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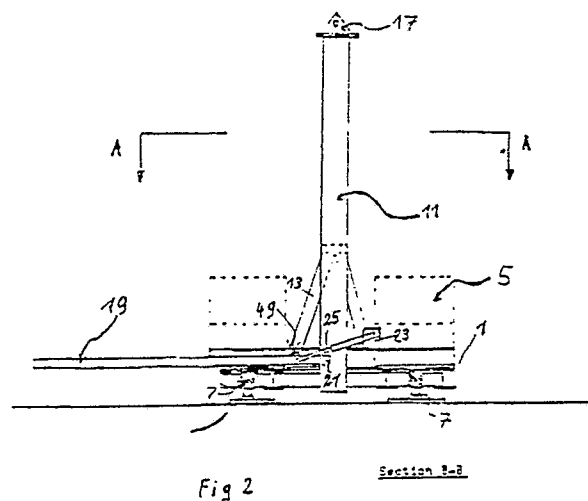
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25.04.90 Bulletin 90/17(71) Applicant: SAWADI EXPORTS PTE LTD.
10 Anson Road no. 22-14 International Plaza
Singapore 0207(SG)(72) Inventor: Seng, Kong Sin
704 Senopati Executive Apartment
Jalan Senopati, KAV 41 Jakarta(ID)(74) Representative: Prietsch, Reiner, Dipl.-Ing. et
al
Patentanwälte Dipl.-Ing. Dipl. oec. publ. D.
Lewinsky, Dipl.-Ing. Reiner Prietsch
Gothardstrasse 81
D-8000 München 21(DE)

(54) Pile driving apparatus.

(57) A pile driving apparatus comprises a base frame 1 having a platform 3 for supporting ballast 5. The base frame 1 is equipped with a levelling device 7. The pile driving apparatus comprises a column 11 positioned perpendicular with respect to the base frame and supported by steel supports 13. At the top of the column 11 is provided a lifting point 17. A pile loading device consists of a cradle arm 19 which is pivotally mounted at point 21 to the base frame 1 at the lower end of the column 11. A hydraulic jack 23 is operative for moving the cradle arm for loading piles to the device. A hydraulic piston 29 bears a load onto a jack thrust plate 33, which plate is connected to a transmission plate 35 by means of a shaped plate 77. The higher end of the transmission plate is rigidly connected to a pile thrust plate 39 means of another shaped plate 41. The column 11 has a web portion 43 which is provided with an elongate slit so that when the hydraulic piston 29 urges downwardly against the thrust plate 33 corresponding downward thrust is applied to the transmission plate 35. This enables piles having a length substantially the same as the column 11 to be driven into the ground.



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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)
X	US-A-4 555 090 (AVERHOFF) * Column 1, lines 34-55; column 2, lines 29-66; column 3, lines 1-27; claims 1,4; figures 1,5,6 *	1-5,10	E 02 D 7/16
Y	---	6-9,11	
X	GB-A-2 028 902 (MONFORT SPENCE) * Page 1, lines 4-23,62-108; claim 1, figure 1 *	1-3	
Y	EP-A-0 003 063 (BALLAST-NEDAM) * Page 1, lines 1-6; page 7, line 19 - page 8, line 6; page 9, line 26 - page 10, line 17; claims 8,12; figures 25,32 *	6-9,11	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			E 02 D E 21 B E 04 H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 25-01-1990	Examiner BELLINGACCI F.
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			