

(19) **DANMARK**

(10) **DK/EP 3401269 T4**



Patent- og
Varemærkestyrelsen

(12) **Oversættelse af ændret
europæisk patentskrift**

-
- (51) Int.Cl.: **B 66 C 23/68 (2006.01)** **B 66 C 23/00 (2006.01)** **B 66 C 23/62 (2006.01)**
- (45) Oversættelsen bekendtgjort den: **2023-10-23**
- (80) Dato for Den Europæiske Patentmyndigheds bekendtgørelse om opretholdelse af patentet i ændret form: **2023-08-02**
- (86) Europæisk ansøgning nr.: **18170299.4**
- (86) Europæisk indleveringsdag: **2018-05-02**
- (87) Den europæiske ansøgnings publiceringsdag: **2018-11-14**
- (30) Prioritet: **2017-05-08 SE 1750562**
- (84) Designerede stater: **AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**
- (73) Patenthaver: **Hiab AB, c/o Cargotec Patenter AB, Box 1133, 164 22 Kista, Sverige**
- (72) Opfinder: **TÖRNBLOM, Leif, Fäskärsvägen 49, 824 91 Hudiksvall, Sverige**
- (74) Fuldmægtig i Danmark: **NORDIC PATENT SERVICE A/S, Bredgade 30, 1260 København K, Danmark**
- (54) Benævnelse: **KRANSYSTEM**
- (56) Fremdragne publikationer:
WO-A1-2006/062458
JP-U- S57 121 338

DESCRIPTION

Technical field

[0001] The present disclosure relates to a crane system, and in particular a crane system that comprises a crane and a crane platform to be mounted at a vehicle.

Background

[0002] Working vehicles are often provided with various movable cranes, which are attached to the vehicle via a joint. These cranes comprise movable crane parts, e.g. booms, that may be extended, and that are joined together by joints such that the crane parts may be folded together at the vehicle and extended to reach e.g. a load. Various tools, e.g. buckets, hooks or forks, may be attached to the crane tip, often via a rotator. Document WO 2006/062458 A1 discloses such a crane mounted on a vehicle.

[0003] If for example a bucket is to be used during loading and unloading it often needs to be transported by the truck together with the transported material. During transportation the bucket is normally placed at the loading space of the vehicle.

[0004] When transporting sand, waste material, or other loose material on a loading space on a truck the material must often be covered. In that case it may not be possible to place the bucket at the loading space, e.g. because the bucket may damage the cover.

[0005] An object of the present invention is to achieve an improved crane system that facilitates bringing a working tool, e.g. a bucket, at the truck during transportation that eliminates the above drawbacks with the presently used technique. Another object is that transportation of the working tool is performed such that available space at the vehicle is effectively used, and also in a practical and safe manner.

Summary

[0006] The above-mentioned object is achieved by the present invention according to the independent claim.

[0007] Preferred embodiments are set forth in the dependent claims.

[0008] According to one aspect a crane system is provided comprising a crane and a crane platform to be mounted at a vehicle. The crane platform comprises a crane connector to connect a base end of the crane to the crane connector such that the crane is pivotal in

relation to the crane platform. The crane is a foldable type crane and comprises at least two booms connected to each other by joints. The crane is structured to be in a parked state, in which state the crane is folded and arranged in a compact, space-saving, position at the crane platform, and having no working tool attached to a crane tip. The crane platform has an elongated shape along a longitudinal axis A1 and is structured to be mounted at the vehicle essentially in a horizontal orientation, and that the longitudinal axis A1 of the crane platform, when mounted at the vehicle, is essentially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis A2 of the vehicle. The crane platform further comprises a tool holder, and that the tool holder and the crane connector are arranged essentially along the longitudinal axis A1 of the crane platform, and that the tool holder is provided with support and hold members configured to support and firmly hold a working tool in a parked position in the tool holder when the working tool is not in use. The working tool is structured to be connected to the crane tip by a tool exchanger provided at the crane tip, and that the support and hold members are structured to hold the working tool in its parked position such that it is connectable to the crane tip by the tool exchanger. The support and hold members are provided with locking means to lock the working tool in the parked position, and to unlock the tool such that the tool may be lifted from the tool holder. This feature further improves the safety of the crane system. The locking means comprises a rod-like structure configured to be inserted into at least one recess in the working tool, the rod-like structure being moved by activation of a solenoid or a step-motor; or the locking means comprises hydraulically movable plates configured to move to a locking position where they apply pressure towards the working tool.

[0009] According to one embodiment the tool holder is mounted on the crane platform such that the working tool may be inserted into the tool holder and removed from the tool holder by, respectively, applying essentially vertically directed downward and upward movements to the working tool. This is advantageous in that the tool holder then safely holds the working tool in its intended parked position.

[0010] According to still another embodiment, when the working tool is in its parked position and the crane is in its parked state, the working tool and the folded crane essentially are within an outer extension of the crane platform when seen from above. This is advantageous in order to achieve a compact crane system.

[0011] According to a further embodiment the crane system comprises a control unit provided with a set of crane control procedures and configured to generate control signals including control instructions adapted to control the crane.

The set of crane control procedures comprises various automatic and semi-automatic control procedures to be applied when using the crane, and wherein the control procedures in particular comprises steps to be performed starting with the crane in the parked state and involve controlling the crane movements to position the crane tip in a position where the tool exchanger is in a position to attach the working tool to the crane tip. By providing automatic control procedures the movement may be optimized and also a fast and safe procedure may be achieved.

According to another embodiment the set of crane control procedures comprises a control

procedure including instructions to control lifting the working tool from the tool holder. This further improves the user-friendliness of the crane system.

In another embodiment the set of crane control procedures comprises a control procedure including instructions to control, before lifting the tool, a locking means to be in an unlocked state in order to unlock the working tool from the tool holder. This is advantageous in order to provide fast procedures and at the same time improve the safety.

In still a further embodiment the set of crane control procedures comprises control procedures to be applied when a working task is performed. These control procedures include instructions to control movements of the crane such that the working tool is safely parked in the tool holder and released from the tool exchanger, and that the crane is then moved to its parked state.

[0012] In one preferred embodiment the working tool is a bucket, e.g. a clamshell bucket. In still another embodiment the crane platform has a length along its longitudinal axis that essentially corresponds to the width of the vehicle where it is to be mounted, and wherein the crane platform is structured to be arranged between a driver's cabin and a loading area, or behind the loading area. A space-saving placement of the crane platform is thereby achieved.

[0013] One object of the crane system according to the present invention is to be able, in a quick and easy way, to fold a crane including a working tool, e.g. a clamshell bucket, so that the load on a tipper truck can be covered. The main use will be for cranes on a truck in applications where loosely material like sand or waste is transported and the load must be covered. The basis of the invention is to use the place on a crane platform where the operator platform now is located for having the bucket placed when the crane is in a folded position. Thus, according to the present invention a crane platform for the crane is provided with a tool holder. According to the present invention advantageous control procedure is included to be implemented for crane movements often performed, e.g. move from passive parked position for the crane, e.g. during driving, to an active position where crane including a working tool is ready to start working. This procedure should preferably be performed automatically in response of only one command.

Brief description of the drawings

[0014]

Figure 1 shows a schematic illustration of a vehicle provided with a crane system according to the present invention.

Figure 2 shows a side-view of a crane platform that schematically illustrates the crane platform according to one embodiment according to the present invention.

Figure 3 shows a view from a direction perpendicular to the view of figure 2 that schematically illustrates one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 shows the same view as figure 3 schematically illustrating the embodiment in another

state compared to figure 3.

Figure 5 is a schematic illustration from above of a vehicle provided with a crane platform according to the present invention.

Figure 6 shows the crane platform according to one embodiment of the present invention from a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis A1.

Figure 7 shows a side-view of the crane platform illustrated in figure 6.

Detailed description

[0015] The crane system will now be described in detail with references to the appended figures. Throughout the figures the same, or similar, items have the same reference signs. Moreover, the items and the figures are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating the principles of the invention.

[0016] With references to figures 1-5 a crane system 2, is provided, comprising a crane 4 and a crane platform 6 to be mounted at a vehicle 8. The vehicle 8 is a working vehicle 8 preferably provided with a loading area 40.

[0017] The crane platform 6 comprises a crane connector 10 to connect a base end 12 of the crane 4 to the crane connector 10 such that the crane 4 is pivotal in relation to the crane platform 6. The crane 4 is a foldable type crane and comprises at least two booms 14, which may be extendible, connected to each other by joints 16.

[0018] The crane 4 is structured to be in a parked state, in which state the crane 4 is folded and arranged in a compact, space-saving, position at the crane platform 6, and having no working tool 18 attached to a crane tip 20. Figures 1-3 and 5-6 illustrate the crane in the parked state.

[0019] The crane platform 6 has an elongated shape defining a longitudinal axis A1 and is structured to be mounted at the vehicle 8 essentially in a horizontal orientation, and that the longitudinal axis A1 of the crane platform 6, when mounted at the vehicle, is essentially perpendicular, when seen from above, to a longitudinal axis A2 of the vehicle 8; this is schematically illustrated in figure 5.

[0020] The crane platform 6 further comprises a tool holder 22.

[0021] The tool holder 22 and the crane connector 10 are arranged essentially along the longitudinal axis A1 of the crane platform 6.

The tool holder 22 is provided with support and hold members 24 configured to support and

firmly hold a working tool 18 in a parked position in the tool holder 22 when the working tool 18 is not in use. The working tool 18 is structured to be connected to the crane tip 20 by a tool exchanger 26 provided at the crane tip 20. The tool exchanger may e.g. be a commonly applied rotator. Figure 4 is an illustration of the crane platform in a connecting state, i.e. in a state when the crane has been unfolded and moved such that the tool exchanger 26 may be connected to the working tool 18.

[0022] Preferably, the working tool 18 is a bucket, e.g. a clamshell bucket, which is illustrated in the figures. However, the tool holder may be structured to hold and support any working tool that may be connected to, and used by, the crane, e.g. a hook or a fork.

[0023] The support and hold members 24 are structured to hold the working tool 18 in its parked position such that it is connectable to the crane tip 20 by the tool exchanger 26. In figure 2 the support and hold members 24 are illustrated as a pair of wedges adapted to the outer shape of the working tool and arranged essentially below the working tool. Naturally, the support and hold members may have other configurations. As an example, they may instead be designed as two vertical walls arranged at a distance to each other that corresponds to the width of the working tool.

[0024] According to one embodiment the tool holder 22 is mounted on the crane platform 6 such that the working tool 18 may be inserted into the tool holder 22 and removed from the tool holder 22 by applying essentially vertically directed downward and upward movements, respectively, to the working tool 18 by controlling movements of the crane.

[0025] The support and hold members 24 are provided with locking means 28 structured to lock the working tool 18 in the parked position, and also to unlock the tool 18 such that the tool may be lifted from the tool holder 22. Thereby the working tool is safely locked to the crane platform, which in particular is important when the vehicle moves. The locking means 28 may be an integral part of the support and hold members 24, but may also be a separate part. The locking of the working tool 18 may be achieved in one of two different ways. The locking means 28 either has a rod-like structure which is movable to be inserted into at least one recess provided in the working tool to mechanically hold the working tool in place, the rod-like structure being moved by activation of a solenoid or a step-motor, or alternatively the locking means comprises hydraulically movable plates that are controlled to move to a locking position where they apply pressure towards the working tool.

[0026] Advantageously, when the working tool 18 is in its parked position and the crane 4 is in its parked state, the working tool 18 and the folded crane essentially are within an outer extension 30 of the crane platform 6 when seen from above. This is schematically illustrated in figure 5.

[0027] According to another embodiment the crane system 2 comprises a control unit 32 provided with a set of crane control procedures. The control unit is configured to generate control signals 34 including control instructions adapted to control the crane 4. The control unit

may be similar to a commonly applied control unit, e.g. a hand-held control unit, provided with the necessary processing capabilities and memory means to perform the control of the crane. More specifically, the control instructions are control signals applied to all various systems, e.g. hydraulic systems, required to control movements of the crane. More particularly, the control instructions are adapted to control movements of the crane, extensions of any extendible booms, and also to control the working tool when attached to the crane tip via the tool exchanger.

[0028] The set of crane control procedures comprises various automatic and semi-automatic control procedures to be applied when using the crane. In particular, the control procedures comprises steps to be performed starting with the crane in the parked state and involve controlling the crane movements to position the crane tip 20 in a position where the tool exchanger 26 is in a position to attach the working tool 18 to the crane tip 20.

[0029] In a further embodiment, the set of crane control procedures comprises a control procedure including instructions to control lifting the working tool 18 from the tool holder 22.

[0030] In another embodiment, the set of crane control procedures comprises a control procedure including instructions to control, before lifting the tool 18, a locking means 36 to be in an unlocked state in order to unlock the working tool 18 from the tool holder 22.

[0031] Preferably, the set of crane control procedures comprises control procedures to be applied when a working task is performed. These control procedures include instructions to control movements of the crane 4 such that the working tool 18 is safely parked in the tool holder 22 and released from the tool exchanger 26, and the crane 4 is then moved to its parked state.

[0032] The control unit is configured to receive operator commands, e.g. via a joystick or buttons. Each of these operator commands have an assigned crane control procedure of the set of crane control procedures, and the commands may include "position crane tip in position to connect tool exchanger to working tool", "lift tool from tool holder", "move crane with working tool to a working position", "move crane to position where to disconnect and park working tool in tool holder".

[0033] By applying these crane control procedures various parts of, or the entire, crane movement, and tasks to be performed by the crane, may be programmed in advance and then automatically, or semi-automatically, be performed.

[0034] Preferably, the crane platform 6 has a length along its longitudinal axis A1 that essentially corresponds to the width of the vehicle where it is to be mounted. The crane platform 6 is structured to be arranged between a driver's cabin 38 and a loading area 40, which is illustrated in figure 1. Alternatively, the crane platform is structured to be arranged behind the loading area 40.

[0035] Figure 6 is a view perpendicular to the longitudinal axis A1 of the crane platform 6 provided with a crane 4 illustrating one embodiment of the present invention. Figure 7 is a view of the crane platform 6 shown in figure 6 along the longitudinal axis A1. Preferably, the crane platform is provided with stabilizer legs 36, 37, one at each end of the platform, i.e. at each side of the vehicle. These are used to support the crane and the vehicle during lifting procedures. In figure 6 the right stabilizer leg 36 is in its active position where it is extended downwards to support the crane platform to the ground. The left stabilizer leg 37 is in a non-active position.

[0036] The present invention is not limited to the above-described preferred embodiments. Various alternatives, modifications and equivalents may be used. Therefore, the above embodiments should not be taken as limiting the scope of the invention, which is defined by the appending claims.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

Cited references

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- WO2006062458A1 [0002]

PATENTKRAV

1. Kransystem (2), der omfatter en kran (4) og en kranplatform (6), som skal monteres på et køretøj (8), idet
5 kranplatformen (6) omfatter et kranforbindelseselement (10) med henblik på at forbinde en basisende (12) af kranen (4) med kranforbindelseselementet (10), således at kranen (4) kan dreje i forhold til kranplatformen (6), kranen (4) er en kran af den sammenfoldelige type og omfatter mindst
10 to bomme (14), der ved hjælp af led (16) er forbundet med hinanden, kranplatformen (6) har en langstrakt form langs en længdeakse (A1) og er struktureret til at blive monteret på køretøjet (8) i en i det væsentlige horisontal orientering, og at kranplatformens (6) længdeakse (A1) ved
15 montering på køretøjet i det væsentlige er vinkelret på en længdeakse (A2) af køretøjet (8),

idet kranen (4) er struktureret til at være i en parkeret tilstand, i hvilken tilstand kranen (4) er sammenfoldet og anbragt i en kompakt, pladsbesparende
20 position ved kranplatformen (6) og uden arbejdsværktøj (18) fastgjort til en kranspids (20),
idet kranplatformen (6) endvidere omfatter en værktøjsholder (22), og at værktøjsholderen (22) og kranforbindelseselementet (10) er anbragt i det
25 væsentlige langs kranplatformens (6) længdeakse (A1), og at værktøjsholderen (22) er forsynet med understøtnings- og fastholdelseelementer (24), der er konfigureret til, i en parkeret position, at understøtte og solidt fastholde et arbejdsværktøj (18)
30 i værktøjsholderen (22), når arbejdsværktøjet (18) ikke er i brug, idet arbejdsværktøjet (18) er struktureret til at blive forbundet med kranspidsen (20) ved hjælp af en værktøjsudskifter (26), der er anbragt på kranspidsen (20), hvor understøtnings- og

fastholdelselementerne (24) er struktureret til, i parkeret position, at fastholde arbejdsværktøjet (18), således at det ved hjælp af værktøjsudskifteren (26) kan forbindes med kranspidsen (20),

5 hvor understøtnings- og fastholdelselementerne (24) er forsynet med låsemidler (28) til fastlåsning af arbejdsværktøjet (18) i parkeret position og til udløsning af værktøjet (18), således at værktøjet kan løftes fra værktøjsholderen (22),

10 **kendetegnet ved, at**

låsemidlerne omfatter en stanglignende struktur, der er konfigureret til at blive indsat i mindst én reces i arbejdsværktøjet, idet den stanglignende struktur bevæges ved aktivering af en solenoide eller en stepmotor; eller

15 låsemidlerne omfatter hydraulisk bevægelige plader, der er konfigureret til at bevæge sig til en låseposition, hvor de påfører tryk hen imod arbejdsværktøjet.

20

2. Kransystem (2) ifølge krav 1, hvor værktøjsholderen (22) er monteret på kranplatformen (6), således at arbejdsværktøjet (18) kan indsættes i værktøjsholderen (22) og fjernes fra værktøjsholderen (22) ved henholdsvis 25 påføring af i det væsentlige vertikalt rettede nedadgående og opadgående bevægelser på arbejdsværktøjet (18).

3. Kransystem (2) ifølge kravene 1 eller 2, hvor arbejdsværktøjet (18) og den sammenfoldede kran, når 30 arbejdsværktøjet (18) er i parkeret position, og kranen (4) er i parkeret tilstand, i det væsentlige er inden for en ydre udstrækning (30) af kranplatformen (6), set ovenfra.

4. Kransystem (2) ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-3, der omfatter en styreenhed (32), der er forsynet med et sæt kranstyringsprocedurer og konfigureret til at generere styresignaler (34), herunder styreinstruktioner, 5 der er tilpasset at styre kranen (4), hvor sættet af kranstyringsprocedurer omfatter forskellige automatiske og halvautomatiske styringsprocedurer, som skal anvendes ved anvendelse af kranen, og hvor styringsprocedurerne omfatter trin, som skal udføres begyndende med kranen i parkeret 10 tilstand og involverer styring af kranbevægelserne med henblik på at positionere kranspidsen (20) i en position, hvor værktøjsudskifteren (26) er i en position med henblik på at fastgøre arbejdsværktøjet (18) til kranspidsen (20).
- 15 5. Kransystem (2) ifølge krav 4, hvor sættet af kranstyringsprocedurer omfatter en styringsprocedure, der indbefatter instruktioner til styring af løftningen af arbejdsværktøjet (18) fra værktøjsholderen (22).
- 20 6. Kransystem (2) ifølge krav 4 eller 5, hvor sættet af kranstyringsprocedurer omfatter en styringsprocedure, der indbefatter instruktioner til, inden løftning af værktøjet (18), at styre låsemidlerne (28) til at være i udløst tilstand med henblik på at udløse arbejdsværktøjet (18) fra 25 værktøjsholderen (22).
7. Kransystem (2) ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 4-6, hvor sættet af kranstyringsprocedurer omfatter styringsprocedurer, som skal anvendes, når der udføres en 30 arbejdsopgave, idet styringsprocedurerne indbefatter instruktioner om at styre kranens (4) bevægelser, således at arbejdsværktøjet (18) er sikkert parkeret i værktøjsholderen (22) og udløst fra værktøjsudskifteren (26), og kranen (4) derefter bevæges hen til parkeret

tilstand.

8. Kransystem (2) ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene
1-7, hvor arbejdsværktøjet (18) er en skovl, f.eks. en
5 grabskovl.

9. Kransystem (2) ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene
1-8, hvor kranplatformen (6) har en længde langs
længdeaksen, som i det væsentlige svarer til bredden af det
10 køretøj, hvor den skal monteres, og hvor kranplatformen (6)
er struktureret til at være anbragt mellem en førerkabine
(38) og et lastområde (40) eller bag lastområdet (40).

15

DRAWINGS

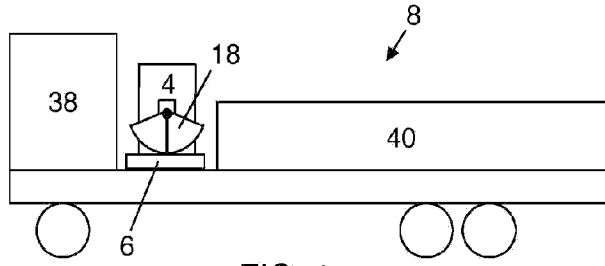


FIG. 1

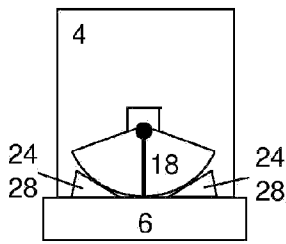


FIG. 2

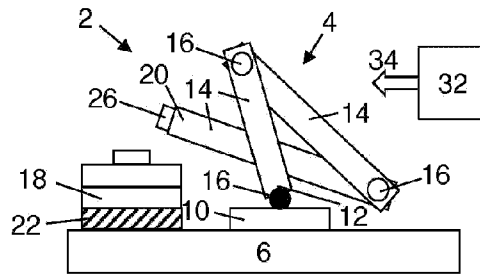


FIG. 3

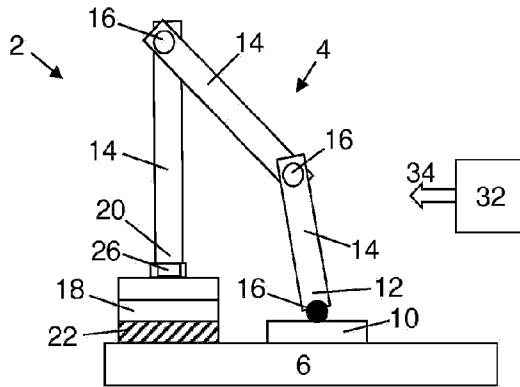


FIG. 4

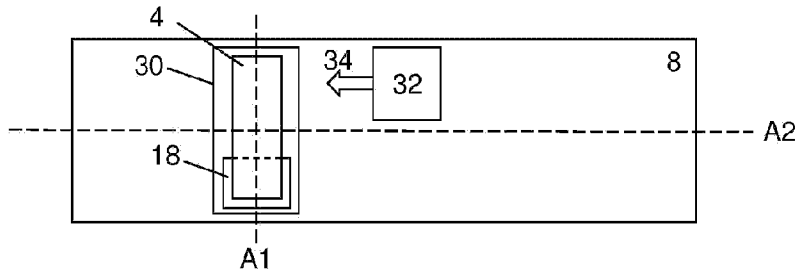


FIG. 5

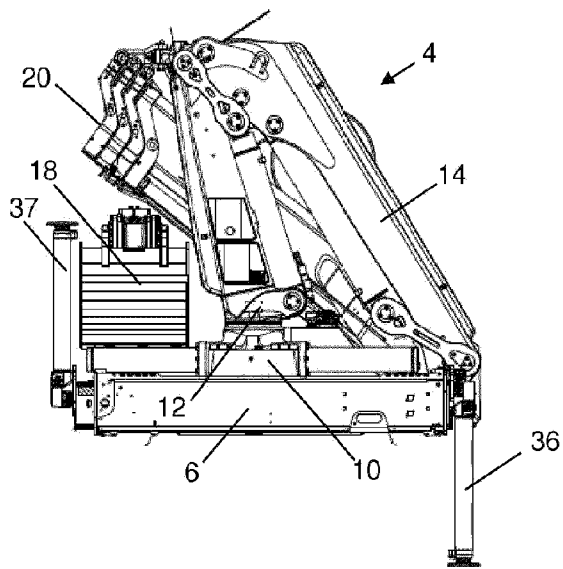


FIG. 6

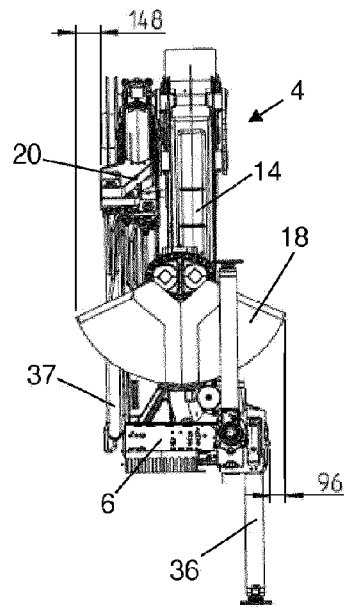


FIG. 7