

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-25 and replace the original drawing sheets. All of the Figures have been amended to include the abbreviation "FIG." and to remove erasure marks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in this application. Claims 12 and 14-16 have been withdrawn. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended. Figures 1-25 of the drawings and paragraph [0001] of the specification have been amended.

Election/Restrictions

Claim 18 was withdrawn as being drawn to the unelected Species IV of Figure 25. Claim 18 recites “an actuation arm of the lever is provided with an articulation pivot essentially parallel to a pivot of the brake lever.” This pivot is not pivot 10 (about which the lever rotates to shift) and instead refers to the point about which the actuation arm of the lever rotates to follow the movement of the brake lever. (See Published Application, paragraphs [0041] and [0047]). This feature is shown in elected Species II. Accordingly, claim 18 should not be withdrawn.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to because view numbers must be preceded by the abbreviation “FIG.” and the drawings must be free from erasure marks. Replacement sheets including all of the Figures are submitted herewith and the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to because of an informality regarding the continuity data. Paragraph [0001] has been amended to overcome this objection and the withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 22 were objected to because each element should be separated by a line indentation. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended and withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11, 13, and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Armstrong (US 3,972,247). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The rejected independent claims recite, *inter alia*, a first and second pawl for engaging teeth on an indexer mechanism. The first pawl is integral with a driven arm of the lever and is brought into thrusting engagement with the first teeth when the lever is moved in a first direction beyond a predetermined rotation threshold. The second pawl is driven out of retention engagement with the second teeth when the lever is moved in the first direction up to the predetermined rotation threshold.

Armstrong discloses a first pawl 98 that is not integral with a driven arm of the lever 110. As shown in Armstrong's figures and as disclosed in col. 9, lines 37-56, the advance (first) pawl 98 is instead pivotaly mounted about an advance pawl pivot

pin 96 that is connected to the control lever 110, *i.e.* the first pawl 98 and the lever 110 experience relative movement with regard to each other. As disclosed by the present application, the first pawl is integral with the driven arm and, as a result, the first pawl and the driven arm behave as a single piece with regard to movement, *i.e.* rotary or translatory movement. There is no relative movement between the first pawl and driven arm of the present application. A thrusting pawl (first pawl) that is integral with the lever is simpler and safer in operation, and has a quicker and more controlled response than a pawl that is capable of swinging about a pin fixed to the lever and that is biased by a spring, such as Armstrong's pawl 98 and spring 100.

Regarding claims 19-21, these independent claims recite a swinging member with two arms. A second pawl is formed on a driven arm of a swinging member and is pivoted onto the support body. The second pawl disengages from the second teeth while the lever is moved in the first direction up to the predetermined rotation threshold. The driven arm of the lever, during its displacement up to the predetermined rotation threshold, controls a driving arm of the swinging member. Armstrong's swinging member does not have two arms; the second pawl 76 is a single arm that is pivoted at 80 on the support body. The second pawl 76 is not formed on a driven arm of a swinging member pivoted to the support body as recited by claim 19-21. Accordingly, the independent claims are not anticipated by Armstrong.

Claims 2-10 and 13, which depend upon claim 1, are allowable over Armstrong for the same reasons provided above. Based on the arguments presented above,

withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claims 1-11, 13, and 19-22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Jordan et al. (US 2006/0207375 A1) (hereinafter "Jordan"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Jordan fails to disclose a first pawl integral with a driven arm of the lever. Jordan discloses the lever 20 rotates about shaft 32 and causes the drive pawl 84 (the first pawl) to move away from the declutching wall 88. This rotation pivots the drive pawl nose 96 to engage the ratchet wheel teeth 66. (See Jordan, paragraph [0021]). Jordan's first pawl 84 is not integral with a driven arm of the lever 20. As shown in the figures and disclosed in paragraph [0019], the drive pawl 84 (mistakenly identified as "drive pawl 86" in this paragraph) is rotatably mounted about a drive pawl pivot 90 that is fixed to the control lever 20. The drive pawl 84 and the lever 20 have a relative movement. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Jordan.

Claim 17 is dependent upon claim 1, which the Applicants believe is allowable over Jordan for the same reasons provided above. Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claims 1 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that an interview will advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to schedule an interview at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-22, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Dal Pra' et al.

By /Anthony S. Volpe/
Anthony S. Volpe
Registration No. 28,377
avolpe@vklaw.com
Tel: 215-255-9101

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-4009
Telephone: (215) 568-6400
Facsimile: (215) 568-6499

ASV/TPG/vag