(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 5 June 2008 (05.06.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2008/06669 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification: *F16H 48/06* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2007/023403

(22) International Filing Date:

7 November 2007 (07.11.2007)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/861,196 27 November 2006 (27.11.2006) US 11/933,667 1 November 2007 (01.11.2007) US

- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AMERICAN AXLE & MANUFACTURING, INC. [US/US]; One Dauch Drive, Detroit, Michigan 48211-1198 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): PINKOS, Andrew F. [US/US]; 10156 Greentree Drive, Clarkston, Michigan 48348 (US). YORK, Todd M. [US/US]; 3669 Prescott Drive, Howell, Michigan 48843 (US). OLIVEIRA, Gary A. [US/US]; 1921 Old Post Ct., Lake Orion, Michigan 48362 (US). UMSCHEID, Chad R. [US/US]; 1407 Sherwood Forest Court, Waterford, Michigan 48327 (US).

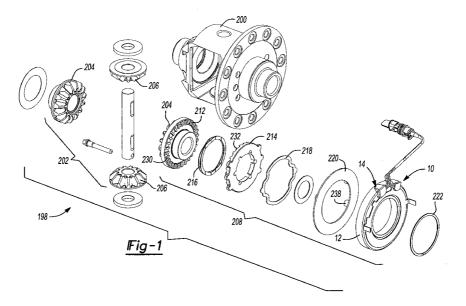
- (74) Agents: ZALOBSKY, Michael D. et al.; Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., P.O. Box 828, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303 (US).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

 as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LINEAR ACTUATOR WITH POSITION SENSING SYSTEM



6 (57) Abstract: An electromagnetic actuator assembly with a frame, a movable plunger, first and second sensor targets that are coupled to a plunger for movement therewith, first and second sensors that are coupled to the frame and a controller. The first sensor is configured to sense a position of the first sensor target and to produce a first sensor signal in response thereto. The second sensor is configured to sense a position of the second sensor target and to produce a second sensor signal in response thereto. The controller that receives the first and second sensor signals and identifies three or more discrete points along a path of travel of the plunger. A differential assembly that incorporates the electromagnetic actuator assembly is also provided.





WO 2008/066669 A3



- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

Published:

with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

18 September 2008

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US2007/023403

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - F16H 48/06 (2008.04) USPC - 475/231 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)			
IPC(8) - F16H 47/08; 48/06 (2008.04) USPC - 475/35, 231			
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)			
Patbase, Google Patents			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where a	ppropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2005/0277508 A1 (DEGOWSKE) 15 December 2005 (15.12.2005) entire document		1-18
Y	US 6,109,408 A (IKEDA et al) 29 August 2000 (29.08.2000) entire document		1-18
Y	US 6,769,524 B2 (YASUI et al) 03 August 2004 (03.08.2004) entire document		1-18
Y	WO 2006/053384 A1 (TIMMS) 26 May 2006 (26.05.2006) entire document		1-18
Y	US 6,771,472 B1 (MAO et al) 03 August 2004 (03.08.2004) entire document		3-4, 12-13, 18
Y	US 6,518,748 B2 (BUTZMANN et al) 11 February 2003 (11.02.2003) entire document		5, 7, 14, 16, 18
Y	US 5,600,237 A (NIPPERT) 04 February 1997 (04.02.1997) entire document		6, 15, 18
Y	US 2005/0279607 A1 (FUSEGI) 22 December 2005 (22.12.2005) entire document		10, 18
# :			
Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.			
Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "T" later document published after the international filing date and not in conflict with the application but cited to the principle or theory underlying the invention			cation but cited to understand
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other		"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	
means		being obvious to a person skilled in the art	
-	nty date claimed	Date of mailing of the international sear	ch report
20 May 2008	3	07 JUL 2008	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US		Authorized officer:	
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450		Blaine R. Copenheaver PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300	
		PCT Helpdesk: 5/1-2/2-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774	