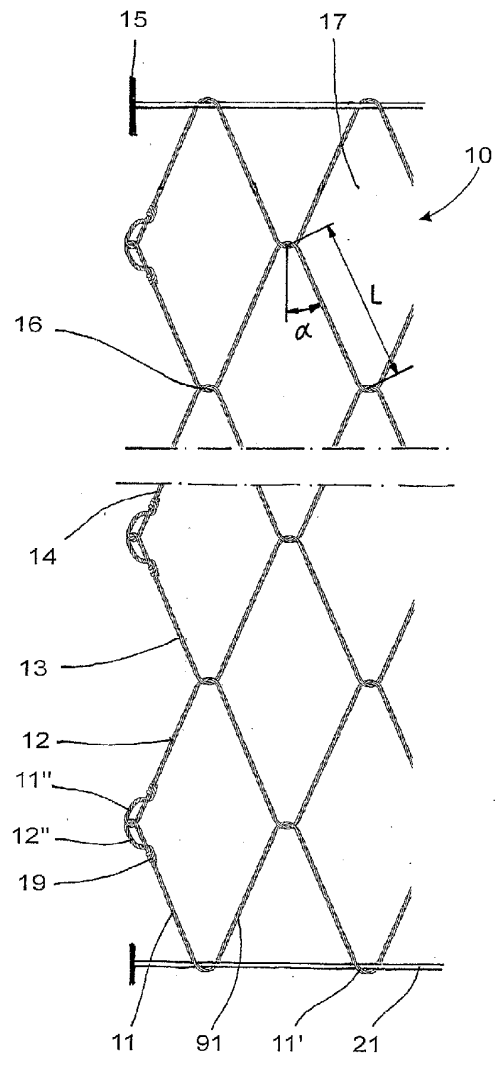


Fig.4

