

Title (en)  
ELECTRIC SWITCHES

Publication  
**EP 0576259 A3 19940525 (EN)**

Application  
**EP 93304873 A 19930622**

Priority  
GB 9213448 A 19920624

Abstract (en)  
[origin: EP0576259A2] An electric switch comprises a housing (6) within which is mounted a first contact assembly (8, 10) and a movable contact assembly (12) which is urged into a first position, shown in Figure 1a. by a spring (20). The housing (6) also carries a switch operating mechanism (24) comprising an operating member afforded by a primary cam (26), from which a switch handle (28) extends. The cam (26) comprises an operating surface comprising portions (26a, 26b, 26c and 26d), whereby the contact assembly (18) may be moved against the action of the spring (20). Mounted for rotation with the cam (26) is a restraining means in the form of a second cam (40), urged by a spring (40) into a position in which the two cams are generally in alignment. Upon movement of the switch handle (28) to its "off" position, the second cam (40) retains the movable contact assembly in its closed position, until completion of initial movement of the switch handle, whereupon a shoulder (50) of the primary cam engages the secondary cam, allowing the switch to open at a relatively high speed. The movable contact assembly (12) comprises a contact member (18) which is mounted for limited rotational movement, so that on completion of linear movement of approach between the movable contact assembly (12) and the fixed contact assembly, relative rotational movement occurs after engagement between the contact elements (8a, 18b), and similarly on separative movement between the contact elements rotational movement occurs prior to separative movement therebetween. <IMAGE>

IPC 1-7  
**H01H 23/16**; **H01H 23/20**

IPC 8 full level  
**H01H 23/16** (2006.01); **H01H 23/20** (2006.01)

CPC (source: EP)  
**H01H 23/168** (2013.01); **H01H 23/20** (2013.01); **H01H 1/2083** (2013.01)

Citation (search report)

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DE FR GB

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**EP 0576259 A2 19931229**; **EP 0576259 A3 19940525**; GB 2268830 A 19940119; GB 9213448 D0 19920805

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