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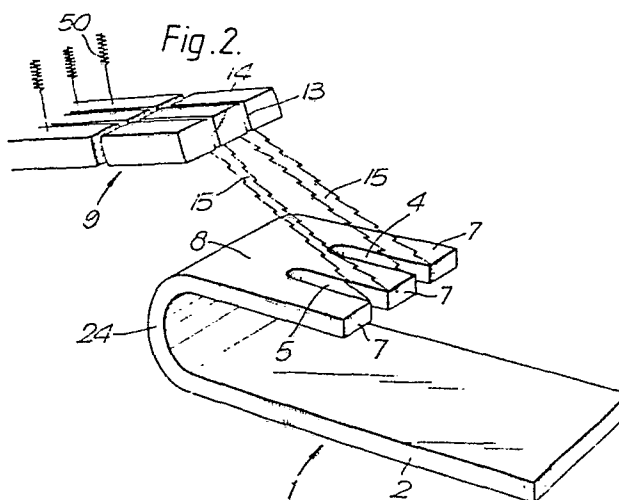
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## 54 **Electrical switch.**

57 A switch includes first and second contacts (1), (9), each having a substantially rectangular contact area, at least one of the contacts (9) being movable between an open and closed position. The contact area of each of the contacts is provided with contact regions separated by arc rooting zones of high electric field intensity. The contacts are disposed such that on separation thereof each of the contact regions (7; 52, 53, 54) of the first contact (1) are separated from those (10, 11, 12; 56, 57, 58) of the second contact (9) substantially simultaneously. In the event of arcing occurring on separation of the contacts, the arc rooting zones are such that the arcing is encouraged to follow a multiplicity of paths between the contacts. The contacts may consist of finger portions (7) with slots (4), (5) therebetween. Alternatively the arc rooting zones may consist of projections (55) or holes (51).





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 86 30 6520

## 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.4)
Y	US-A-3420971 (TELEMECANIQUE ELECTRIQUE) * column 2, line 63 - column 3, line 18; figures 1, 2 *	1-4	H01H9/40
Y	DE-A-3128929 (H.KUHNKE GMBH) * figures 4, 5 *	1-4	
A	FR-A-1000821 (ERICSSON) * page 1, column 2, paragraph 4; figure 10 *	1, 4	
A	FR-A-1170621 (KIENZLE UHRENFABRIKEN) * figures 1, 4 *	1, 5	
A	US-A-1798375 (CONDIT ELECTRICAL MFG CORP) * figure 2 *	1	
A	DE-A-2657735 (H.NEULING)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			H01H9/00 H01H1/00 H01H33/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 22 MARCH 1989	Examiner JANSSENS DE VROOM P	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			