

May 8, 1934.

H. H. DIEHL

1,958,162

TRACK CONSTRUCTION

Filed March 15, 1930

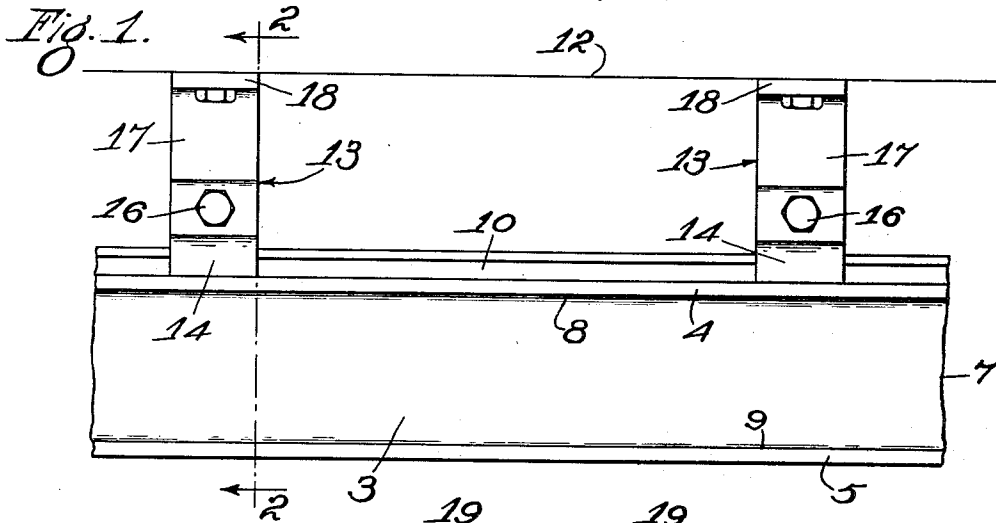
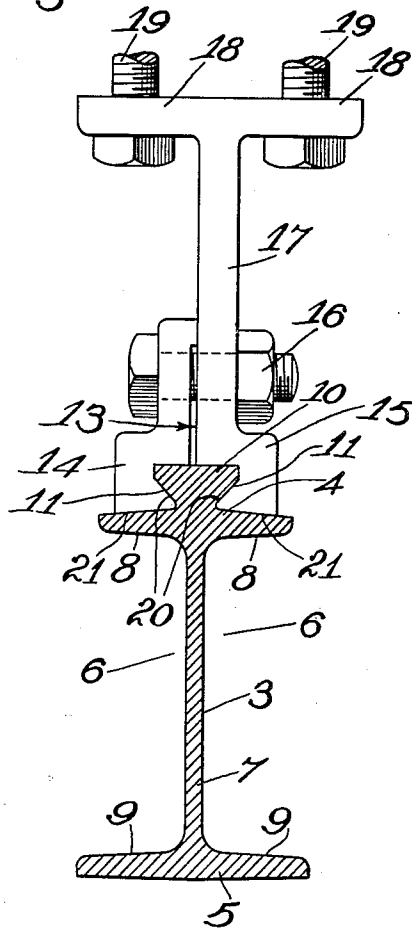


Fig. 2.



Inventor:
Herman H. Diehl.
By Dyrenforth, Lee, Chilton and Miles.
Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,958,162

TRACK CONSTRUCTION

Herman H. Diehl, Huntington, W. Va., assignor
to The West Virginia Rail Company, Hunting-
ton, W. Va., a corporation of West Virginia

Application March 15, 1930, Serial No. 436,074

3 Claims. (Cl. 104—109)

My invention relates to track construction con-
stituting, as for example, a portion of a conveyor
system and upon which a rolling element, as for
example the roller-equipped hanger of a conveyor
5 apparatus, is rollingly supported.

The track beams of such constructions are com-
monly provided with upper and lower flanges, the
beam usually being of I-shape in cross section and
in some cases, as for example where the track
10 beams are used in some conveyor systems, the
rolling element, supported on the track beam en-
gages the inner, opposed, surfaces of these flanges
and thus it is desirable, if not necessary, that
these surfaces of the flanges be smooth and not
15 present any obstruction to the free movement of
the rolling elements therealong.

One of my objects is to provide for the sup-
porting of a track beam by means which shall be
of novel, simple, and relatively inexpensive con-
struction.

Another object is to provide a novel, simple,
and inexpensive construction of track beam
adapted for the support thereof in the desired
position.

25 Another object is to provide for the novel, sim-
ple, and relatively inexpensive supporting of a
flanged track beam in such manner that the in-
ner, opposed, surfaces of the flanges of the beam
will be smooth and not present any obstruction
30 to the rolling of the rolling element therealong.

Another object is to provide a novel, simple,
and inexpensive construction of track beam which
shall be adapted for its support in a manner to
permit the unobstructed movement of the rolling
35 element along the opposed surfaces of its flanges.

Another object is to provide a novel, simple,
and inexpensive construction of track beam, the
sections of which may be spliced together, in en-
dwise abutting relation to form the desired length
40 of track, in an economical manner; and other
objects as will be manifest from the following
description.

Referring to the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a broken view in elevation of a
45 track beam construction embodying my inven-
tion showing it as an overhead construction and
secured to a supporting structure, such as a roof
above it; and

Figure 2, an enlarged section taken at the line
50 2—2 on Fig. 1 and viewed in the direction of the
arrows.

According to the particular illustrated embodi-
ment of my invention, the track beam represented
at 3 is of general I-shape in cross section to pre-
55 sent the flange portions 4 and 5.

In the particular construction shown the track
beam is provided as a part of an overhead con-
veyor system, the wheels (not shown) supporting
the movable part of the conveyor and extending
into the channels 6 at the opposite sides of the
web 7 of the beam and thus between the op-
posing surfaces 8 and 9 of the flanges 4 and 5, re-
spectively.

In the construction shown it is desired that
the surfaces 8 and 9 be rendered free of any ob-
struction to the smooth rolling of the wheels
above referred to against these surfaces in the
operation of the conveyor, the beam 3, in accord-
ance with the preferred, illustrated, embodiment
of my invention having formed integrally there-
with along its upper surface and preferably in
the central vertical plane of the beam, an up-
wardly projecting rib 10 preferably extending
throughout the length of the beam, with its lat-
eral surfaces undercut as represented at 11.

The rib 10 affords means on the beam 3 at
which the latter is adapted to be supported and
also, if desired, at which the beam is adapted to
be connected with the adjacent end of another
beam section in longitudinal alinement there-
with, where the track is to be formed of a plu-
rality of beam sections arranged in end to end
relation.

The means shown for supporting the track
beam from an overhead structure such as the roof
85 of a building and represented at 12 comprise sec-
tional clamp devices 13 each formed of the sec-
tions 14 and 15 adapted to be applied to the rib
10 against the opposite sides of the latter as
shown in Fig. 2 and secured together by a bolt
16, either one, or both, of these sections being
adapted for the securing of the clamp to the over-
head supporting structure; in the construction
shown the section 15 only being provided with
such attachment and to this end extending at a
95 portion 17 upwardly above the section 14 and pro-
vided with horizontal flange portions 18 to receive
the bolts 19 by which it is secured to the overhead
structure 12.

The clamp portions of the sections 14 and 15
100 are preferably shaped to conform to the cross
sectional contour of the upper portion of the
track beam 3, as shown, whereby these clamp sec-
tions overlie the top of the rib 10 and the upper
surface of the flange 8 and extend into the under-
cut portions 11 of the rib, whereby a firm grip
on the track beam is effected, it being preferred
that the clamping surfaces of the sections 14 and
15 be so shaped that in drawing them tightly into
engagement with the upper portion of the beam
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3 as stated they will bear tightly against the beam particularly at the points indicated at 20 and 21.

Where the track is formed of a plurality of sections of track beams arranged end to end, and it is desired that these sections be connected together at their joints, splicing means of any desirable construction, such as shown by the clamping means described, but without any portion thereof for attachment to the overhead support, may be provided for application to the rib-equipped portions of these sections.

It will be understood from the foregoing that the track beam may be formed with the rib integral therewith in any desirable way, as for example by rolling the rib thereon in the operation of rolling the beam.

While I have illustrated and described a particular embodiment of my invention, I do not wish to be understood as intending to limit it thereto as the same may be variously modified and altered without departing from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A conveyor track construction comprising a beam having upper and lower flanges and a projection on the exterior surface of one of said flanges and of tapering form in cross section, the tapering surfaces of said projection forming with the flange from which said projection extends wedge-shaped grooves at opposite sides of said

beam, and means for supporting said beam comprising wedge-shaped jaws which extend into and conformably fit both walls of said grooves.

2. A conveyor track construction comprising a beam having upper and lower flanges and a projection on the exterior surface of one of said flanges and of tapering form in cross section, the tapering surfaces of said projection forming with the flange from which said projection extends wedge-shaped grooves at opposite sides of said beam, and means for supporting said beam comprising wedge-shaped jaws which extend into and conformably fit both walls of said grooves and the surface of said projection extending between said tapering surfaces of said projection.

3. A conveyor track construction comprising a beam having upper and lower flanges and a projection on the exterior surface of one of said flanges and of tapering form in cross section, the tapering surfaces of said projection forming with the flange from which said projection extends wedge-shaped grooves at opposite sides of said beam, and means for supporting said beam comprising wedge-shaped jaws which extend into and conformably fit both walls of said grooves, said jaws extending in engagement with said last-referred-to flange close to the outer edges of the latter.

HERMAN H. DIEHL.

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