METHOD OF SUPPLYING SUSPENSION STRUTS

An efficient method of supplying a first series of suspension struts for a first vehicle (12A) and a second series of suspension struts for a second vehicle (12B). The method includes providing a first series (20A) of pressure vessels for the first vehicle and a second series (20B) of pressure vessels for the second vehicle. Each pressure vessel defines an outer cavity (36) with an effective fluid volume. The effective fluid volume of the pressure vessels of the first series is smaller than the effective fluid volume of the pressure vessels of the second series. The method also includes providing a series of hydraulic tubes (24) for the first vehicle and for the second vehicle, wherein each hydraulic tube is adapted to be located within the outer cavity of the pressure vessel of the first series and alternatively within the outer cavity of the pressure vessel of the second series.
For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

**International application No.**  
PCT/US01/47683

#### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPC(7)</th>
<th>US CL</th>
<th>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F16F 9/00</td>
<td>188/315, 317</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

- **Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols):**  
  - U.S.: 188/315, 317, 297, 313, 316, 317; 267/64.11, 64.15

- **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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 4,647,026 A (SIERMANN et al) 3 March 1987 (03.03.1987), entire document</td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 3,843,107 A (ATKINS) 22 October 1974 (22.11.1974), entire document</td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 4,674,594 A (JENSEN), 23 June 1987 (23.06.1987), column 1</td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>EP 0 455 234 A (LENZI) 6 November 1991(06.11.1991), columns 1-2</td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  

- See patent family annex.

**Date of the actual completion of the international search**  
04 November 2002 (04.11.2002)

**Date of mailing of the international search report**  
10 DEC 2002

**Name and mailing address of the ISA/US**  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Facsimile No.** (703)305-3230

**Authorized officer**  

**Telephone No.** (703) 308-1113

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)