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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

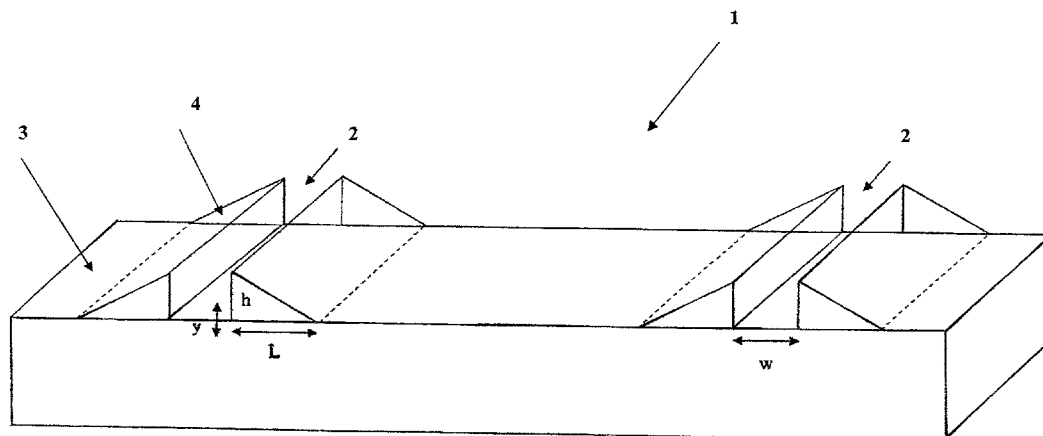
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(54) Title: RAILROAD TIE THAT OBVIATES THE NEED FOR A TIE PLATE



(57) Abstract: A plastic or polymer composite railroad tie, which includes at least one rail seat bordered on at least one side by a raised portion of the tie.



WO 2007/115161 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/65627

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: EOIB 3/00(2006.01)

USPC: 238/84

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)

U.S. : 238/84, 83; 264/21 1.12; 521/43.05; 523/204; 524/318, 449, 494; 525/54.3, 63, 240

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 3,598,312 A (HAMILTON) 10 August 1971 (10.08.1971). See Figures 1, 12-13 and 16-17.	1-3, 5-6 ----- 4, 7-15
Y	US 839,702 A (BAIVIER) 25 December 1906 (25.12.1906). See Figures 1-2.	4
Y	US 5,916,932 A (NOSKER) 29 June 1999 (29.06.1999). See claims 2-3.	9,10
Y	US 5,789,477 A (NOSKER) 04 August 1998 (04.08.1998). See claim 1.	11
Y	US 6,191,228 A (NOSKER) 20 February 2001 (20.02.2001). See Claims 1 and 24.	8, 12-13
Y "	US 2005/0192403 A1 (NOSKER) 01 September 2005 (01.09.2005). See claim 1.	14



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

D

See patent family annex.

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"&"

document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US07/65627

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,298,214 A (MORROW) 29 March 1994 (29.03.1994). See claim 1.	7 and 15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-6 and 9-10, drawn to the mechanical structure of a railroad tie.

Group II, claims 7-8 and 11-15, drawn to material compositions of and process of making a railroad tie.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Currently, there is no evidence that the corresponding feature between Group I and Group II, which is the rail seat being bordered by a raised or recessed portion of the tie, constitutes a special technical feature.