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(54) **Tripping mechanism for automatic switches**

(57) Tripping mechanism for automatic switches, formed by a functional unit that comprises a manually operated contact finger (3), in connection with which there is provided a swinging connecting piece (4) that in turn is connected with a trigger (6), with regard to which there is in position to be actuated a connecting piece (7) transmitting the tripping action to the corresponding automatic switch to which it is applied, while in connection with the connecting piece (4) there is in turn provided a lever (8) that is actuable by a drive relay to produce tripping.

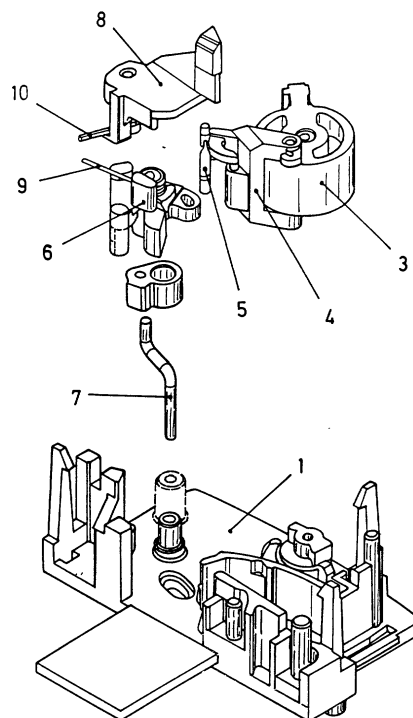


Fig. 2

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 5986

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 331 586 A (MERLIN GERIN) 6 September 1989 (1989-09-06) * abstract; figure 1 *	1	H01H83/22 H01H71/46 H01H83/04
A	EP 0 275 750 A (MERLIN GERIN) 27 July 1988 (1988-07-27) * abstract; figure 1 *	1	
A	WO 98/53473 A (PIANEZZOLA SERGIO ;GEWISS SPA (IT); BOSATELLI DOMENICO (IT); CONTA) 26 November 1998 (1998-11-26) * figure 2 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H01H
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		28 March 2003	OVERDIJK J.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)



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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B

Application Number  
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claim : 1

Tripping mechanism for automatic switches, a frame composed of a base (1) and a cover (2), between which are included the elements of a functional unit comprising a manually actuated contact finger (3), in connection with which there is provided a connecting piece capable of swinging, which in turn is connected, by means of a fork (5), with a trigger (6) with regard to which a connecting piece (7) transmitting the tripping action to the automatic switch to which it is applied is in a position to be actuated, while in thrusting relationship with regard to the connecting piece (4), there is provided a lever (8) which is actuatable by a drive relay for producing tripping of the device.

2. Claim : 2

Tripping mechanism for automatic switches wherein the functional unit may include a test circuit, formed by springs (11) and (13) each capable of independently establishing temporary contact with a metal pin (12), the first spring in connection with actuation of the trigger (6) and the second one in connection with the operation of a control actuatable by the user, to produce remote tripping of the device.

3. Claim : 3

Tripping mechanism for automatic switches wherein the functional unit may include an arrangement of auxiliary contacts, formed by a band (16) acting as movable contact that moves, with actuation of the trigger, between two metal pins (14) and (15) which act as fixed contacts, making it possible to provide switching between two different circuits.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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28-03-2003

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82